

Farm Labor



USDA
Washington, D.C.

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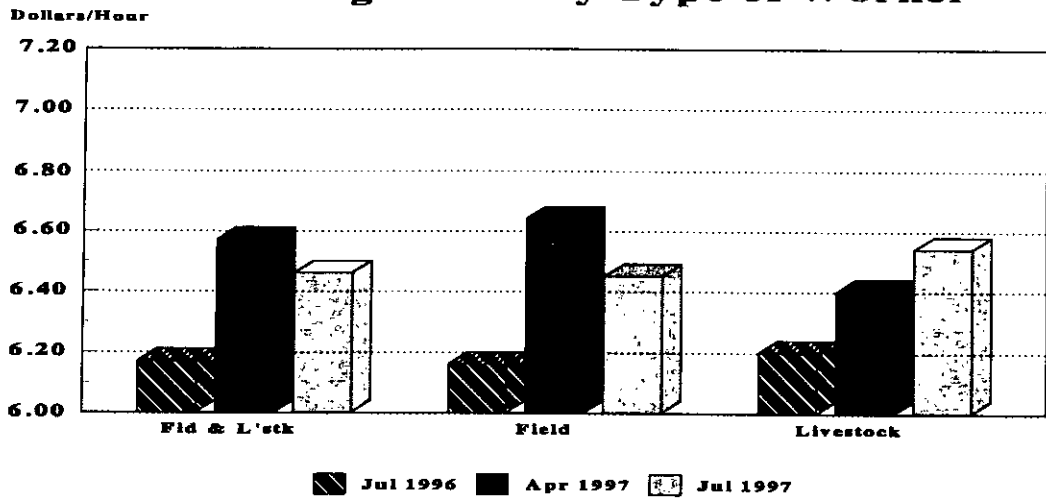
All Hired Workers Up 5 Percent, Wages Up 5 Percent From Last July

There were 1.41 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 1997, 5 percent more than last year. There were 1.07 million hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 340,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 10.8 percent of the hired workforce, compared to 13.1 percent a year ago.

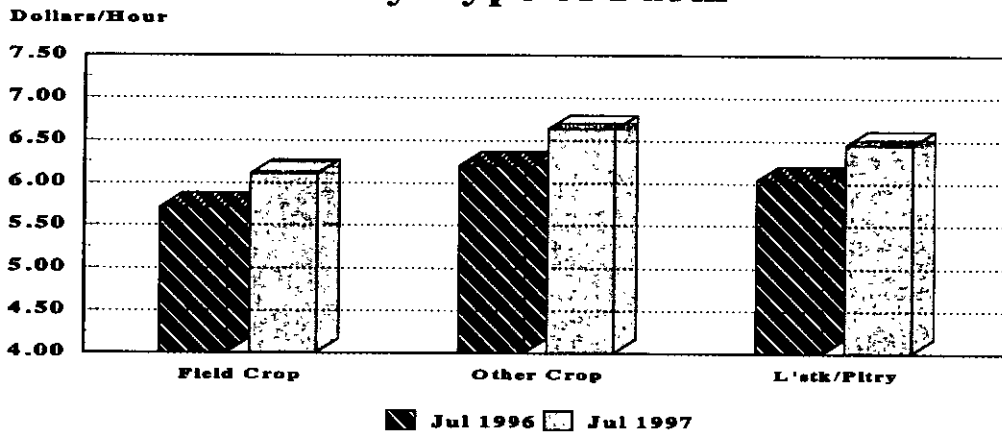
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$6.90 per hour during the July 1997 survey week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$6.45 per hour, up 29 cents. Livestock workers earned \$6.54 per hour compared with \$6.20 a year earlier.

