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## **Hired Workers Up 2 Percent and Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago**

There were 1.05 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 9-15, 2000, up 2 percent from a year ago. There were 830,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 217,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 8.8 percent of the April hired workforce compared with 8.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.12 per hour during the April 2000 survey week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.58 per hour, up 35 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned \$7.56 per hour compared with \$7.39 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 31 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 40.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 39.5 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Florida, Northern Plains (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) regions. In Florida, growers were making preparations to plant spring crops. Vegetable harvest continued in all major areas and nursery workers were very active. In the Northern Plains, corn planting was active in most of the region and producers were busy moving cattle to summer ranges. In the Southern Plains, land preparation and corn, soybean, and sorghum plantings were active. The main farming activities in Corn Belt I included corn and some soybean plantings, applying fertilizer and herbicides, purchasing supplies, and preparing equipment. Calving and lambing were also active.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and California regions. Showers across most of the Appalachian II region, coupled with colder than normal temperatures, limited fieldwork. In Mountain III, above normal temperatures helped accelerate crop development versus a year ago. In California, scattered showers were reported in northern and central areas of the State. Four weeks of favorably dry and often warm weather helped advance fieldwork and initial summer crop planting activity.

Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin) and Appalachian II regions. The higher wages were generally attributable to fewer seasonal workers reported on the payroll during the survey week in the Pacific and Appalachian II regions. In the Lake region, farmers reported fewer field hours worked for salaried workers which helped contribute to the increase from last year.

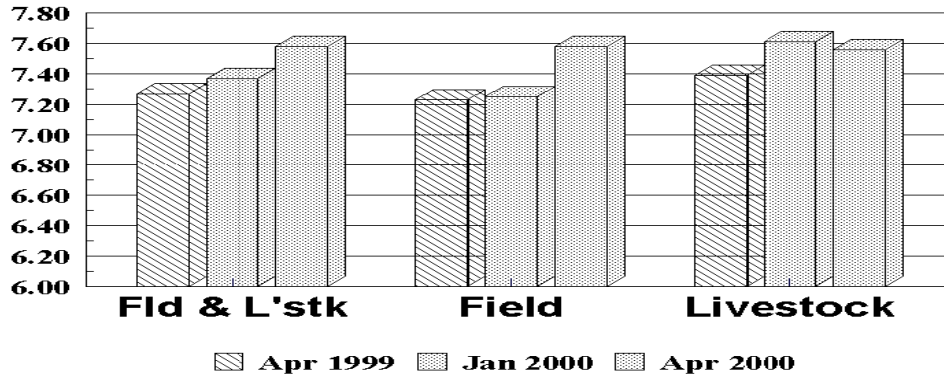
Regions showing declines in the hired farm worker wage rates were Mountain III, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Hawaii. Slight declines of hired wage rates in these regions generally occurred due to an increase in field worker hours reported in each region.

### **Revisions:**

The January 2000 hired workers estimates were revised for the U.S. and California. These revisions were based on additional information received in California as part of the ongoing Federal, State cooperative program.

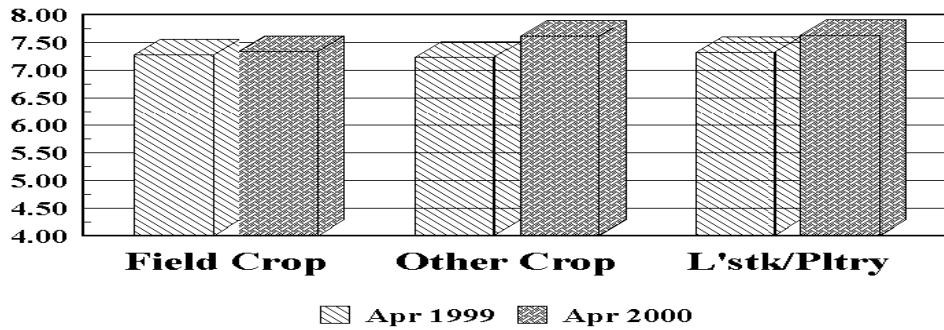
### U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



