
Farm Labor



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service
Fact Finding
for Agriculture

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Statistics
Board

Washington, D.C.

RELEASED: MAY 13, 1988
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NUMBER OF WORKERS AND WAGES UP

During the week of April 10 - 16, 1988 there were 2.98 million people working on farms and ranches in the United States, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board. This number was up 5 percent from the 2.82 million workers during the comparable survey week in 1987. Included in the workforce were 1.32 million self-employed farm operators, 476,000 unpaid workers, and 958,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural Service employees accounted for the remaining 224,000 workers. All categories of workers were up from the April 1987 survey week.

Hired farm workers received an average of \$5.00 per hour during the April 1988 survey week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid an hourly wage earned \$4.78 per hour compared with \$4.67 last April. Field and livestock workers earned \$4.76 and \$4.51, respectively. Last year they averaged \$4.70 and \$4.32.

Self-employed persons worked an average of 45.5 hours during the April 1988 survey week, up 1.9 hours from the comparable week in 1987. Unpaid workers averaged 36.4 hours, 0.3 hour more than last year. Hired workers put in 39.5 hours compared with 40.3 hours in April 1987.

Perquisites and other benefits such as housing and food were provided to 45 percent of the hired workers. Housing was provided to 13 percent of the workers, unchanged from last year.

NEW FARM LABOR DATA SERIES

Starting with the May 1988 release, wage rates and worker distributions will be published for field and livestock workers by type of farm and all hired workers by economic class of farm. Data are shown on pages 10 and 11.

* 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). *

FARM ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY WEEK

Rain and wet ground slowed land preparation and spring seeding in the Southeast and Appalachian States and northern Delta area. Corn planting was getting underway in most major States and was 6 percent complete when the week ended. Overall, cotton seeding, at 19 percent, was slightly ahead of normal. California's cotton crop, however, was 70 percent planted, up 30 points from the previous week. Seeding of spring wheat increased 24 points during the survey week to 32 percent complete. More than one-fourth of the Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota acreage was seeded during the period. Lettuce harvest was just beginning in Salinas, California and was very active in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvest of cantaloups, watermelons, and honeydew melons progressed well in Arizona. Florida's valencia orange harvest continued and grapefruit movement was strong.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

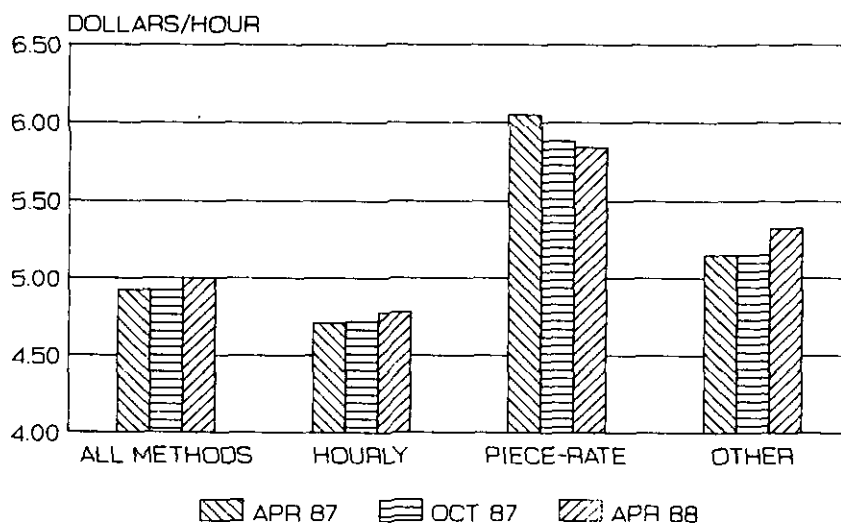
The estimates of agricultural labor are based on multiple frame probability surveys. The surveys utilize two sampling frames--a list frame and an area frame. The list sample is a stratified random sample of producers likely to have hired farm workers. A probability sample from the area frame is used to estimate for employers not on the list. The multiple frame approach assures all employers are represented by the combined samples.

Standard 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.

At the U.S. level, the number of all non-salaried workers and hired workers had relative sampling errors of 2.1 and 4.5 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 relative sampling error of 2.2 percent at the U.S. level. The relative sampling error for hourly paid workers was 1.3 percent and was 1.2 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate.

Sampling errors for the combined field and livestock worker wage rates by type of farm generally ranged between 3 and 8 percent at the regional level. Wage rates by economic class of farm also had sampling errors in this range.

