
Released February 18, 2000, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Farm Labor" call Steve Logan at 202-690-3228, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Hired Workers Down 3 Percent, Wage Rates Up 2 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 836,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 9-15, 2000, down 3 percent from a year ago. There were 666,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 170,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.3 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 6.0 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.12 per hour during the January 2000 survey week, up 18 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.32 per hour, up 9 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$7.64 per hour compared with \$7.31 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 18 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.1 hours a year ago.

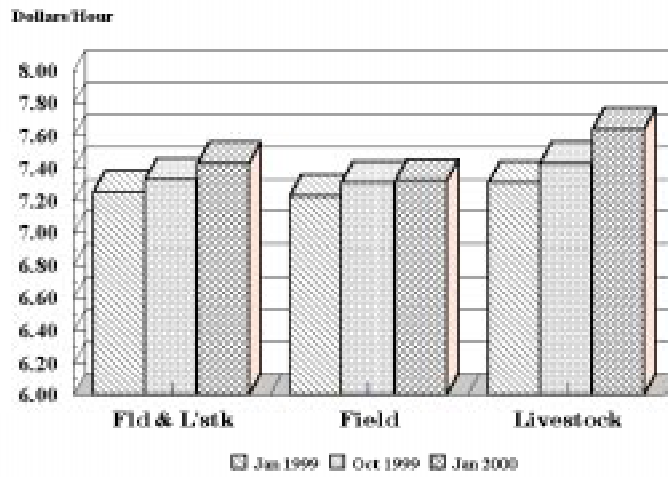
The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Northern Plains (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas), and Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) regions. In Mountain I and II, warm weather gave farm workers more time for general farm maintenance and tending to livestock during the survey week. Calving and lambing were also beginning in these regions. In Mountain III, record high temperatures allowed farmers to work in fields and nurseries, prune orchards, and irrigate wheat where needed. Dry, mild weather in the Northern Plains and Corn Belt I regions gave farmers more opportunities for land preparation in advance of spring planting, equipment cleaning and repairs, hauling grain, and moving livestock.

The largest declines in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the California, Northeast I (New England and New York), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. In California, heavy rains moved into the northern part of the State and some light rainfall was reported in central and southern areas of the State during the survey week, which generally led to fewer field workers throughout the State. Heavy snow, accompanied by sharply colder weather, spread into the Northeast I region during the survey week reducing farm activities. In the Southeast, the survey week was characterized by rainfall early in the week followed by a late week cold front leading to less farm activity. In the Pacific region, frequent storms brought excessive rains to the coast and heavy snows on the Cascades. As a result, fewer farm workers were reported in the region during the survey week.

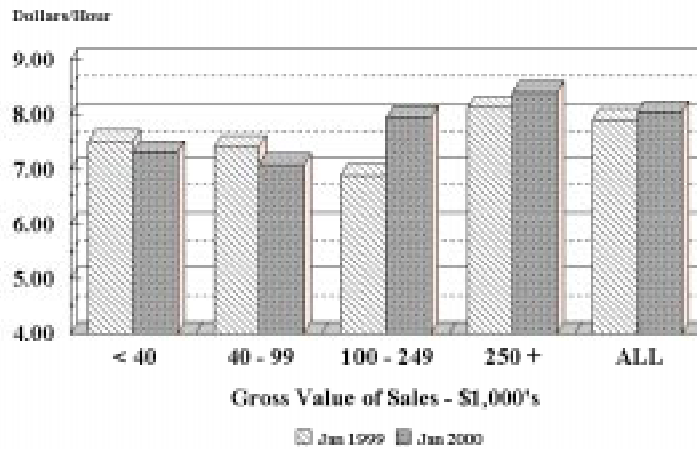
Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast I and Corn Belt I regions. The higher wages were generally attributable to higher paid workers retained on the payroll during the winter months in these regions.

Regions showing declines in the hired farm worker wage rates were Mountain II, Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Hawaii. Slight declines in the hired wage rates resulted from additional seasonal workers added to the payrolls in Mountain II; fewer higher paid, full-time workers reported in Appalachian I; and seasonal workers still stripping tobacco in Appalachian II.

