
Farm Labor



Agricultural
Statistics
Board

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C. 20250

RELEASED: May 15, 1987
3:00 P.M. ET

NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWN - WAGE RATES INCREASE

There were 2.82 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 1987, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board. This number was down 3 percent from the 2.90 million workers during the comparable survey week in 1986. Included in the workforce were 1.31 million self-employed farm operators, 445,000 unpaid workers, and 885,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. The additional 188,000 workers were agricultural service employees.

Hired farm workers received an average of \$4.90 per hour during the April 1987 survey week, up 19 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned \$4.67 per hour compared with \$4.52 in April 1986. Field and livestock workers earned \$4.70 and \$4.32, respectively. Last year their wages were \$4.58 and \$4.26.

Self-employed persons worked an average of 43.6 hours during the April 1987 survey week, the same as a year earlier. Unpaid workers averaged 36.1 hours, 1.4 hours more than last year. Hired employees worked 40.3 hours, up 1.5 hours from April 1986.

Perquisites and other benefits such as housing and food were provided to 46 percent of the hired workers. Housing was provided to 13 percent of the workers, unchanged from last year.

FARM ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY WEEK

Rain and wet ground slowed land preparation and spring planting in the Corn Belt and Central Great Plains States. Fieldwork was limited to 2 days or less in most of these States. Corn planting was just getting under way in most Corn Belt States and lagged behind normal in the Southeast and Texas. Cotton was 17 percent seeded in major producing States, slightly ahead of normal. Florida citrus and vegetable harvest was generally active. Valencia oranges and grapefruit were packed in Arizona's Maricopa and Yuma Counties. Fieldwork was generally ahead of normal in the Mountain regions due to warm, dry weather. Thinning, spraying, and irrigating deciduous fruit was active in California, as was citrus and avocado harvest.

* NOTICE *
* *
* Requests for a subscription order form covering all available reports *
* should be directed to Agricultural Statistics Board Publications, Room *
* 5829-South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 (Phone (202) 447-4021). *

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Certain changes were made this quarter in survey procedures to improve data quality and reduce data collection costs. Computer assisted telephone interviewing was used to collect survey data for over one-third of the sample. Workers were classified by type of work they were hired to do rather than the specific job performed during the survey week. Definitions for type of workers were also clarified. These changes interact with the usual factors of weather and composition of the work force. The level of workers and overall wage rates are believed to be comparable with previous surveys. Some shift between classification breakdowns, however, may be attributed to survey changes. Definitions of key survey concepts are given on page 12.

The estimates of agricultural labor are based on multiple frame probability surveys. The surveys utilized 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.

At the U.S. level, the number of all non-salaried workers and hired workers had relative sampling errors of 1.9 and 3.6 percent, respectively. Relative errors at the regional level for hired workers generally ranged between 10 and 20 percent. The all hired farm worker wage rate had a relatively sample error of 1.3 percent at the U.S. level. Relative sampling errors for hourly, field, and livestock workers wage rates at the U.S. level were 1.7, 1.6, and 2.2 percent, respectively.

U.S. WAGE RATES BY METHOD OF PAY APR 1986, OCT 1986, AND APR 1987



FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT, WAGE RATES AND INDEXES, UNITED STATES,
APRIL 12-18, 1987, WITH COMPARISONS

ITEM	FARM EMPLOYMENT		
	APR 6-12, 1986	OCT 12-18, 1986	APR 12-18, 1987
THOUSANDS			
TOTAL WORKERS	2,718	2,814	2,636
SELF-EMPLOYED	1,337	1,289	1,306
UNPAID	471	550	445
HIRED	910	975	885
EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED			
150 DAYS OR MORE	684	659	654
149 DAYS OR LESS	226	316	231
AGRICULTURAL SERVICES			
WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	184	229	188
TOTAL FARM & SERVICE WORKERS	2,902	3,043	2,824
INDEXES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1910-14=100			
ALL FARM WORKERS	22	20	21
HIRED WORKERS	29	25	28
1977=100			
ALL FARM WORKERS	73	68	70
HIRED WORKERS	82	71	79