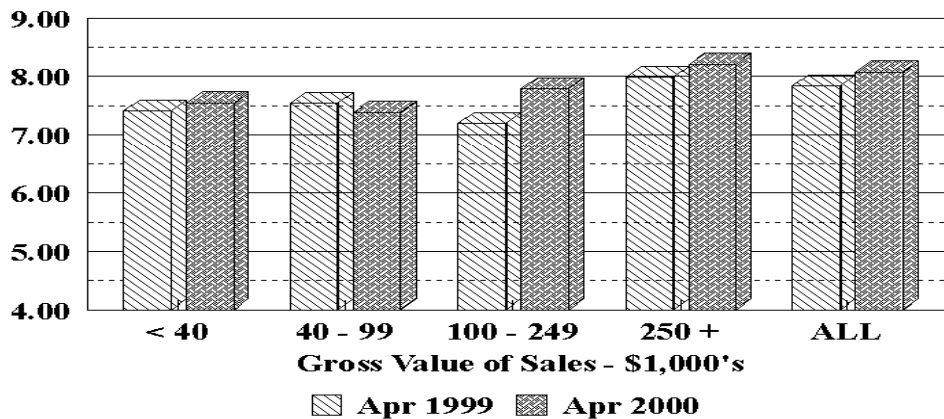
### Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



### Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,  
April 9-15, 2000, with Comparisons <sup>1</sup>**

Farm Employment	April 11-17, 1999	January 9-15, 2000	April 9-15, 2000
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	867	*685	830
150 Days or More	670	*540	628
149 Days or Less	197	*145	202
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	160	*172	217
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,027	*857	1,047
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Migrant Workers Percent of Hired Farm & Service Workers	8.7	*7.7	8.8
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	39.5	*38.4	40.4
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers <sup>2 3</sup>	7.83	*8.10	8.12
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	7.27	*7.37	7.58
Field	7.23	*7.25	7.58
Livestock	7.39	*7.61	7.56

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes AK.

<sup>2</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, April 9-15, 2000 <sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region <sup>2</sup>	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	35	26	9	36.1
Northeast II	41	33	8	41.7
Appalachian I	31	25	6	37.1
Appalachian II	21	12	9	34.4
Southeast	33	23	10	34.3
FL	70	62	8	40.2
Lake	53	33	20	35.8
Cornbelt I	50	38	12	36.7
Cornbelt II	23	19	4	37.7
Delta	29	21	8	37.3
Northern Plains	36	30	6	42.1
Southern Plains	63	41	22	37.4
Mountain I	19	14	5	44.5
Mountain II	22	18	4	44.5
Mountain III	15	13	2	50.7
Pacific	53	35	18	39.4
CA	229	179	50	44.7
HI	7	6	1	37.1
US <sup>3</sup>	830	628	202	40.4

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 13.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, April 9-15, 2000<sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region <sup>2</sup>	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	8.41	7.37	7.94	8.51
Northeast II	7.66	6.00	7.21	7.84
Appalachian I	6.85	7.59	7.06	7.44
Appalachian II	6.51	6.90	6.70	7.09
Southeast	7.06	6.97	7.03	7.36
FL	7.70	7.80	7.71	8.54
Lake	7.79	7.77	7.78	8.55
Cornbelt I	8.12	8.48	8.22	8.69
Cornbelt II	7.56	8.18	7.88	8.08
Delta	6.53	7.04	6.68	7.06
Northern Plains	7.58	7.75	7.65	7.80
Southern Plains	6.90	7.48	7.12	7.47
Mountain I	6.70	6.74	6.72	7.01
Mountain II	7.30	7.93	7.51	7.84
Mountain III	6.71	6.53	6.68	7.30
Pacific	7.92	8.55	7.99	8.51
CA	7.75	8.15	7.78	8.38
HI <sup>4</sup>	9.19		9.14	10.58
US <sup>3</sup>	7.58	7.56	7.58	8.12

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 13.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

<sup>4</sup> Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, January 9-15, 2000 <sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region <sup>2</sup>	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	*30.6
Northern Plains	29	26	3	38.6
Southern Plains	44	32	12	37.6
Mountain I	21	19	2	*39.6
Mountain II	19	16	3	40.9
Mountain III	20	18	2	43.5
Pacific	37	28	9	36.1
CA	*204	*152	*52	*42.7
HI	8	7	1	36.6
US <sup>3</sup>	*685	*540	*145	*38.4

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 13.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, January 9-15, 2000 <sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region <sup>2</sup>	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	*7.43
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	*6.51	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	*7.44	*7.72	7.64	*8.15
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	*7.02	*8.00	*7.12	*7.94
HI <sup>4</sup>	8.96		8.90	10.40
US <sup>3</sup>	*7.25	*7.61	*7.37	*8.10

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 13.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

<sup>4</sup> Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, April 11-17, 1999 <sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region <sup>2</sup>	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	40	30	10	38.0
Northeast II	37	30	7	42.6
Appalachian I	30	21	9	37.4
Appalachian II	29	18	11	32.0
Southeast	33	21	12	41.5
FL	54	46	8	41.1
Lake	55	39	16	37.8
Cornbelt I	42	30	12	33.2
Cornbelt II	24	19	5	37.0
Delta	32	26	6	40.9
Northern Plains	29	24	5	39.5
Southern Plains	51	37	14	36.1
Mountain I	22	15	7	50.0
Mountain II	18	15	3	41.3
Mountain III	20	17	3	44.1
Pacific	58	36	22	39.1
CA	286	240	46	40.5
HI	7	6	1	37.3
US <sup>3</sup>	867	670	197	39.5

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 13.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.



