

Farm Labor



USDA
Washington, D.C.

Released February 21, 1997, 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 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. For assistance with general agricultural statistics, information about NASS, its products or services, contact the Agricultural Statistics Hotline at 1-800-727-9540 or E-mail: NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV.

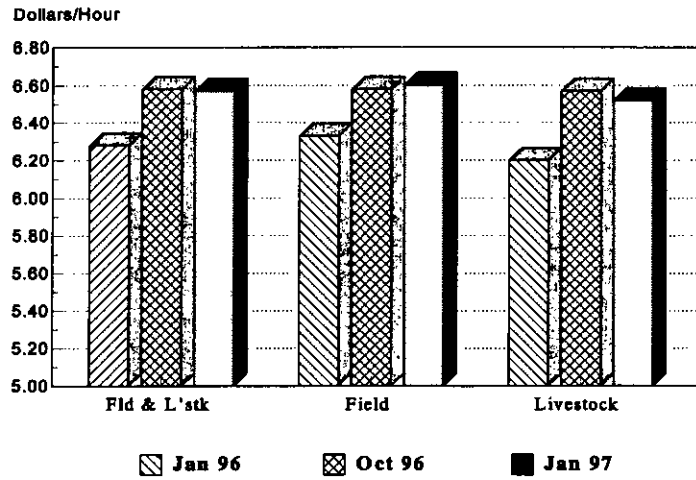
Hired Workers Up 7 Percent, Wages Up 4 Percent

There were 766,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 12-18, 1997, up 7 percent from a year earlier. There were 635,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 131,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 9.5 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 5.7 percent last year.

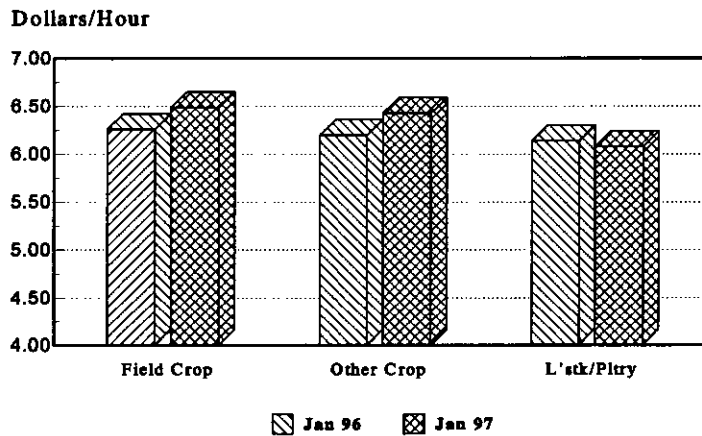
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$7.19 per hour during the January 1997 survey week, up 30 cents (4.0 percent) from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$6.60 per hour, up 27 cents. Livestock workers earned \$6.52 per hour compared with \$6.20 a year earlier.

During the survey week of January 12-18, 1997, cold air spread over the Nation in two stages, continuing harsh conditions across the North Central States and delivering late-week freeze damage to crops in portions of Florida. Despite a late-week warm-up, weekly temperatures averaged 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit below normal from the Rockies to the Appalachians. Farther west, rain returned to flood-stricken areas of California, but much more significant precipitation fell across the Northwest and Southwest. Widespread ice and snow accumulated from Texas and Louisiana into the Midwest. Rain dampened the East, while in the Great Lakes Region record-setting snow squalls continued. In Florida, warm weather and locally heavy rain preceded a late-week cold snap.

