

Farm Labor



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wages Up 6 Percent

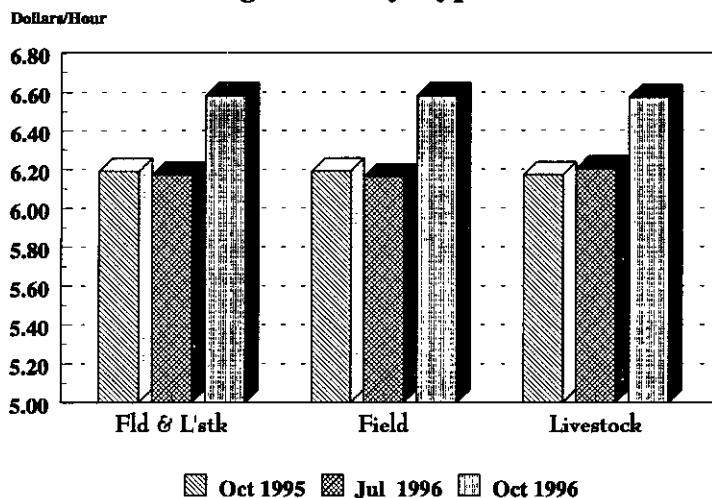
There were 1.23 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 6-12, 1996. There were 935,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 291,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.1 percent of the hired workforce.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$6.97 per hour during the October 1996 survey week, up 39 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$6.58 per hour, up 39 cents. Livestock workers earned \$6.57 per hour compared with \$6.17 a year earlier.

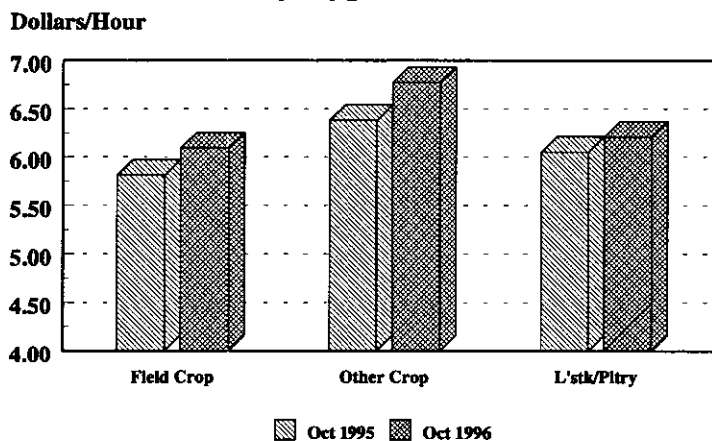
During the survey week of October 6 - 12, 1996, heavy rains from Tropical Storm Josephine saturated Florida's citrus groves and slowed fieldwork across the Southeast. Wet weather in the mid-Atlantic States saturated fields, prevented some farmers from entering fields, and delayed small grain seeding and row crop harvest activity. Elsewhere, precipitation was limited to showers from the Great Lakes to the Central Plains early in the week, and rain in the Pacific Northwest at the end of the week. Row crop harvest activity in the Midwest was slightly affected by showers early in the week. Warm, dry weather in the Western States allowed small grain seeding to advance, with some reseeding reported in the Pacific Northwest. In California, seedbed preparation and planting of small grains was ongoing in a few areas. Rice and pumpkin harvests and cotton defoliation were in full swing in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys. Raisin grape harvest is virtually complete while table and wine grape harvest was active. Crop and vegetable harvests were delayed in Florida because of heavy rain early in the week. Fruit harvest picked up later in the week. In Texas, small grain seeding and cotton and sorghum harvests were active. Cotton defoliation activity increased while harvest activity picked up in the Plains. Early citrus harvest was active.

A new quarterly data series on the percent of the U.S. hired workforce that are migrant farm workers begins with this publication. Also new to this report are annual employment data for self employed and unpaid workers for the U.S., regions, and selected States.

