



Farm Labor

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Hired Workers Down 13 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 938,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 6-12, 2003, down 13 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 781,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 157,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.16 per hour during the April 2003 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.40 per hour, up 34 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with \$8.43 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.49 per hour, was up 34 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.2 hours a year ago.

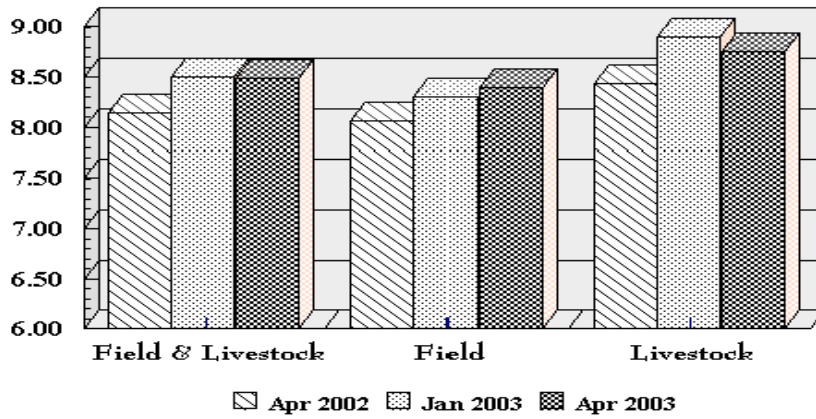
The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in California, the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota) and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) regions. In California, the Pacific, Southeast and Northeast II regions, below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation curtailed field activities, reducing the demand for hired workers. In the Southern Plains region, grazing land was abundantly available in most areas, decreasing the need to move cattle, and lessening the demand for livestock workers. Heavy snow in Nebraska and South Dakota brought fieldwork to a standstill until late in the week, which lessened the need for hired workers in the Northern Plains region. Rains in Idaho delayed planting and field preparation activities, lowering the demand for hired workers in the Mountain I region.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio) and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia) regions. In the Corn Belt I region, although scattered rains fell, much of the region was spared from the heavier rain and snow which plagued the surrounding areas. Therefore, fertilizer applications and field preparation activities were able to progress more rapidly than in the 2002 reference week, which increased the need for hired workers. In the Appalachian II region, a return to more normal weather patterns compared to the extremely wet spring of 2002 caused a higher demand for field workers. Nurseries and greenhouses were gearing up for the spring season, and cattle, dairy and equine operations had a constant need for hired workers.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Northeast I (New England and New York), Northeast II and Southeast regions. The higher wages in the Corn Belt II region were mainly due to fewer seasonal workers on the payroll. Wages in the Northeast I and Northeast II regions were higher as a result of a larger percentage of nursery and greenhouse employees in the work force. Farm operations in the Northeast II region also had considerably fewer seasonal workers on the payroll. Wages in the Southeast region were higher as more salaried employees worked fewer hours, and the number of seasonal workers was down.

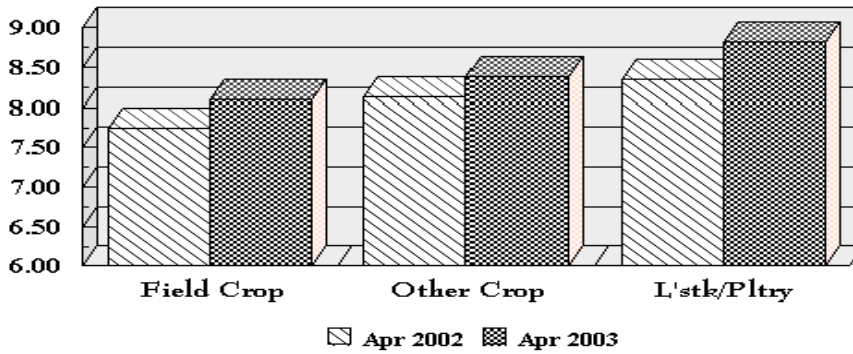
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



