

# Farm Labor



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Released May 14, 1991, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to the week of April 7-13, 1991.

## April Farm Wages Increased to \$5.81 Per Hour

There were 2.95 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 7-13, 1991, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.48 million of the total, along with 436 thousand unpaid workers, and 826 thousand workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 206 thousand workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$5.81 per hour during the April 1991 survey week. This rate was up 27 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned \$5.44 per hour compared with \$5.23 last April. Field workers received an average of \$5.45 per hour, up 25 cents from the April 1990 survey week. Livestock workers earned \$5.35 compared with \$4.94 per hour a year earlier.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 36.7 hours, nine-tenths of an hour more than the comparable week in 1990. Unpaid workers averaged 34.3 hours, 1.3 hours above last year. Hired employees worked 40.0 hours, two tenths of an hour more than in April of last year.

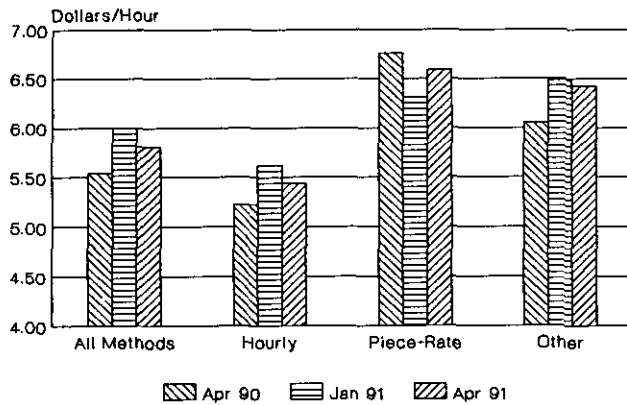
Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 41 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. This compares with 44 percent last year.

Two major spring storms moved across the Nation, generating rain, snow, high winds, and severe weather during the week of April 7-13, 1991. Rain slowed fieldwork in most areas east of the Mississippi River and caused localized flooding from the lower Mississippi Valley to the Great Lakes. Temperatures averaged above normal in the Great Plains and the East but were below normal in the West. Cotton planting lagged behind normal in California and Arizona but drier weather during the week allowed field preparation to progress well. In the upper coast of Texas, excessive rain slowed cotton plant emergence and was expected to force some replanting. In the northern Great Plains, spring wheat seeding was ahead of normal but was slowed by rain and snow late in the week. Corn and sorghum planting was underway in the major producing States. Valencia orange and vegetable harvests were active in Florida. Asparagus and broccoli harvests were ongoing in California.

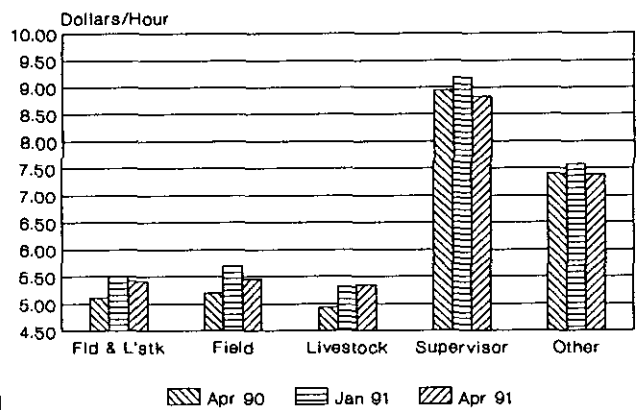
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Beginning with this release, both the content and frequency of the Farm Labor publication will change. See page 18 of this release for more information. For additional information, call (202) 447-3570. Office hours are 8:00 to 4:30 ET.