During the survey week of July 6-12, 1997, dry weather reduced topsoil moisture from Iowa and Missouri eastward to the Middle Atlantic region. Warm, dry weather provided ideal weather for winter wheat harvest in an area extending from Colorado eastward to Indiana. Meanwhile, beneficial rains dampened the northern Corn Belt. Showers also occurred in the Northwest. On the Plains, scattered thunderstorms caused only brief winter wheat harvest delays. Ideal harvest conditions prevailed on the central High Plains, although long-term drought persisted. Across the Nation's southern States, near-normal temperatures and occasional rainfall prevailed. Cool air cloaked the Midwest and Northeast. Beneficial showers fell along the northern tier of States in the eastern United States. Late in the week, scattered, locally severe thunderstorms hit the Central States, but in the central Corn Belt little rain was received. Temperatures were seasonable and favorable for crop development throughout the East and South. In California, field activities progressed under normal weather conditions in most areas. Small grain harvest was nearly complete as harvested land was being prepared for double cropping. Sugar beet harvest was progressing normally. Cotton growers were continuing pesticide treatments. Some early plantings of corn were cut for silage. Field corn harvest was underway in the Imperial Valley. Fruit, melon, and citrus harvest continued in the northern San Joaquin Valley. Vegetable harvest progressed in the coastal areas. Frequent rainfall delayed hay baling and other fieldwork in some areas of Florida; however, tobacco harvest was active. Harvesting of summer vegetables for local markets continued. In Texas, irrigation resumed in the Plains and small grain harvest reached full speed. Haying activity slowed in wetter areas. Vegetable harvest in the High Plains continued with some delays early in the week due to wet conditions.

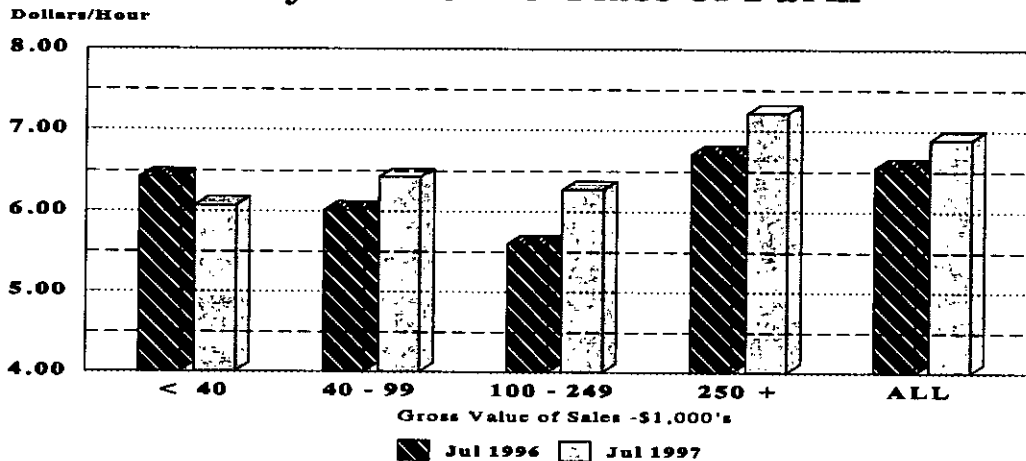
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



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,
July 6-12, 1997, with Comparisons 1/

Farm Employment	July 7-13, 1996	April 6-12 1997	July 6-12, 1997
		1,000	
Hired Workers	1,015	809	1,068
Expected to be Employed			
150 Days or More	652	*655	689
149 Days or Less	363	*154	379
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	331	207	340
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,346	1,016	1,408
		Percent	
Migrant Workers Percent of Hired Farm & Service Workers:	13.1	6.3	10.8
		Hours per Week	
Hours Worked Hired	40.9	*40.5	40.9
		Dollars per Hour	
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers 2/ 3/	6.55	*7.04	6.90
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	6.17	*6.59	6.47
Field	6.16	*6.64	6.45
Livestock	6.20	*6.40	6.54

