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## Hired Workers Up 1 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,273,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 6-12, 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 320,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.88 per hour during the July 2003 reference week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.18 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.62 per hour compared with \$8.38 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.28 per hour, was up 26 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, unchanged from a year ago.

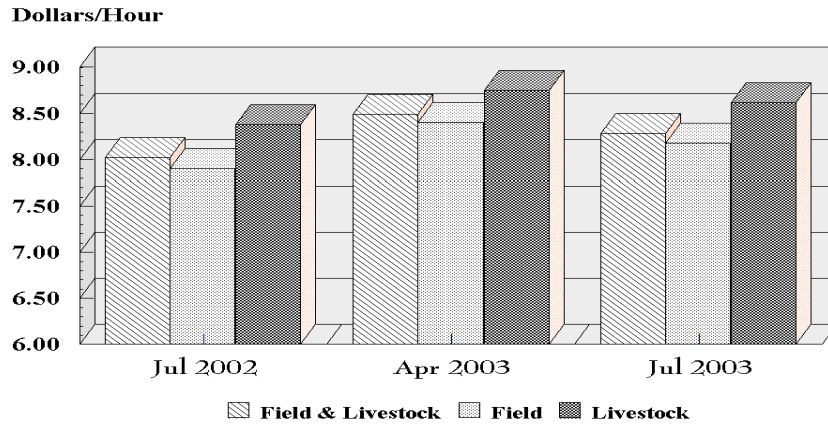
The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Northeast I (New England and New York), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada and Utah) and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia) regions. In the Pacific region, the Washington cherry harvest continued at peak levels much longer than normal, and ideal weather in Oregon allowed the cherry and raspberry harvests to progress rapidly. The cool, wet spring in the Northeast I region delayed planting of field and vegetable crops, which pushed many of the normal mid-June field activities into the survey reference week, resulting in an increased demand for field workers. Production of apricots and cherries in Utah was up considerably from the freeze-damaged 2002 production levels, and winter wheat harvest was in full swing in Colorado, which caused a greater need for hired workers in the Mountain II region. Dry, seasonable weather in Tennessee more than offset the persistent wet conditions over much of Kentucky and West Virginia, causing more hired workers to be necessary in the Appalachian II region.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in California, the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In California, extreme heat during the two weeks prior to the reference week matured vegetables and strawberries rapidly, causing many fields to be harvested in order to minimize crop loss. Therefore, considerably fewer workers were needed during the reference week. In the Southern Plains, pasture grasses were plentiful in most areas, lessening the need for supplemental feeding and thereby reducing the demand for livestock workers. Also, scattered rains delayed vegetable harvest in east Texas, lowering the need for field workers. Rain and saturated soils kept field worker demand low in the Delta, Appalachian I and Corn Belt II regions, and poor drying conditions in the Delta region caused hay harvest to be delayed.

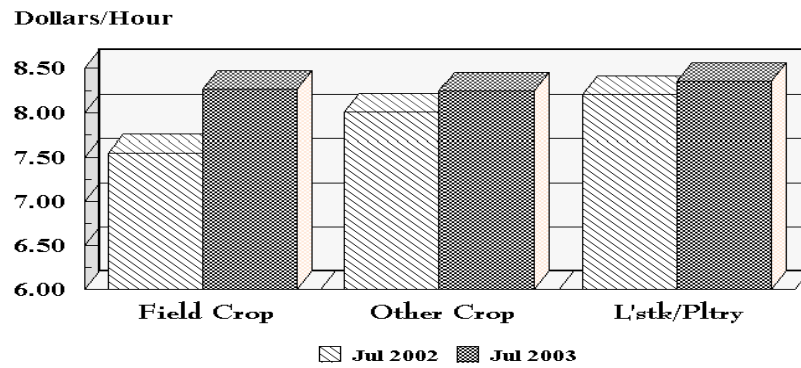
Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in Florida, the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin), Mountain II, Delta and Southern Plains regions. The higher wages in Florida and the Lake regions were mainly due to a higher percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force. Wages in the Mountain II region were higher due to the need for more skilled workers for the fruit harvest. The wet conditions in the Delta region kept wage rates higher, due to the larger proportion of full time workers on the payroll. In the Southern Plains, there were more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which led to higher average wages.

**Publication Changes:** On page 11, there are now additional wage rate categories by economic class of farm, by region and for the 48 States. Prior reports had these wage rates only up to farms with gross value of sales of \$250,000 or more. The new categories are **\$250,000 - \$499,999**; **\$500,000 - \$999,999**; and **\$1,000,000 or more**. On page 12, the distribution of hired workers by these new classes is also provided. Finally, the distribution of hired workers by the number of workers hired by each farm has been expanded. Prior reports stopped with farms hiring "At least 11 Workers". The new categories, also on page 12, are **11-20 Workers**, **21-50 Workers** and **51 or more Workers**.