**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, April 11-17, 1999 <sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region <sup>2</sup>	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	8.18	7.34	7.92	8.34
Northeast II	7.73	6.05	7.20	7.73
Appalachian I	7.17	7.02	7.14	7.50
Appalachian II	6.17	6.63	6.39	6.72
Southeast	6.61	7.59	6.85	7.12
FL	7.40	6.90	7.37	8.18
Lake	7.95	7.03	7.54	8.09
Cornbelt I	7.71	7.47	7.66	8.35
Cornbelt II	7.02	8.54	8.07	8.27
Delta	6.41	7.28	6.59	6.81
Northern Plains	7.82	7.00	7.41	7.66
Southern Plains	6.41	6.66	6.51	7.18
Mountain I	6.54	6.53	6.54	6.71
Mountain II	7.51	7.67	7.61	8.06
Mountain III	6.77	7.58	6.96	7.65
Pacific	7.25	9.98	7.49	8.02
CA	7.20	8.29	7.31	8.00
HI <sup>4</sup>	9.45		9.38	10.81
US <sup>3</sup>	7.23	7.39	7.27	7.83

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 13.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

<sup>4</sup> Insufficient data for livestock.

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

Region <sup>2</sup>	April 11-17, 1999				April 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	8.36	8.06	5.98	7.23	8.04	8.05	6.74	7.51
Appalachian	6.12	7.34	6.66	6.80	6.12	6.80	7.62	6.92
Southeast	6.29	7.17	7.30	7.09	6.79	7.55	7.44	7.50
Lake	8.13	7.92	6.94	7.54	8.25	7.13	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.78
Cornbelt	7.62	7.04	8.07	7.73	8.53	7.84	8.04	8.10
Delta	6.54	6.00	7.12	6.59	6.53	6.27	7.19	6.68
Northern Plains	7.78	7.71	7.09	7.41	7.72	7.29	7.71	7.65
Southern Plains	6.22	6.45	6.68	6.51	6.60	6.81	7.55	7.12
Mountain	7.53	6.56	7.39	7.06	( <sup>3</sup> )	6.93	7.16	6.96
Pacific	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.88	9.32	8.17	8.28	7.78	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.82
48 States	7.27	7.23	7.32	7.26	7.33	7.61	7.63	7.58

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

Region <sup>2</sup>	April 11-17, 1999					April 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	( <sup>3</sup> )	5.60	7.56	8.44	8.03	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.64	8.22	8.12
Appal.	5.93	6.96	6.70	7.49	7.15	5.91	7.16	7.16	7.78	7.30
S. East	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.23	6.85	7.83	7.78	6.74	8.30	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.22	8.19
Lake	6.60	( <sup>3</sup> )	6.53	8.48	8.09	( <sup>3</sup> )	5.73	6.93	8.85	8.55
Cornbelt	7.43	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.29	8.68	8.32	7.60	6.59	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.63	8.52
Delta	( <sup>3</sup> )	6.25	6.34	7.03	6.81	7.92	6.84	6.78	7.17	7.06
N. Plains	6.10	7.00	7.31	8.22	7.66	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.74	7.98	7.82	7.80
S. Plains	6.84	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.58	7.14	7.18	6.82	6.83	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.09	7.47
Mountain	( <sup>3</sup> )	6.50	6.31	7.45	7.39	6.61	7.13	7.61	7.48	7.45
Pacific	7.83	8.21	7.70	8.08	8.05	7.92	7.30	8.73	8.49	8.40
48 States	7.41	7.54	7.20	7.99	7.84	7.55	7.39	7.79	8.21	8.08

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Insufficient data.

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

Type of Farm	April 11-17, 1999	January 9-15, 2000	April 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	12	*12	13
Other Crops	63	*55	58
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	25	*33	29
	100	100	100

**Hired Workers: Distribution by Economic  
Class of Farm, 48 States<sup>1 3</sup>**

Gross Value of Sales	April 11-17, 1999	January 9-15, 2000	April 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	7	10	8
\$40,000-\$99,999	7	*8	8
\$100,000-\$249,999	14	13	14
\$250,000 and over	72	*69	70
	100	100	100

**Hired Workers: Distribution by Category, United States,<sup>1 3</sup>**

	April 11-17, 1999	January 9-15, 2000	April 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	11	12	12
2 Workers	8	10	9
3-6 Workers	17	*22	18
7-10 Workers	9	8	9
At least 11 Workers	55	*48	52
	100	100	100

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> 48 States, excluding AK and HI.

