

Farm Labor



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released August 13, 1996, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Farm Labor" call Eddie Oaks at (202) 690-3228, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET. For assistance with general agricultural statistics, information about NASS, its products or services, contact the NASS Information Hotline at 1-800-727-9540 or E-mail: NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV.

Hired Workers Down 5 Percent, Wages Up 11 Cents

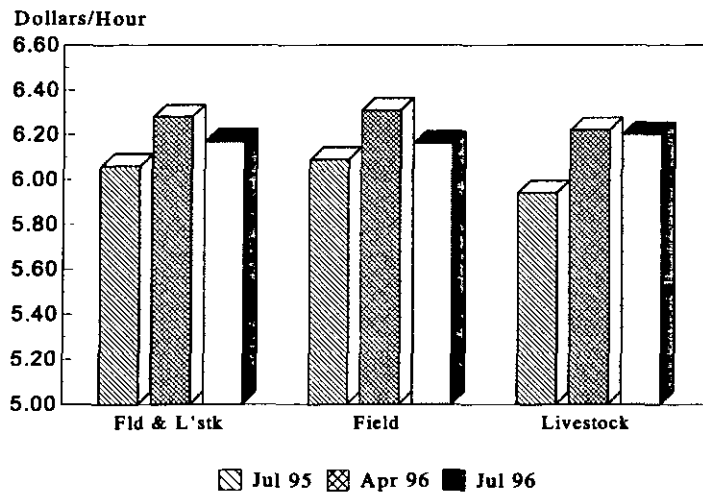
There were 1.35 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 1996. There were 1,015,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 331,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$6.55 per hour during the July 1996 survey week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$6.16 per hour, up 7 cents. Livestock workers earned \$6.20 per hour compared with \$5.94 a year earlier.

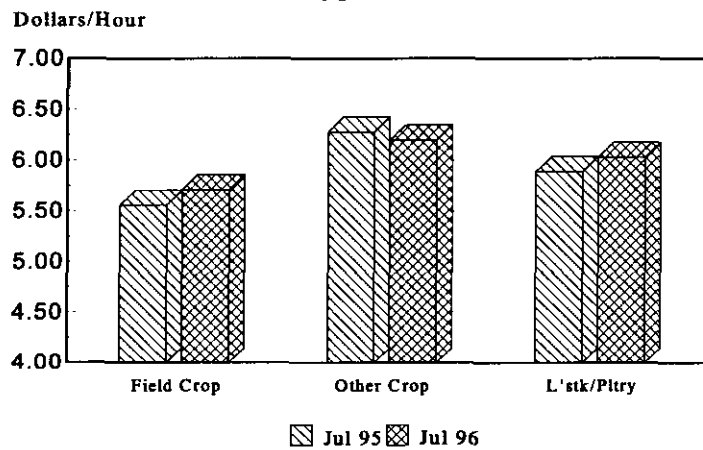
Self-employed and unpaid workers are not published in this report. These statistics will be published annually beginning with the October survey release. Benefits will not be published in this report. These data will be collected periodically to update the data series.

During the survey week of July 7-13, dry weather continued across the Corn Belt. Crop moisture also diminished over the Southeast. Farther west, significant rainfall from Arizona to Oklahoma tempered long-term drought. Heat intensified in the Northwest, but very cool air spread over the Midwest and the Plains as far south as northern Texas. Late in the week, Hurricane Bertha jolted the North Carolina coastline. Bertha's rain and steadily diminishing winds spread northward into New England. Across the Southwestern and South-Central States, tropical origin moisture and a stalled front fueled torrential rainfall. Days suitable for fieldwork across the U.S. were mostly 6-7 days. In California, small grain harvest was virtually complete as second crop planting of row crops was winding down. Table grape harvest was gaining momentum in the Central Valley. Vegetable and fruit harvests continued. Activity in Florida included summer vegetables harvest, hay making, and tobacco harvest. In Texas, small grain harvest was slowing in the High Plains. Some replanting of failed cotton continued while defoliation activity was getting underway in the Rio Grande Valley. Onion and potato harvests in the High Plains were delayed by rain.