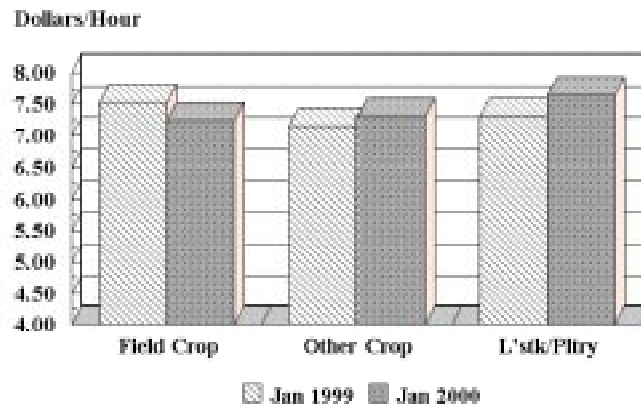
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm



Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
January 9-15, 2000, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	January 10-16, 1999	October 10-16, 1999	January 9-15, 2000
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	705	989	666
150 Days or More	568	665	528
149 Days or Less	137	324	138
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	157	*290	170
Hired Farm & Service Workers	862	*1,279	836
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Migrant Workers Percent of Hired Farm & Service Workers	6.0	*12.3	7.3
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	38.1	42.5	38.2
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	7.94	7.83	8.12
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	7.25	7.33	7.43
Field	7.23	7.31	7.32
Livestock	7.31	7.43	7.64

* 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 9-15, 2000 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	23	20	3	36.9
Northeast II	27	24	3	36.0
Appalachian I	22	18	4	34.9
Appalachian II	21	10	11	30.6
Southeast	23	17	6	37.2
FL	60	48	12	41.9
Lake	48	39	9	31.4
Cornbelt I	36	28	8	31.0
Cornbelt II	19	17	2	41.1
Delta	24	21	3	30.5
Northern Plains	29	26	3	38.6
Southern Plains	44	32	12	37.6
Mountain I	21	19	2	40.1
Mountain II	19	16	3	40.9
Mountain III	20	18	2	43.5
Pacific	37	28	9	36.1
CA	185	140	45	42.0
HI	8	7	1	36.6
US ³	666	528	138	38.2

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 9-15, 2000¹**

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	8.12	7.22	7.54	8.51
Northeast II	7.84	6.66	7.42	8.33
Appalachian I	7.00	7.27	7.12	7.55
Appalachian II	6.22	6.93	6.44	6.76
Southeast	6.93	6.68	6.86	7.41
FL	7.40	7.50	7.41	8.28
Lake	8.72	7.96	8.11	8.83
Cornbelt I	8.51	8.45	8.48	9.32
Cornbelt II	7.31	7.87	7.80	8.13
Delta	7.04	6.52	6.83	7.35
Northern Plains	8.12	7.90	7.98	8.34
Southern Plains	7.06	7.10	7.08	7.52
Mountain I	7.55	7.67	7.64	8.19
Mountain II	7.46	7.60	7.56	8.09
Mountain III	6.51	6.83	6.57	7.22
Pacific	7.79	8.46	7.91	8.78
CA	7.15	8.40	7.28	8.00
HI ⁴	8.96		8.90	10.40
US ³	7.32	7.64	7.43	8.12

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, October 10-16, 1999¹**

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	44	31	13	39.7
Northeast II	37	29	8	39.5
Appalachian I	43	30	13	37.8
Appalachian II	31	14	17	32.7
Southeast	31	21	10	35.6
FL	58	47	11	38.8
Lake	72	49	23	38.9
Cornbelt I	65	41	24	35.8
Cornbelt II	26	18	8	43.1
Delta	41	27	14	44.7
Northern Plains	56	41	15	54.2
Southern Plains	52	39	13	39.2
Mountain I	30	19	11	47.1
Mountain II	25	20	5	46.5
Mountain III	22	19	3	44.9
Pacific	87	42	45	41.5
CA	261	171	90	46.7
HI	8	7	1	36.9
US ³	989	665	324	42.5

