



Farm Labor

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

There were 1,197,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 891,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 306,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.05 per hour during the October 2003 reference week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 8 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.64 per hour compared with \$8.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.47 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

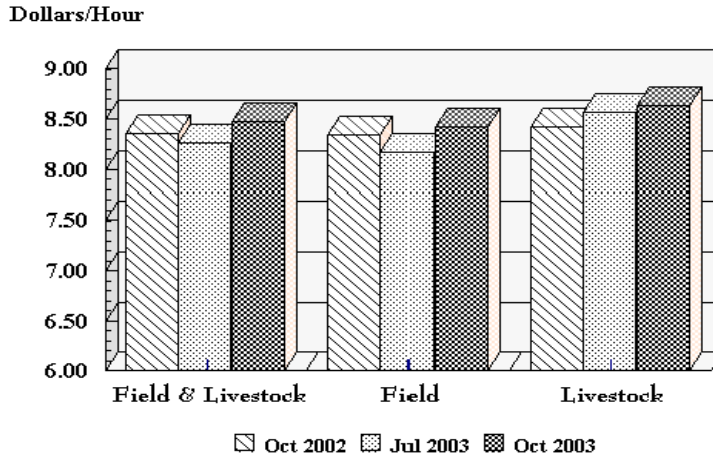
The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Northeast I (New England and New York), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi) and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania) regions and in California and Florida. In the Northeast I and II regions, rain and strong winds slowed field activity, reducing the demand for hired workers. Dry weather in the Delta region during the weeks prior to the reference week allowed harvest of most field crops to progress ahead of normal. Therefore, fewer field workers were needed with less acreage left to harvest. In California, extreme heat throughout the summer and early fall continued to push the maturity of many fruit and vegetable crops well ahead of normal. During the reference week much of the harvest activity was winding down, which caused fewer workers to be needed. Decreased citrus harvest in Florida reduced the demand for hired workers.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina) and Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada and Utah) regions. Warm, dry conditions in most of the Lake Region allowed for increased field crop harvest and fall tillage activity, causing more hired workers to be necessary. Fruit and vegetable harvests were also in full swing in Michigan despite some brief rain delays. In the Southeast Region, ideal weather accelerated harvest activity, thus requiring more hired workers. Apple production in Utah was up considerably from last year's freeze-damaged crop, which increased the need for hired workers in the Mountain II Region.

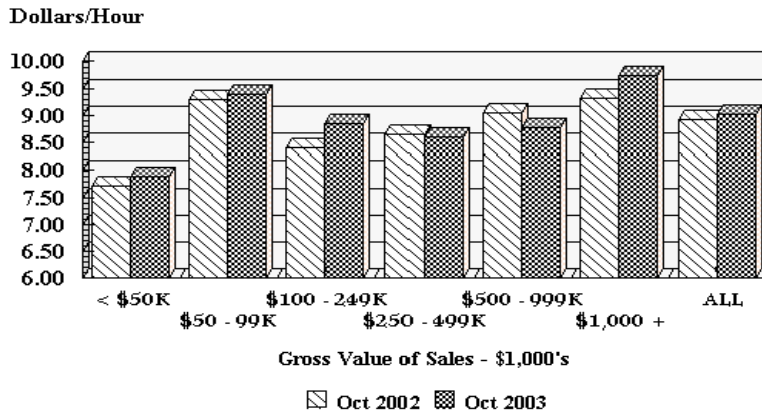
Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in Florida, the Northeast I, Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio) and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. The higher wages in Florida, the Corn Belt I and Northeast I regions were mainly due to a higher percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force. Wages in the Appalachian II region were higher due to a larger proportion of equine workers in the work force. Corn Belt II wages were higher due to a greater percentage of full-time salaried workers in the work force. Wages in the Southern Plains region were up because of a larger concentration of higher paid feedlot workers.

The 2003 U.S. hired worker annual average wage rate was \$9.08, up 3 percent from the 2002 annual average wage rate of \$8.81. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$8.31, up 19 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$8.42, up 3 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$8.18.