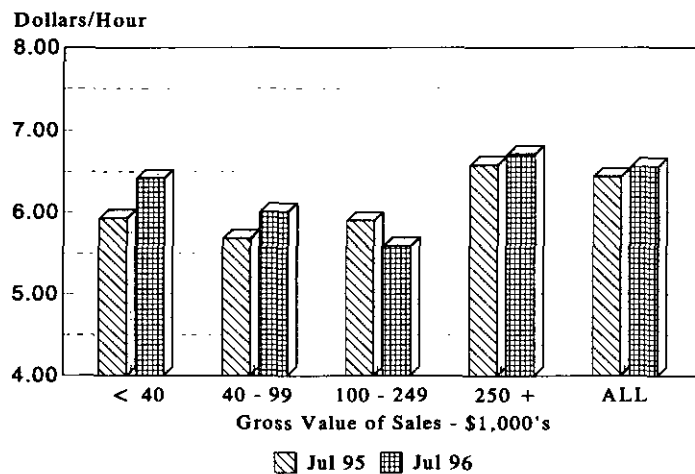
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



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



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm



Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
July 7-13, 1996, with Comparisons 1/

Farm Employment	July 9-15, 1995	April 7-13, 1996	July 7-13, 1996
		1,000	
Hired Workers	1,066	780	1,015
Expected to be Employed			
150 Days or More	669	599	652
149 Days or Less	397	181	363
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	348	207	331
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,414	987	1,346
		Hours per Week	
Hours Worked			
Hired	39.9	40.7	40.9
		Dollars per Hour	
Wage Rates for			
All Hired Workers 2/ 3/	6.44	6.76	6.55
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combines	6.06	6.28	6.17
Field	6.09	6.31	6.16
Livestock	5.94	6.22	6.20

1/ Excludes AK.

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

3/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, July 7-13, 1996 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Hired			
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of hours Worked
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less	
		1,000		
Northeast I	49	34	15	39.1
Northeast II	43	31	12	41.9
Appalachian I	57	26	31	32.4
Appalachian II	37	15	22	28.6
Southeast	30	18	12	39.6
FL	43	38	5	37.5
Lake	81	51	30	35.5
Cornbelt I	54	31	23	31.8
Cornbelt II	46	24	22	37.5
Delta	40	31	9	45.2
Northern Plains	43	24	19	49.8
Southern Plains	70	50	20	45.9
Mountain I	30	22	8	48.3
Mountain II	21	14	7	47.8
Mountain III	20	17	3	50.9
Pacific	109	55	54	40.6
CA	235	165	70	44.7
HI	7	6	1	36.1
US 3/	1,015	652	363	40.9

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 13.

3/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, July 7-13, 1996 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
Dollars per Hour				
Northeast I	6.80	5.97	6.55	6.98
Northeast II	6.28	5.94	6.16	6.51
Appalachian I	5.36	6.09	5.53	5.73
Appalachian II	5.35	6.04	5.46	5.91
Southeast	5.62	5.25	5.58	5.85
FL	6.35	7.10	6.45	7.40
Lake	6.51	6.02	6.31	6.57
Cornbelt I	6.70	6.65	6.69	7.08
Cornbelt II	5.97	5.48	5.84	6.34
Delta	5.96	5.75	5.91	6.13
Northern Plains	6.30	5.78	6.20	6.46
Southern Plains	5.17	5.84	5.36	6.01
Mountain I	6.06	5.75	5.90	5.94
Mountain II	5.88	6.05	5.92	6.27
Mountain III	5.80	5.99	5.87	6.39
Pacific	6.30	8.20	6.43	6.78
CA	6.33	7.27	6.42	6.82
HI	8.74	3/	8.74	9.85
US 4/	6.16	6.20	6.17	6.55

- 1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.
2/ Region map on page 13.
3/ Insufficient data.
4/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, April 7-13, 1996 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Hired			
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less	
		Dollars per Hour		
Northeast I	33	27	6	40.8
Northeast II	35	30	5	38.4
Appalachian I	38	27	11	37.5
Appalachian II	20	13	7	33.6
Southeast	32	23	9	37.2
FL	50	43	7	38.5
Lake	59	44	15	36.7
Cornbelt I	43	35	8	37.2
Cornbelt II	27	20	7	34.7
Delta	44	32	12	41.8
Northern Plains	36	28	8	40.5
Southern Plains	64	48	16	41.6
Mountain I	27	21	6	48.9
Mountain II	15	11	4	43.3
Mountain III	19	16	3	49.2
Pacific	46	30	16	40.7
CA	185	145	40	43.9
HI	7	6	1	37.5
US 3/	780	599	181	40.7

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 13.

