
Farm Labor



Agricultural
Statistics
Board

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

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WORKER NUMBERS DOWN

Overall, the number of people working on farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 1987, declined from a year ago in the seven survey States. Increases in worker numbers in California, Florida, and the Mountain Region (Arizona and New Mexico) were offset by a substantial decline in the Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma and Texas). Hawaii's worker numbers remained unchanged from the comparable week a year ago.

Wage rates for all hired farm workers ranged from \$4.86 per hour in the Mountain Region (Arizona and New Mexico) to \$7.84 per hour in Hawaii. In California, farm wage rates increased 38 cents per hour from January 1986 to \$5.87. Florida's rate, at \$6.13 per hour, was up \$1.09 from the comparable week last year.

Self-employed farm operators in the Mountain Region worked 39.6 hours during the survey week while those in the Southern Plains averaged a 27.6 hour week. Hired workers put in the most hours (44.6) in the Mountain States, while those in the Southern Plains States worked only 33.8 hours during the week.

Approximately 44 percent of the hired workers in the seven surveyed States received benefits, such as housing or food, in addition to their cash wages. Housing was provided to about 12 percent of the workers.

* NOTICE *
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FARM ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY WEEK

Cold temperatures and heavy snow accumulations slowed farm activities in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas during latter part of the survey week. Winter vegetable and citrus harvest were active early in the week in Arizona. Freezing temperatures in California resulted in increased hours to operate frost control devices. Both planting of spring vegetables and harvest of winter crops made good progress in Florida. Feeding and care of livestock increased with colder weather in most States.

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 and an area frame. The list sample is a stratified random sample of producers likely to have hired farm workers. A probability sample from the area frame is used to estimate for employers not on the list. The multiple frame approach assures all employers are represented by the combined samples.

Standard errors and relative sampling errors are statistical measures of the variation that occur by chance because of sampling. The true value is expected to be within the range of one standard error below to one standard error above the survey indication two times out of three.

For the seven State total hired worker estimate, the relative sampling error was about 12 percent. The all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of about 5 percent at the combined seven State level.

WORKERS ON FARMS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, OCTOBER 12-18, 1986 1/

STATE AND REGION	ALL FARM WORKERS	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED		
				NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED 150 DAYS OR MORE	149 DAYS OR LESS
THOUSANDS						
FLORIDA	72	10	5	57	44	13
SO. PLAINS 2/	212	121	28	63	46	17
MOUNT III 3/	46	10	22	14	11	3
CALIFORNIA	237	52	9	176	132	44
HAWAII	13	2	1	10	9	1

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

STATE AND REGION	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
HOURS				
FLORIDA	42.5	37.8	35.0	5.21
SO. PLAINS 2/	29.6	32.1	38.6	4.91
MOUNT III 3/	38.3	40.4	48.2	5.10
CALIFORNIA	38.6	32.3	41.5	5.67
HAWAII	32.9	32.7	39.0	7.41

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, OCTOBER 12-18, 1986 1/

STATE AND REGION	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPERVISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR								
FLORIDA	4.63	4.58	4.62	4/	6.03	4.67	5.04	6.61
SO. PLAINS 2/	4.44	4.69	4.58	7.67	4.82	4.43	4/	5.54
MOUNT III 3/	5.00	4.08	4.68	6.81	5.33	4.79	4/	5.92
CALIFORNIA	5.15	5.56	5.23	9.17	5.91	4.96	6.75	7.84
HAWAII	6.39	4/	6.39	10.49	8.40	6.96	4/	10.61

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ OKLA AND TEX. 3/ ARIZ AND N MEX. 4/ INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR THIS CATEGORY.

WORKERS ON FARMS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, JANUARY 12-18, 1986 1/

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

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

STATE AND REGION	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
	HOURS			DOLLARS PER HOUR
FLORIDA	39.4	32.7	29.6	5.04
SO. PLAINS 2/	32.6	30.1	38.5	4.71
MOUNT. III 3/	38.5	32.3	45.6	4.94
CALIFORNIA	34.3	29.0	41.1	5.49
HAWAII	27.8	28.8	36.9	7.47

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

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

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ OKLA AND TEX. 3/ ARIZ AND N MEX. 4/ INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR THIS CATEGORY.

ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, 1986 1/ 4/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY			
	ALL HIRED:	FIELD:	LIVE- STOCK	LIVE- STOCK	SUPER- VISORY:	OTHER:	HOURLY:	PIECE RATE	OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR									
NORTHEAST I	4.41	4.50	3.72	4.17	6.69	5.01	4.53	3/	4.06
NORTHEAST II	4.50	4.38	3.77	4.17	7.01	4.93	4.46	3/	4.53
APPALACHIAN I	4.14	4.00	4.06	4.02	3/	4.13	4.12	3.58	4.58
APPALACHIAN II	3.95	3.62	4.23	3.79	3/	4.22	3.74	4.76	4.60
SOUTHEAST	3.87	3.51	4.18	3.73	6.39	3.72	3.89	3.54	3.91
FLORIDA	5.20	4.69	4.57	4.66	8.22	5.77	4.59	5.59	6.38
LAKE	4.12	4.37	3.45	3.91	3/	4.67	4.22	5.64	3.61
CORNBELT I	4.71	4.43	4.32	4.38	7.70	4.65	4.56	3/	5.17
CORNBELT II	4.31	4.16	4.03	4.10	3/	4.48	4.33	3/	4.25
DELTA	4.10	3.78	4.36	4.05	6.35	3.91	3.94	3/	4.54
NORTHERN PLAINS:	4.76	4.63	4.57	4.61	6.04	4.80	4.60	3/	4.75
SOUTHERN PLAINS:	4.63	4.51	4.47	4.49	6.87	4.45	4.42	3/	5.00
MOUNTAIN I	4.31	4.47	3.78	4.15	5.75	4.31	4.60	5.71	3.78
MOUNTAIN II	5.65	4.46	5.69	5.19	8.03	6.25	4.98	3/	6.33
MOUNTAIN III	4.86	4.49	4.30	4.43	6.93	5.17	4.52	3/	5.63
PACIFIC	4.77	4.44	5.25	4.52	6.86	5.36	4.66	4.40	5.93
CALIFORNIA	5.64	5.11	5.50	5.17	8.75	6.29	5.05	6.59	7.53
HAWAII	7.38	6.46	3/	6.43	10.64	8.33	6.92	3/	10.07
U. S.	4.70	4.51	4.26	4.42	7.45	4.80	4.51	5.23	5.02

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 RATES ARE AVERAGES OF THE PUBLISHED WAGE RATES FOR EACH SURVEY WEEK WEIGHTED BY THE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED DURING THE WEEK. THE ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, HAWAII, THE SOUTHERN PLAINS, AND MOUNTAIN III REGIONS IS BASED ON DATA COLLECTED FOR JAN, APR, JUL, AND OCT. THE ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR THE REMAINING REGIONS AND THE U.S. IS BASED ON DATA COLLECTED FOR APR, JUL, AND OCT 1986.

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	*4.12	*3.99	*3.69	*3.90	6.31	4.73	*4.09	3/	*4.17	
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	5.06	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	*4.04	4.21	6.95	4.46	4.30	5.25	*4.50	

* REVISED

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.

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AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 46,000 farm workers in California and 26,000 in Florida during the week of January 11-17, 1987. This compares with a total of 80,000 workers in the two states during the comparable week in 1986. California registered a 16 percent (9,000 workers) decline from last year, while the number in Florida increased 4 percent (1,000 workers) from January 1986.

The average hourly wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$6.90 and \$5.78 respectively. Comparable wage rates in January 1986 were \$5.89 in California and \$5.08 per hour in Florida.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: WORKERS, HOURS WORKED, AND WAGE RATES WITH COMPARISONS, CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA, January 11-17, 1987 1/ 2/

ITEM	JAN 1986		OCT 1986		JAN 1987	
	CALIF	FLA	CALIF	FLA	CALIF	FLA
	THOUSANDS					
NUMBER OF WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	55.0	25.0	45.0	3.7	46.0	26.0
	HOURS					
HOURS WORKED	31.0	38.2	40.0	22.9	29.8	24.2
	DOLLARS PER HOUR					
WAGE RATES 3/	5.89	5.08	6.75	5.39	6.90	5.78
METHOD OF PAY						
HOURLY	5.20	4.39	6.32	5.06	5.75	4.60
PIECE-RATE	6.10	5.04	6.50	5.30	6.75	6.22
TYPE OF WORK						
FIELD	5.47	4.66	5.77	4.91	6.00	5.39

1/ DATA 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/ UNITED STATES DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

3/ PERQUISITES SUCH AS ROOM AND BOARD, HOUSING, ETC., ARE PROVIDED SOME WORKERS BUT THE VALUES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE WAGE RATES.