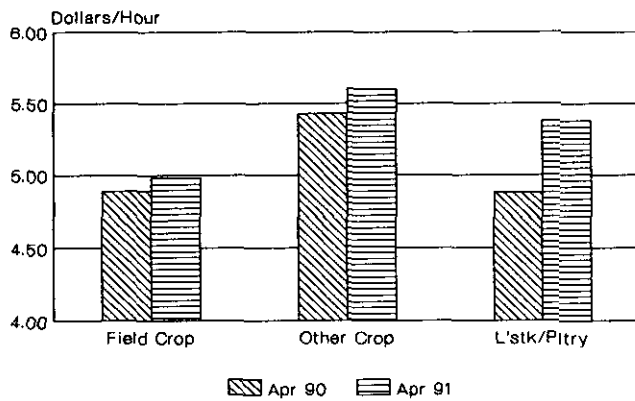
### U.S. Wage Rates by Method of Pay



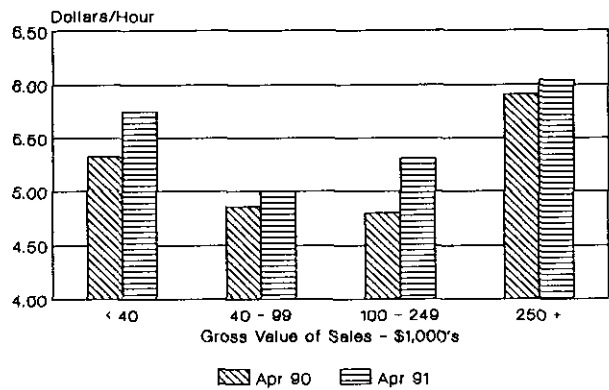
### U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



### Wage Rate of Field & L'stk Wkrs Combined By Type of Farm



### Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm



Farm Employment, Wage Rates, and Indexes, United States,  
April 7-13, 1991, with comparisons

Farm Employment	APR 8-14, 1990	JAN 6-12, 1991	APR 7-13, 1991
	Thousands		
Farm Workers	2,761	2,446	2,743
Self-Employed	1,501	1,401	1,481
Unpaid	427	339	436
Hired	833	706	826
Expected to be Employed			
150 Days or More	637	550	636
149 Days or Less	196	156	190
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	203	168	206
<b>Total Farm &amp; Service Workers</b>	<b>2,964</b>	<b>2,614</b>	<b>2,949</b>
<b>Index - 1977=100</b>			
All Farm Workers	72	77	71
Hired Workers	75	84	74
	Dollars per Hour		
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers <u>1/</u> <u>2/</u>	5.54	6.00	5.81
Method of Pay			
Hourly	5.23	5.62	5.44
Piece-Rate	6.76	6.31	6.59
Other	6.05	6.48	6.42
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	5.11	5.50	5.42
Field	5.20	5.69	5.45
Livestock	4.94	5.32	5.35
Supervisory	8.94	9.17	8.82
Other	7.40	7.58	7.39
<b>Index - 1977=100</b>			
All Hired Workers	194	204	203

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.

Workers on Farms by State, Region, and U.S.,  
April 7-13, 1991 <sup>1/</sup>

State and Region <sup>2/</sup>	All Farm Workers <sup>3/</sup>	Self-Employed <sup>3/</sup>	Unpaid <sup>3/</sup>	Hired		
				Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed 150 Days or More <sup>3/</sup>	149 Days or Less <sup>3/</sup>
Thousands						
NY				22		
Other <sup>4/</sup>				17		
Northeast I	90	39	12	39	33	6
PA				23		
Other <sup>4/</sup>				12		
Northeast II	139	70	34	35	27	8
NC				27		
VA				14		
Appalachian I	122	68	13	41	29	12
Appalachian II	204	151	24	29	19	10
Southeast	122	67	8	47	35	12
Florida	79	28	5	46	33	13
MI				27		
MN				18		
WI				29		
Lake	308	165	69	74	54	20
Cornbelt I	280	172	56	52	42	10
Cornbelt II	210	151	34	25	19	6
Delta	119	64	15	40	30	10
Northern Plains	237	147	57	33	26	7
OK				9		
TX				47		
Southern Plains	280	185	39	56	40	16
Mountain I	80	44	12	24	19	5
Mountain II	54	27	10	17	14	3
AZ				9		
NM				7		
Mountain III	51	10	25	16	13	3
OR				18		
WA				46		
Pacific	120	47	9	64	42	22
California	235	43	13	179	153	26
Hawaii	13	3	1	9	8	1
US	2,743	1,481	436	826	636	190

- <sup>1/</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.  
<sup>2/</sup> Region map on page 16.  
<sup>3/</sup> Number of Hired Workers only is published.  
<sup>4/</sup> Other States in the same Region.

