

Farm Labor



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Hired Workers and Wages 5 Percent Above a Year Ago

There were 1.29 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 1997, up 5 percent from a year ago. Farm operators directly hired 1,003,000 workers. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 283,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.2 percent of the hired workforce.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$7.31 per hour during the October 1997 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$6.94 per hour, up 36 cents. Livestock workers earned \$6.80 per hour compared with \$6.57 a year earlier.

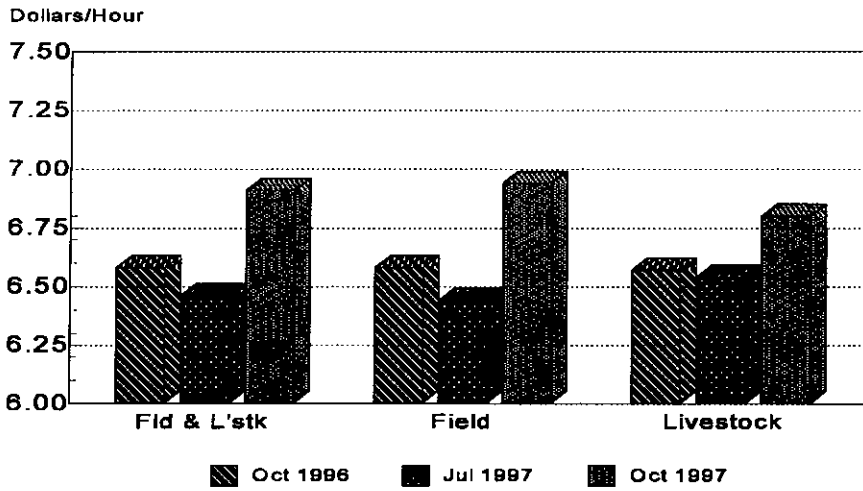
Ideal weather conditions during the survey week of October 12-18, in the central and eastern Corn Belt allowed fall harvest activity to surge ahead of normal. Heavy rains in the central Great Plains slowed row-crop harvest activity. Favorable conditions along the Pacific Coast allowed fieldwork and seedbed preparation to advance. Dry weather in Florida caused citrus caretakers and vegetable producers to irrigate. After heavy early-week rains, breezy, dry conditions allowed for a rapid return to summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting across the Plains and Midwest.

In California, ground preparation for planting small grains, forage crops and new alfalfa gained momentum. Rice harvest was virtually complete in the Sacramento Valley and was rapidly winding down in the San Joaquin Valley. Cotton harvest neared completion in the Imperial and Sacramento Valleys, while the San Joaquin Valley harvest was progressing normally. Harvest of grapes for juice and wine slowed but table grapes were still being harvested and packed. The walnut and pistachio harvests were nearly complete. Navel orange and grapefruit harvesting continued. Broccoli and cauliflower harvest continued in the Salinas-Watsonville area. Lettuce harvest in Monterey County was winding down. Harvest of fresh market tomatoes in the San Joaquin Valley progressed normally.

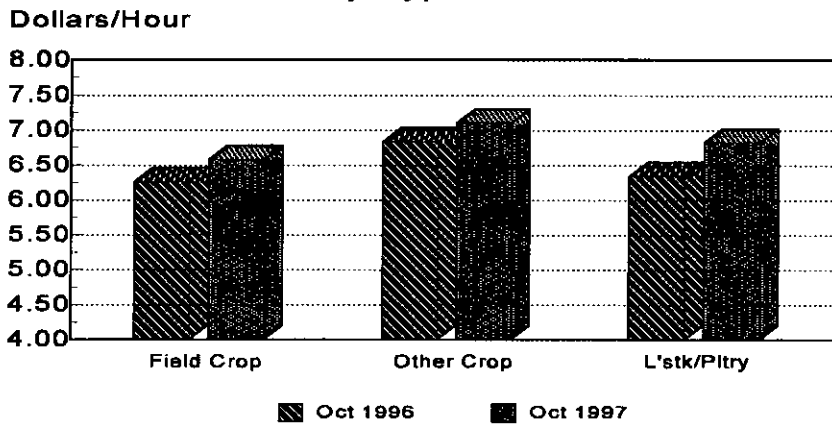
Cool, dry conditions in Florida accelerated harvesting of crops during the week. Sugarcane planting was active. Caretakers were mowing, chopping and discing cover crops that had dried and were a fire hazard. There were still a few fertilizers, herbicides and sprays being applied where needed.