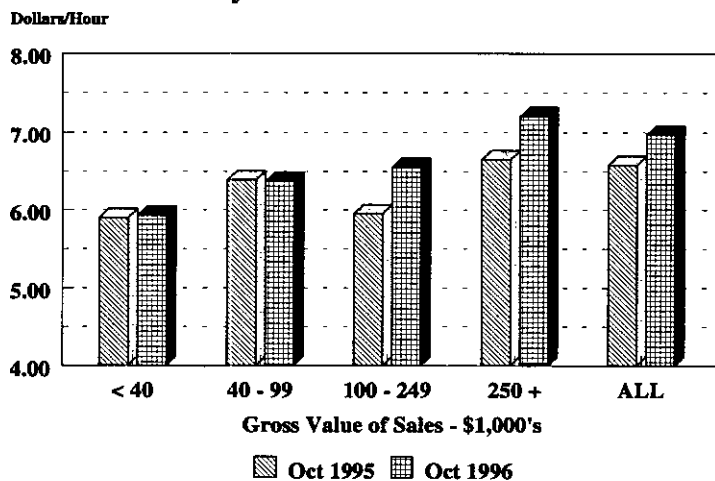
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm



Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
October 6-12, 1996 with Comparisons 1/

Farm Employment	: October 8-14, : 1995	: July 7-13, : 1996	: October 6-12, : 1996
		1,000	
Hired Workers	954	1,015	935
Expected to be Employed			
150 Days or More	607	652	625
149 Days or Less	347	363	310
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	302	331	291
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,256	1,346	1,226
		Percent	
Migrant Workers Percent of Hired Farm & Service Workers:	11.6	13.1	11.1
		Hours per Week	
Hours Worked			
Hired	41.9	40.9	40.4
		Dollars per Hour	
Wage Rates for			
All Hired Workers 2/ 3/	6.58	6.55	6.97
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	6.19	6.17	6.58
Field	6.19	6.16	6.58
Livestock	6.17	6.20	6.57

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, October 6-12, 1996 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Hired				Number of Hours Worked
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed			
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less		
					1,000
Northeast I	52	39	13		30.7
Northeast II	38	28	10		40.1
Appalachian I	42	23	19		35.3
Appalachian II	33	16	17		29.5
Southeast	36	28	8		34.6
FL	45	40	5		37.0
Lake	67	40	27		37.7
Cornbelt I	50	32	18		36.9
Cornbelt II	40	26	14		33.9
Delta	42	32	10		50.7
Northern Plains	47	31	16		47.3
Southern Plains	63	42	21		41.2
Mountain I	23	17	6		50.6
Mountain II	23	18	5		45.0
Mountain III	19	17	2		45.1
Pacific	101	51	50		44.0
CA	206	138	68		40.9
HI	8	7	1		39.7
US 3/	935	625	310		40.6

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 16.

3/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 6-12, 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	7.21	6.28	6.92	7.36
Northeast II	6.91	5.57	6.58	7.10
Appalachian I	5.98	6.35	6.04	6.38
Appalachian II	5.84	5.73	5.82	5.97
Southeast	6.54	5.71	6.45	6.82
FL	6.31	6.65	6.35	7.35
Lake	7.56	6.47	7.13	7.41
Cornbelt I	6.48	7.19	6.58	7.02
Cornbelt II	6.34	6.58	6.43	6.74
Delta	5.57	6.02	5.65	5.78
Northern Plains	7.02	6.46	6.93	7.22
Southern Plains	5.38	6.00	5.56	5.85
Mountain I	6.16	7.31	6.60	6.57
Mountain II	6.11	6.95	6.34	6.98
Mountain III	5.94	6.37	6.11	6.53
Pacific	7.29	7.28	7.29	7.58
CA	6.67	7.25	6.74	7.22
HI	8.60	3/	8.65	9.73
US 4/	6.58	6.57	6.58	6.97

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 16.

3/ Insufficient data.

4/ Excludes AK.

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	
	Dollars per Hour			
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 16.
3/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
July 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	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	5.90
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	7.09
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 16.

3/ Insufficient data.