* 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, July 6-12, 1997 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	49	35	14	37.2
Northeast II	48	33	15	46.0
Appalachian I	67	26	41	38.3
Appalachian II	39	16	23	30.7
Southeast	48	33	15	37.2
FL	40	36	4	41.5
Lake	70	43	27	35.1
Cornbelt I	65	36	29	33.2
Cornbelt II	37	29	8	33.5
Delta	50	36	14	41.9
Northern Plains	51	35	16	43.0
Southern Plains	82	54	28	44.3
Mountain I	25	17	8	41.6
Mountain II	30	21	9	49.5
Mountain III	25	17	8	41.2
Pacific	108	52	56	39.9
CA	227	164	63	46.3
HI	7	6	1	37.6
US 3/	1,068	689	379	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 6-12, 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	6.99	6.41	6.81	7.15
Northeast II	6.29	5.71	6.10	6.56
Appalachian I	5.62	6.67	5.77	5.87
Appalachian II	5.65	5.45	5.60	5.80
Southeast	5.92	6.08	5.95	6.46
FL	6.71	6.60	6.69	7.60
Lake	6.56	6.10	6.35	6.72
Cornbelt I	6.70	7.84	6.95	7.63
Cornbelt II	6.93	6.65	6.82	7.17
Delta	5.67	6.42	5.86	6.23
Northern Plains	6.95	6.99	6.96	7.48
Southern Plains	5.60	6.17	5.83	6.32
Mountain I	5.92	6.39	6.03	6.22
Mountain II	5.88	6.69	6.00	6.33
Mountain III	6.30	6.21	6.29	6.99
Pacific	6.83	8.54	6.93	7.33
CA	6.74	7.43	6.80	7.24
HI	9.11	3/	9.10	10.34
US 4/	6.45	6.54	6.47	6.90

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 6-12, 1997 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	40	31	9	41.0
Northeast II	41	*32	*9	40.7
Appalachian I	38	29	9	41.4
Appalachian II	25	17	8	*34.1
Southeast	43	35	8	33.8
FL	60	52	8	41.0
Lake	63	50	13	33.5
Cornbelt I	55	45	10	35.7
Cornbelt II	27	20	7	36.2
Delta	39	32	7	38.7
Northern Plains	27	24	3	*43.0
Southern Plains	55	44	11	40.6
Mountain I	20	16	4	50.8
Mountain II	22	16	6	*40.8
Mountain III	16	14	2	43.2
Pacific	61	46	15	*42.3
CA	171	147	24	45.1
HI	6	5	1	37.6
US 3/	809	*655	*154	*40.5

- * Revised
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, April 6-12, 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	7.11	5.67	6.59	7.22
Northeast II	6.62	5.81	*6.27	*6.99
Appalachian I	*6.04	6.85	*6.28	*6.49
Appalachian II	5.69	6.28	*5.86	*6.28
Southeast	*6.14	5.70	*6.02	*6.59
FL	*6.51	6.30	*6.49	7.19
Lake	7.50	6.56	6.91	7.31
Cornbelt I	7.28	7.47	7.33	7.91
Cornbelt II	6.76	6.43	6.57	6.64
Delta	*5.91	*6.33	*6.02	6.50
Northern Plains	7.96	6.61	*7.07	*7.72
Southern Plains	5.37	5.78	5.57	5.98
Mountain I	6.59	4.95	5.65	5.94
Mountain II	*6.58	*5.99	*6.40	*6.95
Mountain III	5.78	5.90	5.81	6.24
Pacific	6.71	*7.64	*6.88	7.36
CA	6.90	8.06	6.99	7.35
HI	8.81	3/	8.82	*9.98
US 4/	*6.64	*6.40	*6.59	*7.04

* 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, July 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	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	37.7
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 Worker 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	5.90
Southeast	5.62	5.25	5.58	5.85
FL	*6.45	7.10	*6.52	*7.39
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

* Revised.