3/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
April 7-13, 1996 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	1,000			
Northeast I	7.47	6.20	6.93	7.27
Northeast II	6.62	5.31	6.11	6.78
Appalachian I	5.60	6.21	5.78	6.03
Appalachian II	5.84	5.75	5.80	6.29
Southeast	5.52	5.63	5.56	5.96
FL	6.12	7.10	6.27	7.05
Lake	6.78	6.39	6.56	7.02
Cornbelt I	6.57	6.76	6.61	7.14
Cornbelt II	6.47	7.00	6.67	6.89
Delta	5.38	5.74	5.46	5.65
Northern Plains	6.76	5.79	6.32	6.51
Southern Plains	5.38	5.53	5.45	6.12
Mountain I	5.54	5.29	5.42	5.78
Mountain II	5.60	5.88	5.73	6.53
Mountain III	5.67	6.03	5.74	6.34
Pacific	6.83	7.22	6.87	7.44
CA	6.53	7.50	6.64	7.14
HI	8.79	3/	8.76	10.13
US 4/	6.31	6.22	6.28	6.76

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 13.

3/ Insufficient data.

4/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, July 9-15, 1995 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Hired			
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less	
		1,000		
Northeast I	53	37	16	41.3
Northeast II	52	32	20	40.9
Appalachian I	79	32	47	35.9
Appalachian II	44	21	23	29.0
Southeast	46	24	22	37.3
FL	48	44	4	38.0
Lake	90	43	47	35.1
Cornbelt I	56	33	23	37.5
Cornbelt II	36	23	13	32.9
Delta	47	34	13	40.0
Northern Plains	38	25	13	48.6
Southern Plains	69	50	19	42.4
Mountain I	33	21	12	41.9
Mountain II	20	13	7	40.9
Mountain III	20	16	4	49.4
Pacific	103	49	54	40.1
CA	225	166	59	44.1
HI	7	6	1	37.3
US 3/	1,066	669	397	39.9

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 13.

3/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
July 9-15, 1995 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
Dollars per Hour				
Northeast I	6.58	5.71	6.23	6.77
Northeast II	6.10	5.22	5.86	6.32
Appalachian I	5.63	6.13	5.68	5.87
Appalachian II	5.37	5.56	5.43	5.61
Southeast	5.47	5.58	5.49	5.89
FL	6.79	6.45	6.75	7.80
Lake	6.18	5.71	6.03	6.38
Cornbelt I	6.07	6.10	6.08	6.37
Cornbelt II	5.93	5.95	5.93	6.26
Delta	5.28	5.72	5.40	5.61
Northern Plains	6.10	5.33	5.83	5.98
Southern Plains	5.39	5.76	5.52	5.83
Mountain I	5.71	5.91	5.77	5.87
Mountain II	5.48	5.09	5.31	5.78
Mountain III	5.54	6.31	5.71	6.24
Pacific	6.66	7.35	6.70	6.89
CA	6.27	7.52	6.37	6.88
HI	8.81	3/	8.78	9.94
US 4/	6.09	5.94	6.06	6.44

- 1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.
2/ Region map on page 13.
3/ Insufficient data.
4/ Excludes AK.

Field and Livestock Workers Combined: Wage Rates, by Type
of Farm, by Region and 48 States 1/

Region 2/	July 9-15, 1995				July 7-13, 1996			
	Field : Crops	Other : Crops	L'stk & : Poultry	All : Farms	Field : Crops	Other : Crops	L'stk & : Poultry	All : Farms
Dollars per Hour								
Northeast	5.18	6.60	5.73	6.04	6.46	6.40	5.61	6.04
Appalachian	5.42	6.00	5.58	5.61	5.45	5.16	6.38	5.61
Southeast	4.79	5.53	4.93	5.25	4.66	5.43	5.55	5.25
Lake	6.24	5.97	5.97	6.03	6.50	6.62	5.56	6.03
Cornbelt	5.81	6.27	6.07	6.03	6.34	5.89	5.85	6.03
Delta	5.14	5.52	5.88	5.40	5.02	4.97	6.19	5.40
Northern Plains	6.39	6.15	5.30	5.83	6.01	6.35	5.39	5.83
Southern Plains	5.22	6.33	5.63	5.52	5.60	5.46	5.53	5.52
Mountain	5.38	6.04	5.78	5.64	5.31	5.53	6.03	5.64
Pacific	6.03	6.44	7.32	6.47	6.11	6.41	7.43	6.47
48 States	5.56	6.28	5.89	5.97	5.71	6.20	6.03	5.97

All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm
by Region and 48 States 1/