U.S. WAGE RATES BY METHOD OF PAY



FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT, WAGE RATES AND INDEXES, UNITED STATES,
APRIL 10-16, 1988, WITH COMPARISONS

ITEM	FARM EMPLOYMENT		
	APR 12 - 18, 1987	OCT 11 - 17, 1987	APR 10 - 16, 1988
	THOUSANDS		
TOTAL WORKERS	2,636	2,843	2754
SELF-EMPLOYED	1,306	1,322	1320
UNPAID	445	524	476
HIRED	885	997	958
EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED			
150 DAYS OR MORE	654	664	691
149 DAYS OR LESS	231	333	267
AGRICULTURAL SERVICES			
WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	188	227	224
TOTAL FARM & SERVICE WORKERS	2,824	3,070	2978
INDEXES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1910-14=100			
ALL FARM WORKERS	21	18	22
HIRED WORKERS	28	26	30
1977=100			
ALL FARM WORKERS	70	69	74
HIRED WORKERS	79	73	86

ITEM	FARM WAGE RATES 1/ 2/		
	APR 12 - 18, 1987	OCT 11 - 17, 1987	APR 10 - 16, 1988
	DOLLARS PER HOUR		
ALL HIRED FARM WORKERS	4.90	4.92	5.00
METHOD OF PAY			
HOURLY	4.67	4.72	4.78
PIECE-RATE	6.09	5.88	5.84
OTHER	5.16	5.15	5.32
TYPE OF WORKER			
FIELD & LIVESTOCK COMBINED	4.57	4.64	4.69
FIELD	4.70	4.80	4.76
LIVESTOCK	4.32	4.27	4.51
SUPERVISORY	7.97	7.54	7.85
OTHER	6.38	6.59	6.64
INDEXES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
ALL HIRED WORKERS			
1910-14=100	3,262	3,088	3328
1977=100	171	162	175

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 10-16, 1988 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	103	39	16	48	40	8
NORTHEAST II	123	57	24	42	30	12
APPALACHIAN I	115	57	14	44	31	13
APPALACHIAN II	150	93	28	29	20	9
SOUTHEAST	100	51	9	40	26	14
FLORIDA	111	19	4	88	57	31
LAKE	354	185	76	93	64	29
CORNBELT I	292	161	54	77	58	19
CORNBELT II	257	151	69	37	22	15
DELTA	128	57	18	53	38	15
NORTHERN PLAINS	223	139	49	35	26	9
SOUTHERN PLAINS	279	151	48	80	64	16
MOUNTAIN I	80	36	16	28	19	9
MOUNTAIN II	50	20	8	22	18	4
MOUNTAIN III	54	12	22	20	15	5
PACIFIC	98	40	12	46	30	16
CALIFORNIA	223	49	8	166	124	42
HAWAII	14	3	1	10	9	1
U. S.	2754	1320	476	958	691	267

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
HOURS				DOLLARS PER HOUR
NORTHEAST I	59.0	37.2	41.1	4.86
NORTHEAST II	49.1	34.9	39.7	4.96
APPALACHIAN I	34.0	31.3	33.8	4.74
APPALACHIAN II	33.0	26.7	38.8	4.29
SOUTHEAST	33.5	30.6	32.1	4.23
FLORIDA	31.5	33.0	31.5	5.19
LAKE	53.7	36.5	37.8	4.41
CORNBELT I	45.4	36.3	38.9	5.39
CORNBELT II	53.2	41.9	40.6	4.83
DELTA	41.1	32.2	44.3	4.09
NORTHERN PLAINS	55.8	43.2	42.2	4.69
SOUTHERN PLAINS	36.4	32.7	41.5	4.76
MOUNTAIN I	57.6	37.9	48.4	4.09
MOUNTAIN II	48.3	32.5	44.6	4.74
MOUNTAIN III	39.0	34.7	46.7	5.13
PACIFIC	37.1	38.7	41.2	5.45
CALIFORNIA	35.2	34.9	40.9	5.99
HAWAII	29.6	31.4	38.4	7.96
U. S.	45.5	36.4	39.5	5.00

