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# Farm Labor



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service  
Fact Finding  
for Agriculture

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Statistics  
Board

Washington, D.C.

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RELEASED: MAY 12, 1989  
3:00 P.M. ET

## NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWN, WAGE RATES INCREASE

A total of 2.81 million persons worked on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9 - 15, 1989 according to the Agricultural Statistics Board. This number compares with 2.96 million workers during the comparable week in 1988. The workforce was comprised of 1.35 million self-employed farm operators, 423,000 unpaid workers, and 830,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Rounding out the total were 198,000 agricultural service employees doing work on farms and ranches during the survey week.

The all hired farm worker wage rate for the April 1989 survey week averaged \$5.35 per hour, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned \$5.06 per hour compared with \$4.78 last April. Wage rates for field and livestock workers were \$5.14 and \$4.71, respectively. During April 1988, field workers made \$4.76 while livestock workers averaged \$4.51 per hour.

During the current survey week, self-employed persons worked an average of 39.6 hours, 5.9 fewer hours than in the comparable week in 1988. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, put in 34.1 hours compared with 36.4 hours a year earlier. Hired workers spent an average of 40.2 hours doing agricultural work, up 0.7 hour from April of last year.

Benefits in addition to cash wages, such as housing and meals, were provided to 47 percent of the hired workers employed on farms and ranches during the survey week. Last year 45 percent of the workforce received benefits in addition to cash wages. This year, 8 percent of the workers received both housing and meals, and another 14 percent received housing but no meals.

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\* The next issue of this report will be published August 14, 1989. \*  
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## FARM ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY WEEK

Rain during the week of April 9-15, 1989 slowed fieldwork in the Southeast and most of the Delta. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 3-4 in the Delta, Southeast, and Corn Belt and 5-6 days in the Great Plains and the West. Spring wheat planting was 3 percent complete, 9 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Planting was more than 10 points behind normal in 4 of the 5 major producing States. Cotton planting was 16 percent finished, 1 point behind normal. In California, planting of cotton progressed rapidly and was 60 percent complete, while the Arizona and Texas crops were 80 percent and 12 percent planted, respectively. In Florida, Valencia orange harvest increased and grapefruit movement remained active. Grapefruit, lemon and navel orange harvests were active in California. Mixed vegetable harvest continued in central Arizona.

## SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

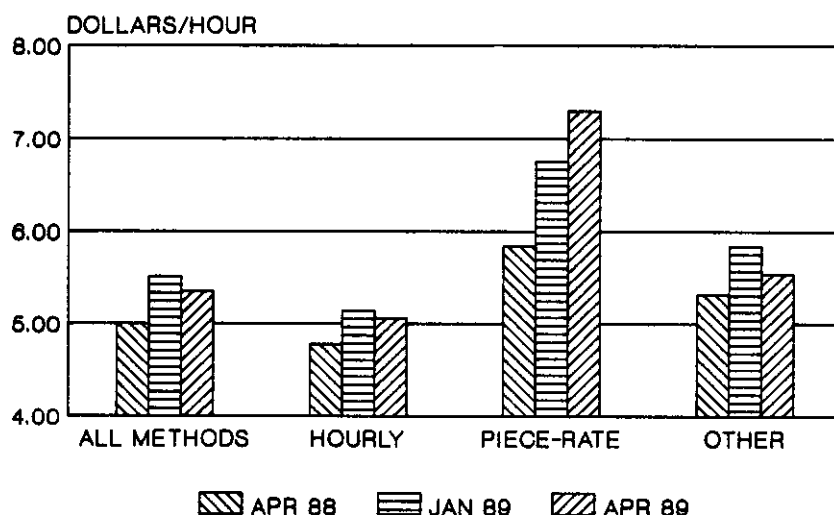
The estimates of agricultural labor are based on multiple frame probability surveys. The surveys utilize two sampling frames -- a list frame and an area frame. The list sample is a stratified random sample of producers likely to have hired farm workers. A probability sample from the area frame is used to estimate for any 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 5.1 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 1.9 percent at the U.S. level. The relative sampling error for hourly paid workers was 1.6 percent and was 2.0 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate.

Sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm ranged between 5.0 and 10.0 percent at the regional level.