Hours Worked and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers  
by State, Region, and U.S., April 7-13, 1991 1/

State and Region <u>2/</u>	Hours Worked			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Self- Employed	Unpaid	Hired	
	Hours per Week			Dollars per Hour
NY				5.71
Other <u>4/</u>				6.23
Northeast I	50.1	35.4	40.7	5.93
PA				5.40
Other <u>4/</u>				5.86
Northeast II	43.6	41.0	39.3	5.56
NC				4.42
VA				5.60
Appalachian I	32.1	41.2	39.8	4.79
Appalachian II	21.5	23.2	32.6	5.61
Southeast	28.4	38.1	38.2	5.20
Florida	22.5	32.8	37.1	5.98
MI				5.85
MN				5.82
WI				5.20
Lake	46.9	34.2	37.3	5.59
Cornbelt I	36.2	35.5	36.1	6.50
Cornbelt II	40.2	33.6	36.5	5.63
Delta	28.5	29.7	36.7	5.30
Northern Plains	49.0	38.6	41.5	5.41
OK				5.40
TX				5.01
Southern Plains	30.2	29.8	35.9	5.06
Mountain I	42.9	39.4	48.9	5.11
Mountain II	43.4	32.2	45.7	5.67
AZ				5.67
NM				4.87
Mountain III	31.1	25.8	45.2	5.33
OR				5.99
WA				6.10
Pacific	34.4	37.4	41.5	6.07
California	38.3	34.9	44.4	6.38
Hawaii	29.9	34.5	37.8	8.73
US	36.7	34.3	40.0	5.81

- 1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.  
2/ Region map on page 16.  
3/ All Hired Wage Rate only is published.  
4/ Other States in the same Region.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers by Region and U.S.,  
April 7-13, 1991 <sup>1/</sup>

State and Region <sup>2/</sup>	Type of Worker						Method of Pay		
	Field	Livestock	Livestock	Field & Livestock	Supervisory	Other	Hourly	Piece Rate	Other
Dollars Per Hour									
Northeast I	5.98	5.08	5.54	8.43	<sup>3/</sup>	5.96	<sup>3/</sup>	5.79	
Northeast II	5.50	5.01	5.30	7.85	6.69	5.55	6.46	5.43	
Appalachian I	4.31	5.30	4.60	7.75	6.22	4.50	<sup>3/</sup>	5.25	
Appalachian II	4.98	4.90	4.94	10.32	<sup>3/</sup>	5.09	<sup>3/</sup>	6.62	
Southeast	4.66	6.36	5.03	8.61	7.10	4.71	5.67	6.59	
Florida	5.39	5.88	5.45	10.98	8.73	5.32	6.81	7.63	
Lake	5.86	5.07	5.38	7.15	6.62	5.31	<sup>3/</sup>	5.94	
Cornbelt I	5.94	5.46	5.80	9.12	6.35	5.96	<sup>3/</sup>	7.26	
Cornbelt II	4.99	5.20	5.09	8.39	5.49	5.06	<sup>3/</sup>	6.33	
Delta	5.14	5.01	5.09	8.30	<sup>3/</sup>	4.89	<sup>3/</sup>	6.08	
Northern Plains	5.45	4.99	5.23	7.67	7.16	5.48	<sup>3/</sup>	5.34	
Southern Plains	4.73	4.96	4.82	7.73	5.63	4.85	<sup>3/</sup>	5.41	
Mountain I	4.96	4.93	4.95	5.75	5.60	5.23	<sup>3/</sup>	5.04	
Mountain II	5.62	5.21	5.44	6.98	<sup>3/</sup>	5.74	<sup>3/</sup>	5.62	
Mountain III	4.98	5.11	5.03	7.74	<sup>3/</sup>	4.95	<sup>3/</sup>	5.94	
Pacific	5.74	5.95	5.78	7.90	8.20	5.47	6.80	7.24	
California	5.69	6.91	5.82	10.90	8.94	5.77	6.65	9.50	
Hawaii	7.95	<sup>3/</sup>	7.88	14.30	8.61	8.01	<sup>3/</sup>	11.98	
US	5.45	5.35	5.42	8.82	7.39	5.44	6.59	6.42	

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Region map on page 16.

<sup>3/</sup> Insufficient Data.

Workers on Farms by Region and U.S.,  
January 6-12, 1991 <sup>1/</sup>

Region <sup>2/</sup>	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	39	10	36	31	5
Northeast II	122	61	29	32	25	7
Appalachian I	96	59	13	24	21	3
Appalachian II	183	132	15	36	23	13
Southeast	119	69	12	38	31	7
Florida	100	26	6	68	44	24
Lake	265	153	58	54	42	12
Cornbelt I	233	162	31	40	36	4
Cornbelt II	195	145	27	23	18	5
Delta	92	57	13	22	20	2
Northern Plains	206	138	39	29	24	5
Southern Plains	281	190	32	59	42	17
Mountain I	63	38	9	16	15	1
Mountain II	46	25	6	15	13	2
Mountain III	50	12	25	13	11	2
Pacific	78	42	6	30	23	7
California	219	50	7	162	123	39
Hawaii	13	3	1	9	8	1
US	2,446	1,401	339	706	550	156