Region 2/	July 9-15, 1995				July 7-13, 1996					
	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's <40	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's :40-99	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's :100-249	All : :250+ :Farms	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's <40	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's :40-99	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's :100-249	All : :250+ :Farms		
Dollars per Hour										
N. East	6.13	5.36	5.73	7.37	6.54	7.15	6.33	6.14	7.01	6.75
Appal.	5.51	5.53	5.42	6.20	5.79	5.84	5.57	5.93	5.75	5.79
S. East	6.11	4.33	5.08	5.58	5.47	7.40	6.00	5.25	6.42	5.40
Lake	5.45	4.96	5.93	6.94	6.38	5.90	5.97	5.45	7.19	6.58
Cornbelt	6.01	5.71	6.37	6.57	6.33	6.56	6.31	6.12	7.05	6.71
Delta	6.16	6.46	5.41	5.40	5.61	5.47	5.58	5.08	6.38	6.13
N. Plains	3.76	5.54	6.18	6.18	5.98	6.24	5.39	6.48	6.74	6.46
S. Plains	5.65	5.68	5.70	5.96	5.83	6.46	6.51	5.68	5.79	6.01
Mountain	5.38	5.62	5.66	6.26	5.96	6.12	4.86	5.48	6.65	6.16
Pacific	7.09	7.04	6.60	6.89	6.88	6.46	7.06	6.53	6.84	6.81
48 States	5.93	5.68	5.90	6.58	6.44	6.42	6.01	5.59	6.71	6.55

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.

Field and Livestock Workers: Distribution
by Type of Farm, 48 States 1/ 2/ 3/

Type of Farm	July 9-15, 1995	April 7-13, 1996	July 7-13, 1996
Percent of Field and Livestock Workers			
Field Crops	26	23	26
Other Crops	44	47	48
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	30	30	26
	100.0	100.0	100.0

Hired Workers: Distribution by Economic
Class of Farm, 48 States 1/ 3/

Gross Value of Sales	July 9-15, 1995	April 7-13, 1996	July 7-13, 1996
Percent of Hired Workers			
Less than \$40,000	13	9	11
\$40,000-\$99,999	12	9	10
\$100,000-\$249,999	18	17	16
\$250,000 and over	57	65	63
	100.0	100.0	100.0

Hired Workers: Distribution by Category, United States,
July 7-13 1/ 3/

	July 9-15, 1995	April 7-13, 1996	July 7-13, 1996
Percent of Hired Workers			
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	12	14	14
2 Workers	9	11	11
3-6 Workers	20	21	24
7-10 Workers	10	11	9
At least 11 Workers	49	43	42
	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Agricultural Services

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 331,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 1996. Service workers in California numbered 98,000 compared with 93,000 during the July 1995 survey week. Florida's number of service workers was 3,500, compared to 2,000 last year.