## U.S. WAGE RATES BY METHOD OF PAY



FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT, WAGE RATES AND INDEXES, UNITED STATES

ITEM	FARM EMPLOYMENT		
	APR 10-16, 1988	JAN 8-14, 1989	APR 9-15, 1989
THOUSANDS			
FARM WORKERS	2,732*	2,322	2,607
SELF-EMPLOYED	1,320	1,284	1,354
UNPAID	476	337	423
HIRED	936*	701	830
EXPECTED TO BE EMPLOYED			
150 DAYS OR MORE	677*	542	620
149 DAYS OR LESS	259*	159	210
AGRICULTURAL SERVICES WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	224	152	198
TOTAL FARM & SERVICE WORKERS	2,956*	2,474	2,805
INDEXES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1910-14=100			
ALL FARM WORKERS	22	22	21
HIRED WORKERS	29*	29	26
1977=100			
ALL FARM WORKERS	73*	73	69
HIRED WORKERS	84*	83	74
ITEM	FARM WAGE RATES 1/ 2/		
	APR 10-16, 1988	JAN 8-14, 1989	APR 9-15, 1989
DOLLARS PER HOUR			
ALL HIRED FARM WORKERS	5.00	5.51	5.35
METHOD OF PAY			
HOURLY	4.78	5.14	5.06
PIECE-RATE	5.84	6.76	7.31
OTHER	5.32	5.84	5.54
TYPE OF WORKER			
FIELD & LIVESTOCK COMBINED	4.69	5.09	5.00
FIELD	4.76	5.33	5.14
LIVESTOCK	4.51	4.83	4.71
SUPERVISORY	7.85	8.49	7.99
OTHER	6.64	6.47	7.26
INDEXES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
ALL HIRED WORKERS			
1910-14=100	3,328	3,560	3,561
1977=100	175	187	187

\* REVISED.

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



WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 9-15, 1989 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	5.62	4.28	4.88	7.84	3/	5.45	3/	4.94
NORTHEAST II	5.37	4.77	5.17	8.01	7.17	5.47	6.12	5.51
APPALACHIAN I	4.25	4.41	4.30	8.35	3/	4.38	4.33	5.37
APPALACHIAN II	4.21	4.76	4.47	8.64	5.99	4.70	3/	4.97
SOUTHEAST	4.10	4.22	4.13	6.90	6.62	4.30	4.47	4.52
FLORIDA	5.30	5.02	5.24	8.82	7.35	5.16	6.16	6.71
LAKE	4.80	4.03	4.26	7.14	3/	4.99	3/	4.07
CORNBELT I	5.05	5.06	5.05	7.99	3/	5.03	3/	5.98
CORNBELT II	4.50	5.38	4.86	7.55	3/	4.67	3/	5.67
DELTA	3.95	3.49	3.85	5.61	3/	3.81	3/	4.44
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.13	4.88	5.02	7.23	3/	5.12	3/	5.51
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.46	4.78	4.62	7.30	3/	4.79	3/	5.07
MOUNTAIN I	4.44	3.74	4.16	5.40	3/	4.64	3/	4.19
MOUNTAIN II	4.60	4.61	4.60	6.40	3/	5.11	3/	4.92
MOUNTAIN III	4.82	5.03	4.90	7.44	7.19	4.63	3/	6.71
PACIFIC	5.15	5.86	5.25	8.47	6.07	5.13	6.24	7.06
CALIFORNIA	5.96	6.40	6.00	10.40	8.50	5.64	7.92	8.62
HAWAII	7.71	3/	7.55	11.84	7.66	7.53	3/	10.81
U. S.	5.14	4.71	5.00	7.99	7.26	5.06	7.31	5.54

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, JANUARY 8-14, 1989 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	85	34	14	37	29	8
NORTHEAST II	125	62	28	35	27	8
APPALACHIAN I	74	46	7	21	17	4
APPALACHIAN II	149	100	18	31	20	11
SOUTHEAST	103	55	12	36	28	8
FLORIDA	93	20	3	70	54	16
LAKE	255	147	55	53	44	9
CORNBELT I	227	144	32	51	39	12
CORNBELT II	187	131	29	27	20	7
DELTA	108	72	9	27	24	3
NORTHERN PLAINS:	190	131	35	24	20	4
SOUTHERN PLAINS:	242	158	35	49	36	13
MOUNTAIN I	74	49	12	13	12	1
MOUNTAIN II	52	26	7	19	16	3
MOUNTAIN III	46	11	22	13	12	1
PACIFIC	84	46	8	30	23	7
CALIFORNIA	216	50	10	156	113	43
HAWAII	12	2	1	9	8	1
U. S.	2,322	1,284	337	701	542	159