ITEM	FARM WAGE RATES 1/ 2/		
	APR 6-12, 1986	OCT 12-18, 1986	APR 12-18, 1987
DOLLARS PER HOUR			
ALL HIRED FARM WORKERS	4.71	4.83	4.90
METHOD OF PAY			
HOURLY	4.52	4.56	4.67
PIECE-RATE	6.18	5.76	6.09
OTHER	4.92	5.27	5.16
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED			
FIELD & LIVESTOCK COMBINED	4.46	4.52	4.57
FIELD	4.58	4.61	4.70
LIVESTOCK	4.26	4.37	4.32
SUPERVISORY	7.24	7.79	7.97
OTHER	4.80	4.90	6.38
INDEXES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
ALL HIRED WORKERS			
1910-14=100	3,131	3,031	3,262
1977=100	164	159	171

1/ PERQUISITES SUCH AS ROOM AND BOARD, HOUSING, ETC., ARE PROVIDED SOME WORKERS BUT THE VALUES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE WAGE RATES. 2/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

WORKERS ON FARMS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, APRIL 12-18, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	ALL FARM WORKERS	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED		
				NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED 150 DAYS OR MORE	EMPLOYED 149 DAYS OR LESS
THOUSANDS						
NORTHEAST I	109	40	15	54	43	11
NORTHEAST II	114	47	21	46	36	10
APPALACHIA I	112	60	15	37	25	12
APPALACHIA II	165	109	25	31	18	13
SOUTHEAST	111	53	17	41	25	16
FLORIDA	69	12	3	54	40	14
LAKE	346	187	80	79	56	23
CORNBELT I	251	144	41	66	55	11
CORNBELT II	240	145	58	37	23	14
DELTA	108	54	14	40	32	8
NORTH PLAINS	234	141	51	42	31	11
SOUTH PLAINS	248	137	24	87	75	12
MOUNTAIN I	77	33	17	27	20	7
MOUNTAIN II	59	29	12	18	15	3
MOUNTAIN III	55	10	22	23	19	4
PACIFIC	120	54	21	45	25	20
CALIFORNIA	205	49	8	148	107	41
HAWAII	13	2	1	10	9	1
U. S.	2636	1306	445	885	654	231

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,
BY STATES AND REGIONS, APRIL 12-18, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
HOURS				
DOLLARS PER HOUR				
NORTHEAST I	60.8	44.9	40.4	4.52
NORTHEAST II	48.0	37.3	40.3	4.97
APPALACHIA I	30.9	29.2	32.4	4.58
APPALACHIA II	26.5	29.4	33.0	3.94
SOUTHEAST	37.0	31.5	35.4	4.13
FLORIDA	38.2	37.5	36.8	5.27
LAKE	54.3	37.0	39.9	4.35
CORNBELT I	39.4	31.9	41.5	5.00
CORNBELT II	45.7	37.4	34.4	4.64
DELTA	40.4	35.1	39.9	4.17
NORTH PLAINS	54.3	44.4	40.8	4.56
SOUTH PLAINS	35.3	31.0	37.8	4.90
MOUNTAIN I	59.4	39.5	55.0	3.88
MOUNTAIN II	46.0	33.6	48.1	4.47
MOUNTAIN III	44.6	40.2	46.8	4.86
PACIFIC	38.0	28.4	39.9	5.19
CALIFORNIA	42.1	32.3	44.7	5.90
HAWAII	28.7	32.1	38.3	8.15
U. S.	43.6	36.1	40.3	4.90