Most small grains planting have been completed in the Plains of Texas. Cotton producers were well into harvest in the High Plains and North Central Texas, however wet fields at mid-week caused some delays. Corn harvest was winding down in most fields prior to the wet conditions. Cool, cloudy wet conditions slowed final rice harvest operations along the Upper Coast. Sugar beets harvest progressed slowly in the Plains as wet conditions limited fieldwork. Pecan harvest began in many areas.

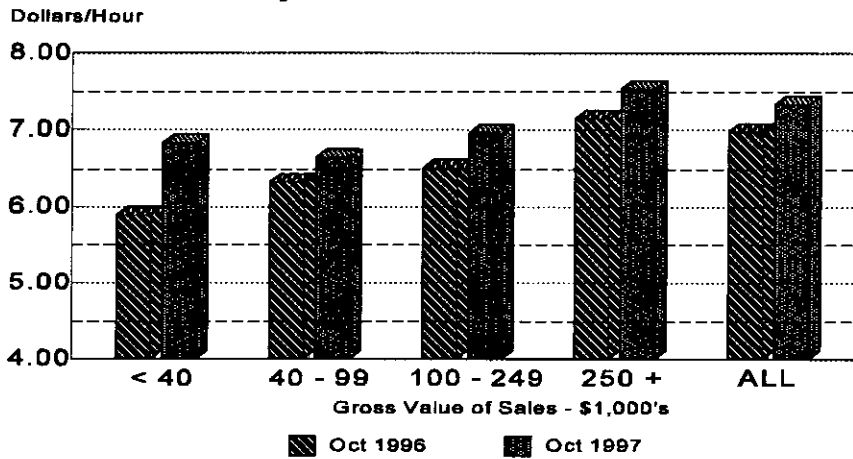
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



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 12-18, 1997, with Comparisons ¹**

<i>Farm Employment</i>	<i>October 6-12, 1996</i>	<i>July 6-12, 1997</i>	<i>October 12-18, 1997</i>
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	935	*1,069	1,003
Expected to be Employed			
150 Days or More	625	689	648
149 Days or Less	310	*380	355
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	291	340	283
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,226	*1,409	1,286
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Migrant Workers Percent of Hired Farm & Service Workers	11.1	10.8	11.2
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.6	40.9	40.9
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	6.97	*6.88	7.31
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	6.58	*6.46	6.91
Field	6.58	*6.44	6.94
Livestock	6.57	6.54	6.80

* 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, October 12-18, 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	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	46	32	14	40.4
Northeast II	43	34	9	37.1
Appalachian I	53	22	31	31.3
Appalachian II	52	18	34	29.9
Southeast	32	25	7	39.4
FL	44	41	3	40.0
Lake	80	48	32	41.3
Cornbelt I	56	33	23	41.3
Cornbelt II	46	29	17	39.9
Delta	52	35	17	45.4
Northern Plains	52	35	17	45.8
Southern Plains	66	45	21	38.8
Mountain I	28	20	8	41.5
Mountain II	26	21	5	40.3
Mountain III	20	16	4	41.5
Pacific	79	42	37	41.0
CA	220	145	75	45.6
HI	8	7	1	36.4
US ³	1,003	648	355	40.9

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 12-18, 1997 ¹**

U.S. And Region ²	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast I	7.39	6.45	7.09	7.49
Northeast II	6.68	6.18	6.50	7.06
Appalachian I	6.51	6.77	6.55	6.73
Appalachian II	6.14	6.16	6.14	6.27
Southeast	6.38	6.27	6.36	6.95
FL	7.10	7.50	7.17	7.75
Lake	7.85	6.01	7.28	7.73
Cornbelt I	7.17	7.46	7.21	7.81
Cornbelt II	7.08	7.08	7.08	7.23
Delta	5.92	6.40	5.99	6.22
Northern Plains	7.05	6.59	6.91	7.22
Southern Plains	6.10	6.73	6.41	6.70
Mountain I	6.28	6.74	6.43	6.65
Mountain II	6.74	7.23	6.85	7.25
Mountain III	6.17	6.66	6.25	6.85
Pacific	7.55	8.14	7.60	8.11
CA	7.06	7.84	7.13	7.55
HI ³	8.49		8.55	9.98
US ⁴	6.94	6.80	6.91	7.31

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Insufficient data for livestock.