Hours Worked and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers  
by Region and U.S., January 6-12, 1991 <sup>1/</sup>

Region <sup>2/</sup>	Hours Worked			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Self-Employed	Unpaid	Hired	
Hours per Week				Dollars per Hour
Northeast I	41.8	35.3	39.5	5.78
Northeast II	43.3	35.7	34.5	5.31
Appalachian I	24.2	32.3	37.0	5.25
Appalachian II	20.4	31.4	32.2	5.41
Southeast	24.3	29.5	32.7	5.54
Florida	18.6	27.6	36.0	6.34
Lake	40.9	32.9	40.0	5.30
Cornbelt I	28.9	27.2	36.9	6.28
Cornbelt II	34.9	34.6	36.3	5.55
Delta	24.3	28.7	36.3	5.31
Northern Plains	35.9	35.7	39.9	5.46
Southern Plains	23.8	29.0	32.7	5.20
Mountain I	36.0	35.2	43.1	5.38
Mountain II	32.3	30.8	43.8	5.70
Mountain III	28.3	36.6	46.4	5.77
Pacific	25.9	30.2	38.7	6.72
California	33.0	32.2	41.5	6.78
Hawaii	32.1	30.7	38.3	8.56
US	30.5	32.5	37.9	6.00

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Region map on page 16.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers by Region and U.S.,  
January 6-12, 1991 <sup>1/</sup>

Region <sup>2/</sup>	Type of Worker					Method of Pay		
	Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock	Super-visor	Other	Hourly	Piece Rate	Other
Dollars per Hour								
Northeast I	6.18	4.94	5.41	8.40	3/	5.78	3	5.76
Northeast II	5.45	4.76	4.97	9.00	6.20	5.57	3/	4.98
Appalachian I	5.35	4.86	5.02	7.15	3/	4.89	3/	5.76
Appalachian II	4.61	5.29	5.08	8.55	7.91	4.99	3/	6.05
Southeast	5.10	5.42	5.25	9.91	7.80	5.02	6.52	6.30
Florida	5.80	5.50	5.74	10.97	9.76	5.69	5.90	7.98
Lake	6.14	4.84	4.99	6.94	6.50	5.53	3/	5.06
Cornbelt I	5.92	5.06	5.36	8.16	6.23	5.88	3/	6.53
Cornbelt II	4.78	5.71	5.43	9.14	5.31	5.39	3/	5.77
Delta	5.45	4.57	5.00	9.02	3/	4.63	3/	5.92
Northern Plains	5.44	5.29	5.31	7.47	3/	5.44	3/	5.47
Southern Plains	4.55	4.94	4.78	8.26	6.78	4.89	3/	5.44
Mountain I	5.03	5.02	5.02	6.66	3/	5.26	3/	5.52
Mountain II	5.09	5.46	5.38	7.74	5.18	5.46	3/	6.04
Mountain III	5.09	5.15	5.12	8.31	3/	5.21	3/	6.38
Pacific	6.08	6.53	6.28	10.35	6.71	6.28	3/	7.58
California	5.88	6.80	6.06	11.60	8.98	5.93	6.58	9.40
Hawaii	7.72	3/	7.69	14.58	3/	7.97	3/	12.70
US	5.69	5.32	5.50	9.17	7.58	5.62	6.31	6.48

Workers on Farms by Region and U.S.,  
April 8-14, 1990 <sup>1/</sup>

Region <sup>2/</sup>	All Farm Workers	Self-Employed	Unpaid	Hired		
				Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed 150 Days or More	Expected to be Employed 149 Days or Less
Thousands						
Northeast I	102	44	19	39	30	9
Northeast II	128	64	28	36	30	6
Appalachian I	122	68	16	38	23	15
Appalachian II	210	150	26	34	22	12
Southeast	160	85	14	61	44	17
Florida	76	16	3	57	50	7
Lake	294	168	62	64	47	17
Cornbelt I	275	168	51	56	41	15
Cornbelt II	215	145	33	37	25	12
Delta	137	75	12	50	42	8
Northern Plains	223	149	43	31	25	6
Southern Plains	266	170	40	56	48	8
Mountain I	74	38	15	21	15	6
Mountain II	54	25	7	22	18	4
Mountain III	50	11	23	16	14	2
Pacific	145	69	20	56	35	21
California	218	54	14	150	120	30
Hawaii	12	2	1	9	8	1
US	2,761	1,501	427	833	637	196

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Region map on page 16.

