
Farm Labor



Crop
Reporting
Board

Statistical Reporting
Service

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NUMBER OF WORKERS UP

There were 672,000 people working on farms and ranches in the seven surveyed States during the week of January 12-18, 1986, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This number compares with 663,800 workers in October 1985 and 669,000 in January a year earlier. Of the total workers, 43 percent (291,000) were hired directly by farm operators, 35 percent (233,000) were self-employed, 10 percent (68,000) unpaid laborers, and 12 percent (80,000) were agricultural services employees working on farms.

Wage rates received by hired workers, in the seven States ranged from \$4.71 per hour in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) to \$7.47 in Hawaii. Hourly rates were down 15 and 16 cents from January 1985 in California and Florida respectively, but up 24 cents in the Mountain Region (Arizona and New Mexico) and up 3 cents in Hawaii.

Self-employed farm operators in Florida worked 39.4 hours during the January 12-18, 1986 survey week while those in Hawaii worked 27.8 hours. Hours worked by unpaid workers ranged from 28.8 hours in Hawaii to 32.7 hours in Florida. Hired workers put in the most hours (45.6) in the Mountain States (Arizona and New Mexico) while those in Florida worked only 29.6 hours during the week.

PERQUISITES AND OTHER BENEFITS

Approximately 41 percent of the hired laborers received meals, housing and other perquisites in addition to cash wages during the survey period. Employers furnished a house in addition to cash wages to 16 percent of the workers.

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FARM ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY WEEK

Above normal temperatures prevailed over most of the surveyed areas. Citrus harvest was active in Florida. Rains slowed vegetable harvest in parts of Texas. Lettuce harvest was heavy in California's Imperial Valley. In Texas and Oklahoma, cotton harvest was nearly complete.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

The estimates of agricultural labor are based on multiple frame probability surveys. The surveys utilize two sampling frames -- a list frame of agricultural producers and an area frame. The list sample is a stratified random sample containing employers likely to have hired workers.

The area frame contains all land units in the Nation. A probability sample from the area frame would provide an unbiased estimate for agricultural workers on farms. However, the area frame is a less efficient sampling frame because a large number of workers are hired by a small proportion of farm operators. Therefore, the area frame is used to estimate for the incompleteness in the list. The multiple frame sampling approach utilizes the desirable attributes of both frames. Estimates based on a sample differ somewhat from data that would have been obtained if a complete enumeration had been taken. These differences result from sampling variability. In addition, survey estimates are subject to non-sampling errors. Enumerator training, questionnaire design and testing, and a uniform comprehensive check and review process minimize the number and severity of non-sampling errors.

Standard errors and relative sampling errors are statistical measures of the variation that occur by chance because of sampling of the population. Indications from the survey are expected to be within the range of one standard error below to one standard error above the true value in two out of three cases.

WORKERS ON FARMS, FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS,
JANUARY 12-18, 1986

STATE AND REGION	ALL FARM WORKERS 1/	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED		
				NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED 150 DAYS OR MORE	149 DAYS OR LESS
THOUSANDS						
FLA	79	12	2	65	40	25
SO. PLAINS 3/	263	162	39	62	45	17
MOUNT III 4/	47	11	18	18	16	2
CALIF	190	46	8	136	106	30
HAW	13	2	1	10	9	1

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS, JANUARY 12-18, 1986 1/

STATE AND REGION	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATE
	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	ALL HIRED
	HOURS			DOLLARS PER HOUR
FLA	39.4	32.7	29.6	5.04
SO. PLAINS 3/	32.6	30.1	38.5	4.71
MOUNT III 4/	38.5	32.3	45.6	4.94
CALIF	34.3	29.0	41.1	5.49
HAW	27.8	28.8	36.9	7.47

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS,
JANUARY 12-18, 1986 1/

STATE AND REGION	TYPE OF WORK						METHOD OF PAY	
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK 2/	SUPERVISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
FLA	4.36	4.59	4.41	7.78	5.51	4.49	4.83	6.27
SO. PLAINS 3/	4.61	4.47	4.54	6.86	4.85	4.62	5/	4.83
MOUNT III 4/	4.41	4.64	4.51	7.19	5.21	4.55	5.22	5.68
CALIF	4.98	5.47	5.05	8.30	6.17	4.85	6.45	7.20
HAW	6.64	5/	6.57	10.80	8.16	7.04	5/	10.10

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ WAGE RATES OF FIELD AND LIVESTOCK WORKERS COMBINED. 3/ INCLUDES OKLA AND TEX. 4/ INCLUDES ARIZ AND N MEX. 5/ INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR THIS CATEGORY.