⁴ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, July 6-12, 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	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
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	*26	17	*9	*41.7
Mountain II	30	21	9	49.5
Mountain III	25	17	8	41.2
Pacific	108	52	56	39.9
CA	227	164	63	*46.4
HI	7	6	1	37.6
US ³	*1,069	689	*380	40.9

* Revised.

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
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	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
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
Cormbelt I	6.70	7.84	6.95	7.63
Cormbelt 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	*7.39
Southern Plains	5.60	6.17	5.83	6.32
Mountain I	*5.89	6.39	*6.00	*6.19
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	*6.79	*7.18
HI ³	9.11		9.10	10.34
US ⁴	*6.44	6.54	*6.46	*6.88

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Insufficient data for livestock.

⁴ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, October 6-12, 1996¹**

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	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
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 16.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
By Region and United States, October 6-12, 1996¹**

U.S. And Region ²	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
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 ³	8.60		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 16.

³ Insufficient data for livestock.

⁴ Excludes AK.

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

Region ²	October 6-12, 1996				October 12-18, 1997			
	Field Crops	Other Crops	L'stk & Poultry	All Farms	Field Crops	Other Crops	L'stk & Poultry	All Farms
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast	6.19	7.36	5.96	6.76	6.80	6.98	6.41	6.70
Appalachian	5.83	6.39	5.85	5.93	6.22	7.03	6.42	6.37
Southeast	5.75	6.25	5.59	6.11	6.45	6.81	7.40	6.85
Lake	8.09	7.89	6.08	7.13	7.16	8.33	6.08	7.28
Cornbelt	6.53	6.36	6.62	6.52	7.12	7.46	7.18	7.20
Delta	5.50	6.24	6.12	5.65	5.58	6.46	6.22	5.99
Northern Plains	7.07	6.67	6.44	6.93	7.23	6.97	6.40	6.91
Southern Plains	5.27	5.76	5.76	5.56	6.12	6.33	6.55	6.41
Mountain	6.12	5.99	6.91	6.37	6.40	6.48	7.04	6.63
Pacific	6.58	6.97	7.03	6.93	7.52	7.47	8.12	7.66
48 States	6.26	6.83	6.34	6.54	6.58	7.10	6.82	6.91

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

Region	October 6-12, 1996 ²					October 12-18, 1997				
	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's				All Farms	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's				All Farms
	<40	40-99	100-249	250+		<40	40-99	100-249	250+	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
N. East	6.63	5.83	5.90	7.85	7.25	7.94	6.81	6.85	7.33	7.27
Appal.	5.98	6.13	5.85	6.48	6.18	5.91	6.36	6.28	7.12	6.40
S. East	5.08	4.42	6.12	6.47	6.31	6.82	6.53	6.44	7.72	7.45
Lake	4.78	6.30	6.87	7.94	7.41	5.94	5.10	8.06	7.02	7.73
Cornbelt	6.97	6.08	6.27	7.43	6.91	7.40	7.47	6.82	7.80	7.48
Delta	6.04	5.22	5.58	5.86	5.78	6.26	5.91	5.90	6.35	6.22
N. Plains	6.38	5.43	7.15	7.49	7.22	10.51	5.48	6.56	7.32	7.22
S. Plains	5.66	5.49	5.24	6.27	5.85	5.79	6.12	6.42	7.03	6.70
Mountain	5.81	5.83	6.47	6.86	6.71	6.29	5.77	6.07	7.22	6.87
Pacific	5.74	7.98	7.55	7.37	7.34	9.92	8.99	8.25	7.88	7.97
48 States	5.89	6.32	6.51	7.14	6.97	6.82	6.62	6.93	7.51	7.31

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 6-12, 1996	July 6-12, 1997	October 12-18, 1997
	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>
Field Crops	27	23	24
Other Crops	48	50	50
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	25	27	26
	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Hired Workers: Distribution by Economic
Class of Farm, 48 States^{1 3}**

Gross Value of Sales	October 6-12, 1996	July 6-12, 1997	October 12-18, 1997
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$40,000	13	13	12
\$40,000-\$99,999	9	12	10
\$100,000-\$249,999	17	15	15
\$250,000 and over	61	60	63
	100.0	100.0	100.0

Hired Workers: Distribution by Category, United States,^{1 3}

	October 6-12, 1996	July 6-12, 1997	October 12-18, 1997
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	10	10	11
2 Workers	10	11	11
3-6 Workers	21	23	20
7-10 Workers	10	11	8
At least 11 Workers	49	45	50
	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 283,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 1997. Service workers in California numbered 85,000 compared with 88,000 during the October 1996 survey week. Florida's number of service workers was 5,700 and compare to 7,000 last year.

