



Farm Labor

Released August 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 7 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.37 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2000, down 7 percent from a year ago. There were 1.08 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.1 percent of the July hired workforce compared to 12.4 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$7.89 per hour during the July 2000 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field Workers received an average of \$7.32 per hour, up 27 cents from last July. Livestock Workers earned \$7.65 per hour compared with \$7.22 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate was up 31 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.5 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northeast I (New England and New York), and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) regions. In the Southern Plains region, the largest increases in hired workers occurred on beef cattle operations. Ranchers were busy moving cattle to available stock water facilities because of hot, dry weather which prevailed across most of the region during the survey week. In Northeast I, major farm activities included harvesting vegetables, berries, and hay; cultivating; and spraying potatoes. In addition, some corn and dry bean plantings were finishing up due to wet weather during the planting season. In the Mountain I region, above normal temperatures, combined with little to no precipitation, created ideal conditions for harvesting hay, irrigating, and spraying for weeds. Farmers were also busy harvesting winter wheat in some areas of the region.

The largest declines in number of hired farm workers from a year ago occurred in the Northern Plains (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas), California, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. In the Northern Plains region, winter wheat harvest was completed in most areas of Kansas and Nebraska. Spring wheat harvest was at or near completion in the Dakotas. In California, vegetable and melon harvest was two weeks ahead of schedule because of warmer weather earlier in the growing season. Fresh grape harvest was reported near completion in most areas compared to last year's reference week when harvest was active. Hot, dry weather in Mountain II continued to hamper field activities. In the Lake region, winter wheat and oat harvest was just getting started.

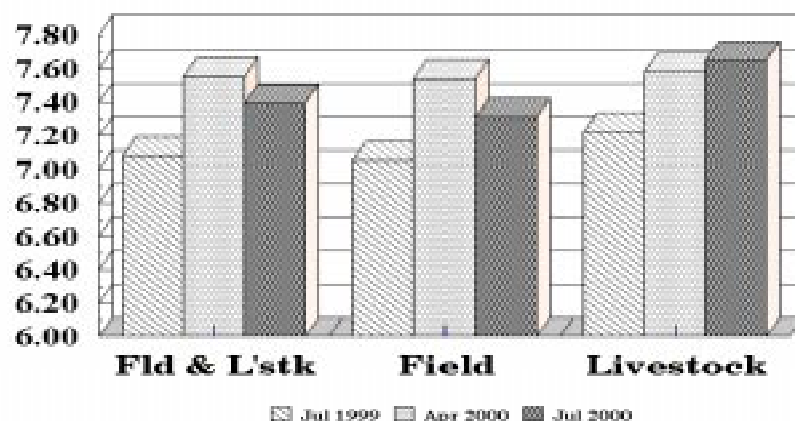
Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains, Mountain I, and Mountain II regions. An increasingly competitive economic environment, coupled with a need to attract more skilled farm labor, continued to push hired farm wage rates higher in the above regions and nationwide.

Revisions:

The April 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.

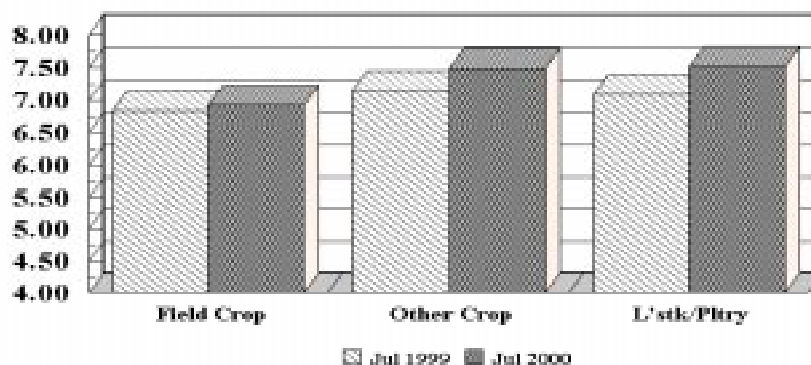
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