4/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, October 8-14, 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	49	30	19	41.7
Northeast II	37	25	12	39.1
Appalachian I	46	26	20	38.2
Appalachian II	28	15	13	30.7
Southeast	38	25	13	36.5
FL	60	53	7	35.5
Lake	76	38	38	40.2
Cornbelt I	55	35	20	38.8
Cornbelt II	37	25	12	39.6
Delta	46	31	15	51.3
Northern Plains	44	29	15	46.5
Southern Plains	64	50	14	42.1
Mountain I	37	23	14	52.9
Mountain II	14	8	6	44.0
Mountain III	21	17	4	46.9
Pacific	74	40	34	39.8
CA	220	130	90	44.5
HI	8	7	1	37.4
US 3/	954	607	347	41.9

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 16.

3/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
October 8-14, 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	6.70	5.98	6.47	6.87
Northeast II	6.47	5.33	6.15	6.54
Appalachian I	5.92	6.39	5.99	6.25
Appalachian II	5.61	5.83	5.67	5.94
Southeast	5.52	5.50	5.52	5.99
FL	6.02	6.40	6.06	6.98
Lake	6.70	5.92	6.51	6.88
Cornbelt I	6.52	5.97	6.40	6.70
Cornbelt II	5.85	5.91	5.86	6.06
Delta	4.97	5.46	5.04	5.23
Northern Plains	6.49	6.49	6.49	6.64
Southern Plains	5.15	6.22	5.53	5.83
Mountain I	5.61	6.12	5.71	5.78
Mountain II	5.87	5.46	5.76	6.31
Mountain III	5.61	5.96	5.72	6.08
Pacific	7.28	7.47	7.29	7.59
CA	6.32	7.40	6.39	6.94
HI	8.40	3/	8.39	9.43
US 4/	6.19	6.17	6.19	6.58

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 16.

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/	October 8-14, 1995				October 6-12, 1996			
	Field : Crops	Other : Crops	L'stk & : Poultry	All : Farms	Field : Crops	Other : Crops	L'stk & : Poultry	All : Farms
Dollars per Hour								
Northeast	6.01	6.77	5.90	6.34	6.19	7.36	5.96	6.76
Appalachian	5.44	6.23	5.87	5.89	5.83	6.39	5.85	5.93
Southeast	5.42	5.53	5.43	5.49	5.75	6.25	5.59	6.11
Lake	6.72	6.97	5.69	6.51	8.09	7.89	6.08	7.13
Cornbelt	6.09	6.49	6.11	6.17	6.53	6.36	6.62	6.52
Delta	4.87	8.39	5.59	5.04	5.50	6.24	6.12	5.65
Northern Plains	6.44	6.60	6.53	6.49	7.07	6.67	6.44	6.93
Southern Plains	5.09	4.99	6.06	5.53	5.27	5.76	5.76	5.56
Mountain	5.55	6.08	5.93	5.72	6.12	5.99	6.91	6.37
Pacific	6.78	6.56	6.88	6.61	6.58	6.97	7.03	6.93
48 States	5.81	6.38	6.05	6.14	6.26	6.83	6.34	6.54

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

Region 2/	October 8-14, 1995				October 6-12, 1996					
	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	6.53	5.78	5.84	7.26	6.73	6.63	5.83	5.90	7.85	7.25
Appal.	5.30	6.41	5.84	6.35	6.15	5.98	6.13	5.85	6.48	6.18
S. East	5.04	5.01	4.92	5.95	5.70	5.08	4.42	6.12	6.47	6.31
Lake	4.22	5.30	6.03	7.50	6.88	4.78	6.30	6.87	7.94	7.41
Cornbelt	5.79	6.55	5.98	6.70	6.43	6.97	6.08	6.27	7.43	6.91
Delta	5.29	5.23	5.15	5.25	5.23	6.04	5.22	5.58	5.86	5.78
N. Plains	6.31	6.72	6.00	7.03	6.64	6.38	5.43	7.15	7.49	7.22
S. Plains	5.67	6.22	5.43	5.92	5.83	5.66	5.49	5.24	6.27	5.85
Mountain	6.94	5.87	5.61	6.01	5.96	5.81	5.83	6.47	6.86	6.71
Pacific	7.61	7.97	7.07	7.02	7.09	5.74	7.98	7.55	7.37	7.34
48 States	5.90	6.39	5.95	6.65	6.58	5.89	6.32	6.51	7.14	6.97