<sup>3/</sup> Insufficient Data.



Hours Worked and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers  
by Region and U.S., April 8-14, 1990 <sup>1/</sup>

Region <sup>2/</sup>	Hours Worked			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Self- Employed	Unpaid	Hired	
	Hours per Week			Dollars per Hour
Northeast I	46.0	34.8	38.2	5.56
Northeast II	41.2	32.6	39.7	5.49
Appalachian I	33.4	30.0	35.5	4.76
Appalachian II	21.7	30.6	34.9	4.64
Southeast	27.3	34.2	35.8	4.90
Florida	26.5	31.5	36.5	5.91
Lake	46.6	38.2	37.8	5.38
Cornbelt I	34.4	29.0	37.1	5.56
Cornbelt II	40.7	34.3	31.1	5.10
Delta	26.2	32.6	38.1	4.52
Northern Plains:	47.4	35.3	46.0	5.39
Southern Plains:	29.1	28.7	43.4	5.12
Mountain I	52.5	41.2	49.4	4.84
Mountain II	45.6	31.4	43.0	5.40
Mountain III	36.0	32.3	50.8	5.23
Pacific	29.6	28.2	41.2	5.79
California	32.3	32.7	43.8	6.45
Hawaii	33.5	31.0	37.8	8.65
US	35.8	33.0	39.8	5.54

Wage Rates for Hired Workers by Region and U.S.,  
April 8-14, 1990 <sup>1/</sup>

Region <sup>2/</sup>	Type of Worker					Method of Pay		
	Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock	Super- visory	Other	Hourly	Piece Rate	Other
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	5.75	4.94	5.31	7.57	7.63	5.58	3/	5.52
Northeast II	5.45	3.85	4.98	8.59	7.11	5.37	3/	5.70
Appalachian I	4.47	4.54	4.49	9.79	3/	4.39	3/	5.69
Appalachian II	4.33	4.48	4.42	8.24	3/	4.55	3/	4.87
Southeast	4.31	5.02	4.52	10.01	3/	4.69	3/	5.58
Florida	5.44	4.79	5.33	10.29	8.21	5.32	6.77	7.19
Lake	5.38	4.84	5.01	7.74	7.30	5.08	3/	5.74
Cornbelt I	4.65	5.21	4.79	9.72	6.97	4.86	3/	7.25
Cornbelt II	5.22	4.77	5.01	6.42	5.55	5.22	3/	4.87
Delta	4.53	4.02	4.34	7.01	3/	4.59	3/	4.43
Northern Plains:	5.34	4.74	4.97	8.41	6.46	5.55	4.81	5.27
Southern Plains:	4.74	4.87	4.81	7.27	5.89	4.91	3/	5.39
Mountain I	5.00	4.34	4.71	6.48	3/	5.10	3/	4.62
Mountain II	5.28	4.93	5.05	7.75	3/	5.39	3/	5.36
Mountain III	4.74	4.88	4.81	7.75	6.61	4.85	5.85	5.68
Pacific	5.28	6.40	5.47	8.36	3/	5.50	6.20	6.69
California	5.71	6.50	5.85	10.75	9.32	5.71	7.33	8.75
Hawaii	7.98	3/	7.92	12.98	8.36	8.00	3/	12.01
US	5.20	4.94	5.11	8.94	7.40	5.23	6.76	6.05

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Region map on page 16.

<sup>3/</sup> Insufficient Data.

Wage Rates of Field and Livestock Workers Combined,  
By Type of Farm 1/

Region <u>2/</u>	April 8-14, 1990				April 7-13, 1991			
	Field: Crops:	Other: Crops:	L'STK &: Poultry:	All Farms:	Field: Crops:	Other: Crops:	L'STK &: Poultry:	All Farms:
Dollars per Hour								
Northeast	6.01	5.85	4.35	5.15	5.42	5.71	5.16	5.43
Appalachian	4.23	4.86	4.58	4.46	3.97	5.70	5.27	4.71
Southeast	4.12	5.23	4.75	4.90	4.31	5.34	6.21	5.23
Lake	5.90	5.40	4.81	5.01	5.85	5.97	4.99	5.38
Cornbelt	5.55	4.38	4.85	4.87	5.65	5.60	5.37	5.54
Delta	4.58	5.70	3.94	4.34	4.88	5.07	5.35	5.09
Northern Plains	5.07	<u>3/</u>	4.91	4.97	5.46	5.52	5.05	5.23
Southern Plains	4.67	5.20	4.80	4.81	4.71	4.60	5.02	4.82
Mountain	4.81	5.68	4.70	4.85	4.93	5.64	5.04	5.12
Pacific	5.46	5.66	6.28	5.75	5.88	5.69	6.48	5.81
48 States	4.89	5.43	4.88	5.08	4.98	5.60	5.38	5.39