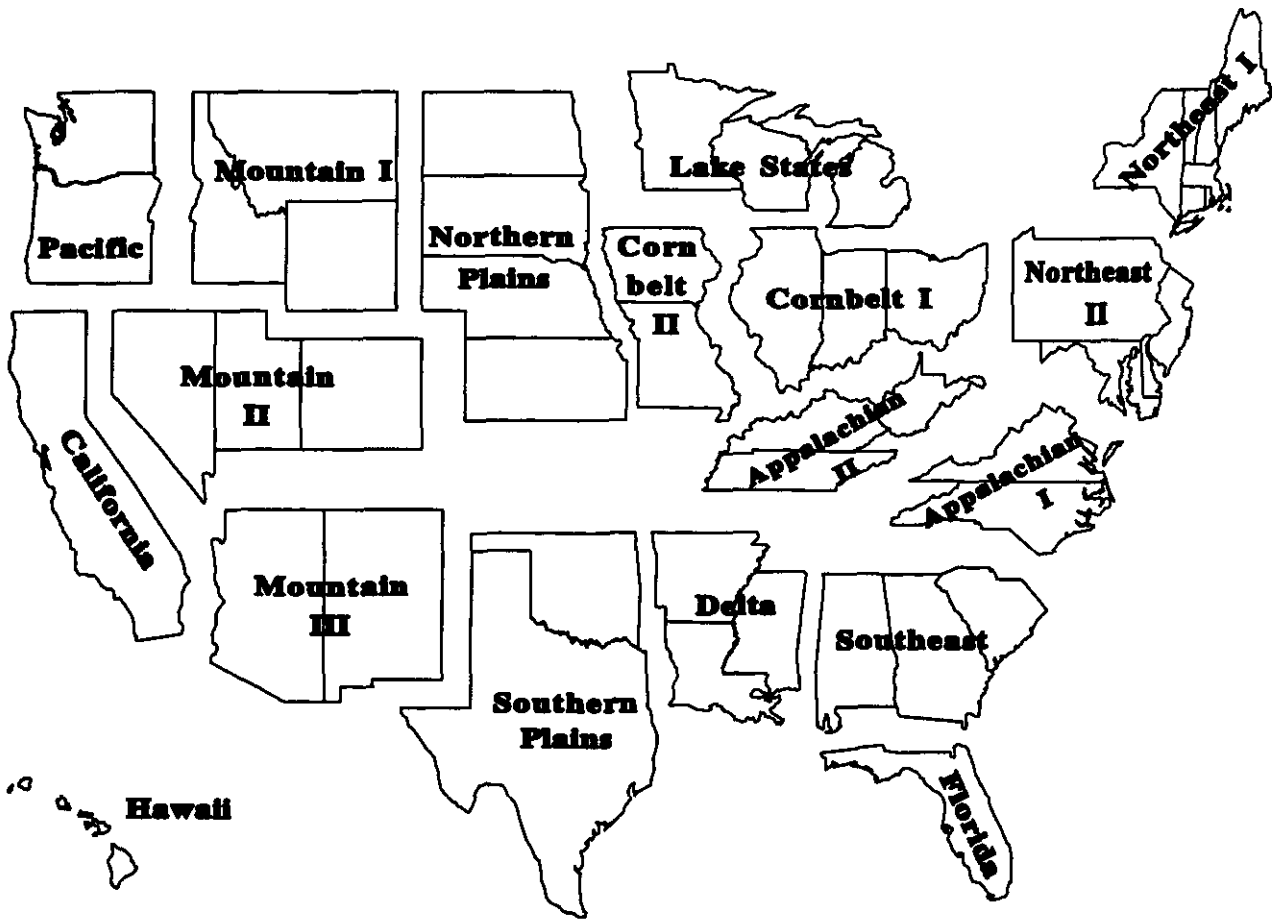
The average wage received by agricultural service workers in California was \$7.17 compared to \$6.42 last year.

Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,
for California, Florida, and United States 1/

	Number of Workers			Hours			Wage		
State:	Working on Farms			Worked 2/			Rates 2/ 3/		
	Jul	Apr	Jul	Jul	Apr	Jul	Jul	Apr	Jul
	1995	1996	1996	1995	1996	1996	1995	1996	1996
	-----	1,000	-----	---	Hours	---	Dollars per Hour		
CA	93.0	63.0	98.0	41.4	38.2	40.0	6.42	6.58	7.17
FL	2.0	10.5	3.5	48.0	31.5	43.5	7.76	7.68	4/
US	348.0	207.0	331.0						

- 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.
- 4/ Insufficient Data.

Farm Labor Regions



Region

States

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.

Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates

Survey Procedures: These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the last two weeks of July 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 July 7-13, 1996.

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 at the U.S. level was 3.1 percent and 5.9 percent for all hired workers. The relative sampling error for number of hired workers generally ranged between 7 and 20 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.2 percent. The relative sampling error was 1.5 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 2 and 8 percent at the regional levels. Relative sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm ranged between 2 and 10 percent at the regional level.

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 July 1995 and April 1996 were subject to revision with this report. No revisions were made but previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.

Beginning in January 1995, the criteria for publishing livestock, supervisor, and other wage rates was changed to a wage rate weight greater than 2 percent and a relative sampling error below 10 percent. Also, worker and wage rate indexes were discontinued after the October 1994 publication. A 1990-92=100 all hired wage rate index is published in the quarterly Agriculture Prices release beginning in 1995.

The November 13th report will have information for the survey week of October 12, 1996. The report will include the quarterly number of all hired workers, average hours worked by hired workers, and the all hired worker wage rates for California, Florida, and Hawaii along with regional and U.S. level information. Wage rates for field and livestock workers will be available for the three States described above and at the regional and U.S. level. Wage rates by type of farm and economic class of farm will be available at the regional and U.S. level. The number of agricultural service workers and corresponding wage rates will be published for California and Florida.

The report will also include certain annual data for the U.S., regions, and selected States. Annual self employed and unpaid worker data will be published. Annual employment data for hired worker numbers, hours worked, and hired worker wage rates will be published. Annual average wage rate data will be published by State for field, field and livestock combined, and all hired workers. A new data series on the number of U.S. migrant workers will be published.

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The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on November 13, 1996.

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