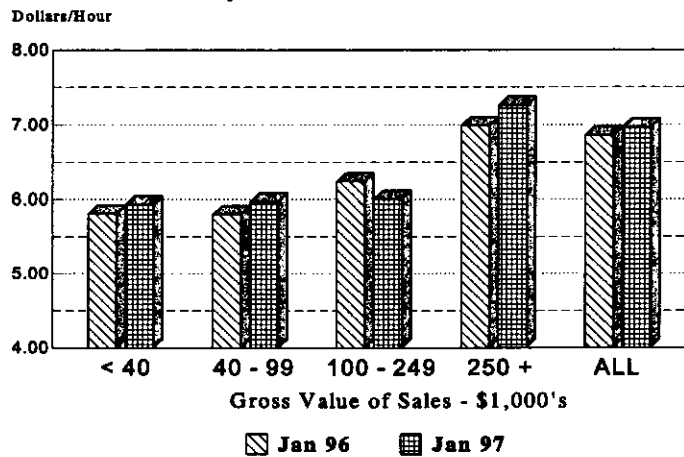
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



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,
January 12-18, 1997, with Comparisons 1/

Farm Employment	: January 7-13, : 1996	: October 6-12, : 1996	: January 12-18, : 1997
		1,000	
Hired Workers	598	935	635
Expected to be Employed			
150 Days or More	496	625	537
149 Days or Less	102	310	98
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	115	291	131
Hired Farm & Service Workers	713	1,226	766
		Percent	
Migrant Workers Percent of			
Hired Farm & Service Workers:	*5.7	11.1	9.5
		Hours per Week	
Hours Worked			
Hired	39.1	40.6	36.5
		Dollars per Hour	
Wage Rates for			
All Hired Workers 2/ 3/	6.89	6.97	7.19
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	6.28	6.58	6.57
Field	6.33	6.58	6.60
Livestock	6.20	6.57	6.52

* Revised.

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, January 12-18, 1997 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 -----			Hours per Week
Northeast I	29	25	4		38.6
Northeast II	30	26	4		40.5
Appalachian I	23	19	4		34.3
Appalachian II	24	20	4		29.6
Southeast	33	30	3		37.0
FL	67	58	9		35.5
Lake	44	39	5		37.2
Cornbelt I	31	27	4		34.8
Cornbelt II	24	20	4		37.8
Delta	26	22	4		33.1
Northern Plains	25	21	4		38.0
Southern Plains	47	38	9		38.5
Mountain I	11	10	1		43.9
Mountain II	13	12	1		38.9
Mountain III	15	13	2		42.6
Pacific	49	42	7		40.0
CA	137	109	28		34.0
HI	7	6	1		35.5
US 3/	635	537	98		36.5

- 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, January 12-18, 1997 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	7.78	6.28	6.82	7.45
Northeast II	7.38	6.12	6.66	7.40
Appalachian I	6.24	6.91	6.46	6.85
Appalachian II	5.87	6.27	6.08	6.80
Southeast	7.36	6.14	7.01	7.43
FL	6.80	6.80	6.80	7.35
Lake	7.74	6.20	6.66	7.28
Cornbelt I	7.13	7.42	7.27	7.88
Cornbelt II	7.35	6.32	6.74	7.22
Delta	6.26	6.16	6.21	6.82
Northern Plains	7.80	7.16	7.35	7.57
Southern Plains	5.56	5.97	5.81	6.11
Mountain I	6.19	6.59	6.48	6.91
Mountain II	6.75	6.64	6.67	7.37
Mountain III	5.82	5.90	5.84	6.36
Pacific	6.71	6.92	6.78	7.42
CA	6.04	7.50	6.25	7.10
HI	8.85	3/	8.87	10.32
US 4/	6.60	6.52	6.57	7.19

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, October 6-12, 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	-----	Hours per Week
Northeast I	52	39	13	40.7
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 13.

3/ Excludes AK.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker 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
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
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	*9.75
US 4/	6.58	6.57	6.58	6.97

* Revised.