WORKERS ON FARMS, FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS,
OCTOBER 6-12, 1985

STATE AND REGION	HIRED					
	ALL FARM WORKERS 1/	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED	
					150 DAYS OR MORE	149 DAYS OR LESS
	THOUSANDS					
FLA	54	10	3	41	34	7
SO. PLAINS 3/	243	142	39	62	44	18
MOUNT III 4/	47	12	17	18	14	4
CALIF	257	48	13	196	116	80
HAW	14	2	1	11	10	1

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS, OCTOBER 6-12, 1985 1/

STATE AND REGION	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATE
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	ALL HIRED
	HOURS			DOLLARS PER HOUR
FLA	43.8	33.7	36.8	5.05
SO. PLAINS 3/	33.3	30.0	38.0	4.71
MOUNT III 4/	37.7	30.0	40.3	4.78
CALIF	36.3	31.2	40.9	5.51
HAW	27.5	27.5	38.9	7.46

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS,
OCTOBER 6-12, 1985 1/

STATE AND REGION	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY			
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK 2/	SUPER- VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER	
	DOLLARS PER HOUR								
FLA	4.27	4.56	4.35	8.22	5.79	4.57	4.73	6.87	
SO. PLAINS 3/	4.20	4.43	4.36	6.84	4.74	4.48	5/ 5.03		
MOUNT III 4/	4.90	4.44	4.69	6.53	4.57	4.59	5/ 5.09		
CALIF	5.16	5.60	5.21	7.94	5.82	4.86	6.66	7.10	
HAW	6.68	5/	6.62	11.22	5/	7.01	5/	5/	

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ WAGE RATES OF FIELD AND LIVE-
STOCK WORKERS COMBINED. 3/ INCLUDES OKLA AND TEX. 4/ INCLUDES ARIZ AND
N MEX. 5/ INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR THIS CATEGORY.

WORKERS ON FARMS, FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS,
JANUARY 6-12, 1985

STATE AND REGION	ALL FARM WORKERS 1/	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED		
				NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED 150 DAYS OR MORE	149 DAYS OR LESS
THOUSANDS						
FLA	83	15	5	63	48	15
SO. PLAINS 3/	284	178	21	85	74	11
MOUNT III 4/	44	7	18	19	16	3
CALIF	206	47	8	151	99	52
HAW	13	2	1	10	9	1

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS, JANUARY 6-12, 1985 1/

STATE AND REGION	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATE
	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	ALL HIRED
HOURS				DOLLARS PER HOUR
FLA	33.0	37.4	34.8	5.20
SO. PLAINS 3/	27.6	33.5	40.6	4.71
MOUNT III 4/	35.4	27.0	43.2	4.70
CALIF	33.5	33.2	39.8	5.64
HAW	27.6	28.4	37.5	7.44

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, FOR SELECTED STATES AND REGIONS,
JANUARY 6-12, 1985 1/

STATE AND REGION	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY			
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK 2/	SUPERVISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER	
DOLLARS PER HOUR									
FLA	5.04	4.41	4.99	7.69	5.10	4.50	5.73	6.00	
SO. PLAINS 3/	4.15	4.15	4.15	6.34	4.93	4.69	5/	4.84	
MOUNT III 4/	4.68	4.26	4.48	6.52	4.79	4.19	5.94	5.31	
CALIF	5.30	5.50	5.33	7.90	6.00	4.83	6.40	6.75	
HAW	6.36	5/	6.37	11.11	8.19	6.94	5/	10.38	

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ WAGE RATES OF FIELD AND LIVESTOCK WORKERS COMBINED. 3/ INCLUDES OKLA AND TEX. 4/ INCLUDES ARIZ AND N MEX. 5/ INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR THIS CATEGORY.

ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, 1985 1/ 4/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY			
	ALL HIRED	FIELD	LIVE- STOCK	FIELD & LIVE- STOCK	SUPER- VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR								
NORTHEAST I	4.01	4.02	3.47	3.78	6.21	4.48	4.13	4.69	3.73
NORTHEAST II	4.19	4.04	3.84	3.98	6.31	4.73	4.13	3/	4.33
APPALACHIAN I	3.98	3.75	3.95	3.81	6.46	4.00	3.80	3/	4.62
APPALACHIAN II	3.90	3.76	3.93	3.82	3/	3.95	3.81	3/	4.00
SOUTHEAST	3.54	3.29	3.82	3.46	5.80	3.50	3.49	3/	3.61
FLORIDA	4.99	4.51	4.46	4.50	8.12	5.41	4.63	5.18	5.85
LAKE	3.95	3.88	3.51	3.69	6.54	4.62	3.99	4.15	3.81
CORNBELT I	4.39	4.17	4.37	4.24	6.94	4.29	4.39	3/	4.37
CORNBELT II	4.21	4.29	4.00	4.16	3/	4.14	4.23	3/	4.08
DELTA	3.88	3.77	4.19	3.88	5.80	3.67	3.85	3/	4.01
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.51	4.54	4.39	4.50	3/	4.44	4.52	3/	4.33
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.46	3.98	4.16	4.07	6.40	4.66	4.40	3/	4.56
MOUNTAIN I	3.87	3.78	3.46	3.60	5.16	4.06	3.98	3/	3.72
MOUNTAIN II	4.35	3.89	4.47	4.12	5.87	4.78	4.33	3/	4.62
MOUNTAIN III	4.53	4.28	4.24	4.26	6.44	4.77	4.22	3/	4.93
PACIFIC	4.83	4.64	4.90	4.69	6.25	5.11	4.69	5.08	5.21
CALIFORNIA	5.47	5.12	5.13	5.12	8.16	5.96	4.83	6.57	6.78
HAWAII	7.45	6.51	3/	6.48	11.22	3/	6.97	3/	3/
U. S.	4.42	4.30	4.05	4.22	6.95	4.46	4.30	5.25	4.51

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.

NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA.

APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA.

APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV.

SOUTHEAST I: AL, GA, SC.

LAKE: MI, MN, WI.

CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH.

CORNBELT II: IA, MO.

DELTA: AR, LA, MS.

NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD.

SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX.

MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY.

MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT.

MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM.

PACIFIC: OR, WA.

3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

4/ ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES ARE WEIGHTED AVERAGES OF THE PUBLISHED WAGE RATES FROM EACH OF THE SURVEY WEEKS FOR EACH TYPE OF WORKERS WEIGHTED BY THE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED DURING THE SURVEY WEEK. FOR CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, HAWAII, THE SOUTHERN PLAINS, AND MOUNTAIN III REGIONS, THE ANNUAL AVERAGE IS BASED ON DATA COLLECTED FOR JAN, APR, JUL, AND OCT. FOR THE REMAINING REGIONS AND THE U.S., THE ANNUAL AVERAGE IS BASED ON DATA COLLECTED FOR APR, JUL, AND OCT 1985.

ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, 1980 1/3/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY			
	ALL HIRED:	FIELD:	LIVE- STOCK:	FIELD & LIVE- STOCK:	SUPER- VISORY:	OTHER:	HOURLY:	PIECE RATE:	OTHER 4/
DOLLARS PER HOUR									
NORTHEAST I	3.09	2.96	2.75	2.88	5.11	3.71	3.25	3.50	
NORTHEAST II	3.52	3.31	3.25	3.29	5.68	3.87	3.57	4.13	
APPALACHIAN I	3.19	3.01	3.25	3.08	4.70	3.34	3.15	4.04	
APPALACHIAN II	3.23	3.05	3.11	3.07	5.30	3.34	3.21	3.28	
SOUTHEAST	3.18	2.86	3.06	2.94	5.15	3.26	3.23	3.58	
FLORIDA	4.19	4.03	3.79	3.98	6.19	4.08	3.67	5.04	
LAKE	3.31	3.37	2.82	3.03	5.38	3.77	3.54	3.76	
CORNBELT I	3.67	3.48	3.40	3.45	5.89	3.85	3.70	3.47	
CORNBELT II	3.63	3.45	3.39	3.42	6.04	3.61	3.61	3.88	
DELTA	3.38	3.18	3.30	3.21	4.98	3.34	3.26	3.27	
NORTHERN PLAINS:	3.59	3.43	3.40	3.41	5.27	3.75	3.79	3.88	
SOUTHERN PLAINS:	3.35	3.17	3.24	3.20	5.27	3.36	3.26	5.39	
MOUNTAIN I	3.37	3.26	3.12	3.20	4.52	3.61	3.64	3.92	
MOUNTAIN II	3.55	3.45	3.17	3.33	5.61	3.70	3.63	3.85	
MOUNTAIN III	3.43	3.22	2.89	3.11	5.24	3.71	3.46	3.95	
PACIFIC	4.08	3.91	3.84	3.90	5.98	4.26	4.02	4.36	
CALIFORNIA	4.51	4.26	4.28	4.26	6.04	4.77	4.09	5.49	
HAWAII	5.58	4.80	4.88	4.81	8.15	6.01	5.29	6.15	
U. S.	3.65	3.55	3.25	3.45	5.63	3.77	3.63	4.65	

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.

NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA.

APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA.

APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV.

SOUTHEAST I: AL, GA, SC.

LAKE: MI, MN, WI.

CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH.

CORNBELT II: IA, MO.

DELTA: AR, LA, MS.

NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD.

SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX.

MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY.

MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT.

MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM.

PACIFIC: OR, WA.

3/ ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES ARE WEIGHTED AVERAGES OF THE PUBLISHED WAGE RATES FROM EACH OF THE SURVEY WEEKS FOR EACH TYPE OF WORKERS WEIGHTED BY THE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED DURING THE SURVEY WEEK. FOR CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, HAWAII, THE SOUTHERN PLAINS, AND MOUNTAIN III REGIONS, THE ANNUAL AVERAGE IS BASED ON DATA COLLECTED FOR JAN, APR, JUL, AND OCT. FOR THE REMAINING REGIONS AND THE U.S., THE ANNUAL AVERAGE IS BASED ON DATA COLLECTED FOR APR, JUL, AND OCT 1980.

4/ DATA NOT COMPARABLE FOR CURRENT SERIES.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 80,000 farm workers in California and Florida during the week of January 12-18, 1986. There were 39,000 agricultural service workers on farms in these two States in January 1985. The sharp increase from a year earlier is attributed to favorable weather for fieldwork in both States.

The average hourly wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$5.89 and \$5.08 per hour, respectively. Comparable wage rates in January 1985 were \$6.17 in California and \$5.54 per hour in Florida.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: NUMBER OF WORKERS, AVERAGE HOURS WORKED FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, WAGE RATE BY TYPE OF WORK, WITH COMPARISONS, FOR CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, JANUARY 12-18, 1986 1/ 2/

ITEM	JAN 1985		OCT 1985		JAN 1986	
	CALIF	FLA	CALIF	FLA	CALIF	FLA
	THOUSANDS					
NUMBER OF WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	24	15	43	5.8	55	25
	HOURS					
AVERAGE HOURS WORKED	36.4	28.8	36.9	33.7	31.0	38.2
	DOLLARS PER HOUR					
WAGE RATES	6.17	5.54	6.68	5.42	5.89	5.08
METHOD OF PAY						
HOURLY	5.26	4.42	5.80	4.75	5.20	4.39
PIECE-RATE	6.50	5.99	6.67	4.88	6.10	5.04
TYPE OF WORK						
FIELD	5.50	5.45	5.93	4.78	5.47	4.66

1/ DATA IN THIS TABLE ARE FOR AGRICULTURAL SERVICES PERFORMED ON THE FARM BY CUSTOM SERVICE UNITS SUCH AS CREW LEADERS OR CUSTOM CREWS. THESE STATISTICS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATE-REGIONAL TABLES.

2/ VALUE OF ANY PERQUISITES PROVIDED ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE WAGE RATE.