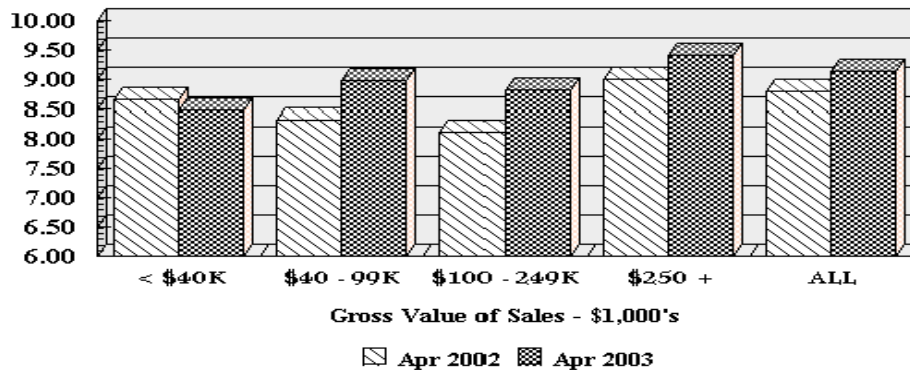
Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
April 6-12, 2003, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	April 7-13, 2002	January 12-18, 2003	April 6-12, 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	890	*729	781
150 Days or More	722	*614	619
149 Days or Less	168	115	162
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	189	160	157
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,079	*889	938
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.2	*37.7	40.1
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rate for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	8.83	*9.34	9.16
Field & Livestock Combined	8.15	8.50	8.49
Field	8.06	*8.30	8.40
Livestock	8.43	*8.90	8.75

* 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, April 6-12, 2003 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	39	31	8	38.4
Northeast II	30	23	7	39.3
Appalachian I	29	24	5	34.7
Appalachian II	29	17	12	33.7
Southeast	27	21	6	37.0
FL	53	42	11	38.3
Lake	56	36	20	37.0
Cornbelt I	50	38	12	36.9
Cornbelt II	24	20	4	36.6
Delta	31	25	6	43.1
Northern Plains	28	22	6	41.1
Southern Plains	49	38	11	40.7
Mountain I	19	17	2	46.2
Mountain II	22	16	6	39.1
Mountain III	16	15	1	47.3
Pacific	52	43	9	40.3
CA	220	185	35	43.1
HI	7	6	1	35.6
US ³	781	619	162	40.1

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, April 6-12, 2003 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	9.76	8.55	9.27	10.24
Northeast II	8.75	8.20	8.63	9.68
Appalachian I	8.18	8.37	8.24	8.77
Appalachian II	7.32	7.24	7.28	7.64
Southeast	7.58	8.78	8.07	8.71
FL	8.05	8.10	8.06	8.86
Lake	9.31	9.20	9.26	9.90
Cornbelt I	9.29	9.32	9.30	9.99
Cornbelt II	9.94	10.00	9.97	10.71
Delta	7.20	7.54	7.25	7.63
Northern Plains	9.08	9.28	9.16	9.46
Southern Plains	7.62	7.98	7.75	8.31
Mountain I	7.63	7.68	7.66	7.93
Mountain II	8.32	8.86	8.60	9.43
Mountain III	7.10	8.24	7.52	7.93
Pacific	8.82	9.28	8.90	9.34
CA	8.33	10.15	8.48	9.22
HI ⁴	9.58		9.63	11.50
US ³	8.40	8.75	8.49	9.16

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 12-18, 2003 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	32	29	3	37.3
Northeast II	23	19	4	37.2
Appalachian I	27	24	3	35.3
Appalachian II	32	20	12	29.3
Southeast	24	22	2	35.6
FL	70	56	14	37.2
Lake	45	40	5	31.7
Cornbelt I	23	21	2	33.5
Cornbelt II	20	17	3	27.2
Delta	18	16	2	38.3
Northern Plains	23	22	1	37.8
Southern Plains	50	40	10	37.9
Mountain I	10	9	1	35.7
Mountain II	20	18	2	39.7
Mountain III	22	20	2	47.2
Pacific	48	40	8	37.7
CA	*235	*195	40	*40.8
HI	7	6	1	37.9
US ³	*729	*614	115	*37.7

* 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, January 12-18, 2003 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	10.02	8.36	9.12	10.03
Northeast II	9.16	8.34	8.83	9.83
Appalachian I	8.22	8.58	8.40	9.34
Appalachian II	7.34	7.87	7.60	7.98
Southeast	7.50	8.96	8.12	8.87
FL	7.80	8.30	7.87	8.81
Lake	10.51	9.44	9.65	10.54
Cornbelt I	9.68	8.64	9.01	9.72
Cornbelt II	9.24	9.01	9.08	9.50
Delta	8.56	7.89	8.30	8.63
Northern Plains	9.18	9.43	9.37	10.00
Southern Plains	8.13	8.51	8.29	8.85
Mountain I	8.51	8.17	8.25	8.53
Mountain II	9.15	8.73	8.85	9.66
Mountain III	6.92	8.22	7.48	8.12
Pacific	8.63	9.93	8.87	9.71
CA	*8.22	10.10	8.46	*9.44
HI ⁴	9.31		9.36	11.04
US ³	*8.30	*8.90	8.50	*9.34

* 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, 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 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	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.