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, APRIL 12-18, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER- VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR								
NORTHEAST I	4.66	3.60	4.17	7.13	6.31	4.55	3/	4.43
NORTHEAST II	4.87	3.90	4.50	7.35	5.94	4.81	3/	5.16
APPALACHIAN I	3.98	4.31	4.11	7.89	3/	4.22	3/	5.38
APPALACHIAN II	3.76	3.90	3.85	3/	3/	3.80	3/	4.52
SOUTHEAST	3.73	4.36	3.95	6.68	4.62	3.98	3/	4.19
FLORIDA	4.64	4.54	4.63	9.99	6.54	4.47	5.69	6.70
LAKE	4.36	3.88	4.15	3/	6.07	4.09	3/	4.94
CORNBELT I	5.04	4.17	4.64	8.59	5.62	5.07	3/	4.79
CORNBELT II	4.37	4.39	4.38	3/	5.23	4.83	3/	4.25
DELTA	3.86	4.00	3.90	6.51	3/	3.97	3/	4.59
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.29	4.43	4.35	5.88	5.51	4.56	3/	4.29
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.26	4.93	4.62	7.55	6.26	4.62	5.34	5.36
MOUNTAIN I	3.94	3.44	3.77	5.29	3/	4.61	3/	3.48
MOUNTAIN II	4.33	4.18	4.26	6.02	5.55	4.59	3/	4.34
MOUNTAIN III	4.50	4.29	4.45	7.37	7.88	4.36	3/	5.53
PACIFIC	4.89	5.14	4.93	7.42	7.42	4.93	5.33	5.97
CALIFORNIA	5.44	5.58	5.46	10.00	8.76	5.22	6.42	8.20
HAWAII	7.82	3/	7.68	11.26	7.83	7.85	3/	9.97
U. S.	4.70	4.32	4.57	7.97	6.38	4.67	6.09	5.16

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: 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.

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	ALL FARM WORKERS	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED		
				NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED 150 DAYS OR MORE	149 DAYS OR LESS
THOUSANDS						
NORTHEAST I	125	43	18	64	42	22
NORTHEAST II	127	54	22	51	40	11
APPALACHIA I	128	62	16	50	25	25
APPALACHIA II	183	103	26	54	22	32
SOUTHEAST	101	48	14	39	32	7
FLORIDA	72	10	5	57	44	13
LAKE	383	180	119	84	49	35
CORNBELT I	337	165	80	92	57	35
CORNBELT II	238	138	60	40	24	16
DELTA	129	57	17	55	43	12
NORTH PLAINS	232	131	62	39	24	15
SOUTH PLAINS	212	121	28	63	46	17
MOUNTAIN I	80	38	17	25	14	11
MOUNTAIN II	61	28	14	19	15	4
MOUNTAIN III	46	10	22	14	11	3
PACIFIC	110	47	20	43	30	13
CALIFORNIA	237	52	9	176	132	44
HAWAII	13	2	1	10	9	1
U. S.	2814	1289	550	975	659	316

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
HOURS				DOLLARS PER HOUR
NORTHEAST I	64.1	47.0	39.9	4.56
NORTHEAST II	59.2	34.1	39.7	4.61
APPALACHIA I	35.9	36.5	33.8	4.26
APPALACHIA II	31.7	32.2	32.0	3.92
SOUTHEAST	38.5	32.7	37.9	4.05
FLORIDA	42.5	37.8	35.0	5.21
LAKE	61.3	38.1	39.9	4.29
CORNBELT I	57.6	37.2	40.8	4.75
CORNBELT II	54.1	36.4	39.8	4.27
DELTA	36.3	36.5	38.8	4.23
NORTH PLAINS	61.4	40.1	46.3	4.79
SOUTH PLAINS	29.6	32.1	38.6	4.91
MOUNTAIN I	51.9	37.8	52.3	4.40
MOUNTAIN II	48.5	32.8	46.5	6.44
MOUNTAIN III	38.3	40.4	48.2	5.10
PACIFIC	34.6	33.2	41.8	5.39
CALIFORNIA	38.6	32.3	41.5	5.67
HAWAII	32.9	32.7	39.0	7.41
U. S.	48.7	37.0	39.9	4.83