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						METHOD OF PAY	
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	LIVESTOCK	VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR								
NORTHEAST I	5.23	3.97	4.57	7.54	6.53	4.92	3/	4.75
NORTHEAST II	4.78	4.28	4.58	7.76	6.87	4.92	3/	5.02
APPALACHIAN I	4.34	5.02	4.52	7.71	3/	4.48	3/	5.67
APPALACHIAN II	3.78	4.33	4.06	7.88	6.08	4.21	3/	4.64
SOUTHEAST	3.90	4.31	4.04	6.66	3/	4.32	3/	4.13
FLORIDA LAKE	4.67	5.24	4.71	8.84	8.75	4.53	5.70	6.85
CORNBELT I	5.01	4.67	4.92	7.58	5.65	5.31	3/	5.53
CORNBELT II	4.29	4.77	4.51	7.82	5.72	4.55	3/	5.83
DELTA	3.77	4.59	3.94	6.05	3/	3.87	3/	4.71
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.80	4.37	4.61	5.44	5.03	4.77	3/	4.51
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.55	4.73	4.60	7.83	3/	4.64	3/	4.88
MOUNTAIN I	4.18	3.78	4.01	4.59	3/	4.54	3/	3.80
MOUNTAIN II	4.48	4.57	4.53	7.29	3/	4.89	3.38	4.73
MOUNTAIN III	4.92	4.59	4.79	7.97	3/	5.02	5.85	4.97
PACIFIC	5.01	5.42	5.08	7.99	3/	5.18	4.25	6.65
CALIFORNIA	5.43	6.14	5.55	10.50	3/	5.21	6.50	8.20
HAWAII	7.40	3/	7.34	11.90	8.25	7.49	3/	10.60
U. S.	4.76	4.51	4.69	7.85	6.64	4.78	5.84	5.32

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 11-17, 1987 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	112	36	15	61	42	19
NORTHEAST II	141	62	30	49	39	10
APPALACHIA I	131	55	25	51	27	24
APPALACHIA II	151	92	26	33	13	20
SOUTHEAST	111	54	15	42	24	18
FLORIDA	74	16	3	55	50	5
LAKE	354	172	96	86	55	31
CORNBELT I	297	163	58	76	51	25
CORNBELT II	264	154	70	40	23	17
DELTA	131	65	15	51	32	19
NORTH PLAINS	240	141	53	46	33	13
SOUTH PLAINS	277	143	43	91	65	26
MOUNTAIN I	78	35	19	24	14	10
MOUNTAIN II	65	27	12	26	14	12
MOUNTAIN III	50	10	24	16	14	2
PACIFIC	107	38	11	58	31	27
CALIFORNIA	245	56	8	181	127	54
HAWAII	15	3	1	11	10	1
U. S.	2843	1322	524	997	664	333

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
HOURS				DOLLARS PER HOUR
NORTHEAST I	57.0	38.1	44.5	4.63
NORTHEAST II	50.1	39.0	38.2	5.35
APPALACHIA I	36.8	29.4	30.6	4.67
APPALACHIA II	32.7	30.6	30.9	4.16
SOUTHEAST	34.1	31.7	33.2	4.01
FLORIDA	31.4	30.4	41.6	5.15
LAKE	59.8	36.9	41.0	4.45
CORNBELT I	47.4	36.8	38.4	4.70
CORNBELT II	54.9	44.6	45.7	4.32
DELTA	40.2	33.6	49.2	4.05
NORTH PLAINS	57.3	43.9	47.7	4.44
SOUTH PLAINS	33.6	33.9	38.9	5.02
MOUNTAIN I	48.0	30.0	47.8	4.28
MOUNTAIN II	49.6	41.7	44.8	4.58
MOUNTAIN III	43.8	34.7	44.0	4.85
PACIFIC	37.6	39.1	41.0	6.15
CALIFORNIA	37.3	32.1	39.9	5.85
HAWAII	30.6	28.1	37.3	8.18
U. S.	46.6	37.3	40.5	4.92