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

Region ²	April 7-13, 2002				April 6-12, 2003			
	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	8.63	8.44	7.72	8.11	(³)	9.25	8.52	8.99
Appalachian	6.95	7.57	7.99	7.66	7.97	7.75	7.69	7.75
Southeast	7.19	7.52	7.90	7.57	7.83	8.08	8.51	8.06
Lake	8.42	9.60	8.33	9.01	9.84	8.97	9.42	9.26
Cornbelt	8.32	8.55	9.04	8.77	9.50	9.75	9.85	9.49
Delta	6.90	7.38	7.05	7.05	6.86	8.51	7.43	7.25
Northern Plains	8.64	8.78	7.90	8.31	8.99	9.21	7.93	9.16
Southern Plains	6.97	6.88	7.68	7.31	6.85	7.74	8.01	7.75
Mountain	6.99	7.49	8.23	7.91	7.04	7.51	9.07	7.88
Pacific	8.16	8.27	10.15	8.44	(³)	8.36	9.75	8.55
48 States	7.75	8.13	8.35	8.15	8.10	8.38	8.81	8.49

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

Region ²	April 7-13, 2002					April 6-12, 2003				
	Gross Value Sales-\$1,000's				All Farms	Gross Value Sales-\$1,000'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	7.81	7.85	7.53	9.51	8.99	8.76	8.93	(³)	10.14	9.99
Appal.	7.49	7.83	7.68	8.46	8.15	6.95	7.64	8.99	8.90	8.21
S. East	(³)	7.56	8.47	8.36	8.27	9.30	(³)	8.50	8.85	8.81
Lake	11.49	9.97	7.97	9.73	9.88	10.52	(³)	8.12	10.29	9.90
Cornbelt	9.59	7.66	8.43	9.83	9.27	9.14	8.51	8.30	10.98	10.20
Delta	7.46	6.91	8.25	7.26	7.50	7.22	7.11	6.92	7.71	7.63
N. Plains	6.99	8.92	7.23	9.79	9.22	7.86	8.23	(³)	9.28	9.46
S. Plains	8.02	7.33	7.23	8.23	7.95	8.95	7.30	8.07	8.21	8.31
Mountain	7.46	7.60	7.97	8.58	8.36	7.01	6.91	7.19	8.75	8.45
Pacific	(³)	9.87	8.70	9.10	9.12	9.10	9.19	8.98	9.35	9.24
48 States	8.68	8.33	8.12	9.01	8.81	8.48	8.98	8.82	9.41	9.14

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	April 7-13, 2002	January 12-18, 2003	April 6-12, 2003
	<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	11	8	12
Other Crops	57	54	58
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	32	38	30

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

Gross Value of Sales	April 7-13, 2002	January 12-18, 2003	April 6-12, 2003
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$50,000 ⁴	7	16	12
\$50,000-\$99,999 ⁵	10	29	26
\$100,000-\$249,999	13	9	10
\$250,000 and over	70	46	52

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

Category	April 7-13, 2002	January 12-18, 2003	April 6-12, 2003
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	10	9	9
2 Workers	8	10	9
3-6 Workers	18	19	19
7-10 Workers	11	10	10
At least 11 Workers	53	52	53

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 157,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 2003. Service workers in California numbered 67,000 this April, down 27 percent from last year. Florida's number of service workers was 17,000, up 55 percent from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$8.15 and \$9.40 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in April 2002 were \$8.59 in California and \$9.00 in Florida.