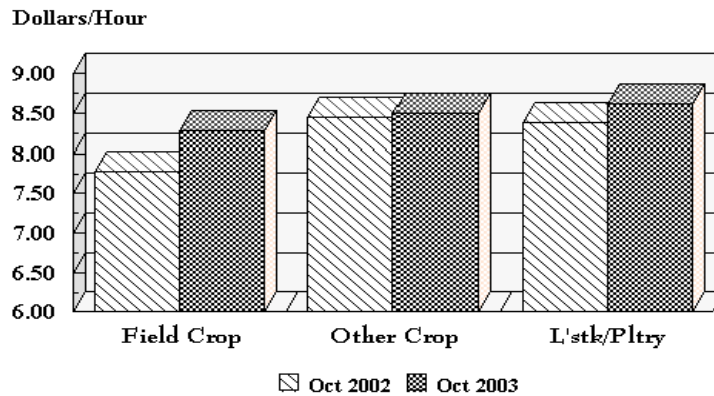
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm



Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
October 12-18, 2003, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	October 6-12, 2002	July 6-12, 2003	October 12-18, 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	940	*943	891
150 Days or More	685	*680	626
149 Days or Less	255	*263	265
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	271	320	306
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,211	*1,263	1,197
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.4	*39.8	40.2
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rate for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	8.95	8.88	9.05
Field & Livestock Combined	8.36	*8.26	8.47
Field	8.34	*8.17	8.42
Livestock	8.42	*8.57	8.64

* 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, October 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	40	28	12	39.7
Northeast II	34	26	8	38.5
Appalachian I	45	29	16	32.5
Appalachian II	38	18	20	36.2
Southeast	38	26	12	38.9
FL	49	43	6	39.1
Lake	72	45	27	37.7
Cornbelt I	45	26	19	40.6
Cornbelt II	26	16	10	42.6
Delta	31	20	11	37.0
Northern Plains	35	25	10	43.8
Southern Plains	54	43	11	41.7
Mountain I	33	22	11	45.0
Mountain II	20	15	5	41.5
Mountain III	18	15	3	47.9
Pacific	76	44	32	37.6
CA	230	179	51	42.7
HI	7	6	1	38.9
US ³	891	626	265	40.2

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 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	9.62	8.64	9.33	10.12
Northeast II	8.79	8.27	8.66	9.59
Appalachian I	8.19	7.92	8.10	8.66
Appalachian II	7.56	8.12	7.70	8.04
Southeast	7.90	7.84	7.88	8.26
FL	8.55	7.95	8.48	9.53
Lake	9.25	9.11	9.20	9.70
Cornbelt I	8.76	9.67	8.91	9.34
Cornbelt II	8.62	9.83	8.87	9.30
Delta	7.01	7.15	7.05	7.48
Northern Plains	9.29	8.59	9.07	9.31
Southern Plains	7.12	7.70	7.39	8.01
Mountain I	7.80	8.05	7.93	8.24
Mountain II	8.11	8.12	8.11	8.97
Mountain III	7.16	8.73	7.63	8.18
Pacific	8.90	10.10	9.11	9.62
CA	8.37	9.80	8.54	9.13
HI ⁴	9.82		9.88	11.56
US ³	8.42	8.64	8.47	9.05

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, July 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	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	*225	*205	*20	*45.7
HI	7	6	1	36.7
US ³	*943	*680	*263	*39.8

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, July 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	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	*8.43	*9.65	*8.55	*9.22
HI ⁴	9.55		9.55	11.25
US ³	*8.17	*8.57	*8.26	8.88

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, October 6-12, 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	50	36	14	41.2
Northeast II	41	34	7	36.4
Appalachian I	42	25	17	33.1
Appalachian II	36	17	19	30.3
Southeast	33	21	12	36.4
FL	57	51	6	38.9
Lake	64	41	23	34.7
Cornbelt I	42	25	17	38.7
Cornbelt II	25	13	12	34.7
Delta	38	29	9	38.9
Northern Plains	34	25	9	43.8
Southern Plains	58	46	12	41.7
Mountain I	30	21	9	45.1
Mountain II	16	10	6	35.7
Mountain III	19	16	3	45.7
Pacific	77	46	31	39.2
CA	270	222	48	45.5
HI	8	7	1	37.9
US ³	940	685	255	40.4