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 10-16, 1999 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	8.21	7.58	7.99	*8.46
Northeast II	7.22	6.60	7.00	7.55
Appalachian I	6.88	7.45	7.03	7.48
Appalachian II	6.01	7.14	6.43	6.94
Southeast	6.63	7.10	6.78	*6.99
FL	7.05	7.00	7.04	8.05
Lake	8.42	7.71	8.18	8.64
Cornbelt I	7.65	7.17	7.57	8.27
Cornbelt II	7.85	7.86	7.85	8.17
Delta	6.14	7.02	6.28	6.59
Northern Plains	7.59	7.54	7.58	7.83
Southern Plains	6.48	7.29	6.74	7.24
Mountain I	7.06	7.40	7.17	7.36
Mountain II	6.79	7.00	6.90	7.23
Mountain III	6.51	7.40	6.69	7.12
Pacific	8.02	7.89	8.00	8.35
CA	7.25	8.03	7.30	7.86
HI ⁴	9.21		9.24	*10.88
US ³	7.31	7.43	7.33	7.83

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, January 10-16, 1999¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired			
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked
		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	30	25	5	37.5
Northeast II	25	22	3	38.3
Appalachian I	26	20	6	34.9
Appalachian II	22	10	12	27.8
Southeast	28	21	7	34.4
FL	55	48	7	39.1
Lake	42	37	5	34.9
Cornbelt I	29	25	4	35.6
Cornbelt II	16	13	3	29.9
Delta	24	19	5	32.6
Northern Plains	23	18	5	35.5
Southern Plains	48	39	9	38.4
Mountain I	14	12	2	37.4
Mountain II	15	14	1	42.7
Mountain III	16	15	1	43.4
Pacific	45	33	12	37.1
CA	240	191	49	41.6
HI	7	6	1	36.7
US ³	705	568	137	38.1

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 10-16, 1999 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	8.08	6.61	7.20	7.75
Northeast II	7.79	6.13	6.99	8.01
Appalachian I	7.14	7.47	7.25	7.76
Appalachian II	5.60	7.39	6.39	6.89
Southeast	6.84	6.84	6.84	7.18
FL	7.35	7.00	7.32	8.31
Lake	8.43	7.33	7.59	8.48
Cornbelt I	8.01	7.82	7.89	8.46
Cornbelt II	7.36	7.35	7.35	7.86
Delta	6.99	6.35	6.68	7.20
Northern Plains	7.83	7.56	7.62	8.10
Southern Plains	6.49	6.58	6.53	6.93
Mountain I	7.36	7.35	7.35	7.80
Mountain II	7.29	7.36	7.33	*8.27
Mountain III	6.66	7.06	6.75	7.18
Pacific	7.80	8.93	7.96	8.70
CA	7.13	8.40	7.26	7.97
HI ⁴	9.38		9.35	10.80
US ³	7.23	7.31	7.25	7.94

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Field and Livestock Workers Combined: Wage Rates, by Type
of Farm, by Region and 48 States¹**

Region ²	January 10-16, 1999				January 9-15, 2000			
	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	7.18	7.97	6.49	7.16	6.86	7.62	7.17	7.47
Appalachian	6.41	7.27	6.98	6.95	6.41	6.96	7.06	6.80
Southeast	8.23	6.96	7.23	7.02	3/	7.33	7.13	7.27
Lake	9.53	8.70	7.19	7.59	3/	8.45	8.04	8.11
Cornbelt	8.08	7.93	7.53	7.66	8.66	8.18	7.92	8.18
Delta	7.17	6.82	6.04	6.68	6.91	7.11	6.62	6.83
Northern Plains	7.86	7.90	7.41	7.62	8.13	3/	7.66	7.98
Southern Plains	6.09	6.61	6.64	6.53	6.51	6.98	7.35	7.08
Mountain	3/	6.76	7.17	7.16	3/	7.35	7.34	7.24
Pacific	8.91	7.61	9.12	8.07	3/	7.22	8.37	7.37
48 States	7.54	7.16	7.31	7.24	7.26	7.32	7.66	7.43

