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Farm Labor



Agricultural
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FARM WORKER NUMBERS UP

The number of people working on farms and ranches was up from a year earlier in California, Florida, Hawaii and the Southern Plains and Mountain III Regions, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board. The survey was conducted for the week of January 10-16, 1988, in California, Florida, Hawaii, Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma and Texas) and the Mountain III Region (Arizona and New Mexico). In both California and Florida, gains in self employed farm operators and workers hired directly by the operators were partially offset by a decline in the number of agricultural service people working on farms and ranches.

Wage rates for all hired farm workers during the 1988 survey week ranged from \$5.02 per hour in the Southern Plains Region to \$8.18 per hour in Hawaii. In California, farm wage rates increased 19 cents per hour from January 1987 to \$6.06. Florida's farm wage rate, at \$6.01 per hour, was down 12 cents from the comparable week last year.

Self-employed farm operators in the Mountain III Region worked 38.0 hours during the survey week while those in Florida averaged a 27.9 hour week. Hired workers put in the most hours (47.0) in the Mountain States, while those in Hawaii worked only 38.0 hours during the week.

ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES

Annual average wage rates for 1987 and 1986 are printed on pages 6 and 7, by Regions and selected States. The U.S. 1987 annual average rate for all hired workers was \$4.87 compared with \$4.70 the previous year. The combined annual rate for field and livestock workers averaged \$4.57 per hour, 15 cents an hour more than in 1986. In Oregon and Washington (Pacific Region), field and livestock workers averaged \$5.26 per hour, up 74 cents from the previous year. Increased wage rates for hourly and piece rate workers during the October 1987 survey week accounted for most of this increase. The average rate for field and livestock workers in Colorado, Nevada, and Utah (Mountain II Region) dropped 90 cents from the previous year to \$4.29 per hour in 1987. This drop was due mainly to a lower proportion of salaried (other methods of pay) livestock workers in the 1987 survey sample.

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FARM ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY WEEK

Snow and cold temperatures prevented cotton harvest in Oklahoma during the week of January 10-16, 1988. Cotton harvest was virtually finished in Texas except for a few wet fields. Winter vegetable harvest continued in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. In Florida, winter crop harvest was active for tomatoes, cabbage, peppers, celery, squash, carrots, snap beans, and sweet corn. Lettuce, broccoli and cauliflower shipments were heavy in western Arizona. California's Navel orange shipments were heavy while growers concluded tangerine harvest in central areas.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Starting with the April 12-18, 1987 survey, 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. 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.

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 error or relative sampling error is a statistical measure of the variation that occurs by chance because of sampling. The true value is expected to be within the range of two standard errors below to two standard errors above the survey indication nine times out of ten.

For the seven State total hired worker estimate, the relative sampling error was about 18 percent. The all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of about 4 percent at the combined seven State level. The relative sampling error for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate was about 5 percent for the seven States.

WORKERS ON FARMS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, JANUARY 10-16, 1988 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	112	17	3	92	76	16
SO. PLAINS 2/	248	161	26	61	56	5
MOUNT III 3/	51	12	22	17	15	2
CALIFORNIA	213	46	7	160	121	39
HAWAII	14	3	1	10	9	1

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,
BY STATES AND REGIONS, JANUARY 10-16, 1988 1/

STATE AND REGION	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
HOURS				
DOLLARS PER HOUR				
FLORIDA	27.9	30.5	39.7	6.01
SO. PLAINS 2/	29.6	29.9	41.6	5.02
MOUNT III 3/	38.0	37.3	47.0	5.12
CALIFORNIA	30.4	41.6	42.0	6.06
HAWAII	29.6	27.2	38.0	8.18

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, JANUARY 10-16, 1988 1/

STATE AND REGION	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY			
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	LIVESTOCK & VISORY	SUPER- VISORY	OTHER	PIECE HOURLY	RATE	OTHER	
DOLLARS PER HOUR									
FLORIDA	5.83	4.65	5.79	4/	4/	5.40	7.40	4/	
SO. PLAINS 2/	4.49	4.69	4.57	8.77	7.41	4.71	4/	5.60	
MOUNT III 3/	4.54	4.53	4.54	7.53	7.10	5.25	6.50	4.53	
CALIFORNIA	5.35	6.00	5.50	10.55	8.90	5.28	6.40	8.15	
HAWAII	7.46	4/	7.40	11.48	8.64	7.76	4/	10.99	

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, OCTOBER 11-17, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION	HIRED					
	ALL FARM WORKERS	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	NUMBER OF WORKERS	EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED	
					150 DAYS OR MORE	149 DAYS OR LESS
THOUSANDS						
FLORIDA	74	16	3	55	50	5
SO. PLAINS 2/	277	143	43	91	65	26
MOUNT III 3/	50	10	24	16	14	2
CALIFORNIA	245	56	8	181	127	54
HAWAII	15	3	1	11	10	1

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,
BY STATES AND REGIONS, OCTOBER 11-17, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
FLORIDA	31.4	30.4	41.6	5.15
SO. PLAINS 2/	33.6	33.9	38.9	5.02
MOUNT III 3/	43.8	34.7	44.0	4.85
CALIFORNIA	37.3	32.1	39.9	5.85
HAWAII	30.6	28.1	37.3	8.18