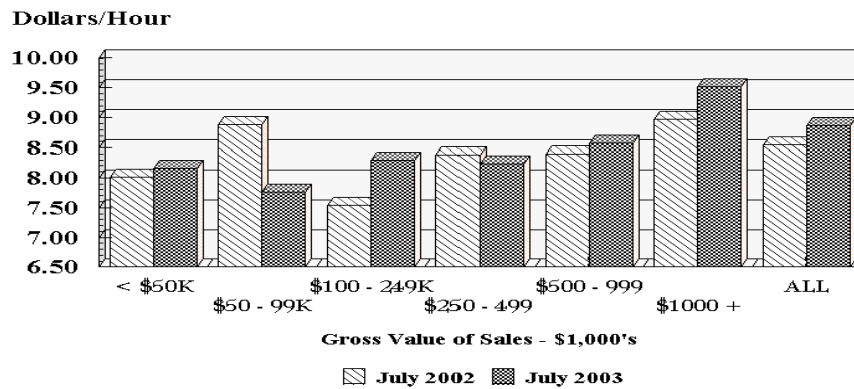
## U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



## 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 6-12, 2003, with Comparisons <sup>1</sup>**

Farm Employment	July 7-13, 2002	April 6-12, 2003	July 6-12, 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	1,006	781	953
150 Days or More	723	619	678
149 Days or Less	283	162	275
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	256	157	320
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,262	938	1,273
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.0	40.1	40.0
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rate for All Hired Workers <sup>2 3</sup>	8.57	9.16	8.88
Field & Livestock Combined	8.02	8.49	8.28
Field	7.90	8.40	8.18
Livestock	8.38	8.75	8.62

<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, July 6-12, 2003 <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	53	39	14	40.2
Northeast II	45	33	12	40.5
Appalachian I	53	28	25	32.0
Appalachian II	36	19	17	32.6
Southeast	35	21	14	37.2
FL	45	39	6	39.0
Lake	62	42	20	36.2
Cornbelt I	53	33	20	33.2
Cornbelt II	23	17	6	36.7
Delta	25	18	7	38.8
Northern Plains	37	23	14	43.9
Southern Plains	61	49	12	38.2
Mountain I	31	22	9	46.7
Mountain II	24	16	8	44.5
Mountain III	18	16	2	47.7
Pacific	110	54	56	36.3
CA	235	203	32	46.1
HI	7	6	1	36.7
US <sup>3</sup>	953	678	275	40.0

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 14.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, July 6-12, 2003 <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	8.77	8.10	8.54	9.54
Northeast II	8.18	8.56	8.25	8.93
Appalachian I	7.61	8.17	7.76	8.30
Appalachian II	7.79	7.98	7.88	8.27
Southeast	7.55	7.87	7.61	8.08
FL	8.55	8.30	8.51	9.55
Lake	8.34	8.95	8.55	9.36
Cornbelt I	8.44	9.71	8.78	9.45
Cornbelt II	9.60	8.87	9.31	9.51
Delta	7.13	8.03	7.35	7.70
Northern Plains	7.89	8.79	8.15	8.52
Southern Plains	7.62	7.58	7.60	8.15
Mountain I	7.27	7.41	7.34	7.63
Mountain II	7.86	8.62	8.06	8.56
Mountain III	7.11	8.41	7.55	8.07
Pacific	8.03	10.95	8.32	8.74
CA	8.47	9.94	8.61	9.23
HI <sup>4</sup>	9.55		9.55	11.25
US <sup>3</sup>	8.18	8.62	8.28	8.88

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 14.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

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

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, April 6-12, 2003 <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	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 <sup>3</sup>	781	619	162	40.1

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 14.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, April 6-12, 2003 <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	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 <sup>4</sup>	9.58		9.63	11.50
US <sup>3</sup>	8.40	8.75	8.49	9.16

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 14.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

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

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, July 7-13, 2002 <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 <sup>3</sup>	149 Days or Less <sup>3</sup>	
	<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	34.8
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	280	230	50	46.0
HI	7	6	1	38.0
US <sup>3</sup>	1,006	723	283	40.0

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 14.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.



**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, July 7-13, 2002 <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	7.90	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	7.85	7.85	7.85	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	8.18	9.65	8.32	8.87
HI <sup>4</sup>	9.65		9.67	11.29
US <sup>3</sup>	7.90	8.38	8.02	8.57

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 14.