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,  
JANUARY 8-14, 1989 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	HOURS WORKED			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	SELF- EMPLOYED	UNPAID	HIRED	
HOURS				DOLLARS PER HOUR
NORTHEAST I	47.4	36.1	41.4	5.15
NORTHEAST II	39.5	29.5	39.2	5.19
APPALACHIAN I	25.0	30.1	31.6	5.29
APPALACHIAN II	24.7	32.7	37.3	4.74
SOUTHEAST	29.9	35.7	34.3	5.20
FLORIDA	25.0	35.2	38.8	6.04
LAKE	43.9	33.7	36.6	4.63
CORNBELT I	31.0	30.7	38.3	5.43
CORNBELT II	34.6	35.9	30.7	5.68
DELTA	25.5	28.8	36.0	4.62
NORTHERN PLAINS:	37.6	36.4	42.4	5.46
SOUTHERN PLAINS:	29.3	27.6	33.9	4.94
MOUNTAIN I	27.0	30.8	43.2	4.87
MOUNTAIN II	34.2	23.2	40.9	5.16
MOUNTAIN III	27.0	35.1	46.9	5.04
PACIFIC	26.9	38.1	38.4	6.12
CALIFORNIA	34.3	36.3	38.9	6.22
HAWAII	24.8	31.9	37.7	8.03
U. S.	32.8	32.8	37.9	5.51

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JANUARY 8-14, 1989 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						METHOD OF PAY	
	: FIELD	: LIVESTOCK	: LIVESTOCK	: VISORY	: OTHER	: HOURLY	: PIECE	: OTHER
DOLLARS PER HOUR								
NORTHEAST I	: 5.75	4.52	4.92	6.68	5.81	5.22	3/	5.02
NORTHEAST II	: 5.12	4.13	4.55	7.14	6.59	5.32	3/	5.05
APPALACHIAN I	: 4.59	4.92	4.80	8.45	6.25	4.52	3/	6.14
APPALACHIAN II	: 4.33	4.71	4.55	7.53	6.06	4.50	5.59	5.07
SOUTHEAST	: 4.41	5.19	4.82	8.31	5.09	5.11	5.20	5.30
FLORIDA	: 5.66	4.77	5.47	9.83	7.08	4.86	7.21	7.27
LAKE	: 4.49	4.21	4.28	8.97	5.93	4.94	3/	4.31
CORNBELT I	: 5.12	4.79	4.92	8.49	5.38	4.90	3/	6.30
CORNBELT II	: 5.62	5.30	5.43	7.95	3/	5.03	3/	6.59
DELTA	: 4.48	4.03	4.27	7.39	3/	4.05	3/	5.40
NORTHERN PLAINS:	6.21	4.94	5.20	7.31	6.16	5.39	3/	5.52
SOUTHERN PLAINS:	4.15	4.85	4.55	7.92	5.21	4.45	3/	5.38
MOUNTAIN I	: 5.82	4.43	4.70	5.33	3/	4.86	3/	4.87
MOUNTAIN II	: 4.64	4.92	4.82	6.84	5.98	5.01	3/	5.33
MOUNTAIN III	: 4.68	4.57	4.64	6.47	6.78	4.77	3/	5.42
PACIFIC	: 5.50	6.04	5.68	8.72	6.56	5.43	6.97	7.20
CALIFORNIA	: 5.70	5.80	5.72	11.50	8.28	5.64	6.65	7.49
HAWAII	: 7.57	3/	7.51	11.94	7.52	7.58	3/	10.27
U. S.	: 5.33	4.83	5.09	8.49	6.47	5.14	6.76	5.84

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, 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	89*	19	4	66*	43*	23*
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.	2732*	1320	476	936*	677*	259*

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

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	LIVESTOCK	VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE	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	4.67	5.24	4.71	8.84	8.75	4.53	5.70	6.85
LAKE	4.67	3.63	4.21	7.12	3/	4.54	3/	4.19
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

