



Farm Labor

Released August 17, 2001, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Farm Labor" call Norman Bennett at 202-720-0684, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Hired Workers Unchanged, Wage Rates Up 5 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.37 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 8-14, 2001, virtually the same as a year ago. There were 1.04 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 335,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.1 percent of the July hired workforce compared with 11.5 percent in July 2000.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.29 per hour during the July 2001 survey week, up 36 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.70 per hour, up 33 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned \$7.89 per hour compared with \$7.68 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate at \$7.75 was up 32 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 39.9 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.0 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. In the Southern Plains, farmers were working ground after wheat harvest and irrigating to prevent crop stress. Ranchers were busy with supplemental feeding of cattle. In the Appalachian I region, dry conditions prevailed as major farm activities included topping tobacco and making hay.

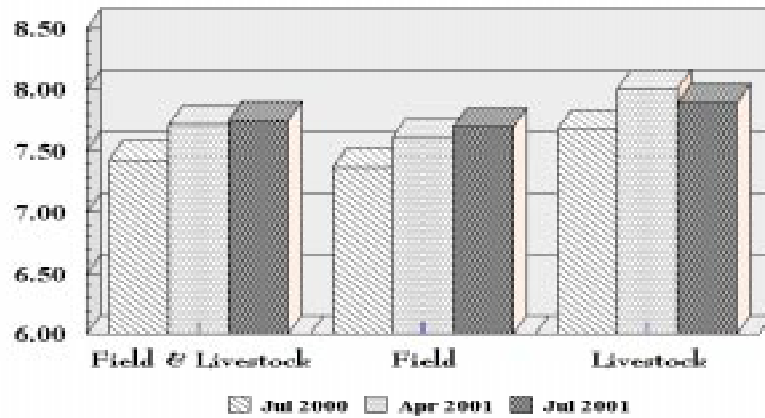
The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the California, Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In California, water availability has caused farmers to plant fewer acres and lay off workers. Rain across portions of the Southeast region have delayed some field work. In the Delta region, rains helped crop conditions but slowed field activity.

Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. In both regions, higher wages were reported for field and livestock workers.

Regions showing declines in the hired farm worker wage rates were in the Northeast I (New England and New York), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. Declines of hired wage rates in the Northeast I region were generally related to fewer higher paid field workers. In the Corn Belt II region, even though livestock workers increased, a larger decline in livestock wages held all hired wage rates lower than a year ago.

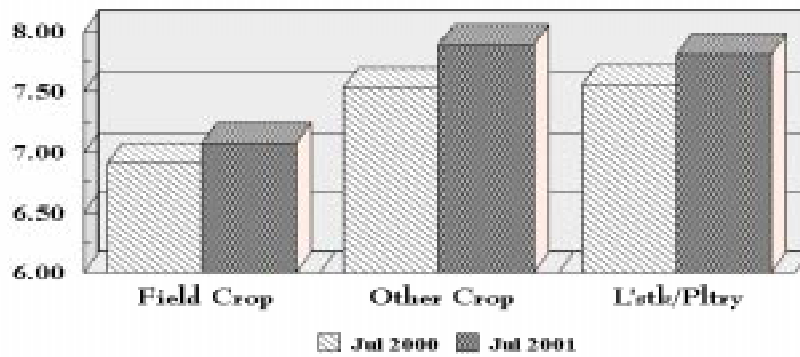
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



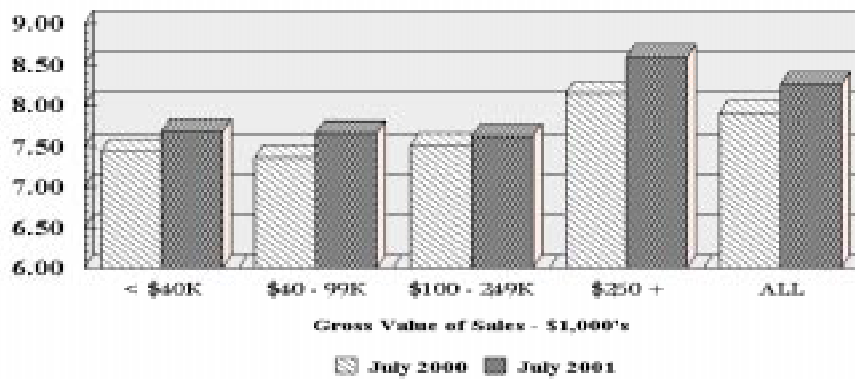
Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
July 8-14, 2001, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	July 9-15, 2000	April 8-14, 2001	July 8-14, 2001
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	1,084	804	1,039
150 Days or More	724	627	722
149 Days or Less	360	177	317
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	293	215	335
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,377	1,019	1,374
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Migrant Workers Percent of Hired Farm & Service Workers	11.5	8.9	11.1
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.0	40.2	39.9
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	7.93	8.31	8.29
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	7.43	7.71	7.75
Field	7.37	7.61	7.70
Livestock	7.68	8.01	7.89

