



Farm Labor

Released August 16, 2002, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Farm Labor" call Mark Aitken at 202-720-9525, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Hired Workers Down 12 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.21 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2002, down 12 percent from a year ago. There were 966,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural Service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 240,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.60 per hour during the July 2002 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.91 per hour, up 21 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned \$8.37 per hour compared with \$7.89 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 27 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 39.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 0.2 hours from a year ago.

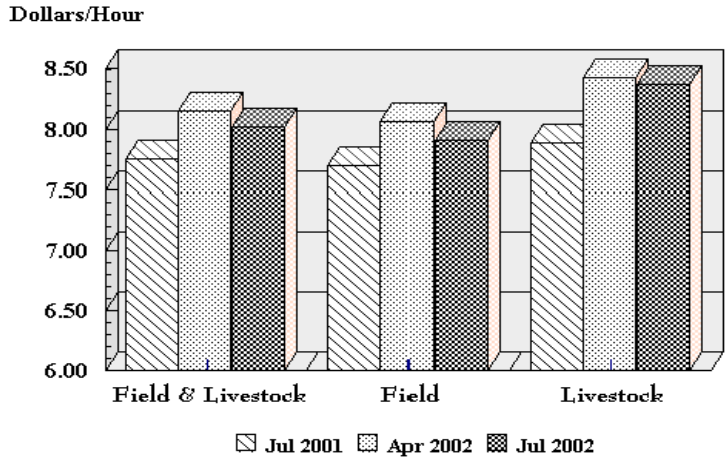
Increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Southeast, showers were widely scattered causing only slight delays in the harvests of fruit, vegetables, hay and tobacco. Weather conditions in the Pacific region were ideal for all field activities, despite a few showers in western Oregon. Extreme heat in the Northern Plains caused further drying in small grain fields bringing harvest activity to peak levels earlier than normal. Although heavy rains were received in northern Iowa, the remainder of the Corn Belt II region experienced no significant delays in field activities.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers, from a year ago, were in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northeast I (New England and New York) and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. Cooler temperatures from mid-week onward in the Corn Belt I region advanced work activities ahead of normal with fewer workers working longer hours. Moderate to heavy rains in the western half of the Lake region slowed field activities for one to two days. Many fields in Texas in the Southern Plains region were still saturated from the previous week's flooding, which limited progress of field activities. In the Northeast I region, the hot, dry conditions pushed field crop maturity ahead of normal, lessening the need for part-time field workers. Scattered showers, some locally heavy, curtailed field activities in the Appalachian II region.

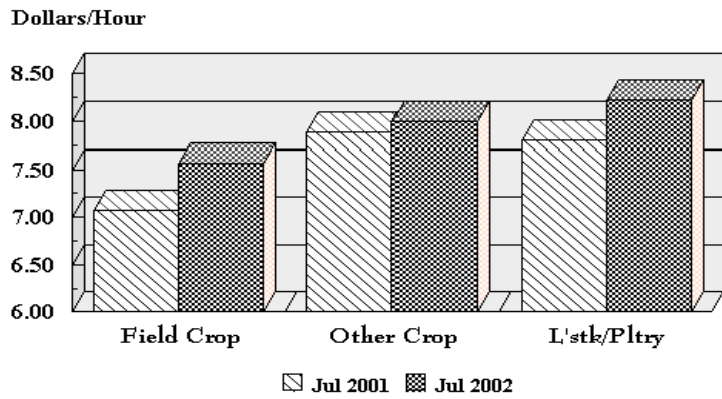
Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in all but four regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt II, Northeast I and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. The higher wages resulted from the unseasonable weather's impact on crop development and limited days suitable for fieldwork, which required fewer part-time workers during the survey week.

Program Modifications: NASS discontinued collection of data for self-employed, unpaid and migrant farm labor as of the July 2002 survey period. In this publication, data on the percent of All Hired Workers that are migrant workers and All Workers (including Self-Employed and Unpaid) will not be available. In the upcoming October 2002 publication, data will not be published on the annual average number of Self-Employed and Unpaid workers in agriculture.