Wage Rates of All Hired Workers  
by Economic Class of Farm 1/

Region <u>2/</u>	April 8-14, 1990				April 7-13, 1991			
	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's <40	40-99	100-249	250+ Farms:	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's <40	40-99	100-249	250+ Farms:
Dollars per Hour								
N. East	4.06	4.94	4.41	6.39	5.52	7.31	4.80	4.69
Appal.	4.07	4.13	4.37	5.12	4.70	4.65	4.56	5.10
S. East	5.00	4.51	4.88	5.78	5.39	5.89	5.13	5.13
Lake	7.07	6.16	4.42	5.88	5.38	5.87	4.70	5.36
Cornbelt	4.38	4.42	4.95	5.79	5.41	4.99	5.59	5.36
Delta	4.33	3.87	4.29	5.03	4.52	4.96	4.64	5.50
N. Plains:	<u>3/</u>	3.92	5.12	6.14	5.39	4.55	5.54	5.05
S. Plains:	4.33	5.08	5.18	5.42	5.12	4.77	4.83	4.88
Mountain	6.31	4.48	4.47	5.49	5.14	5.47	4.56	5.21
Pacific	8.94	5.89	6.05	6.26	6.28	6.25	6.43	6.56
48 States:	5.33	4.86	4.80	5.91	5.51	5.75	5.00	5.31

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.

3/ Insufficient Data.

Distribution of Field and Livestock Workers,  
by Type of Farm, 48 States 1/

Type of Farm	April 8-14, 1990	January 6-12, 1991	April 7-13, 1991
	Percent of Field and Livestock Workers <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>		
Field Crops	24	16	23
Other Crops	37	36	44
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	39	48	33
	100.0	100.0	100.0

Distribution of Hired Workers,  
by Economic Class of Farm, 48 States 1/

Gross Value of Sales	April 8-14, 1990	January 6-12, 1991	April 7-13, 1991
	Percent of Hired Workers <u>3/</u>		
Less than \$40,000	10	13	10
\$40,000-\$99,999	17	13	11
\$100,000-\$249,999	18	18	20
\$250,000 and over	55	56	59
	100.0	100.0	100.0

- 1/ 48 States, excluding AK and HI.  
2/ Field and Livestock Workers combined.  
3/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

Distribution of Hired Workers on Farms, U.S. 1/

Category	: April 8-14, : 1990	: January 6-12, : 1991	: April 7-13, : 1991
Percent of Hired Workers			
<b>Employed on Farms Hiring:</b>			
1 Worker	17	17	15
2 Workers	12	15	13
3-6 Workers	24	24	20
7-10 Workers	9	7	11
At least 11 Workers	38	37	41
	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Payment Method:</b>			
Hourly	68	58	66
Piece-Rate	5	6	7
Other Methods	27	36	27
	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Benefits: <u>2/</u></b>			
Housing and Meals	7	6	6
Housing (no Meals)	15	15	14
Meals (no Housing)	4	4	4
Bonus	5	4	4
Other Benefits	13	16	13
Wages Only	56	55	59
	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.

## Agricultural Services

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 206,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 7-13, 1991. Service workers in California numbered 30,000 compared with 48,000 during the April 1990 survey week. Florida's number increased to 11,000 this year from 10,000 service workers last April.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$6.02 and \$7.03 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in April 1990 were \$6.59 in California and \$5.93 in Florida.

Agricultural Services for California, Florida, and U.S.  
Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates 1/

Item	: Apr 8-14, 1990			: Jan 6-12, 1991			: Apr 7-13, 1991		
	: CA	: FL	: US	: CA	: FL	: US	: CA	: FL	: US
	: Thousands								
Number of Workers Working on Farms	: 48.0	: 10.0	: 203.0	: 57.0	: 11.0	: 168.0	: 30.0	: 11.0	: 206.0
	: Hours <u>2/</u>								
Hours Worked	: 36.9	: 31.0	: -	: 34.2	: 34.2	: -	: 42.8	: 31.4	: -
	: Dollars per Hour <u>2/</u>								
Wage Rates <u>3/</u>	: 6.59	: 5.93	: -	: 5.90	: 6.60	: -	: 6.02	: 7.03	: -
Method of Pay									
Hourly	: 5.85	: 5.14	: -	: 5.47	: 5.32	: -	: 5.72	: 6.10	: -
Piece-Rate	: 7.88	: 6.17	: -	: 6.38	: 6.68	: -	: 6.85	: 7.12	: -
Type of Work									
Field	: 6.35	: 5.61	: -	: 5.65	: 6.21	: -	: 5.70	: 6.66	: -

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 a 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.