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	LIVESTOCK	VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR								
NORTHEAST I	4.66	3.77	4.32	6.88	5.01	4.56	5.91	4.31
NORTHEAST II	4.70	3.54	4.28	6.56	5.51	4.87	4.97	4.17
APPALACHIAN I	4.24	3.97	4.17	3/	4.24	4.12	5.31	4.57
APPALACHIAN II	3.73	4.17	3.81	3/	3.98	3.65	4.52	5.04
SOUTHEAST	3.64	4.16	3.90	3/	3.99	4.13	3/	3.97
FLORIDA	4.63	4.58	4.62	3/	6.03	4.67	5.04	6.61
LAKE	4.41	3.66	4.07	3/	4.74	4.51	3/	3.72
CORNBELT I	4.67	4.10	4.41	9.90	4.57	4.58	3/	5.32
CORNBELT II	4.02	4.06	4.04	3/	4.46	4.35	3/	4.00
DELTA	4.01	4.37	4.24	3/	4.01	4.11	3/	4.59
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.16	4.52	4.31	5.50	5.09	4.65	3/	4.65
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.44	4.69	4.58	7.67	4.82	4.43	3/	5.54
MOUNTAIN I	4.49	4.14	4.36	5.58	4.32	4.66	3/	3.87
MOUNTAIN II	4.41	6.17	5.81	8.25	6.99	4.66	3/	7.21
MOUNTAIN III	5.00	4.08	4.68	6.81	5.33	4.79	3/	5.92
PACIFIC	5.09	5.64	5.16	7.21	5.55	4.85	6.05	6.26
CALIFORNIA	5.15	5.56	5.23	9.17	5.91	4.96	6.75	7.84
HAWAII	6.39	3/	6.39	10.49	8.40	6.96	3/	10.61
U. S.	4.61	4.37	4.52	7.79	4.90	4.56	5.76	5.27

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: 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.

WORKERS ON FARMS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, APRIL 6-12, 1986 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	ALL FARM WORKERS	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED		
				NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED 150 DAYS OR MORE	149 DAYS OR LESS
THOUSANDS						
NORTHEAST I	120	45	24	51	40	11
NORTHEAST II	119	47	27	45	36	9
APPALACHIA I	122	64	14	44	29	15
APPALACHIA II	135	85	22	28	19	9
SOUTHEAST	123	61	16	46	32	14
FLORIDA	81	16	3	62	55	7
LAKE	333	179	76	78	60	18
CORNBELT I	279	156	45	78	60	18
CORNBELT II	234	140	54	40	23	17
DELTA	136	71	19	46	36	10
NORTH PLAINS	259	156	61	42	31	11
SOUTH PLAINS	278	160	40	78	53	25
MOUNTAIN I	86	37	21	28	21	7
MOUNTAIN II	65	28	10	27	21	6
MOUNTAIN III	44	10	16	18	14	4
PACIFIC	87	37	11	39	27	12
CALIFORNIA	206	43	11	152	120	32
HAWAII	11	2	1	8	7	1
U. S.	2718	1337	471	910	684	226

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,
BY STATES AND REGIONS, APRIL 6-12, 1986 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
HOURS				
DOLLARS PER HOUR				
NORTHEAST I	57.4	36.5	39.7	4.44
NORTHEAST II	47.0	35.7	40.5	4.36
APPALACHIA I	36.0	34.3	36.1	4.26
APPALACHIA II	31.6	28.3	33.0	4.25
SOUTHEAST	35.8	34.1	36.9	3.68
FLORIDA	38.8	31.2	36.5	5.39
LAKE	49.8	33.6	34.3	3.94
CORNBELT I	45.0	32.6	36.2	4.76
CORNBELT II	48.1	33.7	34.0	4.15
DELTA	36.2	33.7	39.1	4.08
NORTH PLAINS	50.9	39.7	41.8	4.99
SOUTH PLAINS	35.8	32.5	36.0	4.62
MOUNTAIN I	57.5	41.6	51.3	4.14
MOUNTAIN II	46.1	39.5	41.7	5.36
MOUNTAIN III	36.4	34.5	46.5	4.93
PACIFIC	39.3	38.0	38.6	5.08
CALIFORNIA	34.2	26.6	43.4	5.61
HAWAII	27.8	32.3	34.7	7.22
U. S.	43.6	34.7	38.8	4.71