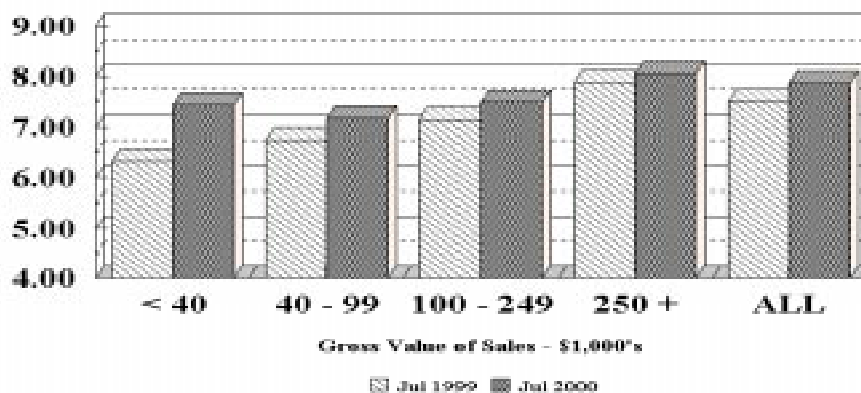
Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



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

Farm Employment	July 11-17, 1999	April 9-15, 2000	July 9-15, 2000
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	1,155	*840	1,079
150 Days or More	760	*633	722
149 Days or Less	395	*207	357
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	319	217	289
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,474	*1,057	1,368
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Migrant Workers Percent of Hired Farm & Service Workers	12.4	*8.5	11.1
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.5	40.4	40.2
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	7.58	*8.09	7.89
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	7.08	*7.55	7.39
Field	7.05	*7.54	7.32
Livestock	7.22	*7.58	7.65

* 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 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	58	37	21	38.9
Northeast II	54	34	20	38.7
Appalachian I	56	33	23	37.5
Appalachian II	42	21	21	30.4
Southeast	39	25	14	33.7
FL	46	42	4	42.0
Lake	73	50	23	40.0
Cornbelt I	69	43	26	33.6
Cornbelt II	30	20	10	34.7
Delta	44	29	15	39.7
Northern Plains	41	29	12	42.3
Southern Plains	77	51	26	39.9
Mountain I	37	24	13	44.1
Mountain II	25	13	12	37.8
Mountain III	20	16	4	46.6
Pacific	99	46	53	40.9
CA	261	202	59	44.8
HI	8	7	1	36.7
US ³	1,079	722	357	40.2

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, July 9-15, 2000 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	8.26	7.66	8.09	8.61
Northeast II	7.67	7.22	7.58	8.04
Appalachian I	6.66	7.97	6.89	7.11
Appalachian II	6.55	6.83	6.66	6.95
Southeast	6.38	7.20	6.54	7.01
FL	7.75	7.45	7.70	8.47
Lake	7.98	7.83	7.92	8.45
Cornbelt I	7.79	8.33	7.87	8.23
Cornbelt II	7.62	8.63	8.00	8.39
Delta	6.39	6.92	6.50	6.86
Northern Plains	7.52	7.28	7.42	7.64
Southern Plains	6.56	7.55	6.85	7.38
Mountain I	6.70	7.63	7.02	7.32
Mountain II	7.21	7.23	7.22	7.96
Mountain III	6.43	7.17	6.63	7.30
Pacific	7.74	8.33	7.75	8.15
CA	7.29	8.10	7.38	7.99
HI	9.17	8.38	9.09	10.76
US ³	7.32	7.65	7.39	7.89

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, April 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	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	*40.4
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	*239	*184	*55	*44.6
HI	7	6	1	37.1
US ³	*840	*633	*207	40.4

* 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 9-15, 2000 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	8.41	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	*6.54	6.90	*6.71	*7.10
Southeast	7.06	6.97	7.03	7.36
FL	7.70	7.80	7.71	*8.53
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	*7.64	*8.37	*7.70	*8.29
HI ⁴	9.19		9.14	10.58
US ³	*7.54	*7.58	*7.55	*8.09

* 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, July 11-17, 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	48	31	17	36.9
Northeast II	49	31	18	40.8
Appalachian I	61	39	22	32.3
Appalachian II	40	21	19	33.9
Southeast	40	24	16	37.4
FL	45	40	5	39.7
Lake	88	46	42	36.7
Cornbelt I	68	34	34	34.4
Cornbelt II	30	21	9	34.4
Delta	45	33	12	36.5
Northern Plains	54	40	14	44.2
Southern Plains	60	39	21	40.3
Mountain I	31	21	10	44.6
Mountain II	31	23	8	42.5
Mountain III	19	15	4	47.2
Pacific	116	54	62	37.5
CA	322	241	81	46.9
HI	8	7	1	37.4
US ³	1,155	760	395	40.5

