

Farm Labor



**National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service**

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Washington, D.C.

Released July 10, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to the week of June 7-13, 1992.

Number of Hired Workers Up

There were 575,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in the eleven surveyed States during the week of June 7-13, 1992. This compares with 566,000 workers during the June 1991 survey week. There were 61,500 agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches in California and Florida compared to 64,000 in June of 1991.

Average June wage rates received by hired workers in the eleven surveyed States ranged from \$4.75 per hour in Wisconsin to \$6.54 per hour in Oregon. Wages were higher when compared with last year except in Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. In June, agricultural service workers were paid an average of \$5.76 and \$7.30 per hour in California and Florida, respectively.

During the survey week of June 7-13, 1992, rain limited farm work in portions of North Carolina, Florida, and Texas. In North Carolina, small grain harvests lagged behind normal. Tobacco transplanting continued. Heavy rains fell in Florida's Panhandle area. The Valencia orange harvest slowed seasonally. Vegetable harvest was active in the northern growing areas. Scattered rains hampered farm work in portions of Texas with localized flooding reported in the Northern High Plains. Winter wheat harvest lagged behind normal. Peanut and sorghum planting was delayed in some areas by wet field conditions. Watermelon harvest was winding down in the Rio Grande Valley. Spring lettuce harvest was complete in New Mexico. Cherry picking was virtually complete in California. Apricot, plum, freestone peach, nectarine, and Valencia orange harvests continued. Lettuce and celery harvests were ongoing in the Salinas-Watsonville and Santa Maria areas. Melon picking continued in the Westside and desert areas. Fresh market tomato harvest began in the Westside area. Raspberry, blueberry, and cherry harvests were active in Oregon and Washington. In Oregon, fruit and berry growers were experiencing a shortage of pickers due to the early season. Strawberry harvest was virtually complete in Oregon but continued in Washington. Hay harvest was active in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Cabbage transplanting was active in central and western New York.

For Information call Tom Kurtz at (202) 690-3228. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

All Hired Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,
Selected States, June 7-13, 1992 1/

State	: Number : of : Workers	: Average : Hours : Worked	: Wage Rates <u>2/</u>			
			: All : Hired	: Paid : Hourly	: Field : Workers	: Field & Lvstk : Workers Comb
	: Thousands	Hours	----- Dollars per Hour -----			
NY	: 25	38.0	6.10	6.05	6.15	5.79
PA	: 35	38.0	6.10	5.93	5.55	5.57
NC	: 38	26.0	5.07	4.66	4.67	4.83
FL	: 38	37.5	6.51	5.78	5.87	5.97
MI	: 37	33.1	6.14	5.51	5.82	5.71
WI	: 38	31.7	4.75	4.95	5.03	4.65
TX	: 50	33.4	5.11	4.94	4.82	4.92
NM	: 8	36.4	5.53	5.34	5.00	5.25
OR	: 28	40.2	6.54	6.15	6.13	6.14
WA	: 68	35.0	5.78	5.65	5.68	5.71
CA	: 210	40.2	6.28	5.71	5.78	5.85

Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,
California and Florida, June 7-13, 1992

State	: Number : Working : on : Farms	: Average : Hours : Worked	: Wage Rates <u>2/</u>			
			: All : Hired	: Paid : Hourly	: Paid : Piece Rate	: Field : Workers
	: Thousands	Hours	---- Dollars per Hour ----			
FL	: 1.5	34.0	7.30	6.75	7.20	6.48
CA	: 60.0	36.7	5.76	5.22	7.00	5.48

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Benefits such as housing and meals are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

All Hired Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,
Selected States, May 10-16, 1992 ^{1/}

State	Number of Workers	Average Hours Worked	Wage Rates ^{2/}			
			All Hired	Paid Hourly	Field Workers	Field & Lvstk Workers Comb
	Thousands	Hours	Dollars per Hour			
NY	21	38.4	6.00	6.41	6.06	5.74
PA	31	42.0	6.17	6.00	5.87	5.72
NC	39	31.9	5.02	4.71	4.77	4.90
FL	47	41.0	6.45	6.00	6.08	6.02
MI	26	37.5	6.17	5.10	5.39	5.29
WI	25	35.4	4.63	4.37	4.95	4.54
TX	48	38.4	5.07	5.08	4.72	4.98
NM	7	44.2	5.26	5.24	4.55	4.97
OR	29	38.8	6.25	5.91	6.00	6.00
WA	39	37.0	5.88	5.60	5.69	5.75
CA	217	42.1	6.30	5.83	6.00	6.01

Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,
California and Florida, May 10-16, 1992

State	Number Working on Farms	Average Hours Worked	Wage Rates ^{2/}			
			All Hired	Paid Hourly	Paid Piece Rate	Field Workers
	Thousands	Hours	Dollars per Hour			
FL	6.5	28.0	7.44	6.85	7.30	7.10
CA	45.0	40.4	5.80	5.12	7.18	5.54

^{1/} Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

^{2/} Benefits such as housing and meals are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

All Hired Workers: Number and Wage Rates,
Selected States, June 9-15, 1991 1/

State	Number of Workers	Wage Rates <u>2/</u>
	Thousands	Dollars per Hour
NY	36	5.67
PA	29	5.35
NC	30	4.90
FL	33	6.04
MI	30	5.74
WI	41	4.83
TX	55	5.52
NM	6	4.75
OR	34	5.50
WA	58	5.95
CA	214	6.03

Agricultural Service Workers: Number and Wage Rates,
California and Florida, June 9-15, 1991

State	Number of Workers Working on Farms	Wage Rates <u>2/</u>
	Thousands	Dollars per Hour
FL	2	6.85
CA	62	5.72

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Benefits such as housing and meals are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates

Survey Procedures: These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service during the last two weeks of June using sampling procedures to ensure every employer of agricultural workers had a chance of being selected.

Two samples of farm operators are selected. First, NASS maintains a list of farms that hire farm workers. Farms on this list are classified by size and type. Those expected to employ large numbers of workers are selected with greater frequency than those hiring few or no workers. A second sample consists of segments of land scientifically selected from aerial photography. Each June, highly trained interviewers locate each selected land segment and identify every farm operating land within the sample segment's boundaries. The names of farms found in these area segments are matched against the list of farms; those not found on the list are included in the labor survey sample to represent all farms not on the NASS list. This methodology is known as multiple frame sampling, with an area sample used to measure the incompleteness of the list. Additionally, a list of agricultural service firms was sampled in California and Florida. The survey reference week was June 7-13, 1992.

Reliability: Two types of errors, sampling and nonsampling, are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both types affect the "precision" of the estimates.

Sampling error occurs because a complete census is not taken. The sampling error measures the variation in estimates from the average of all possible samples. An estimate of 100 with a sampling error of 1 would mean that chances are 19 out of 20 that the estimates from all possible samples averaged together would be between 98 and 102; which is the survey estimate, plus or minus two times the sampling error. The sampling error expressed as a percent of the estimate is called the relative sampling error. The relative sampling error for the number of hired workers generally ranged between 15 and 25 percent at the published State level. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 3 and 6 percent. The relative sampling error for hourly paid workers, and field and livestock workers combined also ranged between 3 and 6 percent.

Nonsampling errors can occur in complete censuses as well as in sample surveys. They are caused by the inability to obtain correct information from each operation sampled, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, and mistakes in coding or processing the data. Special efforts are taken at each step of the survey to minimize nonsampling errors.

Revision Policy: Farm labor information is subject to revision the next time the information is published or the year after the original publication date. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. Worker numbers and wage rates for May 1992 and June 1991 were subject to revision with this report. No revisions were made but previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.

The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on August 18, 1992.

The August 18th report will have information for the survey week of July 12-18, 1992. The report will include the number of Total Workers, All Hired Workers, Average Hours Worked by Hired Workers, and the All Hired Worker Wage Rates for 16 States along with regional and U.S. level information. State level information will be available for Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. The hourly method of pay wage rate and the wage rate for field and livestock workers will be available for the 16 States and at the regional and U.S. level. The number of self-employed and unpaid workers along with the corresponding average hours worked will be available for California, Florida, Hawaii, and at the regional and U.S. level. Wage rates by method of pay, type of worker, type of farm, and economic class of farm will also be available at the regional and U.S. level. The number of Agricultural Service Workers and the corresponding wage rates (including by method of pay and for field workers) will be published for Florida and California.