\* 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: 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

REGIONS 2/	APRIL 10-16, 1988				APRIL 9-15, 1989			
	FIELD: CROPS:	OTHER: CROPS:	L'STK &: POULTRY:	ALL: FARMS:	FIELD: CROPS:	OTHER: CROPS:	L'STK &: POULTRY:	ALL: FARMS:
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST	4.34	5.29	4.21	4.57	5.02	5.97	4.12	5.01
APPALACHIAN	3.81	4.52	4.64	4.33	3.98	4.17	4.72	4.39
SOUTHEAST	3.78	4.63	4.71	4.48	3.90	5.06	4.55	4.67
LAKE	4.71	5.18	3.75	4.21	5.54	5.36	3.93	4.26
CORNBELT	4.58	4.97	4.75	4.77	4.84	4.53	5.25	4.97
DELTA	3.76	3.80	4.53	3.94	3.83	3.88	3.91	3.85
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.92	6.45	4.32	4.61	5.21	5.31	4.71	5.02
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.27	5.31	4.54	4.60	4.21	5.48	4.76	4.62
MOUNTAIN	4.65	4.45	4.21	4.40	4.44	4.75	4.45	4.48
PACIFIC	5.30	5.30	6.07	5.44	5.56	5.79	6.24	5.82
48 STATES	4.37	5.06	4.50	4.66	4.54	5.51	4.67	4.97

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

WAGE RATES OF ALL HIRED WORKERS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM 1/

REGIONS 2/	APRIL 10-16, 1988				APRIL 9-15, 1989					
	GROSS VALUE SALES-\$1000's		ALL		GROSS VALUE SALES-\$1000's		ALL			
	<40:	40-99:	100-249:	250+:	<40:	40-99:	100-249:	250+:		
	DOLLARS PER HOUR									
N. EAST	3.89	4.21	4.30	5.90	4.91	4.46	4.21	4.52	6.38	5.36
APPAL.	3.67	3.80	3.95	5.30	4.55	4.48	4.67	4.50	4.94	4.74
S. EAST	4.76	3.94	4.92	4.98	4.87	3.82	5.14	4.60	5.49	5.07
LAKE	4.82	4.43	4.10	4.68	4.41	3.49	3.48	4.28	5.51	4.53
CORNBELT	3.99	4.77	6.09	4.75	5.20	4.54	4.33	4.71	5.89	5.25
DELTA	4.06	4.26	3.86	4.22	4.09	4.88	3.48	3.84	4.08	3.96
N. PLAINS	4.12	4.25	4.60	5.02	4.69	5.31	5.02	4.64	5.95	5.31
S. PLAINS	4.91	4.38	4.02	5.16	4.76	4.45	5.07	4.80	5.19	4.96
MOUNT	4.43	4.25	4.06	4.90	4.59	6.98	4.06	4.21	4.53	4.82
PACIFIC	4.65	5.19	5.27	6.01	5.86	5.35	5.70	5.56	6.46	6.24
48 STATES	4.40	4.36	4.69	5.31	4.97	5.02	4.53	4.62	5.80	5.32

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 1/

TYPE OF FARM	APR 10-16, 1988	JAN 8-14, 1989	APR 9-15, 1989
	PERCENT OF FIELD AND LIVESTOCK WORKERS 2/		
FIELD CROPS	25	21	23
OTHER CROPS	39	35	42
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, & POULTRY	36	44	35
	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 1/

GROSS VALUE OF SALES	APR 10-16, 1988	JAN 8-14, 1989	APR 9-15, 1989
	PERCENT OF HIRED WORKERS 2/		
LESS THAN \$40,000	10	13	17
\$40,000-\$99,999	15	12	12
\$100,000-\$249,999	22	22	21
\$250,000 AND OVER	53	53	50
	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ 48 STATES, EXCLUDING ALASKA AND HAWAII.