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	October 8-14, 1995	July 7-13, 1996	October 6-12, 1996
Percent of Field and Livestock Workers			
Field Crops	26	26	27
Other Crops	50	48	48
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	24	26	25
	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Gross Value of Sales	October 8-14, 1995	July 7-13, 1996	October 6-12, 1996
Percent of Hired Workers			
Less than \$40,000	9	11	13
\$40,000-\$99,999	10	10	9
\$100,000-\$249,999	17	16	17
\$250,000 and over	64	63	61
	100.0	100.0	100.0

Hired Workers: Distribution by Category, United States 1/ 3/

	October 8-14, 1995	July 7-13, 1996	October 6-12, 1996
Percent of Hired Workers			
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	11	14	10
2 Workers	9	11	10
3-6 Workers	18	24	21
7-10 Workers	10	9	10
At least 11 Workers	52	42	49
	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 291,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 6-12, 1996. Service workers in California numbered 88,000 compared with 98,000 during the October 1995 survey week. Florida's number of service workers was 7,000, compared to 5,500 last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$6.63 and \$7.20 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 1995 were \$6.93 in California and \$7.05 in Florida.

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

State:	Number of Workers Working on Farms		Hours 2/ Worked			Wage Rates 2/ 3/			
	Oct 1995	Jul 1996	Oct 1996	Oct 1995	Jul 1996	Oct 1996	Oct 1995	Jul 1996	Oct 1996
	----- 1,000 -----		--- Hours ---			Dollars per Hour			
CA	98.0	98.0	88.0	33.0	40.0	36.3	6.93	7.17	6.63
FL	5.5	3.5	7.0	31.0	43.5	24.1	7.05	4/	7.20
US	302.0	331.0	291.0						

- 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.

Migrant Workers: Percent of all Hired Workers, United States,
By Quarter (includes Agricultural Service Workers), 1995-96 1/

Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
	Percent			
1995 2/	N/A	N/A	12.4	11.6
1996	4.8	7.5	13.1	11.1

- 1/ Definition Migrant worker is a farm worker whose employment required travel that prevented the farm worker from returning to his/her permanent place of residence the same day.
- 2/ Data first collected during July 1995 survey.

Workers: Annual Average Number and Hours Worked
By Region, State and United States, 1995-96 1/