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 8-14, 2001 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	52	37	15	39.9
Northeast II	50	35	15	40.5
Appalachian I	62	36	26	36.7
Appalachian II	39	21	18	30.9
Southeast	32	22	10	35.7
FL	48	43	5	40.8
Lake	76	46	30	36.9
Cornbelt I	69	44	25	31.0
Cornbelt II	29	18	11	35.7
Delta	37	27	10	41.6
Northern Plains	38	28	10	41.7
Southern Plains	85	62	23	38.3
Mountain I	34	24	10	46.0
Mountain II	24	19	5	47.0
Mountain III	18	15	3	47.7
Pacific	97	47	50	40.1
CA	242	192	50	44.3
HI	7	6	1	38.3
US ³	1,039	722	317	39.9

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, July 8-14, 2001 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	8.12	7.19	7.79	8.26
Northeast II	7.41	7.85	7.50	8.23
Appalachian I	7.22	7.89	7.39	7.79
Appalachian II	6.77	7.34	7.04	7.29
Southeast	7.19	7.50	7.26	7.69
FL	7.50	7.65	7.53	8.65
Lake	8.21	7.66	8.00	8.38
Cornbelt I	7.65	8.13	7.75	8.66
Cornbelt II	7.80	8.08	7.94	8.10
Delta	6.63	6.47	6.60	6.93
Northern Plains	7.96	7.98	7.97	8.24
Southern Plains	6.58	7.23	6.85	7.23
Mountain I	7.08	7.73	7.37	7.61
Mountain II	7.36	8.05	7.64	8.28
Mountain III	7.00	8.52	7.46	8.12
Pacific	8.41	9.40	8.50	8.88
CA	7.97	9.49	8.10	8.76
HI ⁴	9.55		9.60	11.21
US ³	7.70	7.89	7.75	8.29

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, April 8-14, 2001¹**

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	41	33	8	38.8
Northeast II	35	28	7	38.4
Appalachian I	28	23	5	39.1
Appalachian II	27	14	13	36.4
Southeast	37	26	11	42.7
FL	63	52	11	39.9
Lake	43	34	9	36.5
Cornbelt I	51	40	11	37.6
Cornbelt II	21	17	4	37.5
Delta	34	28	6	45.5
Northern Plains	37	30	7	40.3
Southern Plains	77	59	18	38.6
Mountain I	23	19	4	46.4
Mountain II	29	24	5	41.0
Mountain III	22	19	3	46.1
Pacific	61	42	19	38.8
CA	168	133	35	42.1
HI	7	6	1	36.2
US ³	804	627	177	40.2

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 8-14, 2001 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	8.28	7.92	8.11	8.98
Northeast II	7.95	6.60	7.60	8.42
Appalachian I	7.32	7.39	7.34	7.70
Appalachian II	6.85	7.36	7.03	7.31
Southeast	7.01	7.53	7.05	7.61
FL	7.75	7.90	7.77	8.40
Lake	8.93	8.82	8.87	9.57
Cornbelt I	8.09	8.69	8.23	8.62
Cornbelt II	8.19	8.55	8.41	8.80
Delta	6.55	7.34	6.65	7.09
Northern Plains	8.21	8.20	8.20	8.89
Southern Plains	7.10	7.71	7.33	7.86
Mountain I	7.11	7.16	7.14	7.48
Mountain II	7.37	7.58	7.44	7.99
Mountain III	6.92	6.80	6.90	7.46
Pacific	7.75	8.75	7.87	8.40
CA	7.82	9.02	7.96	8.59
HI ⁴	9.06		9.03	10.67
US ³	7.61	8.01	7.71	8.31

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 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 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	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	266	204	62	44.1
HI	8	7	1	36.7
US ³	1,084	724	360	40.0

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 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	7.46	8.32	7.56	8.14
HI ⁴	9.17		9.09	10.76
US ³	7.37	7.68	7.43	7.93