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, January 7-13, 1996 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Hired			Number of Hours Worked
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		
		150 Days or More 3/	149 Days or Less 3/	
	-----	1,000	-----	Hours per Week
Northeast I	28	24	4	40.3
Northeast II	21	19	2	39.5
Appalachian I	23	20	3	39.5
Appalachian II	16	9	7	30.4
Southeast	22	19	3	34.9
FL	47	40	7	39.0
Lake	40	33	7	33.9
Cornbelt I	34	30	4	33.7
Cornbelt II	26	20	6	32.5
Delta	21	18	3	33.8
Northern Plains	27	23	4	39.7
Southern Plains	47	40	7	41.1
Mountain I	21	20	1	39.8
Mountain II	11	10	1	38.3
Mountain III	18	14	4	44.3
Pacific	37	28	9	37.1
CA	152	123	29	43.8
HI	7	6	1	36.5
US 3/	598	496	102	39.1

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
By Region and United States, January 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	7.53	5.63	6.30	7.12
Northeast II	6.53	5.54	6.04	6.76
Appalachian I	5.97	6.20	6.13	6.51
Appalachian II	5.41	5.93	5.62	5.94
Southeast	6.00	6.13	6.04	6.60
FL	6.40	6.25	6.38	7.43
Lake	6.97	5.68	5.97	6.80
Cornbelt I	7.15	6.47	6.81	7.27
Cornbelt II	5.89	6.23	6.10	6.33
Delta	6.04	5.92	5.97	6.43
Northern Plains	7.46	6.59	6.79	7.20
Southern Plains	5.31	5.89	5.59	6.17
Mountain I	6.75	6.31	6.42	6.61
Mountain II	6.80	6.29	6.49	7.09
Mountain III	5.42	5.90	5.57	6.43
Pacific	6.95	7.26	7.00	7.46
CA	6.25	7.21	6.35	6.95
HI	8.34	3/	8.34	9.63
US 4/	6.33	6.20	6.28	6.89

- 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/	January 7-13, 1996				January 12-18, 1997			
	Field : Crops	Other : Crops	L'stk & : Poultry	All : Farms	Field : Crops	Other : Crops	L'stk & : Poultry	All : Farms
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast	6.92	7.95	5.43	6.20	6.77	8.22	5.93	6.74
Appalachian	5.37	6.14	6.22	5.94	4.35	4.14	4.70	4.45
Southeast	6.23	5.46	5.53	5.60	5.74	6.38	5.47	6.22
Lake	7.47	6.85	5.66	5.97	6.66	3/	5.62	6.66
Cornbelt	6.53	6.16	6.69	6.50	7.91	6.99	6.63	7.02
Delta	6.34	4.81	5.84	5.97	6.30	6.92	5.97	6.21
Northern Plains	7.49	6.28	6.47	6.79	3/	6.49	7.09	7.35
Southern Plains	5.59	5.13	5.77	5.59	5.85	5.87	5.77	5.81
Mountain	5.63	5.89	6.47	6.06	6.52	5.98	6.32	6.30
Pacific	6.78	6.32	7.17	6.46	7.06	6.12	6.80	6.29
48 States	6.26	6.20	6.14	6.18	6.49	6.43	6.08	6.27

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

Region 2/	January 7-13, 1996				January 12-18, 1997					
	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	5.72	5.20	5.63	8.09	6.97	7.68	5.56	6.04	8.22	7.43
Appal.	5.54	5.43	6.13	6.96	6.30	6.03	5.72	6.39	7.33	6.84
S. East	4.78	5.66	5.32	6.10	5.89	5.70	5.42	5.58	6.66	6.50
Lake	3/	5.53	6.54	7.21	6.80	3/	4.59	6.19	6.80	7.28
Cornbelt	6.13	4.91	6.79	7.28	6.86	7.19	6.06	7.02	7.90	7.56
Delta	5.59	6.28	6.19	6.75	6.43	5.68	5.90	5.80	7.45	6.82
N. Plains:	3/	3/	5.79	7.62	7.20	7.38	7.35	3/	8.01	7.57
S. Plains:	6.98	5.37	5.94	6.21	6.17	6.21	5.66	5.72	6.29	6.11
Mountain	5.03	6.01	6.55	6.85	6.63	7.26	7.84	6.73	6.91	6.92
Pacific	6.49	7.28	6.55	7.09	7.04	6.86	6.47	7.69	7.49	7.15
48 States:	5.81	5.80	6.24	6.99	6.86	6.97	5.97	6.00	7.26	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.