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, July 11-17, 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	7.87	6.69	7.47	7.86
Northeast II	7.17	6.45	6.98	7.34
Appalachian I	6.53	7.62	6.75	7.08
Appalachian II	6.25	6.57	6.37	6.89
Southeast	6.44	6.58	6.47	6.80
FL	7.25	7.30	7.26	8.32
Lake	7.35	7.15	7.29	7.73
Cornbelt I	7.54	7.39	7.52	8.03
Cornbelt II	7.22	8.07	7.58	7.90
Delta	6.55	6.89	6.62	6.99
Northern Plains	7.32	7.63	7.37	7.73
Southern Plains	6.23	6.40	6.26	6.60
Mountain I	6.17	6.97	6.43	6.61
Mountain II	6.47	7.09	6.73	7.26
Mountain III	6.52	6.68	6.56	7.17
Pacific	7.22	8.02	7.29	7.81
CA	7.15	8.05	7.22	7.77
HI ⁴	9.51		9.53	10.88
US ³	7.05	7.22	7.08	7.58

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 States ¹**

Region ²	July 11-17, 1999				July 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	6.46	7.67	6.55	7.20	7.82	8.16	7.28	7.84
Appalachian	5.94	7.14	7.03	6.59	6.41	7.35	7.02	6.80
Southeast	6.06	6.99	7.03	6.88	6.46	7.45	7.18	7.22
Lake	3/	6.72	7.47	7.29	3/	3/	8.05	7.92
Cornbelt	7.83	7.51	7.17	7.54	7.92	7.87	7.95	7.91
Delta	6.53	7.21	6.64	6.62	6.19	6.70	6.96	6.50
Northern Plains	7.10	7.61	7.48	7.37	7.15	6.97	7.74	7.42
Southern Plains	5.88	6.43	6.47	6.26	6.94	6.36	7.20	6.85
Mountain	6.67	6.49	6.59	6.57	6.60	6.96	7.06	6.94
Pacific	3/	7.15	3/	*7.24	7.81	7.40	7.90	7.48
48 States	6.83	7.14	7.08	*7.08	6.92	7.48	7.52	7.39

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

Region ²	July 11-17, 1999					July 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	7.51	6.35	7.31	7.80	7.58	6.87	7.34	6.94	9.16	8.34
Appal.	6.49	6.53	6.53	7.38	7.00	7.00	6.35	6.35	7.51	7.05
S. East	6.77	6.91	6.93	7.91	7.63	8.00	6.69	7.64	8.02	7.88
Lake	3/	6.20	7.00	8.86	7.73	3/	3/	7.16	8.72	8.45
Cornbelt	6.70	7.62	7.45	8.45	7.99	7.48	7.68	7.74	8.56	8.29
Delta	6.42	6.65	6.58	7.27	6.99	7.36	6.45	6.74	6.86	6.86
N. Plains	3/	6.43	7.48	7.96	*7.72	8.11	7.24	8.29	7.37	7.64
S. Plains	6.41	6.51	6.47	6.80	6.60	7.13	7.67	3/	7.18	7.38
Mountain	6.72	3/	6.51	7.23	6.99	7.01	6.37	7.22	7.99	7.53
Pacific	6.96	7.57	7.45	7.92	7.78	8.08	7.69	8.09	8.05	8.03
48 States	6.32	6.75	7.14	7.88	*7.50	7.43	7.17	7.48	8.05	7.86

* Revised.

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 11-17, 1999	April 9-15, 2000	July 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	17	13	16
Other Crops	55	*57	55
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	28	*30	29
	100	100	100

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

Gross Value of Sales	July 11-17, 1999	April 9-15, 2000	July 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	13	8	14
\$40,000-\$99,999	8	8	9
\$100,000-\$249,999	17	14	16
\$250,000 and over	62	70	61
	100	100	100

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

	July 11-17, 1999	April 9-15, 2000	July 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	9	12	11
2 Workers	11	9	10
3-6 Workers	18	18	20
7-10 Workers	9	9	10
At least 11 Workers	53	52	49
	100	100	100

* Revised.

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 289,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2000. Service workers in California numbered 99,000 this July compared with 120,000 last year. Florida's number of service workers was 2,000, compared with 3,000 last year.

The average wage received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$8.05 and \$9.00 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in July 1999 were \$7.68 in California and \$8.85 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}		
	Jul 1999	Apr 2000	Jul 2000	Jul 1999	Apr 2000	Jul 2000	Jul 1999	Apr 2000	Jul 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	120.0	85.0	99.0	37.1	36.0	32.2	7.68	*7.90	8.05
FL	3.0	12.0	2.0	45.0	36.5	43.0	8.85	8.50	9.00
US	319.0	217.0	289.0						

* 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.