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 9-15, 2000				July 8-14, 2001			
	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	7.82	8.16	7.28	7.84	7.81	7.83	7.35	7.65
Appalachian	6.41	7.35	7.02	6.80	6.36	7.77	7.51	7.27
Southeast	6.46	7.45	7.18	7.22	6.40	7.51	7.52	7.43
Lake	(³)	(³)	8.05	7.92	7.99	8.29	7.74	8.00
Cornbelt	7.92	7.87	7.95	7.91	7.56	7.85	8.02	7.82
Delta	6.19	6.70	6.96	6.50	6.54	7.14	6.30	6.60
Northern Plains	7.15	6.97	7.74	7.42	7.88	7.69	8.10	7.97
Southern Plains	6.94	6.36	7.20	6.85	6.27	6.72	7.15	6.85
Mountain	6.60	6.96	7.06	6.94	6.04	7.29	7.81	7.49
Pacific	7.89	7.51	8.15	7.61	8.61	8.04	(³)	8.21
48 States	6.91	7.53	7.56	7.43	7.08	7.89	7.81	7.75

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

Region ²	July 9-15, 2000					July 8-14, 2001				
	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	6.87	7.34	6.94	9.16	8.34	7.89	8.03	7.26	8.58	8.25
Appal.	7.00	6.35	6.42	7.51	7.05	6.50	6.38	8.52	7.71	7.62
S. East	8.00	6.69	7.64	8.02	7.88	(³)	8.38	8.05	8.49	8.30
Lake	(³)	(³)	7.19	8.77	8.45	7.08	7.43	7.58	8.88	8.38
Cornbelt	7.47	7.67	7.73	8.55	8.28	8.90	8.05	6.64	9.05	8.48
Delta	7.38	6.47	6.76	6.88	6.86	(³)	6.12	7.18	7.10	6.93
N. Plains	8.14	7.27	8.32	7.39	7.64	7.39	8.46	7.26	8.62	8.24
S. Plains	7.13	7.67	(³)	7.18	7.38	6.84	7.40	6.51	7.66	7.23
Mountain	6.97	6.34	7.18	7.95	7.49	7.16	7.38	7.54	8.16	7.95
Pacific	7.90	8.21	8.00	8.16	8.14	(³)	8.08	8.19	8.87	8.79
48 States	7.44	7.37	7.51	8.15	7.91	7.69	7.66	7.63	8.57	8.26

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Regions consist of the following States:
 Northeast: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.
 Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV.
 Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC.
 Lake: MI, MN, WI.
 Cornbelt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH.
 Delta: AR, LA, MS.
 Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD.
 Southern Plains: OK, TX.
 Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY.
 Pacific: CA, OR, WA.

48 States: All States, excluding AK and HI.

³ Insufficient data.

**Field and Livestock Workers: Distribution
by Type of Farm, 48 States^{1 2 3}**

Type of Farm	July 9-15, 2000	April 8-14, 2001	July 8-14, 2001
	<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	12	15
Other Crops	54	57	54
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	29	31	31
	100	100	100

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

Gross Value of Sales	July 9-15, 2000	April 8-14, 2001	July 8-14, 2001
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$40,000	14	10	15
\$40,000-\$99,999	9	7	7
\$100,000-\$249,999	16	14	16
\$250,000 and over	61	69	62
	100	100	100

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

	July 9-15, 2000	April 8-14, 2001	July 8-14, 2001
	<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	11
2 Workers	10	9	9
3-6 Workers	20	20	20
7-10 Workers	9	9	9
At least 11 Workers	50	50	51
	100	100	100

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 335,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2001. Service workers in California numbered 110,000 this July compared with 103,000 last year. Florida's number of service workers was 2,000, equal to the number in July 2000.

The average wage received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$8.26 and \$9.54 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in July 2000 were \$8.05 in California and \$9.00 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 2000	Apr 2001	Jul 2001	Jul 2000	Apr 2001	Jul 2001	Jul 2000	Apr 2001	Jul 2001
	<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	103.0	92.0	110.0	33.9	37.0	39.4	8.05	7.90	8.26
FL	2.0	14.0	2.0	43.0	39.0	43.5	9.00	8.30	9.54
US	293.0	215.0	335.0						

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.