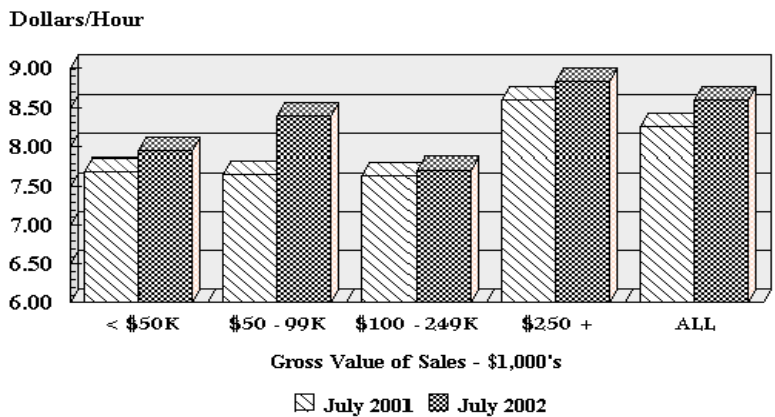
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



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,
July 7-13, 2002, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	July 8-14, 2001	April 7-13, 2002	July 7-13, 2002
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	1,039	890	966
150 Days or More	722	722	683
149 Days or Less	317	168	283
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	335	189	240
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,374	1,079	1,206
Hours Worked	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hired	39.9	40.2	39.7
Wage Rate for	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	8.29	8.83	8.60
Field & Livestock Combined	7.75	8.15	8.02
Field	7.70	8.06	7.91
Livestock	7.89	8.43	8.37

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 7-13, 2002 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	44	30	14	37.8
Northeast II	46	33	13	42.5
Appalachian I	60	39	21	36.5
Appalachian II	32	16	16	29.6
Southeast	34	22	12	33.7
FL	43	38	5	37.5
Lake	62	44	18	34.7
Cornbelt I	54	33	21	31.7
Cornbelt II	30	18	12	32.1
Delta	37	26	11	36.9
Northern Plains	39	28	11	41.8
Southern Plains	74	55	19	39.7
Mountain I	30	22	8	48.3
Mountain II	19	13	6	41.6
Mountain III	17	14	3	42.8
Pacific	98	56	42	39.0
CA	240	190	50	45.7
HI	7	6	1	38.0
US ³	966	683	283	39.7

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 7-13, 2002 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	7.90	8.25	9.12
Northeast II	7.87	7.18	7.74	8.35
Appalachian I	7.61	7.91	7.68	8.32
Appalachian II	7.22	7.64	7.36	7.75
Southeast	7.11	8.90	7.50	8.01
FL	7.25	7.80	7.38	8.48
Lake	7.84	7.85	7.84	8.33
Cornbelt I	8.08	9.07	8.36	9.13
Cornbelt II	8.42	10.72	8.94	9.20
Delta	6.70	7.10	6.80	7.07
Northern Plains	8.32	8.57	8.41	8.72
Southern Plains	7.06	7.23	7.14	7.53
Mountain I	7.12	7.74	7.42	7.62
Mountain II	7.23	7.35	7.27	7.82
Mountain III	7.15	8.11	7.43	8.03
Pacific	8.32	10.65	8.86	9.36
CA	8.24	9.80	8.39	9.04
HI ⁴	9.65		9.67	11.29
US ³	7.91	8.37	8.02	8.60

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 7-13, 2002 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	44	38	6	40.6
Northeast II	45	35	10	35.7
Appalachian I	36	29	7	38.2
Appalachian II	23	14	9	34.4
Southeast	44	34	10	44.1
FL	52	46	6	40.6
Lake	55	42	13	36.2
Cornbelt I	43	31	12	34.0
Cornbelt II	27	21	6	32.5
Delta	30	21	9	37.1
Northern Plains	37	29	8	46.0
Southern Plains	60	50	10	39.6
Mountain I	28	23	5	43.0
Mountain II	25	20	5	37.7
Mountain III	20	18	2	46.2
Pacific	69	56	13	38.4
CA	245	209	36	43.7
HI	7	6	1	35.8
US ³	890	722	168	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 7-13, 2002 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	8.35	8.56	8.42	9.14
Northeast II	8.20	7.01	7.78	8.83
Appalachian I	7.42	8.60	7.86	8.45
Appalachian II	6.89	7.87	7.31	7.63
Southeast	7.28	8.29	7.42	7.94
FL	7.75	7.50	7.72	8.57
Lake	9.43	8.44	9.01	9.88
Cornbelt I	8.59	8.90	8.70	9.23
Cornbelt II	7.84	9.82	8.89	9.34
Delta	7.05	7.06	7.05	7.50
Northern Plains	8.48	8.06	8.31	9.22
Southern Plains	6.92	7.78	7.31	7.95
Mountain I	7.55	7.92	7.80	8.00
Mountain II	8.06	8.58	8.26	8.95
Mountain III	7.51	8.35	7.71	8.21
Pacific	8.18	9.45	8.33	9.10
CA	8.33	10.20	8.47	9.13
HI ⁴	9.40		9.43	11.14
US ³	8.06	8.43	8.15	8.83

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 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 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	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 Worker 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.