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 6-12, 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	9.16	7.70	8.76	9.36
Northeast II	8.61	8.17	8.51	9.29
Appalachian I	7.57	8.00	7.70	8.21
Appalachian II	7.13	7.46	7.21	7.50
Southeast	7.30	8.25	7.56	8.18
FL	7.50	8.60	7.72	8.67
Lake	9.28	9.11	9.21	9.73
Cornbelt I	8.49	8.89	8.54	8.90
Cornbelt II	8.69	8.30	8.59	8.81
Delta	7.12	7.72	7.27	7.77
Northern Plains	9.01	9.03	9.02	9.32
Southern Plains	7.05	7.32	7.18	7.57
Mountain I	7.84	7.95	7.89	8.13
Mountain II	8.31	8.79	8.50	8.79
Mountain III	7.07	8.24	7.42	8.25
Pacific	8.91	9.36	8.99	9.47
CA	8.60	9.30	8.68	9.39
HI ⁴	9.25		9.32	11.02
US ³	8.34	8.42	8.36	8.95

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

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	October 6-12, 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	9.06	9.03	7.93	8.66
Appalachian	7.17	8.01	7.08	7.48
Southeast	7.74	7.34	8.77	7.66
Lake	8.52	8.66	9.31	9.21
Cornbelt	8.70	8.58	9.66	8.56
Delta	6.91	7.93	7.86	7.27
Northern Plains	9.00	8.42	8.15	9.02
Southern Plains	6.74	7.20	7.18	7.18
Mountain	7.32	7.93	9.58	7.89
Pacific	(³)	8.67	9.31	8.74
48 States	7.78	8.45	8.39	8.36

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

Region ²	October 12-18, 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	(³)	9.26	8.59	9.03
Appalachian	6.98	8.37	8.54	7.90
Southeast	8.35	8.36	7.85	8.22
Lake	9.42	8.89	9.53	9.20
Cornbelt	8.65	8.19	10.27	8.89
Delta	7.45	6.54	7.07	7.05
Northern Plains	8.89	(³)	8.57	9.07
Southern Plains	7.56	7.20	7.43	7.39
Mountain	8.06	7.79	7.98	7.88
Pacific	8.55	8.53	10.02	8.67
48 States	8.28	8.49	8.62	8.47

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.

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

Region ²	October 6-12, 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	8.15	7.51	8.65	8.64	9.77	10.47	9.33
Appal.	6.74	5.57	8.01	7.78	8.53	9.17	7.90
S. East	8.79	(³)	8.28	8.38	9.07	8.39	8.50
Lake	9.78	8.01	9.50	9.13	9.98	10.14	9.73
Cornbelt	8.39	9.10	8.57	8.70	8.42	9.75	8.87
Delta	7.02	7.06	7.46	6.98	7.77	9.01	7.77
N. Plains	8.20	8.57	9.40	8.95	9.27	9.67	9.32
S. Plains	6.47	7.57	7.03	7.03	7.41	9.44	7.57
Mountain	9.30	7.92	8.68	8.91	8.29	7.83	8.30
Pacific	8.46	9.43	9.34	9.96	9.69	9.59	9.41
48 States	7.72	9.30	8.41	8.66	9.06	9.31	8.93

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

Region ²	October 12-18, 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	9.54	(³)	8.77	9.42	8.83	10.52	9.88
Appal.	6.58	7.30	8.00	8.14	8.05	9.85	8.36
S. East	7.74	9.03	8.13	9.07	8.58	9.39	8.98
Lake	9.76	8.17	9.06	9.50	8.87	10.57	9.70
Cornbelt	8.15	(³)	8.37	9.38	9.68	10.53	9.32
Delta	7.14	7.06	8.33	7.46	6.93	7.70	7.48
N. Plains	8.18	7.15	8.20	8.93	(³)	10.08	9.31
S. Plains	7.52	7.85	8.83	7.49	8.29	9.77	8.01
Mountain	8.30	9.62	7.33	8.17	7.91	8.41	8.41
Pacific	9.54	8.14	9.12	8.63	9.02	9.71	9.24
48 States	7.90	9.39	8.85	8.61	8.78	9.74	9.03