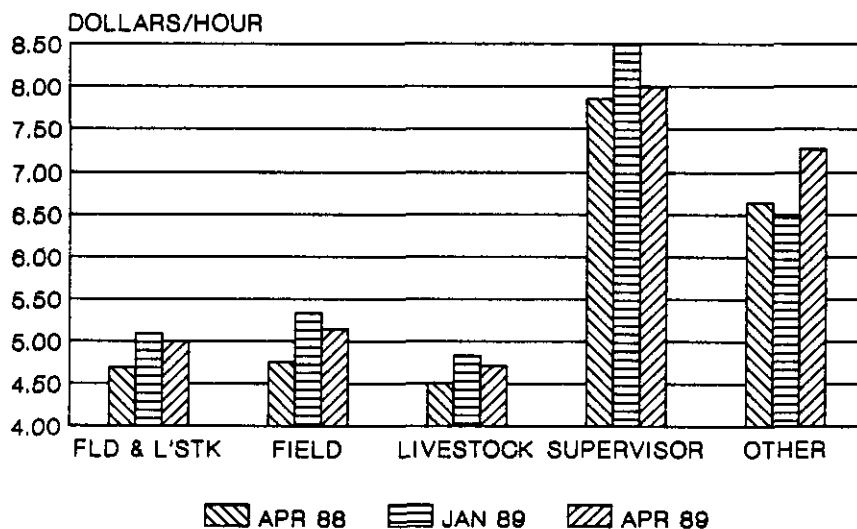
2/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

DISTRIBUTION OF HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS, UNITED STATES 1/

CATEGORY	APR 10-16, 1988	JAN 8-14, 1989	APR 9-15, 1989
PERCENT OF HIRED WORKERS			
EMPLOYED ON FARMS HIRING:			
1 WORKER	16	18	17
2 WORKERS	12	12	12
3-6 WORKERS	23	25	24
7-10 WORKERS	8	8	8
11 AND OVER WORKERS	41	37	39
	100.0	100.0	100.0
PAYMENT METHOD:			
HOURLY	69	59	67
PIECE-RATE	6	9	6
OTHER METHODS	25	32	27
	100.0	100.0	100.0
BENEFITS: 2/			
HOUSING AND MEALS	8	7	8
HOUSING (NO MEALS)	13	16	14
MEALS (NO HOUSING)	6	5	7
BONUS	4	8	5
OTHER BENEFITS	14	17	13
WAGES ONLY	55	47	53
	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ BENEFITS ARE IN PRIORITY FROM HIGHEST TO LOWEST. EACH WORKER IS COUNTED ONE TIME IN THE HIGHEST CATEGORY, EVEN THOUGH BENEFITS IN A LOWER CATEGORY MAY BE RECEIVED. HOUSING AND MEALS IS COMPARABLE TO ROOM AND BOARD USED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS. OTHER BENEFITS INCLUDE TRANSPORTATION, LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE, UTILITIES, ETC.

U.S. WAGE RATES BY TYPE OF WORKER



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 198,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 1989. This number was down 26,000 (12 percent) from a year earlier. Service workers in California numbered 25,000 compared with 38,000 last April. Florida's number increased to 13,000 this year from 7,000 service workers in April 1988.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$6.45 and \$6.24 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in April 1988 were \$5.68 in California and \$6.15 in Florida.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: WORKERS, HOURS WORKED, AND WAGE RATES 1/

ITEM	: APR 10-16, 1988			: JAN 8-14, 1989			: APR 9-15, 1989		
	: CALIF	: FLA	: US	: CALIF	: FLA	: US	: CALIF	: FLA	: US
	THOUSANDS								
NUMBER OF WORKERS WORKING ON FARMS	38.0	7.0	224.0	30.0	15.0	152.0	25.0	13.0	198.0
	HOURS 2/								
HOURS WORKED	36.4	30.1	-	32.4	33.3	-	36.3	32.3	-
	DOLLARS PER HOUR 2/								
WAGE RATES 3/	5.68	6.15	-	6.42	5.79	-	6.45	6.24	-
METHOD OF PAY									
HOURLY	5.20	5.19	-	5.35	5.19	-	5.39	5.24	-
PIECE-RATE	6.43	6.54	-	7.61	5.85	-	7.75	6.39	-
TYPE OF WORK									
FIELD	5.26	5.81	-	6.03	5.55	-	6.00	5.87	-

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/ BENEFITS, SUCH AS HOUSING AND MEALS, 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 sell, or would normally sell, at least \$1000 worth of agricultural products during the 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 on a contract basis for materials, equipment, or labor.

## 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.