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/	July 7-13, 1996				July 6-12, 1997			
	Field : Crops	Other : Crops	L'stk & : Poultry	All : Farms	Field : Crops	Other : Crops	L'stk & : Poultry	All : Farms
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast	6.46	6.40	5.61	6.04	7.54	6.42	5.98	6.29
Appalachian	5.45	5.16	6.38	5.61	5.51	6.27	6.40	5.88
Southeast	4.66	5.43	5.55	5.25	5.57	6.72	6.10	6.36
Lake	6.50	6.62	5.56	6.31	6.84	7.02	6.10	6.35
Cornbelt	6.34	5.89	5.85	6.03	7.02	3/	7.10	7.08
Delta	5.02	4.97	6.19	5.91	5.61	5.47	6.42	5.86
Northern Plains	6.01	6.35	5.78	6.20	6.93	3/	3/	6.96
Southern Plains	5.60	5.46	5.53	5.52	5.18	5.79	6.17	5.83
Mountain	5.31	5.53	6.03	5.64	6.23	6.04	6.34	6.19
Pacific	6.11	6.41	7.43	6.47	7.48	7.27	8.14	7.39
48 States	5.71	6.20	6.03	6.17	6.10	6.63	6.45	6.47

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

Region 2/	July 7-13, 1996				July 6-12, 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	7.15	6.33	6.14	7.01	6.75	6.09	5.57	6.61
Appal.	5.84	5.57	5.93	5.75	5.79	5.26	7.07	5.63
S. East	7.40	6.00	5.25	6.42	5.40	6.54	5.89	6.58
Lake	5.90	5.97	5.45	7.19	6.57	5.78	3/	5.85
Cornbelt	6.56	6.31	6.12	7.05	6.71	7.01	3/	7.15
Delta	5.47	5.58	5.08	6.38	6.13	6.10	6.17	5.63
N. Plains	6.24	5.39	6.48	6.74	6.46	6.66	3/	6.10
S. Plains	6.46	6.51	5.68	5.79	6.01	5.40	6.31	6.22
Mountain	6.12	4.86	5.48	6.65	6.16	6.35	6.79	6.11
Pacific	6.46	7.06	6.53	6.84	6.81	7.02	6.67	6.91
48 States	6.42	6.01	5.59	6.71	6.55	6.06	6.42	6.26

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	July 7-13, 1996	April 6-12, 1997	July 6-12, 1997
Percent of Field and Livestock Workers			
Field Crops	26	21	23
Other Crops	48	49	50
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	26	30	27
	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Gross Value of Sales	July 7-13, 1996	April 6-12, 1997	July 6-12, 1997
Percent of Hired Workers			
Less than \$40,000	11	8	13
\$40,000-\$99,999	10	7	12
\$100,000-\$249,999	16	15	15
\$250,000 and over	63	70	60
	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	July 7-13, 1996	April 6-12, 1997	July 6-12, 1997
Percent of Hired Workers			
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	14	11	10
2 Workers	11	10	11
3-6 Workers	24	20	23
7-10 Workers	9	9	11
At least 11 Workers	42	50	45
	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 340,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 1997, up 9,000 from a year ago. Service workers in California numbered 96,000 compared with 98,000 during the July 1996 survey week. Florida's number of service workers was 4,000, compared to 3,500 last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$6.87 and \$8.10 per hour, respectively.

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/		
	Jul 1996	Apr 1997	Jul 1997	Jul 1996	Apr 1997	Jul 1997	Jul 1996	Apr 1997	Jul 1997
	: ----- 1,000 -----			: ----- Hours -----			: ----- Dollars per Hour -----		
CA	: 98.0	: 90.0	: 96.0	: 40.0	: 39.3	: 37.2	: 7.17	: 7.21	: 6.87
FL	: 3.5	: 13.0	: 4.0	: 43.5	: *36.0	: 39.5	: <u>4/</u>	: 8.44	: 8.10
US	: 331.0	: 207.0	: 340.0						

* 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.

4/ Insufficient data.