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	October 6-12, 2002	July 6-12, 2003	October 12-18, 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	16	12	15
Other Crops	54	59	58
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	30	29	27

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

Gross Value of Sales	October 6-12, 2002	July 6-12, 2003	October 12-18, 2003
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$50,000	16	14	11
\$50,000-\$99,999	25	6	7
\$100,000-\$249,999	11	13	25
\$250,000-\$499,999	10	10	11
\$500,000-\$999-999	10	12	12
\$1,000,000 and over	28	45	34

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

Category	October 6-12, 2002	July 6-12, 2003	October 12-18, 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	7	9	9
2 Workers	13	10	9
3-6 Workers	17	17	18
7-10 Workers	9	7	7
11-20 Workers	11	10	11
21-50 Workers	13	15	14
51 or more Workers	30	32	32

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 306,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2003. Service workers in California numbered 118,000 this October, down 2 percent from last year. Florida's number of service workers was 4,000, down 20 percent from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$9.16 and \$9.65 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 2002 were \$8.10 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}		
	Oct 2002	Jul 2003	Oct 2003	Oct 2002	Jul 2003	Oct 2003	Oct 2002	Jul 2003	Oct 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	121.0	125.0	118.0	42.1	36.2	32.3	8.10	9.36	9.16
FL	5.0	3.0	4.0	31.5	41.0	38.0	9.00	9.25	9.65
US	271.0	320.0	306.0						

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.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Number and Hours Worked
By Region and United States, 2002-03 ¹**

State and Region	Hired Workers		Hours Worked	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	42.7	41.0	39.9	39.0
Northeast II	41.2	33.0	38.2	39.1
Appalachian I	41.7	38.5	36.0	33.2
Appalachian II	29.0	33.7	31.8	33.0
Southeast	34.0	31.0	38.0	37.3
FL	53.5	54.2	38.5	38.2
Lake	54.7	58.7	34.8	35.9
Cornbelt I	42.2	42.7	35.5	36.2
Cornbelt II	26.5	23.2	33.1	36.2
Delta	32.2	26.2	36.8	39.4
Northern Plains	34.5	30.7	42.7	42.0
Southern Plains	63.2	53.5	40.5	39.5
Mountain I	26.5	23.2	43.6	44.8
Mountain II	19.2	21.5	37.2	41.3
Mountain III	18.5	18.5	45.6	47.5
Pacific	73.0	71.5	38.1	37.6
CA	245.2	227.5	44.5	43.0
HI	7.5	7.0	37.1	37.2
US ³	885.7	836.0	39.8	39.5

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
By Region and United States, 2002-03^{1 3}**

U.S. and Region	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<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 I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT)	9.26	9.93	8.82	9.40	8.53	9.01
Northeast II (DE, MD, NJ, PA)	8.79	9.41	8.26	8.58	7.97	8.52
Appalachian I (NC, VA)	8.39	8.68	7.57	7.97	7.75	8.06
Appalachian II (KY, TN, WV)	7.54	8.00	7.02	7.53	7.20	7.63
Southeast (AL, GA, SC)	8.03	8.41	7.28	7.66	7.49	7.88
FL	8.69	9.14	7.71	8.18	7.78	8.18
Lake (MI, MN, WI)	9.40	9.80	8.99	9.04	8.70	9.11
Cornbelt I (IL, IN, OH)	9.21	9.61	8.44	8.88	8.65	9.00
Cornbelt II (IA, MO)	9.26	9.75	8.41	9.21	8.91	9.28
Delta (AR, LA, MS)	7.53	7.77	7.07	7.30	7.13	7.38
Northern Plains (KS, NE, ND, SD)	9.06	9.21	8.57	8.70	8.53	8.83
Southern Plains (OK, TX)	7.76	8.30	7.17	7.61	7.29	7.73
Mountain I (ID, MT, WY)	7.96	7.98	7.53	7.59	7.70	7.69
Mountain II (CO, NV, UT)	8.64	9.11	7.93	8.16	8.07	8.36
Mountain III (AZ, NM)	8.23	8.08	7.33	7.07	7.61	7.54
Pacific (OR, WA)	9.30	9.25	8.42	8.49	8.71	8.73
CA	9.14	9.25	8.34	8.34	8.46	8.50
HI	11.07	11.33	9.40	9.56	9.42	9.60
US ²	8.81	9.08	8.12	8.31	8.18	8.42

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Excludes AK.

³ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
By State, 2002-03^{1 2}**

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<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>
AL	7.92	8.00	7.08	7.19	7.18	7.53
AZ	8.04	7.86	7.32	7.07	7.35	7.16
AR	7.56	7.37	7.41	6.99	7.35	7.12
CA	9.14	9.25	8.34	8.34	8.46	8.50
CO	8.57	9.13	7.90	8.27	8.07	8.42
DE	9.02	9.88	7.80	8.79	8.00	8.77
FL	8.69	9.14	7.71	8.18	7.78	8.18
GA	8.53	8.78	8.00	8.09	8.06	8.22
HI	11.07	11.33	9.40	9.56	9.42	9.60
ID	8.05	8.04	7.50	7.63	7.87	7.81
IL	9.67	9.88	8.63	9.04	8.94	9.27
IN	9.19	9.73	8.92	8.95	8.76	9.00
IA	9.67	10.34	8.47	9.74	9.30	9.87
KS	9.63	9.54	8.85	8.73	8.64	8.97
KY	7.50	8.03	6.76	7.37	7.10	7.67
LA	7.47	7.88	7.10	7.69	7.08	7.55
MD	9.58	9.95	8.85	9.54	8.50	8.82
MI	9.62	9.74	8.62	8.42	8.66	8.86
MN	9.73	10.23	9.76	9.80	9.12	9.56
MS	7.55	8.09	6.56	7.21	6.89	7.47
MO	8.68	9.11	8.35	8.67	8.33	8.70
MT	7.95	8.37	7.86	8.08	7.56	7.92
NE	8.62	8.67	8.05	8.28	8.34	8.39
NV	8.14	8.56	7.44	7.90	7.52	7.92
NJ	8.98	8.88	8.07	7.78	8.10	7.85
NM	8.61	8.39	7.41	7.05	8.16	8.04
NY	8.68	9.55	8.47	9.25	8.17	8.78
NC	8.31	8.55	7.52	7.80	7.64	7.94
ND	9.22	9.49	9.28	9.32	9.16	9.32
OH	8.70	9.14	7.68	8.58	8.23	8.66
OK	8.19	9.04	7.53	8.32	7.52	8.24
OR	9.15	9.39	8.37	8.47	8.48	8.76
PA	8.50	9.50	8.24	8.84	7.77	8.72
SC	7.39	8.01	6.50	7.08	6.96	7.42
SD	8.66	9.23	8.11	8.46	8.22	8.94
TN	7.60	8.01	7.34	7.63	7.32	7.63
TX	7.67	8.12	7.11	7.52	7.24	7.63
UT	9.14	9.25	8.47	7.92	8.42	8.38
VA	8.58	8.98	7.71	8.42	7.98	8.33
WA	9.43	9.14	8.47	8.50	8.90	8.70
WV	7.45	7.77	6.78	7.99	7.17	7.41
WI	8.79	9.37	9.03	9.04	8.35	8.92
WY	7.55	7.17	7.05	6.70	6.96	6.59
Oth Sts ³	9.95	10.40	9.19	9.52	8.98	9.31
US ⁴	8.81	9.08	8.12	8.31	8.18	8.42