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	LIVESTOCK	SUPERVISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR								
NORTHEAST I	4.67	4.00	4.42	6.64	3/	4.74	5.71	4.32
NORTHEAST II	5.48	3.64	4.99	7.54	6.94	5.67	5.67	4.68
APPALACHIAN I	4.45	4.57	4.49	6.41	6.14	4.49	5.32	5.07
APPALACHIAN II	3.81	4.26	3.98	6.87	3/	3.89	5.88	5.16
SOUTHEAST	3.73	4.10	3.84	6.81	5.28	4.02	3/	3.99
FLORIDA	4.66	4.52	4.65	8.86	7.15	4.85	4.01	7.06
LAKE	4.92	3.68	4.35	5.73	3/	4.77	5.98	3.66
CORNBELT I	4.38	4.54	4.42	7.96	3/	4.56	3/	5.10
CORNBELT II	4.29	3.87	4.18	7.41	3/	4.16	3/	4.78
DELTA	3.84	4.31	3.94	6.04	3/	3.96	3/	4.29
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.90	3.88	4.35	5.19	5.55	4.23	3/	5.11
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.59	4.73	4.65	8.47	3/	4.68	4.62	5.59
MOUNTAIN I	4.46	3.82	4.21	4.89	3/	4.64	4.80	3.60
MOUNTAIN II	4.69	3.97	4.49	5.17	3/	4.66	3/	4.45
MOUNTAIN III	4.51	4.11	4.36	7.52	3/	4.51	6.32	5.20
PACIFIC	6.11	5.56	6.04	6.59	7.39	5.40	7.03	6.07
CALIFORNIA	5.20	6.05	5.32	9.70	7.86	5.20	6.95	8.18
HAWAII	7.67	3/	7.62	11.36	8.43	7.87	3/	10.36
U. S.	4.80	4.27	4.64	7.54	6.59	4.72	5.88	5.15

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 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	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 WORKER						METHOD OF PAY	
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & VISORY	SUPER- 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 LAKE	4.64	4.54	4.63	9.99	6.54	4.47	5.69	6.70
CORNBELT I	4.36	3.88	4.15	3/	6.07	4.09	3/	4.94
CORNBELT II	5.04	4.17	4.64	8.59	5.62	5.07	3/	4.79
DELTA	4.37	4.39	4.38	3/	5.23	4.83	3/	4.25
NORTHERN PLAINS	3.86	4.00	3.90	6.51	3/	3.97	3/	4.59
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.29	4.43	4.35	5.88	5.51	4.56	3/	4.29
MOUNTAIN I	4.26	4.93	4.62	7.55	6.26	4.62	5.34	5.36
MOUNTAIN II	3.94	3.44	3.77	5.29	3/	4.61	3/	3.48
MOUNTAIN III	4.33	4.18	4.26	6.02	5.55	4.59	3/	4.34
PACIFIC	4.50	4.29	4.45	7.37	7.88	4.36	3/	5.53
CALIFORNIA	4.89	5.14	4.93	7.42	7.42	4.93	5.33	5.97
HAWAII	5.44	5.58	5.46	10.00	8.76	5.22	6.42	8.20
U. S.	7.82	3/	7.68	11.26	7.83	7.85	3/	9.97
	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.

WAGE RATES OF FIELD AND LIVESTOCK WORKERS, BY TYPE OF FARM
APRIL, 1988, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

REGIONS 2/	APRIL 12-18, 1987				APRIL 10-16, 1988			
	FIELD: CROPS:	OTHER: CROPS:	L'STK &: POULTRY:	ALL: FARMS:	FIELD: CROPS:	OTHER: CROPS:	L'STK &: POULTRY:	ALL: FARMS:
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST	4.51	5.31	3.53	4.32	4.34	5.29	4.21	4.57
APPALACHIAN	3.69	4.58	4.05	3.99	3.81	4.52	4.64	4.33
SOUTHEAST	3.52	4.61	4.36	4.33	3.78	4.63	4.71	4.48
LAKE	4.76	5.40	3.58	4.15	4.71	5.18	3.75	4.21
CORNBELT	4.71	5.14	4.25	4.56	4.58	4.97	4.75	4.77
DELTA	3.86	3.72	4.06	3.90	3.76	3.80	4.53	3.94
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.36	4.09	4.38	4.35	4.92	6.45	4.32	4.61
SOUTHERN PLAINS	3.95	3.65	5.03	4.62	4.27	5.31	4.54	4.60
MOUNTAIN	4.18	4.94	3.73	4.10	4.65	4.45	4.21	4.40
PACIFIC	4.97	5.46	5.25	5.34	5.30	5.30	6.07	5.44
48 STATES	4.29	5.14	4.21	4.54	4.37	5.06	4.50	4.66

1/ FIELD AND LIVESTOCK WORKERS COMBINED. EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

WAGE RATES OF ALL HIRED WORKERS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM
APRIL, 1988, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