**All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm
by Region and 48 States¹**

Region ²	January 10-16, 1999					January 9-15, 2000				
	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	7.48	6.81	6.37	8.44	7.87	7.24	7.82	7.64	8.70	8.45
Appal.	3/	3/	7.19	7.38	7.41	7.02	3/	3/	7.37	7.14
S. East	8.81	8.31	6.94	7.90	7.92	3/	3/	3/	8.22	8.06
Lake	3/	7.01	6.68	8.98	8.48	3/	8.83	6.85	9.16	8.83
Cornbelt	3/	8.04	6.68	8.74	7.27	3/	3/	3/	9.25	8.96
Delta	5.92	5.03	5.51	8.29	7.20	6.21	3/	3/	7.60	7.35
N. Plains	3/	3/	7.62	8.24	8.10	6.99	6.86	7.71	8.53	8.34
S. Plains	6.72	6.84	6.63	7.05	6.93	6.58	6.75	8.07	7.72	7.52
Mountain	6.59	6.39	6.86	8.05	7.78	6.77	7.88	7.29	8.01	7.80
Pacific	8.29	7.47	7.08	8.12	8.01	7.98	6.68	8.38	8.25	8.12
48 States	7.52	7.41	6.89	8.13	7.90	7.31	7.09	7.94	8.42	8.05

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 10-16, 1999	October 10-16, 1999	January 9-15, 2000
	<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	9	15	13
Other Crops	60	57	53
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	31	28	34
	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

Gross Value of Sales	January 10-16, 1999	October 10-16, 1999	January 9-15, 2000
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$40,000	10	11	10
\$40,000-\$99,999	8	7	9
\$100,000-\$249,999	13	13	13
\$250,000 and over	69	69	68
	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	January 10-16, 1999	October 10-16, 1999	January 9-15, 2000
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	13	10	12
2 Workers	9	9	10
3-6 Workers	18	18	23
7-10 Workers	8	8	8
At least 11 Workers	52	55	47
	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 170,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2000. Service workers in California numbered 75,000 this January compared with 67,000 last year. Florida's number of service workers was 16,000, compared to 12,000 last year.

The average wage received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$7.41 and \$8.60 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in January 1999 were \$7.98 in California and \$8.50 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 1999	Oct 1999	Jan 2000	Jan 1999	Oct 1999	Jan 2000	Jan 1999	Oct 1999	Jan 2000
	<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	67.0	*106.0	75.0	37.4	*36.5	36.0	7.98	7.96	7.41
FL	12.0	5.0	16.0	35.0	32.0	36.5	8.50	8.65	8.60
US	157.0	*290.0	170.0						

* 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.