State and Region 2/	Number						Hours Worked	
	Self Employed		Unpaid		Hired		Hired Workers	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	1,000				Hours per Week			
NY	27.5	31.5	12.3	12.8	22.3	20.5	42.4	41.1
NE I	47.5	50.0	18.0	17.5	45.0	40.5	40.8	40.2
PA	41.8	45.3	19.5	22.3	21.0	20.0	40.8	40.8
NE II	62.5	63.3	26.5	28.8	36.0	34.3	40.5	40.0
NC	46.5	45.0	11.3	10.0	31.5	27.8	34.4	34.6
VA	31.0	36.3	8.0	6.5	18.3	12.3	39.0	39.8
APP I	77.5	81.3	19.3	16.5	49.8	40.0	36.1	36.2
APP II	123.0	132.8	32.3	31.8	32.0	26.5	31.7	30.6
SE	65.5	67.8	13.0	11.5	38.0	30.0	37.9	36.6
FL	21.8	29.0	4.8	5.3	54.0	46.3	38.1	38.0
MI	38.0	39.8	11.8	10.3	25.0	17.8	39.2	34.5
MN	66.8	67.3	23.3	25.8	17.0	16.8	38.4	36.6
WI	64.0	59.0	33.8	25.5	29.5	27.3	36.0	36.2
LAKE	168.8	166.0	68.8	61.5	71.5	61.8	37.8	35.9
CB I	170.8	172.5	49.0	52.0	46.8	45.3	38.0	34.9
CB II	152.3	150.0	46.0	45.5	34.8	34.8	36.9	34.7
DELTA	77.5	75.8	19.5	18.0	37.0	36.8	40.5	42.9
NPlains	139.0	133.5	54.0	54.3	32.3	38.3	43.3	44.3
OK	52.8	56.3	17.0	16.0	10.8	12.0	37.8	37.2
TX	160.0	167.5	32.0	37.3	48.8	49.0	41.2	43.8
Splains	212.8	223.8	49.0	53.3	59.5	61.0	40.5	42.4
MT I	33.3	37.8	15.0	14.5	25.8	25.3	45.5	46.9
MT II	29.3	28.0	10.8	11.0	15.3	17.5	42.3	43.6
AZ	4.3	4.3	3/	11.3	13.0	13.3	47.0	47.8
NM	11.3	10.8	3/	13.3	6.0	5.8	44.0	46.6
MT III	15.5	15.0	24.5	24.5	19.0	19.0	46.0	47.4
OR	32.0	34.0	3/	12.8	29.0	28.3	39.1	39.5
WA	19.3	22.0	3/	8.3	40.5	45.0	38.3	41.3
PAC	51.3	56.0	15.8	21.0	69.5	73.3	38.6	40.6
CA	39.8	47.8	9.3	9.3	195.3	194.5	42.4	43.3
HI	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	7.3	7.3	37.2	37.5
US 4/	1490.8	1533.0	476.3	477.0	868.5	832.0	40.0	40.3

- 1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.
2/ Region map on page 16.
3/ Insufficient data.
4/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
by Region and United States, 1995-96 1/ 3/

Region 2/	Type of Worker					
	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
Dollars per Hour						
NE I	6.92	7.19	6.80	7.14	6.36	6.71
NE II	6.41	6.78	6.35	6.60	5.97	6.26
APP I	6.10	6.07	5.71	5.63	5.80	5.79
APP II	5.73	6.00	5.51	5.62	5.54	5.68
SE	5.77	6.33	5.39	5.98	5.40	5.92
FL	7.48	7.30	6.57	6.29	6.54	6.36
LAKE	6.64	6.95	6.53	6.96	6.19	6.56
CB I	6.60	7.11	6.29	6.64	6.23	6.66
CB II	6.20	6.55	5.87	6.17	5.90	6.22
DELTA	5.50	5.91	5.16	5.65	5.27	5.70
NPlains	6.46	6.84	6.44	6.73	6.29	6.55
SPlains	5.83	6.01	5.32	5.29	5.50	5.48
MT I	5.94	6.15	5.66	5.99	5.76	6.01
MT II	6.20	6.66	5.77	5.99	5.64	6.09
MT III	6.39	6.42	5.78	5.70	5.87	5.82
PAC	7.16	7.25	6.77	6.80	6.82	6.87
CA	6.83	7.01	6.16	6.44	6.26	6.53
HI	9.76	9.83	8.62	8.61	8.60	8.62
US 4/	6.54	6.78	6.13	6.34	6.09	6.33

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Region map on page 16.

3/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

4/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
By State and United States, 1995-96 1/ 2/