## Farm Labor Definitions - continued

**Perquisites:** Benefits, such as a cash bonuses, 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.

**Type of Farm (or Ranch):** An operation is classified in the farm type which accounts for the largest portion of the total value of sales for its agriculture production. The three types of farms are:

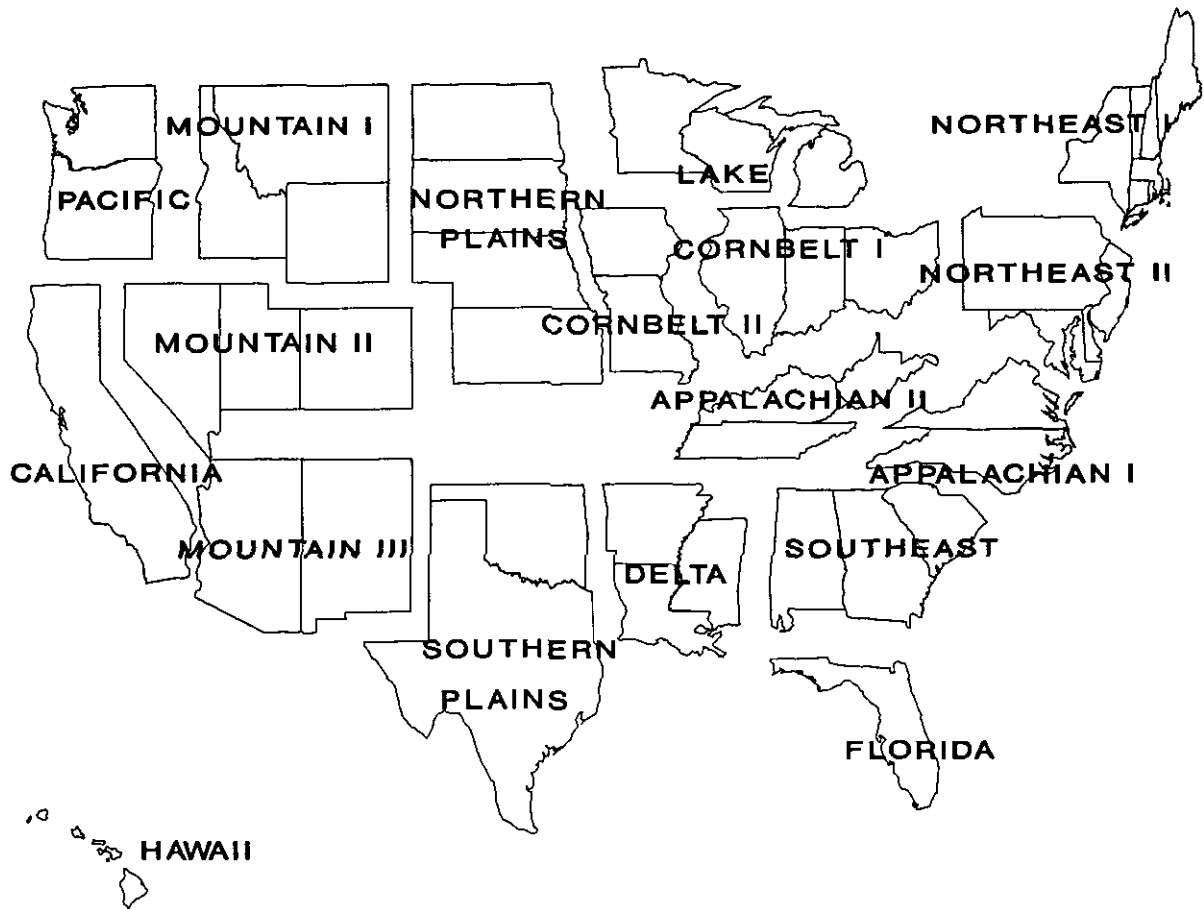
**Field Crops:** A farm primarily engaged in the production of: wheat, rice, corn, soybeans, barley, dry beans, rye, sorghum, cotton, popcorn, tobacco, potatoes, sugar crops, hay, peanuts, hops, mint, or other such crops.