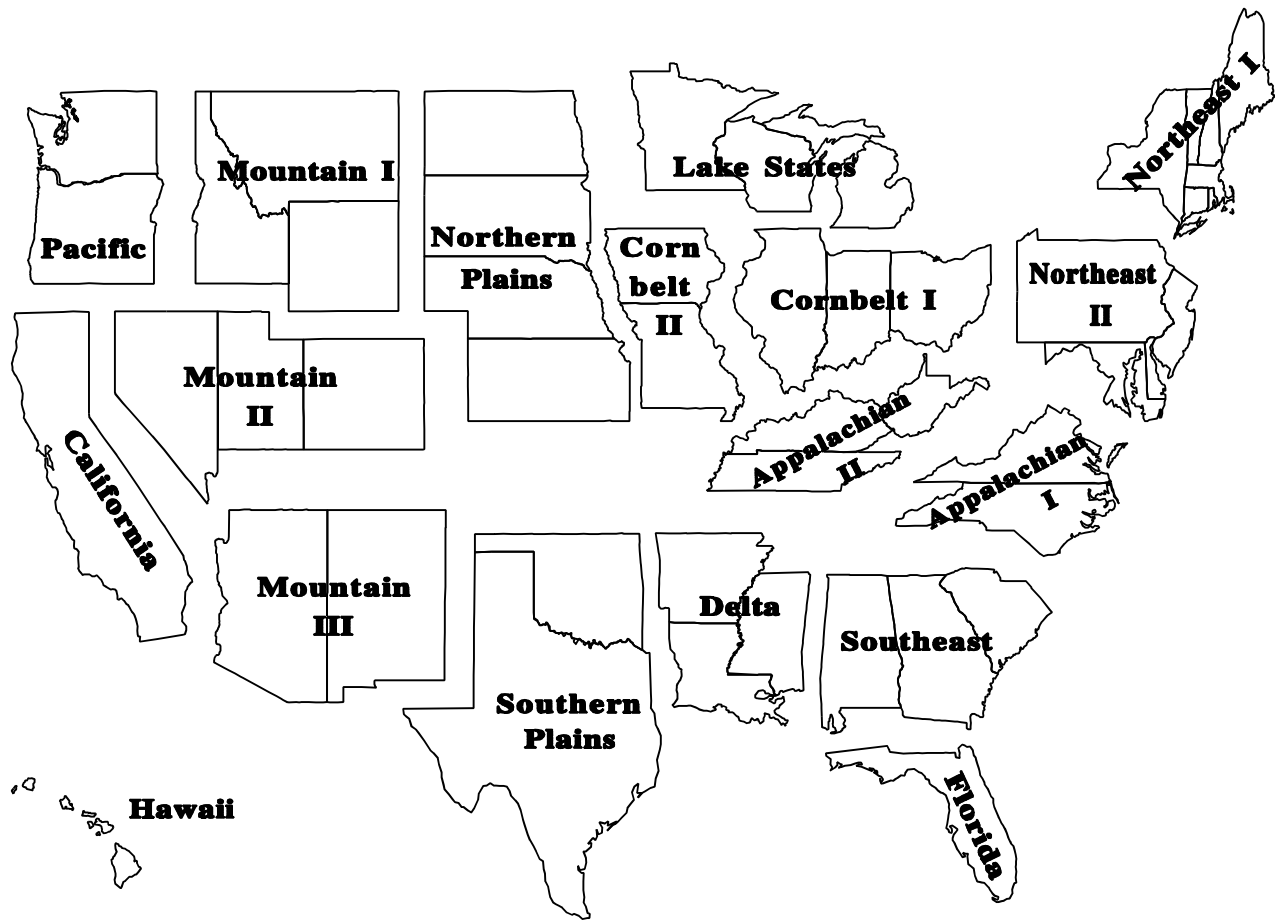
¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

³ Includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

⁴ Excludes AK.

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 October 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 October 12-18, 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 9 and 22 percent at the Regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.7 percent. The relative sampling error was 1.6 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 3 and 24 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 51 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.

Annual Average Wage Rates: Included with this report are the annual average wage rates for 2002 and 2003. Annual rates are the averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the total number of hours worked during the week. The survey weeks include the 12th of the month for January, April, July, and October. Combining data for the four survey weeks provides a large enough sample to permit publication of some wages at the State level. Annual average wage rates for 2002 and 2003 are published at the State, regional and U.S. level for the all hired wage rate, the field worker wage rate, and the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. For 2003, the relative sampling error, at the U.S. level, was 1.0 percent for the all hired worker wage rate. For the U.S. combined field and livestock worker wage rate, the relative sampling error was also 1.0 percent. The relative sampling error for all hired farm worker and combined field and livestock worker wage rates generally ranged between 2 and 6 percent at the regional level and 2 to 10 percent at the State level.

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 October 2002 and July 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 February 20th report will have information for the survey week of January 11-17, 2004. 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 February 20, 2004.

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