The average wage received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$7.37 and \$8.29 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 1996 were \$6.63 in California and \$7.30 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}		
	Oct 1996	Jul 1997	Oct 1997	Oct 1996	Jul 1997	Oct 1997	Oct 1996	Jul 1997	Oct 1997
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
CA	88.0	96.0	85.0	36.3	37.2	34.5	6.63	6.87	7.37
FL	7.0	4.0	5.7	24.0	39.5	27.2	7.30	8.10	8.29
US	291.0	340.0	283.0						

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.

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

Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
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	11.2

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, 1996-97 ¹**

State and Region ²	Number						Hours Worked	
	Self Employed		Unpaid		Hired		Hired Workers	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
NY	31.5	30.0	12.8	11.3	20.5	20.0	41.1	41.4
Northeast I	50.0	54.5	17.5	15.8	40.5	41.0	40.2	39.3
PA	45.3	51.5	22.3	27.8	20.0	22.5	40.8	41.3
Northeast II	63.3	71.3	28.8	33.8	34.3	40.5	40.0	41.3
NC	45.0	50.5	10.0	9.3	27.8	32.8	34.6	30.8
VA	36.3	31.8	6.5	8.5	12.3	12.4	39.8	36.8
Appalachian I	81.3	82.3	16.5	17.8	40.0	45.3	36.2	36.4
Appalachian II	132.8	142.3	31.8	36.4	26.5	35.0	30.6	30.8
Southeast	67.8	77.0	11.5	13.5	30.0	39.0	36.6	36.7
FL	29.0	29.5	5.3	5.3	46.3	52.8	38.0	39.1
MI	39.8	38.3	10.3	8.5	17.8	21.8	34.5	36.9
MN	67.3	68.8	25.8	25.0	16.8	16.8	36.6	42.5
WI	59.0	54.0	25.5	25.5	27.3	25.8	36.2	33.3
Lake	166.0	161.0	61.5	59.0	61.8	64.3	35.9	37.0
Cornbelt I	172.5	167.3	52.0	50.3	45.3	51.8	34.9	36.3
Cornbelt II	150.0	144.8	45.5	44.0	34.8	33.5	34.7	37.0
Delta	75.8	68.0	18.0	17.2	36.8	41.8	42.9	40.9
Northern Plains	133.5	126.3	54.3	53.5	38.3	38.8	44.3	43.1
OK	56.3	57.3	16.0	16.5	12.0	14.8	37.2	41.9
TX	167.5	165.3	37.3	23.5	49.0	47.8	43.8	40.7
Southern Plains	223.8	222.5	53.3	40.0	61.0	62.5	42.4	40.9
Mountain I	37.8	40.5	14.5	19.0	25.3	21.3	46.9	44.1
Mountain II	28.0	26.4	11.0	9.8	17.5	22.8	43.6	43.3
AZ	4.3	5.4	11.3	10.8	13.3	13.2	47.8	42.0
NM	10.8	9.6	13.3	13.8	5.8	5.8	46.6	42.0
Mountain III	15.0	15.0	24.5	24.5	19.0	19.0	47.4	42.0
OR	34.0	32.8	12.8	10.4	28.3	29.5	39.5	40.3
WA	22.0	24.5	8.3	6.0	45.0	44.8	41.3	41.0
Pacific	56.0	57.3	21.0	16.4	73.3	74.3	40.6	40.7
CA	47.8	38.8	9.3	6.3	194.5	188.8	43.3	43.6
HI	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	7.3	7.0	37.5	36.7
US ³	1,533.0	1,527.5	477.0	463.2	832.0	879.0	40.3	40.0

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
By Region and United States, 1996-97^{1 4}**