<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>	July 7-13, 2002			
	Field Crops	Other Crops	Livestock & Poultry	All Farms
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast	7.86	8.19	7.57	7.96
Appalachian	6.89	7.96	7.86	7.58
Southeast	7.72	7.03	8.27	7.43
Lake	7.72	7.90	7.83	7.85
Cornbelt	9.12	8.06	8.72	8.58
Delta	6.39	6.93	7.30	6.80
Northern Plains	8.31	8.85	8.36	8.41
Southern Plains	6.59	7.40	7.19	7.14
Mountain	7.22	7.09	7.61	7.38
Pacific	7.96	8.20	9.79	8.44
48 States	7.55	8.01	8.21	8.02

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

Region <sup>2</sup>	July 6-12, 2003			
	Field Crops	Other Crops	Livestock & Poultry	All Farms
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast	8.26	8.45	8.30	8.40
Appalachian	7.15	8.25	7.95	7.81
Southeast	8.12	8.25	7.47	8.11
Lake	7.91	8.23	9.07	8.55
Cornbelt	9.40	8.37	9.26	8.96
Delta	6.52	6.89	8.36	7.35
Northern Plains	8.28	9.08	7.82	8.15
Southern Plains	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.92	7.27	7.60
Mountain	7.36	7.79	7.54	7.64
Pacific	9.89	8.26	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.53
48 States	8.26	8.24	8.35	8.28

<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.

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

Region <sup>2</sup>	July 7-13, 2002						
	Gross Value Sales-\$1,000's						All Farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	<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	8.47	6.75	7.39	8.74	8.65	9.53	8.70
Appal.	8.17	7.51	8.29	7.67	8.17	8.44	8.15
S. East	7.87	9.19	8.25	7.66	8.02	8.46	8.28
Lake	7.63	7.48	7.12	8.42	7.95	9.54	8.33
Cornbelt	7.42	7.82	8.51	9.65	9.47	9.76	9.16
Delta	7.16	7.56	6.76	7.48	6.92	6.95	7.07
N. Plains	6.00	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.95	8.14	8.77	9.59	8.72
S. Plains	7.45	8.20	6.40	6.76	7.62	7.84	7.53
Mountain	7.83	9.65	6.33	7.59	8.29	7.89	7.77
Pacific	8.29	8.99	7.92	9.20	8.98	9.55	8.98
48 States	8.02	8.88	7.54	8.39	8.40	8.98	8.55

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

Region <sup>2</sup>	July 6-12, 2003						
	Gross Value Sales-\$1,000's						All Farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	<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	8.73	7.63	8.30	8.06	9.31	10.30	9.26
Appal.	7.71	6.63	7.97	7.96	8.95	9.20	8.29
S. East	7.73	7.02	8.86	8.30	7.66	9.61	8.92
Lake	8.67	7.35	8.24	8.83	7.88	( <sup>3</sup> )	9.36
Cornbelt	8.89	8.42	9.12	8.71	9.22	( <sup>3</sup> )	9.47
Delta	7.11	7.86	6.75	6.98	8.41	8.52	7.70
N. Plains	7.62	7.11	7.68	8.02	10.09	9.66	8.52
S. Plains	7.25	8.54	7.47	7.87	8.12	9.27	8.15
Mountain	9.05	6.75	7.65	7.42	7.70	8.45	8.04
Pacific	8.44	8.73	8.97	8.79	8.70	9.29	9.10
48 States	8.16	7.76	8.29	8.24	8.58	9.52	8.87

<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	July 7-13, 2002	April 6-12, 2003	July 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	13	12	12
Other Crops	55	58	59
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	32	30	29

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

Gross Value of Sales	July 7-13, 2002	April 6-12, 2003	July 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	18	12	14
\$50,000-\$99,999	26	26	6
\$100,000-\$249,999	10	10	13
\$250,000-\$499,999	10	10	10
\$500,000-\$999,999	10	10	12
\$1,000,000 and over	26	32	45

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

Category	July 7-13, 2002	April 6-12, 2003	July 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	9	9	9
2 Workers	9	9	10
3-6 Workers	19	19	17
7-10 Workers	11	10	7
11-20 Workers	10	11	10
21-50 Workers	13	11	15
51 or more Workers	29	31	32

<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 320,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2003. Service workers in California numbered 125,000 this July, up 23 percent from last year. Florida's number of service workers was 3,000, down 25 percent from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$9.36 and \$9.25 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in July 2002 were \$9.00 in California and \$9.25 in Florida.