State :	All Hired :		Field :		Field & Livestock	
	1995 :	1996 :	1995 :	1996 :	1995 :	1996 :
	Dollars per Hour					
AL :	5.53	5.49	5.21	5.47	5.23	5.34
AZ :	6.50	6.62	5.78	5.77	5.82	5.89
AR :	5.63	6.20	5.34	6.04	5.47	6.04
CA :	6.83	7.01	6.16	6.44	6.26	6.53
CO :	6.48	6.59	5.81	5.83	5.83	5.98
DE :	6.36	6.90	6.01	6.16	5.91	6.18
FL :	7.48	7.30	6.57	6.29	6.54	6.36
GA :	6.11	6.83	5.58	6.36	5.61	6.34
HI :	9.76	9.83	8.62	8.61	8.60	8.62
ID :	6.09	6.64	5.72	6.02	5.90	6.53
IL :	6.66	7.32	6.47	6.73	6.34	6.84
IN :	6.85	7.12	6.24	6.88	6.37	6.78
IA :	6.28	6.69	5.99	6.19	6.03	6.34
KS :	6.84	7.12	6.64	6.71	6.60	6.81
KY :	5.72	6.14	5.40	5.67	5.52	5.78
LA :	5.53	5.85	5.19	5.39	5.28	5.61
MD :	6.26	7.20	6.27	7.14	5.84	6.71
MI :	6.64	6.96	6.40	6.73	6.33	6.61
MN :	6.91	7.85	6.84	7.75	6.61	7.44
MS :	5.34	5.66	4.88	5.28	5.05	5.42
MO :	6.10	6.42	5.78	6.16	5.74	6.11
MT :	5.66	5.99	5.50	5.70	5.54	5.67
NE :	6.32	6.77	6.34	6.65	6.25	6.48
NV :	6.10	6.48	5.67	6.18	5.47	6.15
NJ :	7.42	7.56	6.74	6.58	6.77	6.83
NM :	6.16	5.98	5.77	5.41	5.97	5.69
NY :	6.54	6.73	6.68	6.55	6.20	6.27
NC :	5.99	6.04	5.52	5.58	5.66	5.78
ND :	6.44	6.82	6.47	7.27	6.27	6.74
OH :	6.39	6.83	6.08	6.32	6.00	6.27
OK :	6.27	6.29	5.72	5.59	5.81	5.73
OR :	6.74	6.95	6.33	6.40	6.33	6.39
PA :	6.07	6.38	6.18	6.47	5.71	5.92
SC :	5.28	5.42	5.16	5.00	5.18	5.21
SD :	5.82	6.24	5.94	6.12	5.68	5.81
TN :	5.87	5.88	5.64	5.54	5.67	5.56
TX :	5.74	5.95	5.25	5.24	5.45	5.42
UT :	5.59	6.96	5.72	6.58	5.35	6.42
VA :	6.28	6.14	6.03	5.77	6.02	5.81
WA :	7.48	7.43	7.08	7.02	7.18	7.15
WV :	5.15	5.85	5.33	5.81	5.13	5.71
WI :	6.46	6.39	6.47	6.64	5.79	6.01
WY :	5.80	5.09	5.58	6.15	5.58	5.00
Oth Sts 3/ :	7.34	7.69	6.93	7.65	6.56	7.21
US 4/ :	6.54	6.78	6.13	6.34	6.09	6.33