REGIONS 2/	APRIL 12-18, 1987				APRIL 10-16, 1988			
	GROSS VALUE SALES-\$1000's				GROSS VALUE SALES-\$1000's			
	<40:	40-99:	100-249:	250+: FARMS:	<40:	40-99:	100-249:	250+: FARMS:
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
N. EAST	3.41	3.36	4.14	5.74	4.73	3.89	4.21	4.30
APPAL.	3.99	3.73	4.32	4.71	4.29	3.67	3.80	3.95
S. EAST	4.43	4.12	4.21	5.08	4.79	4.76	3.94	4.92
LAKE	3.90	4.02	4.37	4.53	4.35	4.82	4.43	4.10
CORNBELT	4.73	4.78	4.18	5.45	4.88	3.99	4.77	6.09
DELTA	5.22	3.44	4.07	4.43	4.17	4.06	4.26	3.86
N. PLAINS:	4.63	3.83	4.76	4.72	4.56	4.12	4.25	4.60
S. PLAINS:	4.32	4.48	4.81	5.19	4.90	4.91	4.38	4.02
MOUNTAIN	3.80	4.13	4.27	4.55	4.34	4.43	4.25	4.06
PACIFIC	5.24	5.42	5.06	5.88	5.74	4.65	5.19	5.27
48 STATES:	4.28	4.17	4.39	5.31	4.87	4.40	4.36	4.69

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING STATES.

NORTHEAST: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

APPALACHIAN: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV.

SOUTHEAST: AL, FL, GA, SC.

LAKE: MI, MN, WI.

CORNBELT: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH.

DELTA: AR, LA, MS.

NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD.

SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX.

MOUNTAIN: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY.

PACIFIC: CA, OR, WA.

48 STATES: ALL STATES, EXCLUDING AK AND HI.

DISTRIBUTION OF FIELD AND LIVESTOCK WORKERS, BY TYPE OF FARM
48 STATES, APRIL, 1988, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

TYPE OF FARM	APR 12-18 1987	OCT 11-17 1987	APR 10-16 1988
PERCENT OF FIELD AND LIVESTOCK WORKERS 2/			
FIELD CROPS	25	27	25
OTHER CROPS	33	40	39
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, & POULTRY	42	33	36
	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ 48 STATES, EXCLUDING ALASKA AND HAWAII.

2/ FIELD AND LIVESTOCK WORKERS COMBINED. EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

DISTRIBUTION OF HIRED WORKERS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM
48 STATES, APRIL, 1988, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

GROSS VALUE OF SALES	APR 12-18 1987	OCT 11-17 1987	APR 10-16 1988
PERCENT OF HIRED WORKERS 2/			
LESS THAN \$40,000	13	15	10
\$40,000-\$99,999	14	16	15
\$100,000-\$249,999	21	21	22
\$250,000 AND OVER	52	48	53
	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ 48 STATES, EXCLUDING ALASKA AND HAWAII.

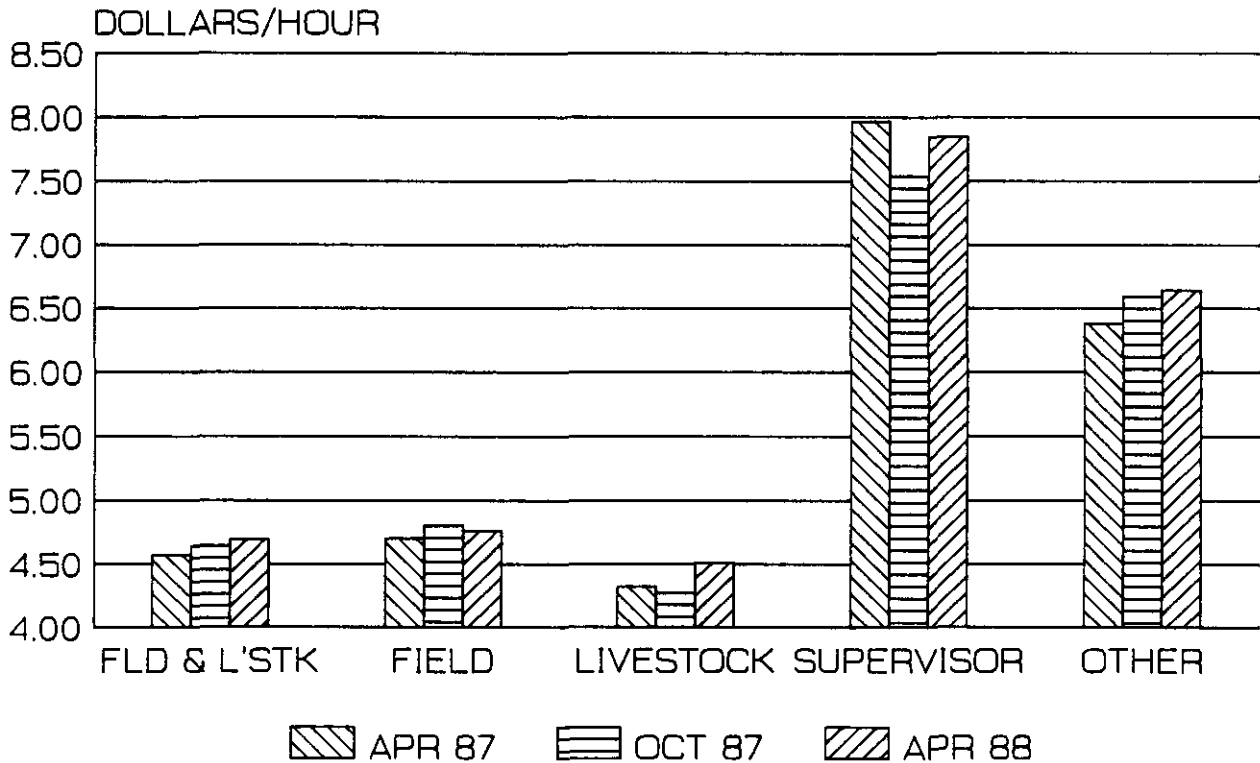
2/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