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, APRIL 6-12, 1986 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	: FIELD	: LIVESTOCK	: LIVESTOCK	: VISORY	: OTHER	: HOURLY	: RATE	: OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR								
NORTHEAST I	4.60	3.77	4.11	6.62	4.93	4.62	3/	4.18
NORTHEAST II	4.27	3.64	4.05	7.12	4.45	4.36	4.86	4.28
APPALACHIAN I	3.90	4.23	4.01	7.43	4.04	4.05	3/	5.10
APPALACHIAN II	3.92	4.24	4.04	3/	4.73	4.06	5.41	4.52
SOUTHEAST	3.30	4.10	3.51	6.39	3.48	3.71	3/	3.62
FLORIDA	5.11	4.52	5.00	7.78	5.71	4.52	7.03	6.28
LAKE	4.24	3.37	3.62	3/	4.96	4.03	3/	3.65
CORNBELT I	4.45	4.63	4.56	6.48	4.70	4.66	3/	5.11
CORNBELT II	3.90	3.85	3.88	3/	4.49	4.17	3/	4.07
DELTA	3.68	4.44	3.99	6.33	3.91	3.85	3/	4.61
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.97	4.49	4.74	3/	5.30	4.62	3/	5.09
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.68	4.58	4.65	3/	4.10	4.48	3/	5.02
MOUNTAIN I	4.32	3.57	3.79	5.44	4.36	4.49	3/	3.80
MOUNTAIN II	4.46	5.46	5.07	7.66	6.04	5.60	3/	5.11
MOUNTAIN III	4.73	4.29	4.59	6.89	5.10	4.52	6.15	5.72
PACIFIC	4.70	5.27	4.80	3/	5.90	4.77	3/	6.19
CALIFORNIA	5.04	5.66	5.13	8.75	6.65	5.07	6.60	7.50
HAWAII	6.39	3/	6.36	10.26	3/	6.84	3/	3/
U. S.	4.58	4.26	4.46	7.24	4.80	4.52	6.18	4.92

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.

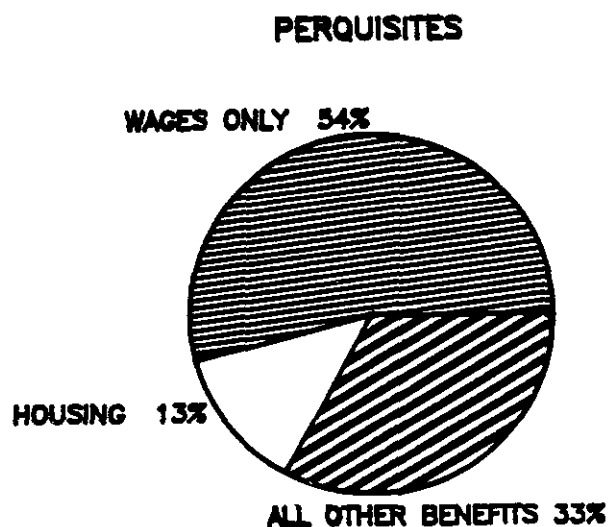
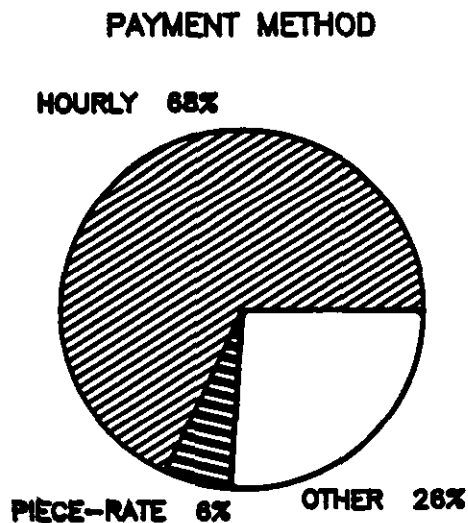
3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

DISTRIBUTION OF HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS, UNITED STATES,
APRIL 12-18, 1987, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

CATEGORY	APR 6-12, 1986	OCT 12-18, 1986	APR 12-18, 1987
PERCENT OF HIRED WORKERS			
EMPLOYED ON FARMS HIRING:			
1 WORKER	17	16	17
2 WORKERS	14	13	13
3-6 WORKERS	22	23	21
7-10 WORKERS	8	10	9
11 AND OVER WORKERS	39	38	40
	100.0	100.0	100.0
PAYMENT METHOD:			
HOURLY	72	69	68
PIECE-RATE	6	8	6
OTHER METHODS	22	23	26
	100.0	100.0	100.0
PERQUISITES:			
WAGES ONLY	54	48	54
BONUS	5	3	4
ROOM AND BOARD	7	8	9
HOUSING	13	13	13
MEALS OR FOOD	4	9	5
OTHER PERQUISITES	17	19	15
	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