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

Region ²	July 8-14, 2001				July 7-13, 2002			
	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	7.81	7.83	7.35	7.65	7.86	8.20	7.57	7.96
Appalachian	6.36	7.77	7.51	7.27	6.90	7.96	7.87	7.58
Southeast	6.40	7.51	7.52	7.43	7.73	7.03	8.28	7.43
Lake	7.99	8.29	7.74	8.00	7.72	7.89	7.82	7.84
Cornbelt	7.56	7.85	8.02	7.82	(³)	8.06	8.73	8.58
Delta	6.54	7.14	6.30	6.60	6.40	6.93	7.31	6.80
Northern Plains	7.88	7.69	8.10	7.97	8.31	8.85	8.37	8.41
Southern Plains	6.27	6.72	7.15	6.85	6.60	7.40	7.20	7.14
Mountain	6.04	7.29	7.81	7.49	7.23	7.09	7.61	7.38
Pacific	8.61	8.04	(³)	8.21	7.99	8.23	9.78	8.51
48 States	7.08	7.89	7.81	7.75	7.57	8.00	8.23	8.02

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

Region ²	July 8-14, 2001					July 7-13, 2002				
	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's				All Farms	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's				All Farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250+		<50	50-99	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	7.89	8.03	7.26	8.58	8.25	8.47	(³)	7.39	9.25	8.70
Appal.	6.50	6.38	8.52	7.71	7.62	(³)	7.51	8.29	8.17	8.15
S. East	(³)	8.38	8.05	8.49	8.30	7.87	9.19	8.25	8.23	8.28
Lake	7.08	7.43	7.58	8.88	8.38	7.63	7.48	7.12	8.82	8.33
Cornbelt	8.90	8.05	6.64	9.05	8.48	7.42	7.82	(³)	9.65	9.16
Delta	(³)	6.12	7.18	7.10	6.93	(³)	(³)	6.76	7.08	7.07
N. Plains	7.39	8.46	7.26	8.62	8.24	(³)	(³)	7.95	8.89	8.72
S. Plains	6.84	7.40	6.51	7.66	7.23	7.45	8.20	6.40	7.60	7.53
Mountain	7.16	7.38	7.54	8.16	7.95	7.83	(³)	(³)	7.97	7.77
Pacific	(³)	8.08	8.19	8.87	8.79	(³)	9.23	8.28	9.27	9.12
48 States	7.69	7.66	7.63	8.57	8.26	7.94	8.39	7.70	8.83	8.58

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 8-14, 2001	April 7-13, 2002	July 7-13, 2002
	<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	15	11	14
Other Crops	54	57	52
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	31	32	34
	100	100	100

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

Gross Value of Sales	July 8-14, 2001	April 7-13, 2002	July 7-13, 2002
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$50,000 ⁴	15	7	16
\$50,000-\$99,999 ⁵	7	10	7
\$100,000-\$249,999	16	13	13
\$250,000 and over	62	70	64
	100	100	100

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

	July 8-14, 2001	April 7-13, 2002	July 7-13, 2002
	<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	10	9
2 Workers	9	8	10
3-6 Workers	20	18	20
7-10 Workers	9	11	12
At least 11 Workers	51	53	49
	100	100	100

¹ 48 States, excluding AK and HI.

² Field and Livestock Workers combined.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

⁴ Sales category changed from "Less than \$40,000" to "Less than \$50,000" beginning July 2002.

⁵ Sales category changed from "\$40,000 - \$99,999" to "\$50,000 - \$99,999" beginning July 2002.

Agricultural Services

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 240,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2002. Service workers in California numbered 86,000 this July, down 22 percent from last year. Florida's number of service workers was 4,000, compared to 2,000 last year.

The average wage received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$9.34 and \$9.25 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in July 2001 were \$8.26 in California and \$9.54 in Florida.

**Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,
for California, Florida, and United States ¹**

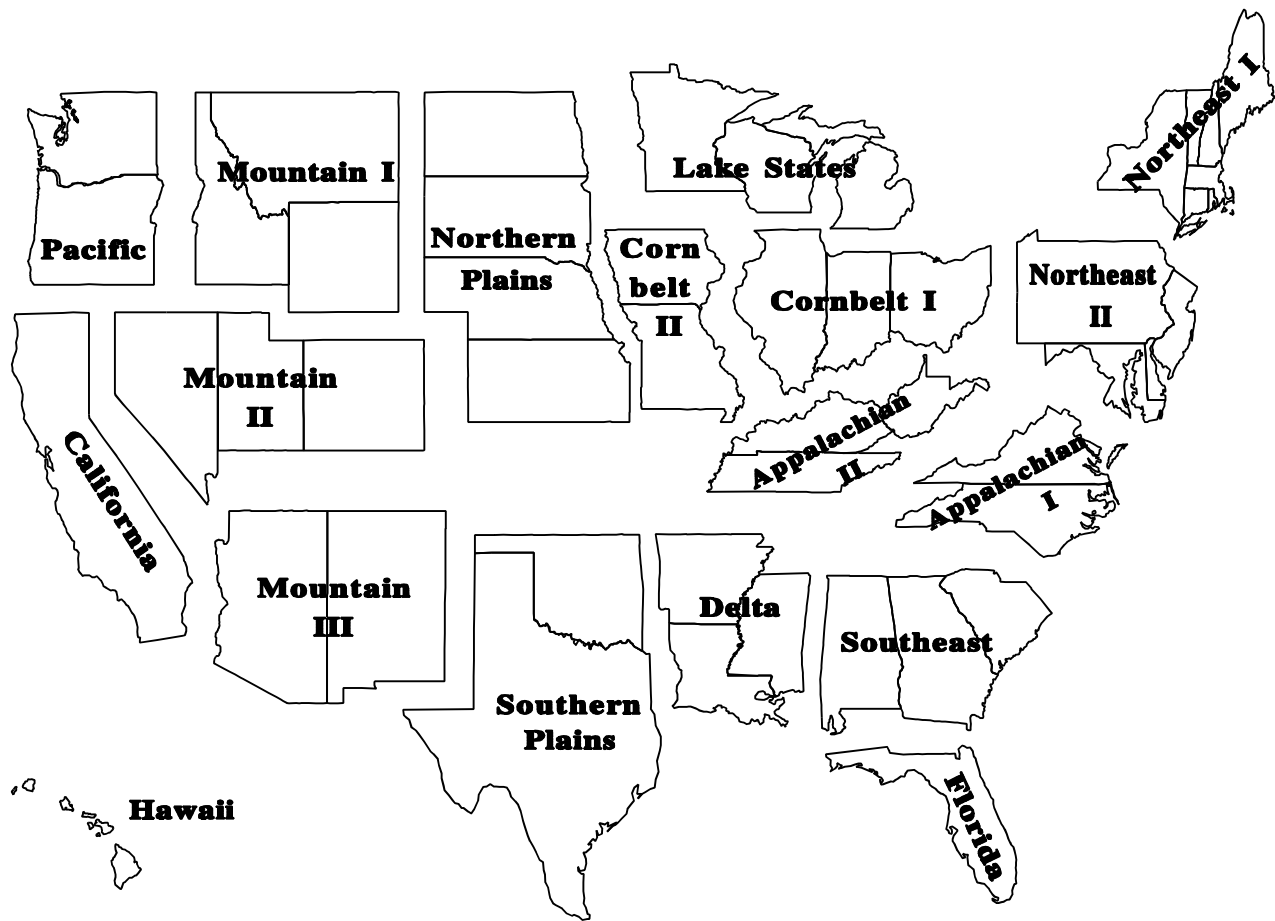
State	Number of Workers Working on Farms			Hours Worked ²			Wage Rates ^{2 3}		
	Jul 2001	Apr 2002	Jul 2002	Jul 2001	Apr 2002	Jul 2002	Jul 2001	Apr 2002	Jul 2002
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
CA	110.0	92.0	86.0	39.4	33.8	36.3	8.26	8.59	9.34
FL	2.0	11.0	4.0	43.5	34.0	42.5	9.54	9.00	9.25
US	335.0	189.0	240.0						

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.

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 7-13, 2002.

Reliability: Two types of errors, sampling and non-sampling, 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 5 and 19 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 1 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 1 and 19 percent at the regional level.

Non-sampling 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 non-sampling 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 2001 and April 2002 were subject to revision with this report. Revisions were made and previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.

Next Farm Labor Publication Date: The November 15th report will have information for the survey week of October 6-12, 2002. 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 15, 2002.

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