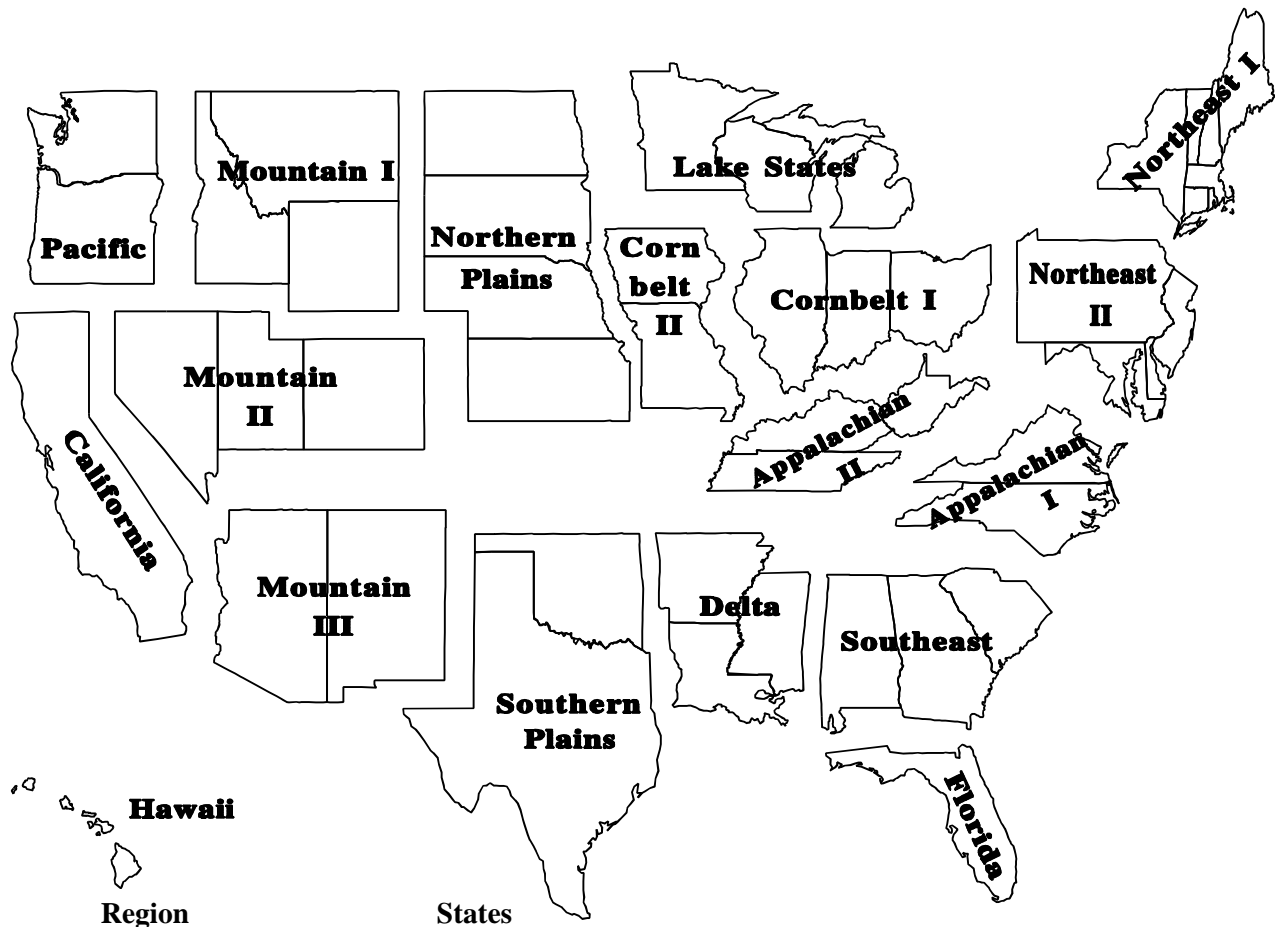
³ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Migrant Workers: Percent of all Hired Workers, United States, by Quarter (Includes Agricultural Service Workers), 1998-01 ¹

Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1998	7.3	6.6	13.7	11.0
1999	6.0	8.7	12.4	12.3
2000	7.7	8.5	11.5	11.3
2001	9.6	8.9	11.1	

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



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 8-14, 2001.

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 10 and 20 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 0.7 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 5 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 22 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 April 2001 and July 2000 were subject to revision within this report. Revisions were made and previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.

Next Farm Labor Publication Date: The November 16th report will have information for the survey week of October 7-13, 2001. 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.

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The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on November 16, 2001.

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