HIRED WORKERS, UNITED STATES
APRIL 12-18, 1987



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 188,000 workers for the Nation's farms during the week of April 12-18, 1987. This compares with 184,000 during the comparable week in 1986. California had 49,000 service workers, up 3,000 (7 percent) from last year. Florida, with 14,000 workers, was up 1000 (8 percent) from April 1986.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$6.15 and \$5.85 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in April 1986 were \$6.44 in California and \$5.04 in Florida.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: WORKERS, HOURS WORKED, AND WAGE RATES WITH COMPARISONS, CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, AND UNITED STATES, APRIL 12-18, 1987 1/

ITEM	: APR 1986	: OCT 1986	: APR 1987						
	: CALIF	: FLA	: US	: CALIF	: FLA	: US	: CALIF	: FLA	: US
	THOUSANDS								
NUMBER OF WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	46.0	13.0	184.0	45.0	3.7	229.0	49.0	14.0	188.0
	HOURS 2/								
HOURS WORKED	39.3	35.9	-	40.0	22.9	-	35.6	28.2	-
	DOLLARS PER HOUR 2/								
WAGE RATES 3/	*6.44	5.04	-	6.75	5.39	-	6.15	5.85	-
METHOD OF PAY									
HOURLY	*5.90	4.48	-	6.32	5.06	-	5.81	4.73	-
PIECE-RATE	7.07	4.99	-	6.50	5.30	-	6.25	6.15	-
TYPE OF WORK									
FIELD	*5.87	4.57	-	5.77	4.91	-	5.80	5.56	-

* REVISED. 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 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.

FARM LABOR DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are provided to assist in interpreting statistics published in this report. To ensure consistency in data collection, the questionnaires and instruction manual used by the interviewers provide more in-depth explanations of these terms.

FARM OR RANCH: Places that produce or sell at least \$1000 worth of agricultural products or spend at least \$1000 to produce agricultural products during a year.

AGRICULTURAL WORK: Work done on a farm or ranch in connection with the production of agricultural products, including nursery and greenhouse products and animal specialties such as fur farms or apiaries. Also included is work done off the farm to handle farm related business, such as trips to buy feed or deliver products to local market.

SELF-EMPLOYED WORKER: A farm or ranch operator or partner who did at least one hour of unpaid agricultural work on the farm or ranch during the survey week.

UNPAID WORKER: Anyone, other than a self-employed worker, who did at least 15 hours of unpaid agricultural work on a farm or ranch during the survey week.

HIRED WORKER: Anyone, other than an agricultural service worker, who was paid for at least one hour of agricultural work on a farm or ranch. Worker type is determined by what the employee was primarily hired to do, not necessarily what work was done during the survey week. Type of workers include:

Field Workers: Employees engaged in planting, tending and harvesting crops, including operation of farm machinery on crop farms.

Livestock Workers: Employees tending livestock, milking cows or caring for poultry, including operation of farm machinery on livestock or poultry operations.

Supervisors: Hired managers, range foremen, crew leaders, etc.

Other Workers: Employees engaged in agricultural work not included in the other three categories. Bookkeepers and pilots are examples.

METHODS OF PAY: Wage rates are calculated based on total wages and hours worked during the survey week. Definitions for the three categories are:

Hourly Wages: Pay based on hours actually worked.

Piece-rate Wages: Pay determined by multiplying the units produced (boxes, crates, bales, etc.) by the rate per unit.

Other Pay Methods: All other methods of calculating pay, such as straight salary, regardless of hours worked.

PERQUISITES: Benefits, such as a cash bonus, housing, or meals, provided to an employee in addition to pay are included in perquisites. Wage rates published in this release do not include the value of these benefits.

TERM OF EMPLOYMENT: The length of time during the year the farm operator expects to employ those workers who were on the payroll during the survey week.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE: Agricultural work performed on a farm or ranch if the provider of the service is paid a specified amount for the entire job including labor and the use of materials or equipment.

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* The next issue of this report will be published August 14, 1987 *