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

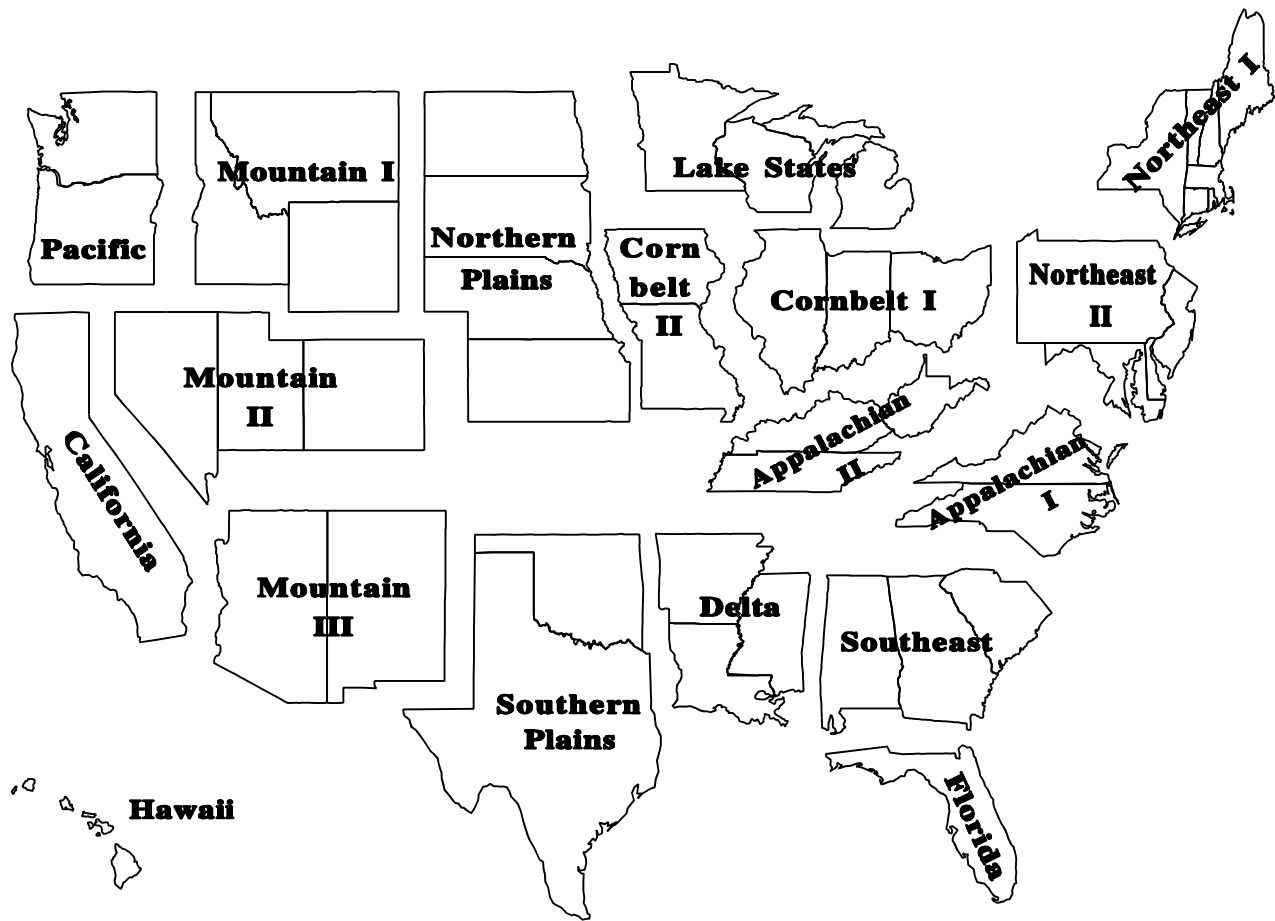
State	Number of Workers Working on Farms			Hours Worked ²			Wage Rates ^{2 3}		
	Apr 2002	Jan 2003	Apr 2003	Apr 2002	Jan 2003	Apr 2003	Apr 2002	Jan 2003	Apr 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
CA	92.0	75.0	67.0	33.8	35.5	42.6	8.59	8.70	8.15
FL	11.0	17.0	17.0	34.0	32.0	33.0	9.00	9.35	9.40
US	189.0	160.0	157.0						

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 to 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.

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.

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.

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.

Definitions - continued

Agricultural Service: Service on a contract or fee basis such as veterinarian work, artificial insemination, sheep shearing, milk testing, etc., performed 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 agricultural production.

The three types of farms are:

Field Crops: A farm producing 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 producing vegetables, melons, berry crops, grapes, tree nuts, citrus fruits, deciduous tree fruits, avocados, dates, figs, olives, nursery, or greenhouse crops.

Livestock or Poultry: A farm producing 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 6-12, 2003.

Reliability: Two types of errors, sampling and non-sampling, are always present in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both types affect the "accuracy" 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 is normally less than 5 percent. The relative sampling error for the number of hired workers generally ranged between 8 and 22 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 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 18 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 April 2002 and January 2003 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 August 15th report will have information for the survey week of July 6-12, 2003. 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 August 15, 2003.

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