	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast I	7.19	7.63	7.14	7.23	6.71	6.84
Northeast II	6.78	7.24	6.60	6.60	6.26	6.33
Appalachian I	6.07	6.35	5.63	6.00	5.79	6.16
Appalachian II	6.00	6.23	5.62	5.88	5.68	5.92
Southeast	6.33	6.81	5.98	6.37	5.92	6.30
FL	7.30	7.44	6.29	6.76	6.36	6.77
Lake	6.95	7.30	6.96	7.42	6.56	6.85
Cornbelt I	7.11	7.96	6.64	7.06	6.66	7.18
Cornbelt II	6.55	7.10	6.17	7.02	6.22	6.86
Delta	5.91	6.36	5.65	5.87	5.70	5.98
Northern Plains	6.84	7.41	6.73	7.14	6.55	7.01
Southern Plains	6.01	6.30	5.29	5.67	5.48	5.92
Mountain I	6.15	6.72	5.99	6.19	6.01	6.54
Mountain II	6.66	6.85	5.99	6.31	6.09	6.39
Mountain III	6.42	6.66	5.70	6.07	5.82	6.08
Pacific	7.25	7.56	6.80	7.00	6.87	7.08
CA	7.01	7.32	6.44	6.79	6.53	6.87
HI	9.83	10.13	8.61	8.81	8.62	8.83
US ³	6.78	7.36	6.34	6.66	6.33	6.64

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ 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.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
By State, 1996-97^{1 2}**

	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
AL	5.49	6.17	5.47	5.89	5.34	5.74
AZ	6.62	6.70	5.77	6.08	5.89	6.09
AR	6.20	6.58	6.04	6.02	6.04	6.13
CA	7.01	7.32	6.44	6.79	6.53	6.87
CO	6.59	7.02	5.83	6.47	5.98	6.59
DE	6.90	7.85	6.16	7.64	6.18	7.48
FL	7.30	7.44	6.29	6.76	6.36	6.77
GA	6.83	7.34	6.36	6.89	6.34	6.85
HI	9.83	10.13	8.61	8.81	8.62	8.83
ID	6.64	6.80	6.02	6.25	6.53	6.54
IL	7.32	8.04	6.73	7.23	6.84	7.41
IN	7.12	8.09	6.88	7.22	6.78	7.33
IA	6.69	7.76	6.19	7.75	6.34	7.52
KS	7.12	7.59	6.71	7.21	6.81	7.24
KY	6.14	6.28	5.67	5.75	5.78	5.94
LA	5.85	6.39	5.39	6.21	5.61	6.15
MD	7.20	7.76	7.14	7.64	6.71	7.02
MI	6.96	7.14	6.73	6.78	6.61	6.62
MN	7.85	8.45	7.75	9.02	7.44	8.08
MS	5.66	6.17	5.28	5.53	5.42	5.81
MO	6.42	6.45	6.16	6.43	6.11	6.25
MT	5.99	6.15	5.70	6.21	5.67	5.91
NE	6.77	7.60	6.65	7.28	6.48	6.94
NV	6.48	6.88	6.18	6.28	6.15	6.45
NJ	7.56	7.31	6.58	6.39	6.83	6.47
NM	5.98	6.48	5.41	6.01	5.69	6.07
NY	6.73	7.21	6.55	7.32	6.27	6.80
NC	6.04	6.23	5.58	5.94	5.78	6.03
ND	6.82	7.38	7.27	7.63	6.74	7.43
OH	6.83	7.09	6.32	6.70	6.27	6.69
OK	6.29	7.05	5.59	6.10	5.73	6.45
OR	6.95	7.46	6.40	6.82	6.39	6.85
PA	6.38	6.46	6.47	6.32	5.92	5.98
SC	5.42	6.15	5.00	5.65	5.21	5.69
SD	6.24	6.33	6.12	5.82	5.81	5.99
TN	5.88	6.09	5.54	5.98	5.56	5.84
TX	5.95	6.09	5.24	5.55	5.42	5.77
UT	6.96	6.58	6.58	6.15	6.42	6.19
VA	6.14	6.54	5.77	6.16	5.81	6.40
WA	7.43	7.64	7.02	7.10	7.15	7.23
WV	5.85	6.61	5.81	6.01	5.71	6.28
WI	6.39	6.73	6.64	7.29	6.01	6.33
WY	5.09	5.69	6.15	5.89	5.00	5.33
Oth Sts ³	7.69	7.44	7.65	7.15	7.21	6.88
US ⁴	6.78	7.36	6.34	6.66	6.33	6.64