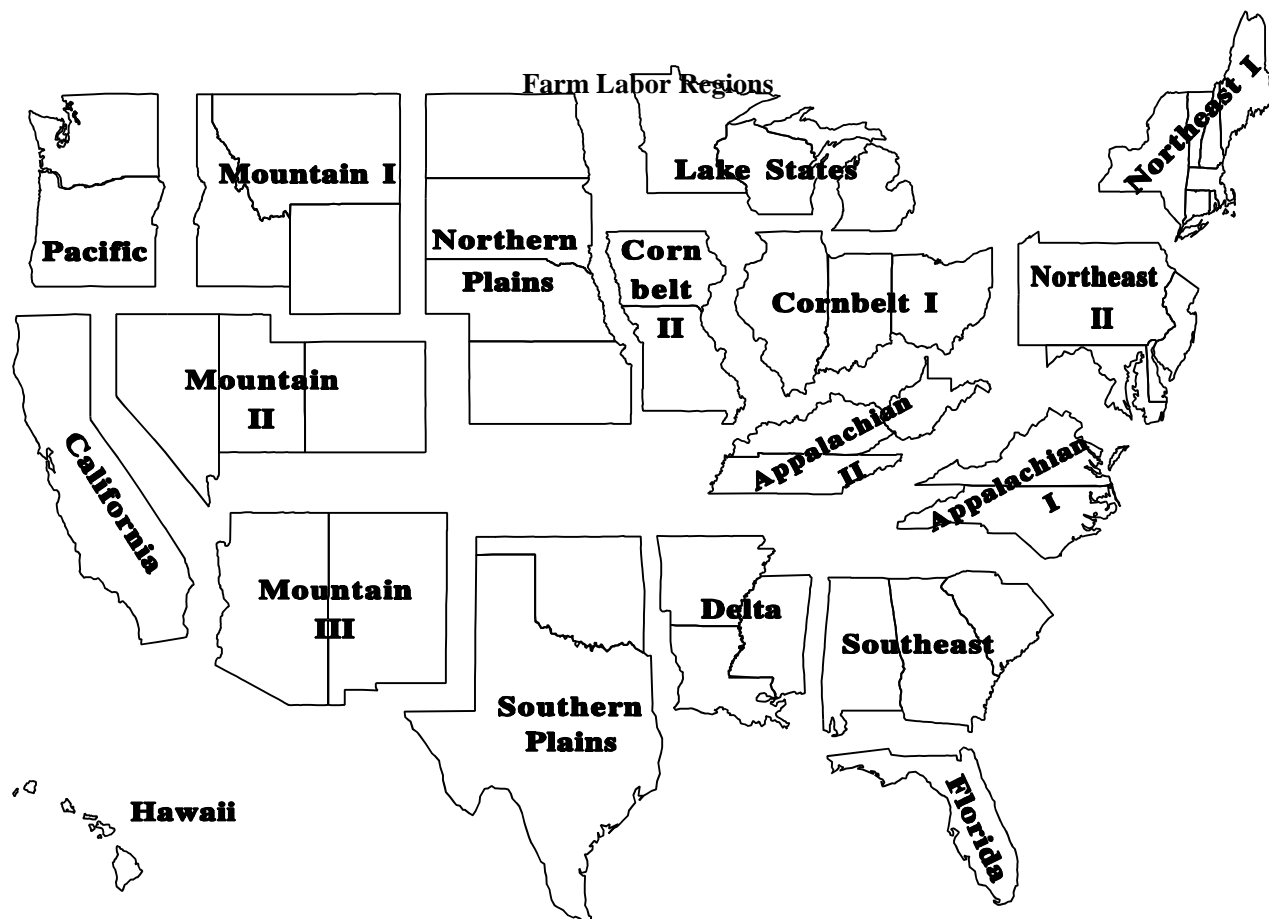
**Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,  
for California, Florida, and United States <sup>1</sup>**

State	Number of Workers Working on Farms			Hours Worked <sup>2</sup>			Wage Rates <sup>2 3</sup>		
	Jul 2002	Apr 2003	Jul 2003	Jul 2002	Apr 2003	Jul 2003	Jul 2002	Apr 2003	Jul 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	102.0	67.0	125.0	37.2	40.0	36.2	9.00	8.60	9.36
FL	4.0	17.0	3.0	42.5	33.0	41.0	9.25	9.40	9.25
US	256.0	157.0	320.0						

<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 to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.



**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 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 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 7 and 19 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 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 7 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 24 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 2002 and April 2003 were subject to revision with this report. If any revisions were made to previous data, they are reprinted in this report for your information, and they are identified as such.

**Next Farm Labor Publication Date:** The November 21st report will have information for the survey week of October 12-18, 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 rates 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 21, 2003.

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