<sup>2</sup> Field and Livestock Workers combined.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

## Agricultural Services

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 217,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2000. Service workers in California numbered 85,000 this April compared with 71,000 last year. Florida's number of service workers was 12,000, compared with 9,000 last year.

The average wage received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida was \$7.70 and \$8.50 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in April 1999 were \$7.13 in California and \$8.30 in Florida.

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

State	Number of Workers Working on Farms			Hours Worked <sup>2</sup>			Wage Rates <sup>2,3</sup>		
	Apr 1999	Jan 2000	Apr 2000	Apr 1999	Jan 2000	Apr 2000	Apr 1999	Jan 2000	Apr 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	71.0	*77.0	85.0	34.0	*35.0	36.0	7.13	*7.60	7.70
FL	9.0	16.0	12.0	38.0	36.5	36.5	8.30	8.60	8.50
US	160.0	*172.0	217.0						

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> United States data not available.

<sup>3</sup> 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), 1997-2000 <sup>1</sup>

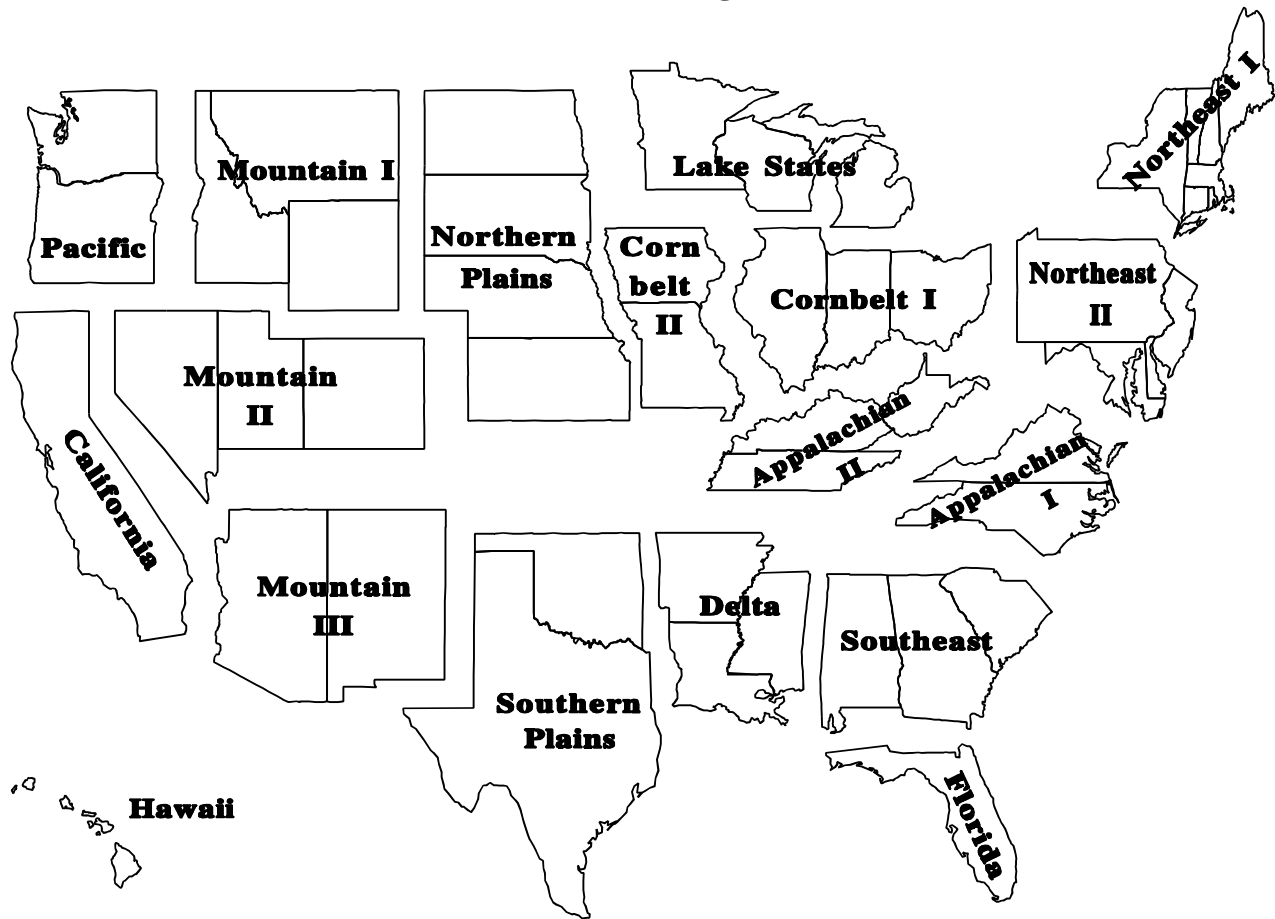
Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1997	9.5	6.3	10.8	11.2
1998	7.3	6.6	13.7	11.0
1999	6.0	8.7	12.4	12.3
2000	*7.7	8.8		