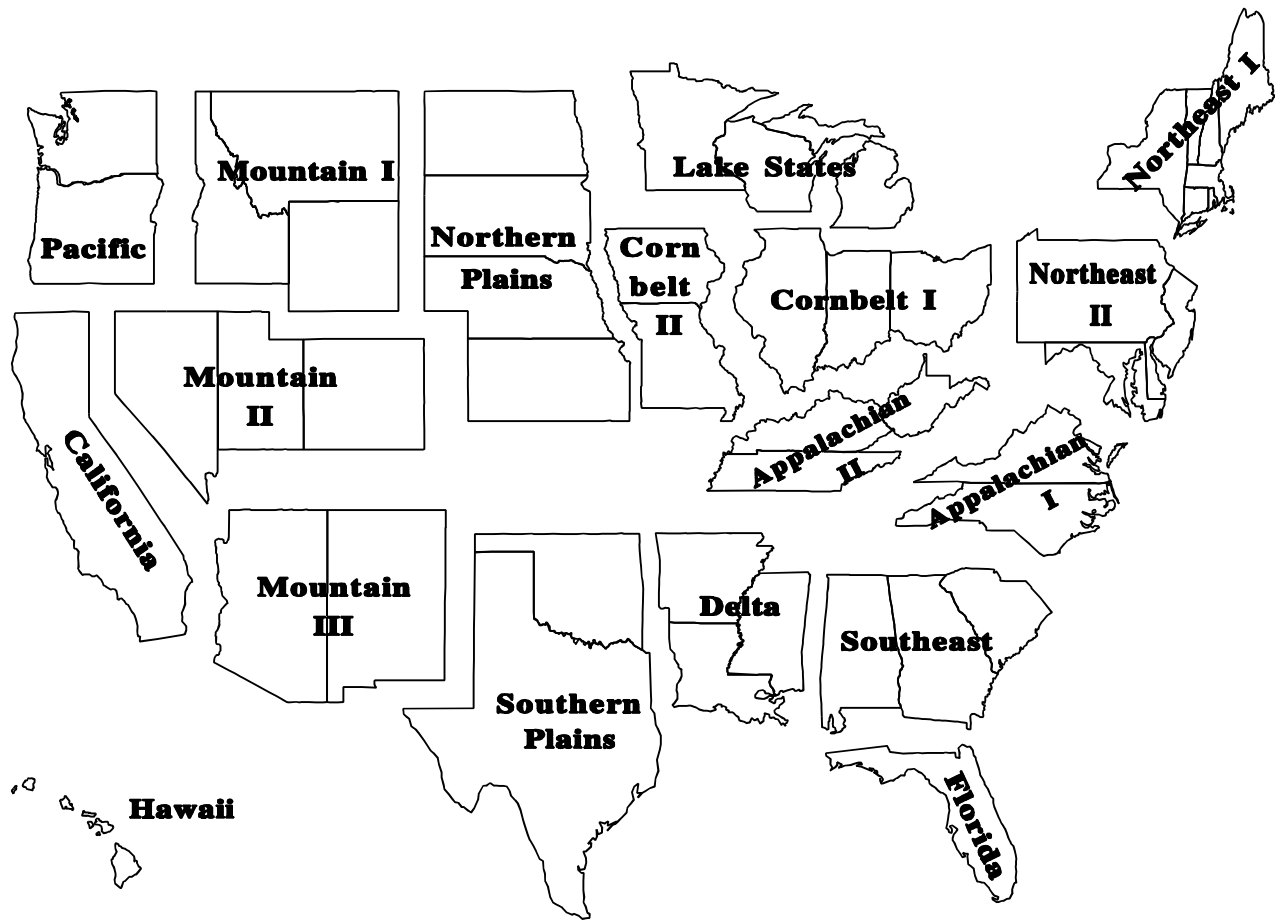
Migrant Workers: Percent of all Hired Workers, United States, By Quarter (Includes Agricultural Service Workers), 1997-00 ¹

Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1997	9.5	6.3	10.8	11.2
1998	7.3	6.6	13.7	11.0
1999	6.0	8.7	12.4	*12.3
2000	7.3			

* 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.

Farm Labor Regions



Region	States
Northeast I	CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.
Northeast II	DE, MD, NJ, PA.
Appalachian I	NC, VA.
Appalachian II	KY, TN, WV.
Southeast	AL, GA, SC.
Lake	MI, MN, WI.
Cornbelt I	IL, IN, OH.
Cornbelt II	IA, MO.
Delta	AR, LA, MS.
Northern Plains	KS, NE, ND, SD.
Southern Plains	OK, TX.
Mountain I	ID, MT, WY.
Mountain II	CO, NV, UT.
Mountain III	AZ, NM.
Pacific	OR, WA.

Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates

Survey Procedures: These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the last two weeks of 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 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 NASS list of farms; those not found on the list are included in the labor survey sample to represent all farms. 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 9-15, 2000.

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 hired workers at the U.S. level was 3.8 percent. The relative sampling error for the number of hired workers generally ranged between 9 and 35 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.0 percent. The relative sampling error was 1.0 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 7 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 19 percent at the regional level.

Nonsampling errors can occur in a complete census 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 editing, 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 for 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 1999 and January 1999 were subject to revision with this report. Revisions were made and previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.

The May 19th report will have information for the survey week of April 9-15, 2000. The report will include the number of All Hired Workers, Average Hours Worked by Hired Workers and the All Hired Worker Wage Rates at the 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 California and Florida.

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The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on May 19, 2000.

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