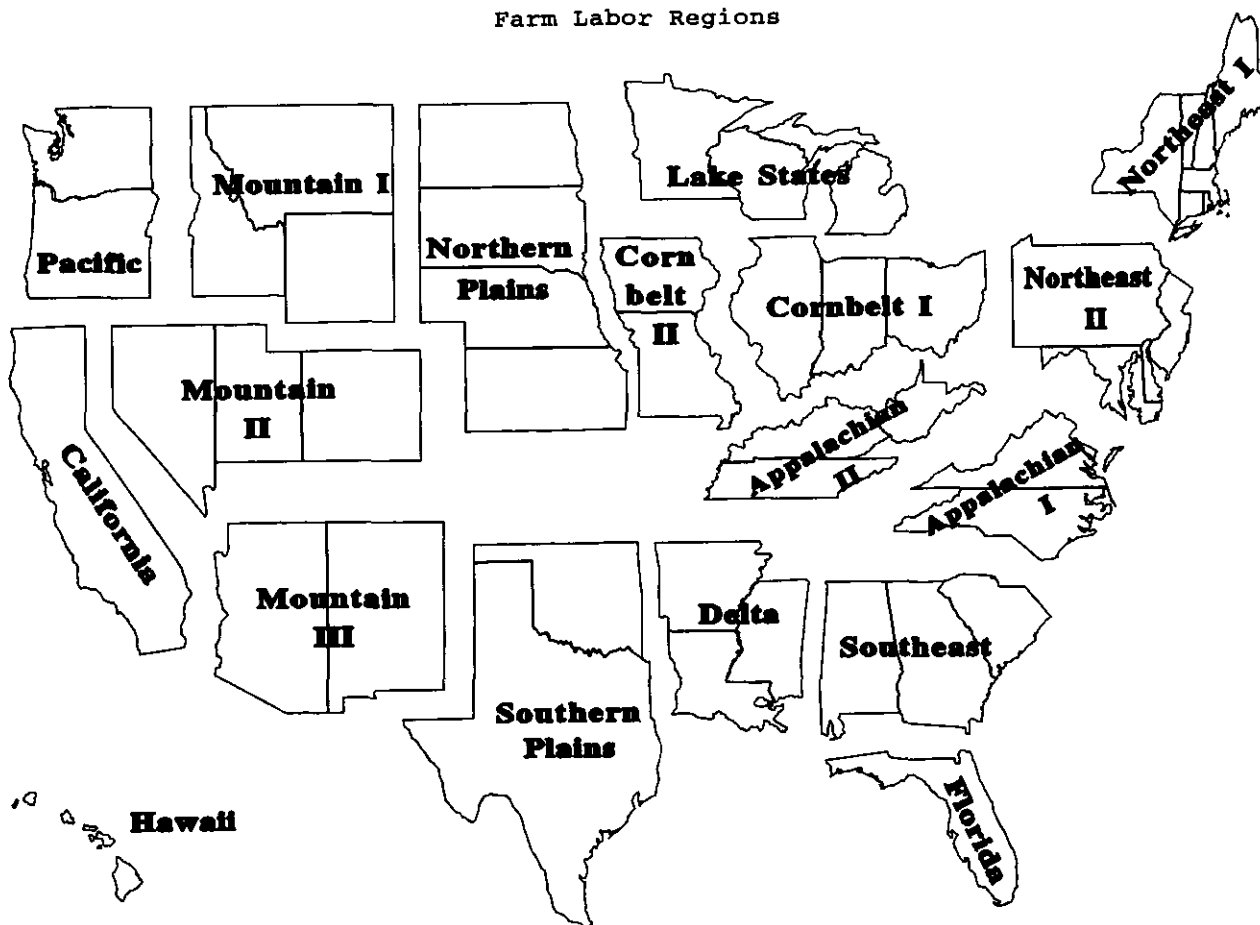
Migrant Workers: Percent of all Hired Workers, United States,
By Quarter (Includes Agricultural Service Workers), 1995-97 1/

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	: 6.3	: 10.8	

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 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 6-12, 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 4.0 percent. The relative sampling error for number of hired workers generally ranged between 8 and 21 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.1 percent. The relative sampling error was .8 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 level. 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 April, 1997 and July, 1996 were subject to revision with this report. Revisions were made as noted and previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.

The November 21st report will have information for the survey week of October 12-18, 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.

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 migrant workers will also be published.

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The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on November 21, 1997.

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