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, OCTOBER 11-17, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER- VISORY	OTHER	PIECE HOURLY	RATE	OTHER
FLORIDA	4.66	4.52	4.65	8.86	7.15	4.85	4.01	7.06
SO. PLAINS 2/	4.59	4.73	4.65	8.47	4/	4.68	4.62	5.59
MOUNT III 3/	4.51	4.11	4.36	7.52	4/	4.51	6.32	5.20
CALIFORNIA	5.20	6.05	5.32	9.70	7.86	5.20	6.95	8.18
HAWAII	7.67	4/	7.62	11.36	8.43	7.87	4/	10.36

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 11-17, 1987 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
FLORIDA	85	14	4	67	49	18
SO PLAINS 2/	216	125	19	72	61	11
MOUNT III 3/	48	10	21	17	15	2
CALIFORNIA	195	46	8	141	117	24
HAWAII	13	2	1	10	9	1

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, JANUARY 11-17, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF-EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
FLORIDA	36.7	35.0	38.2	6.13
SO. PLAINS 2/	27.6	35.4	33.8	5.05
MOUNT III 3/	39.6	36.2	44.6	4.86
CALIFORNIA	38.6	32.3	41.5	5.87
HAWAII	27.7	31.5	37.0	7.84

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, JANUARY 11-17, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY			
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & VISORY	SUPER-OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	PIECE RATE	OTHER
FLORIDA	5.70	4.84	5.62	8.42	7.09	4.95	*7.50	*6.62	
SO. PLAINS 2/	5.25	4.13	4.73	7.40	5.38	5.09	4/	4.98	
MOUNT III 3/	4.30	4.51	4.40	7.37	5.05	4.46	4/	5.97	
CALIFORNIA	5.10	5.66	5.18	10.35	7.00	5.05	6.25	8.60	
HAWAII	6.68	4/	6.61	10.73	8.79	7.30	4/	10.47	

* REVISED. 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, 1987 1/ 4/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY			
	ALL HIRED:	FIELD:	LIVE- STOCK	FIELD & LIVE- STOCK	SUPER- VISORY:	OTHER:	HOURLY:	PIECE RATE	OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR									
NORTHEAST I	4.60	4.64	3.84	4.32	6.79	6.18	4.75	5.76	4.23
NORTHEAST II	5.25	5.19	3.91	4.83	7.72	6.62	5.14	6.92	5.24
APPALACHIAN I	4.45	4.06	4.46	4.17	7.52	3/	4.17	5.15	5.27
APPALACHIAN II	4.03	3.74	4.08	3.90	6.52	3/	3.82	3/	4.84
SOUTHEAST	4.05	3.69	4.32	3.88	6.85	4.86	3.97	4.90	4.18
FLORIDA	5.51	4.92	4.80	4.91	9.09	6.97	4.74	6.25	6.88
LAKE	4.37	4.59	3.74	4.22	6.77	3/	4.43	5.42	4.07
CORNBELT I	4.91	4.69	4.42	4.60	7.95	3/	4.77	3/	5.17
CORNBELT II	4.48	4.20	4.34	4.25	8.18	3/	4.39	3/	4.72
DELTA	4.07	3.84	4.16	3.91	6.33	3/	3.95	3/	4.42
NORTHERN PLAINS:	4.50	4.53	4.11	4.35	5.89	5.51	4.42	3/	4.52
SOUTHERN PLAINS:	4.79	4.42	4.54	4.47	7.76	5.79	4.54	4.65	5.23
MOUNTAIN I	4.05	4.10	3.61	3.95	5.18	3/	4.36	4.79	3.66
MOUNTAIN II	4.43	4.44	3.95	4.29	5.70	3/	4.54	3/	4.30
MOUNTAIN III	4.69	4.32	4.25	4.30	7.16	5.52	4.33	3/	5.36
PACIFIC	5.42	5.24	5.37	5.26	7.01	3/	5.05	6.08	5.90
CALIFORNIA	5.90	5.35	5.81	5.41	10.01	7.66	5.23	6.53	8.30
HAWAII	8.10	7.63	3/	7.53	11.16	8.47	7.70	3/	10.40
U. S.	4.87	4.69	4.29	4.57	7.76	6.45	4.66	5.81	5.14

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 1987.

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						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.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 32,000 farm workers in California and 11,000 in Florida during the week of January 10-16, 1988. These numbers were down from the comparable week in 1987 in both States. California registered a 30 percent (14,000 workers) decline, while the number in Florida fell 58 percent (15,000 workers) from January 1987.

The January 1988 average hourly wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$6.18 and \$5.95 per hour, respectively. Comparable wage rates in January 1987 were \$6.90 in California and \$5.78 per hour in Florida.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: WORKERS, HOURS WORKED, AND WAGE RATES WITH COMPARISONS, CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA, JANUARY 10-16, 1988 1/ 2/

ITEM	JAN 1987		OCT 1987		JAN 1988	
	CALIF	FLA	CALIF	FLA	CALIF	FLA
	THOUSANDS					
NUMBER OF WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	46.0	26.0	35.0	2.5	32.0	11.0
	HOURS					
HOURS WORKED	29.8	24.2	39.8	33.4	32.6	31.8
	DOLLARS PER HOUR					
WAGE RATES 3/	6.90	5.78	6.40	5.10	6.18	5.95
METHOD OF PAY						
HOURLY	5.75	4.60	5.80	5.11	5.55	5.12
PIECE-RATE	6.75	6.22	7.02	4.59	6.50	6.00
TYPE OF WORKER						
FIELD	6.00	5.39	6.00	4.57	5.89	5.69

- 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.

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