**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 sale 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.

## FARM LABOR REGIONS



### Region

Northeast I  
 Northeast II  
 Appalachian I  
 Appalachian II  
 Southeast  
 Lake  
 Cornbelt I  
 Cornbelt II  
 Delta  
 Northern Plains  
 Southern Plains  
 Mountain I  
 Mountain II  
 Mountain III  
 Pacific

### States

CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.  
 DE, MD, NJ, PA.  
 NC, VA.  
 KY, TN, WV.  
 AL, GA, SC.  
 MI, MN, WI.  
 IL, IN, OH.  
 IA, MO.  
 AR, LA, MS.  
 KS, NE, ND, SD.  
 OK, TX.  
 ID, MT, WY.  
 CO, NV, UT.  
 AZ, NM.  
 OR, WA.



## Source and Reliability of Estimates

These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service during the last two weeks of April using a multiple frame probability survey. The survey used two sampling frames - a list frame and an area frame. The survey collected information from approximately 12,000 farm operators sampled from a list of farm operators and supplemented with data from 3,000 producers operating in randomly selected geographic areas. This insured representation of all U.S. farms (and ranches). Additionally, a list of agricultural service firms was sampled in California and Florida. The survey reference week was April 7-13, 1991.

Two types of errors, sampling and nonsampling, are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both of these types of errors determine the "accuracy" of the indication.

Sampling error occurs because a complete census is not taken. The sample of respondents used to calculate this particular indication is one of a large number of samples that could have been selected in accordance with the sampling design. The sampling error measures the variation among the indications from all possible samples. An indication of 100 with a sampling error of 1 would mean that chances are 19 out of 20 that the indications of all possible samples averaged together would be 98 and 102 (the indication, plus or minus two times the sampling error). The sampling error expressed as a percent of the indication is called the relative standard error. The relative standard errors for the U.S. indications of number of all non-salaried workers and hired workers was about 2 and 4 percent, respectively. The sampling error for hired workers generally ranged between 10 and 20 percent at the regional level and between 10 and 25 percent at the published State level. The all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.3 percent at the U.S. level. The sampling error for hourly paid workers was 1.2 percent and was 1.1 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 2 and 10 percent at the regional and published State level. Sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm ranged between 4 and 6 percent at the regional level.

Nonsampling errors can occur in complete censuses as well as sample surveys. They are due to such things as inability to obtain correct information from each person sampled, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, mistakes in coding or processing the data, etc. Careful efforts were made at each step of the survey to minimize nonsampling errors.

## Change in Publication Frequency and Content

The Farm Labor report content and frequency will be expanded beginning with this report. Additional information includes the number of All Hired Workers and All Hired Worker Wage Rates for selected States. The States are Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. The quarterly scheduled release dates of May 14, August 13, and November 13 will have this additional State level information along with the Regional/State level information previously published.

Beginning June 14, 1991, the current quarterly release schedule will be supplemented with monthly releases. The new release dates for 1991 are July 12, September 13, October 11, and December 13. Number of All Hired Workers and All Hired Worker Wage Rates will be published monthly for four States (California, Florida, New Mexico, and Texas) and seasonally from April through October in seven additional States (Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin). The additional monthly releases will not have any Regional or U.S. level information. The number of Agricultural Service Workers and the corresponding All Hired Worker Wage Rate will be published monthly for California and Florida.

The next Farm Labor report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on June 14, 1991.

## Release of Historical Farm Labor Data Series

Statistical Bulletin number 822 titled Farm Employment and Wage Rates 1910-1990 is now available. This publication combines selected farm labor estimates from 1910 through 1990 into a single reference copy. A history of the farm labor data series is highlighted. Also discussed are the Agricultural Labor Survey sample design, survey definitions, and data collection methods. Estimation procedures and publication of data in the Farm Labor release are presented.

An electronic file containing data in this historical report is also available (\$35). These data are in the form of LOTUS 1-2-3 worksheet files on two (2) DOS compatible, 3 1/2" HD diskettes.

To order a printed copy of Farm Employment and Wage Rates 1910-1990, ask for Statistical Bulletin number 822 (\$14). To receive the electronic files, ask for Farm Employment and Wage Rates 1910-1990, order #91005Z.

**Subscription Information:** To subscribe to NASS reports or to order single copies, call toll free, 1-800-999-6779 (weekdays 8:30-5:00 ET). You may write: ERS/NASS, P.O. Box 1608, Rockville, Md. 20849-1608.