3/ Insufficient data.

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

Type of Farm	January 7-13, 1996	October 6-12, 1996	January 12-18, 1997
Percent of Field and Livestock Workers			
Field Crops	19	27	12
Other Crops	46	48	58
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	35	25	30
	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Gross Value of Sales	January 7-13, 1996	October 6-12, 1996	January 12-18, 1997
Percent of Hired Workers			
Less than \$40,000	9	13	12
\$40,000-\$99,999	8	9	6
\$100,000-\$249,999	16	17	17
\$250,000 and over	67	61	65
	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	January 7-13, 1996	October 6-12, 1996	January 12-18, 1997
Percent of Hired Workers			
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	14	10	13
2 Workers	11	10	10
3-6 Workers	24	21	19
7-10 Workers	9	10	9
At least 11 Workers	42	49	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 131,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 12-18, 1997. Service workers in California numbered 50,000 compared with 51,000 during the January 1996 survey week. Florida's number of service workers was 15,800, compared to 15,000 last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$8.03 and \$8.05 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in January 1996 were \$6.39 in California and \$8.35 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 Worked 2/			Wage Rates 2/ 3/			
	Jan 1996	Oct 1996	Jan 1997	Jan 1996	Oct 1996	Jan 1997	Jan 1996	Oct 1996	Jan 1997
	----- 1,000 -----		----- Hours -----			----- Dollars per Hour -----			
CA	51.0	88.0	50.0	39.1	36.3	37.6	6.39	6.63	7.10
FL	15.0	7.0	15.8	33.0	*24.0	37.0	8.35	*7.30	8.05
US	115.0	291.0	131.0						

* Revised.

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.

Migrant Workers: Percent of all Hired Workers, United States,
By Quarter (Includes Agricultural Service Workers), 1995-97 1/

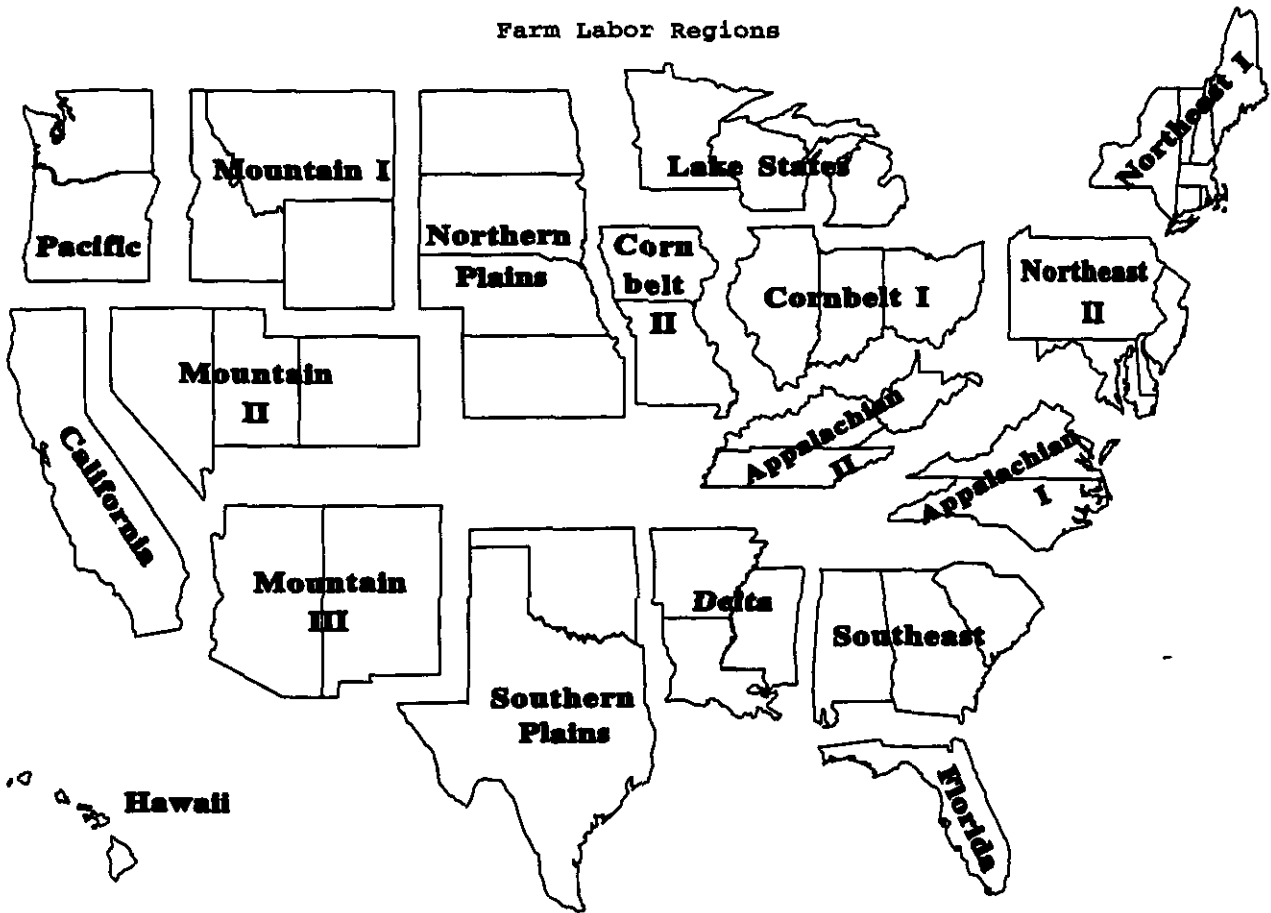
Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
	Percent			
1995 2/	N/A	N/A	12.4	11.6
1996	*5.7	7.5	13.1	11.1
1997	9.5			