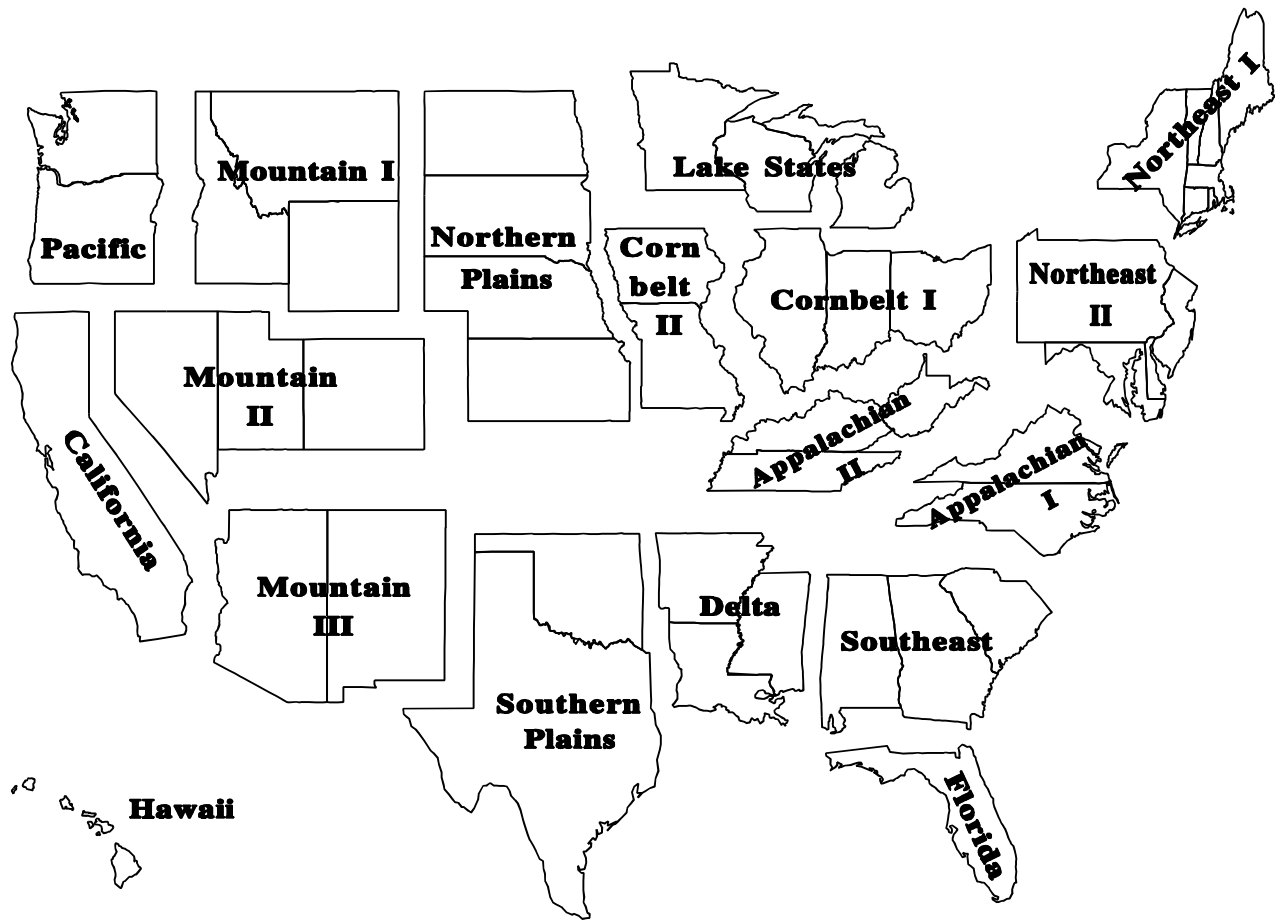
**Migrant Workers: Percent of all Hired Workers, United States,
By Quarter (Includes Agricultural Service Workers), 1997-00 ¹**

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	7.7	*8.5	11.1	

* 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 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 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 July 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 2.9 percent. The relative sampling error for the number of hired workers generally ranged between 9 and 23 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 0.8 percent. The relative sampling error was 0.8 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 18 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 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 1999 and April 2000 were subject to revision with this report. Revisions were made and previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.

The November 17th report will have information for the survey week of October 8-14, 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 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 California and Florida.

The report will also contain annual averages for Self employed, Unpaid, and All Hired workers at the U.S. and regional levels and for selected states. All Hired Hours Worked will also be published for the U.S., regions, and selected states. Annual average wage rates will be published for the U.S., regions, and by State for Field, Field and Livestock combined, and All Hired workers.

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The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3 p.m. on November 17, 2000.

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