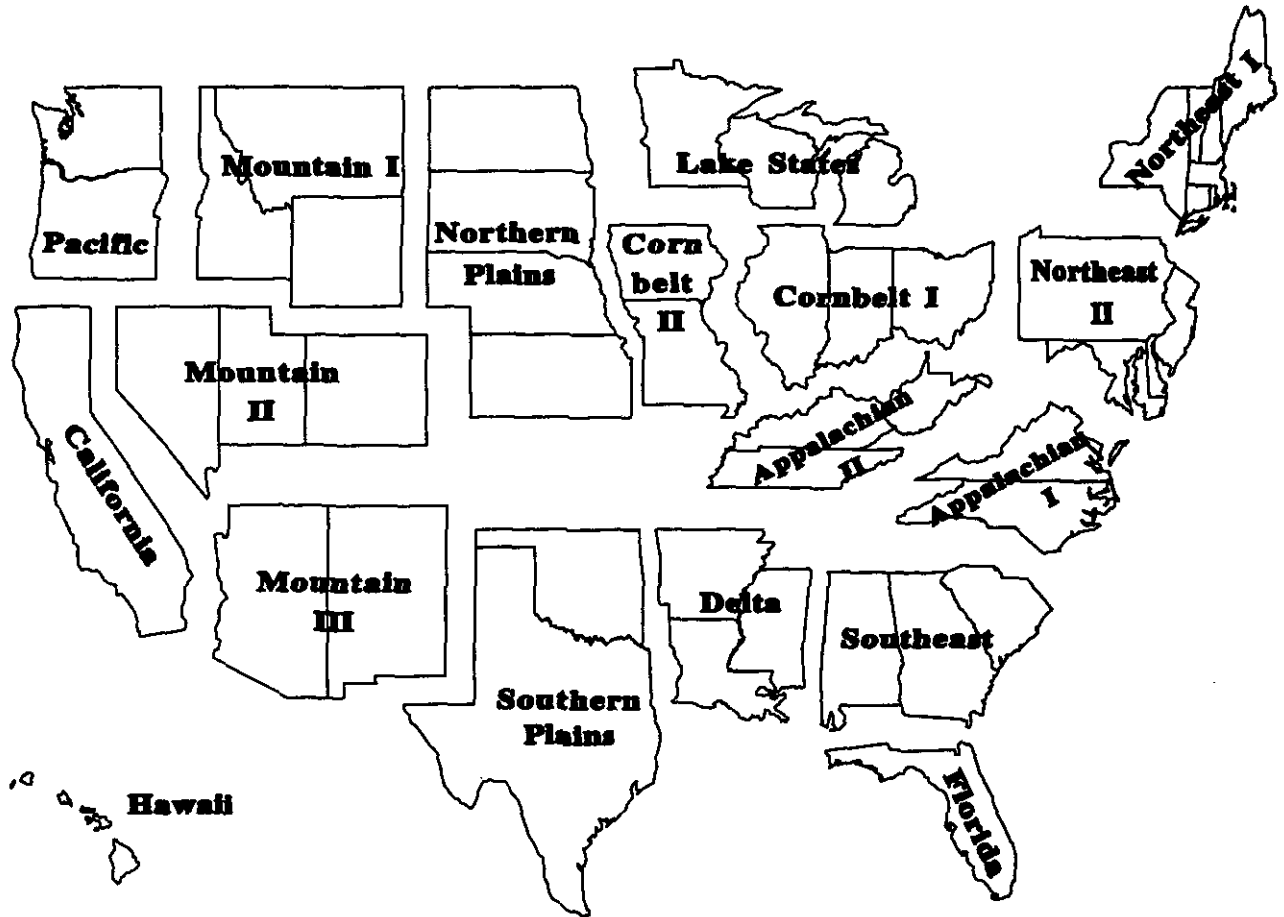
1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Annual rates are averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

3/ Includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

4/ Excludes AK.

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 during the last two weeks of October 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 October 6-12 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 for number of all non-salaried workers at the U.S. level was 2.0 percent and 2.8 percent for all hired workers. The relative sampling error for number of hired workers generally ranged between 9 and 18 percent at the regional and 12 and 25 percent at the published State level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.3 percent. The relative sampling error was 1.2 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 7 percent at the regional and published State 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. The relative sampling errors for hired workers benefits ranged between 10 and 20 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 July, 1996 and October, 1995 were subject to revision with this report. Revisions were made and previous data are reprinted in this report for your information. There were no revisions made.

Annual Average Wage Rates: Included with this report are the annual average wage rates for 1995 and 1996. Annual rates are the averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the total number of hours worked during the week. The survey weeks include the 12th of the month for January, April, July, and October. Combining data for the four survey weeks provides a large enough sample to permit publication of some wages at the State level. Annual wage rates for both 1995 and 1996 are published at the regional and U.S. level for the all hired wage rate, the field worker wage rate, and the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. For 1995 and 1996, annual wage rate information is published at the State level for the all hired wage rate, the field worker wage rate, and the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. For 1996, the relative sampling error, at the U.S. level, was 1.0 percent for all hired workers. The relative sampling error was 1.1 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. The relative sampling error for all hired farm workers and the combined field and livestock worker wage rates generally ranged between 2 and 6 percent at the regional level and 2 to 10 percent at the State level.

The February 13th report will have information for the survey week of January 7-13, 1997. The report will include the number of All Hired Workers, Average Hours Worked by Hired Workers and the All Hired Worker Wage Rates regional and U.S. levels. The wage rate for field and livestock workers will be available for 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 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 will be published for Florida and California.

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The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on February 17, 1997.

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