* Revised.

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.

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 January 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 January 12-18, 1997. The survey in California was jointly conducted with the California Employment Development Division beginning January 1997.

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 hired workers at the U.S. level was 5.5 percent. The relative sampling error for number of hired workers generally ranged between 7 and 22 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 2.2 percent. The relative sampling error was 3.0 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 October 1996 and January 1996 were subject to revision with this report. Revisions are in this report.

The May 16th report will have information for the survey week of April 6-12, 1997. The report will include the number of All Hired Workers, Average Hours Worked by Hired Workers and the All Hired Worker Wage Rates at regional and U.S. levels. The wage rate for field and livestock workers will be available for the regional and U.S. level. Wage rates by 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.

Index

	Page
U.S. Hired Workers on Farms, Wage Rates and Hours Worked	3
Number of Workers and Average Hours Worked by Region and U.S.	
January 1997	4
October 1996	6
January 1996	8
Wage Rates by Region and U.S.	
January 1997	5
October 1996	7
January 1996	9
Agricultural Services: Workers, Average Hours Worked, and Wages	
January 1997	12
October 1996	12
January 1996	12
Other Labor Estimates	
U.S. Distribution of Workers	11
Wage Rates by Type of Farm, by Region, State, 48 States	10
Wage Rates by Economic Class of Farm, by Region, State, 48 States...	10
Migrant Workers	12
Farm Labor Region Map	13
Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates	14
Revision Policy	14

The next "**Farm Labor**" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on May 16, 1997.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are now available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and select:

1. Worldwide Web: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/> **OR**
2. For Gopher/Telenet/FTP access:
HOST=usda.mannlib.cornell.edu **OR**
3. For a subscription direct to your e-mail address,
send an e-mail message to: usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu
and in the body of the message type the word: list

AUTOFAX ACCESS

NASSFax service is available for some reports from your fax machine. Please call 202-720-2000, using the handset attached to your fax. Respond to the voice prompts.

PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 1-800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 1-703-834-0125 FAX: 1-703-834-0110
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics HOTLINE** at 1-800-727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV.