DISTRIBUTION OF HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS, UNITED STATES,
APRIL 10 - 16, 1988, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

CATEGORY	APR 12 -18, 1987	OCT 11 - 17, 1987	APR 10 - 16 1988
PERCENT OF HIRED WORKERS			
EMPLOYED ON FARMS HIRING:			
1 WORKER	17	15	16
2 WORKERS	13	11	12
3-6 WORKERS	21	23	23
7-10 WORKERS	9	9	8
11 AND OVER WORKERS	40	42	41
	100.0	100.0	100.0
PAYMENT METHOD:			
HOURLY	68	68	69
PIECE-RATE	6	9	6
OTHER METHODS	26	23	25
	100.0	100.0	100.0
PERQUISITES:			
WAGES ONLY	54	56	55
BONUS	4	5	4
ROOM AND BOARD	9	7	8
HOUSING	13	13	13
MEALS OR FOOD	5	5	6
OTHER PERQUISITES	15	14	14
	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

U.S. WAGE RATES BY TYPE OF WORKER



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 224,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 10-16, 1988. This number was up 36,000 (19 percent) from a year earlier. Service workers in California numbered 38,000 compared with 49,000 last April. Florida's number also declined to 7,000 this year from 14,000 service workers in April 1987.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$5.68 and \$6.15 per hour respectively. Comparable wages in April 1987 were \$6.15 in California and \$5.85 in Florida.

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

ITEM	APR 1987			OCT 1987			APR 1988		
	CALIF	FLA	US	CALIF	FLA	US	CALIF	FLA	US
THOUSANDS									
NUMBER OF WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	49.0	14.0	188.0	35.0	2.5	227.0	38.0	7.0	224.0
HOURS 2/									
HOURS WORKED	35.6	28.2	-	39.8	33.4	-	36.4	30.1	-
DOLLARS PER HOUR 2/									
WAGE RATES 3/	6.15	5.85	-	6.40	5.10	-	5.68	6.15	-
METHOD OF PAY									
HOURLY	5.81	4.73	-	5.80	5.11	-	5.20	5.19	-
PIECE-RATE	6.25	6.15	-	7.02	4.59	-	6.43	6.54	-
TYPE OF WORK									
FIELD	5.80	5.56	-	6.00	4.57	-	5.26	5.81	-

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 insure 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.

FARM LABOR DEFINITIONS - CONTINUED

TYPE OF FARM (OR RANCH): An operation is classified in the farm type which accounts for 50 percent or more of the total value of sales for its agricultural production. The three types of farms are:

Field Crops: A farm primarily engaged in the production of: wheat, rice, corn, soybeans, barley, dry beans, rye, sorghum, cotton, popcorn, tobacco, potatoes, sugar crops, hay, peanuts, hops, mint, or other such crops.

Other Crops: A farm primarily engaged in the production of: vegetables, melons, berry crops, grapes, tree nuts, citrus fruits, deciduous tree fruits, avocados, dates, figs, olives, nursery, or greenhouse crops.

Livestock or Poultry: An operation primarily engaged in production of: cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, milk, chickens, eggs, turkeys, or animal specialties such as furs, fish, honey, etc.

GROSS VALUE OF SALES: Gross value includes all income during a year from the sales of crops, livestock, dairy, poultry, or other related agricultural products, including the landlord's share. When commodities are placed under CCC loan, they are considered as sold.