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Farm Labor Definitions

The following definitions are provided to assist in interpreting statistics published in quarterly Farm Labor reports. To ensure consistency in data collection, the questionnaires and instruction manual used by the interviewers provide more in-depth explanations of these terms.

**Farm or Ranch:** Places that sell, or would normally sell, at least \$1000 worth of agricultural products during the year.

**Agricultural Work:** Work done on a farm or ranch in connection with the production of agricultural products, including nursery and greenhouse products and animal specialties such as fur farms or apiaries. Also included is work done off the farm to handle farm related business, such as trips to buy feed or deliver products to local market.

**Self-employed Worker:** A farm or ranch operator or partner who did at least one hour of unpaid agricultural work on a farm or ranch during the survey week.

**Unpaid Worker:** Anyone, other than a self-employed worker, who did at least 15 hours of unpaid agricultural work on a farm or ranch during the survey week.

**Hired Worker:** Anyone, other than an agricultural service worker, who was paid for at least one hour of agricultural work on a farm or ranch. Worker type is determined by what the employee was primarily hired to do, not necessarily what work was done during the survey week. Type of workers include:

**Field Workers:** Employees engaged in planting, tending and harvesting crops including operation of farm machinery on crop farms.

**Livestock Workers:** Employees tending livestock, milking cows or caring for poultry, including operation of farm machinery on livestock or poultry operations.

**Supervisors:** Hired managers, range foremen, crew leaders, etc.

**Other Workers:** Employees engaged in agricultural work not included in the other three categories. Bookkeepers and pilots are examples.

**Methods of Pay:** Wage rates are calculated based on total wages and hours worked during the survey week.

## Definitions - continued

**Perquisites:** Benefits, such as cash bonuses, housing, or meals, provided to an employee in addition to pay are included in perquisites. Wage rates published in this release do not include the value of these benefits.

**Term of Employment:** The length of time during the year the farm operator expects to employ those workers who were on the payroll during the survey week.

**Agricultural Service:** Service on a contract or fee basis such as veterinarian work, artificial insemination, sheep shearing, milk testing, etc., performing on the farm or ranch.

**Contract Labor:** Contract workers are paid by a crew leader, contractor, buyer, processor, cooperative, or other person who has an oral or written agreement with a farmer/rancher. Pruning, thinning, weeding or harvesting of fruit, vegetable or berry crops are examples. A machine is not a part of the service activity provided by the contractor.

**Custom Work:** Work performed by machines and labor hired as a unit. Hay baling, combining, corn or cotton picking, spraying, fertilizing, laser leveling are examples of custom work when the equipment is included in the service activity.

**Type of Farm (or Ranch):** An operation is classified in the farm type which accounts for the largest portion of the total value of sales for its agriculture production.  
The three types of farms are:

**Field Crops:** A farm primarily engaged in the production of: wheat, rice, corn, soybeans, barley, dry beans, rye, sorghum, cotton, popcorn, tobacco, potatoes, sugar crops, hay, peanuts, hops, mint, or other such crops.

**Other Crops:** A farm primarily engaged in the production of: vegetables, melons, berry crops, grapes, tree nuts, citrus fruits, deciduous tree fruits, avocados, dates, figs, olives, nursery, or greenhouse crops.

**Livestock or Poultry:** An operation primarily engaged in production of: cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, milk, chickens, eggs, turkeys, or animal specialties such as furs, fish, honey, etc.

**Gross Value of Sales:** Gross value includes all income during a year from the sale of crops, livestock, dairy, poultry, or other related agricultural products, including the landlord's share. When commodities are placed under CCC loan, they are considered as sold.

## Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the last two weeks of April 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 April 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 3.4 percent. The relative sampling error for the number of hired workers generally ranged between 7 and 24 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 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 17 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 April 1999 and January 2000 are subject to revision with this report. Revisions were made and previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.



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The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on August 18, 2000.

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