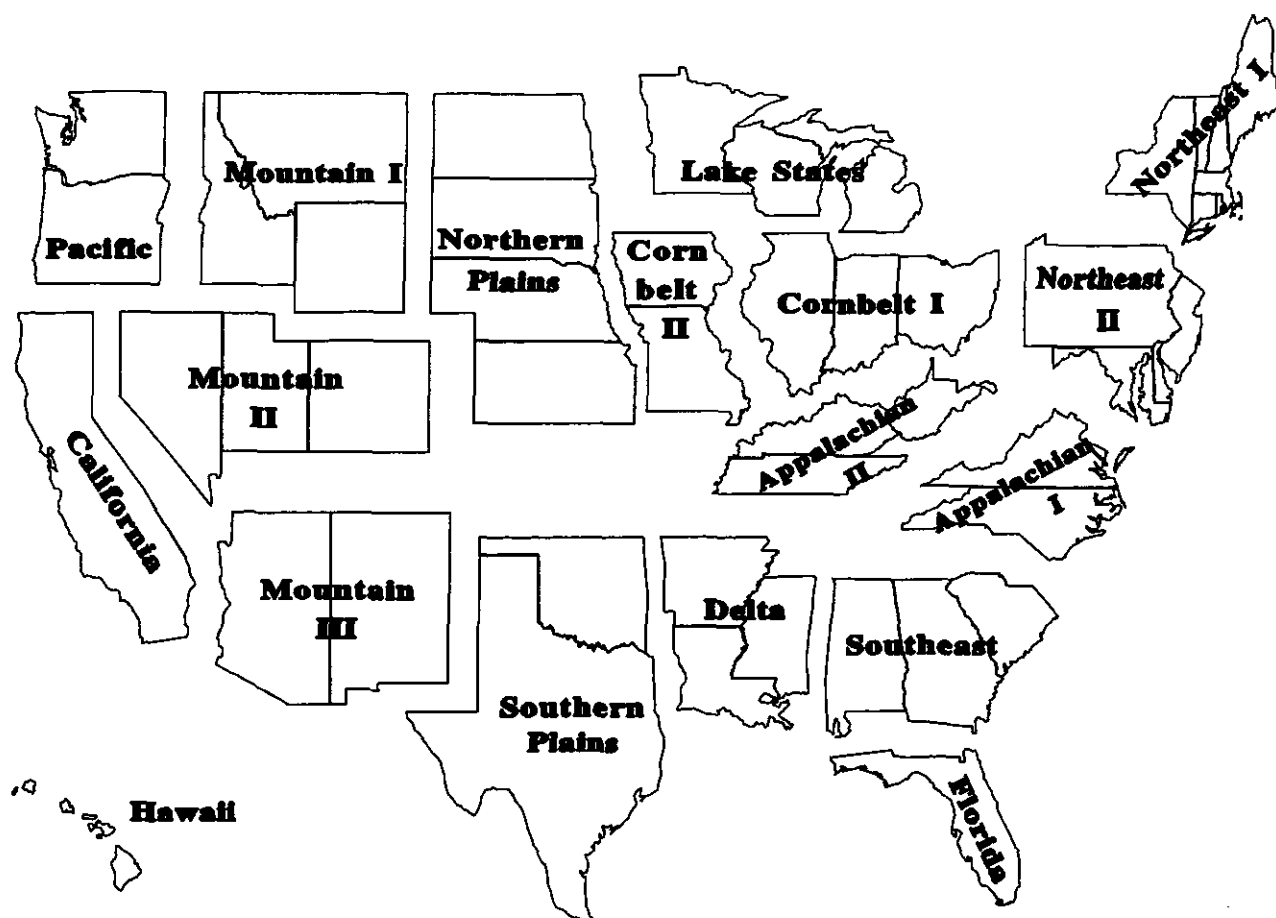
¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² 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.

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 an area sampling frame. 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 12-18, 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 hired workers at the U.S. level was 4.0 percent. The relative sampling error for number of hired workers generally ranged between 9 and 18 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 0.9 percent. The relative sampling error was 0.9 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 6 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 7 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, 1997 and October, 1996 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 1996 and 1997. 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 average wage rates for both 1996 and 1997 are published at the State, 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 1997, 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 20th report will have information for the survey week of January 11-17, 1998. 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, livestock, and combined field and livestock workers will be available for 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 p.m. ET on February 20, 1998.

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USDA Announces Data Users Meeting

Embassy Suites (near KCI Airport)

Kansas City, Missouri

January 7, 1998

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be organizing an open forum for Data Users. The purpose will be to provide updates on pending changes in the USDA statistical and information programs including the status of the 1997 Census of Agriculture, and to seek comments and input from data users. Other agencies to be represented will include the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board.

For registration details

NASS home page: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

Bob Milton (NASS) at (202) 720-3570

rmilton@nass.usda.gov

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