



NASS

FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

Farm Labor

Released August 18, 2006, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Farm Labor* call Mark Aitken at 202-720-6146, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Hired Workers Down 11 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,202,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2006, down 11 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 875,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 327,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.74 per hour during the July 2006 reference week, up 36 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.95 per hour, up 34 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.56 per hour compared with \$9.26 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.10 per hour, was up 32 cents from last year.

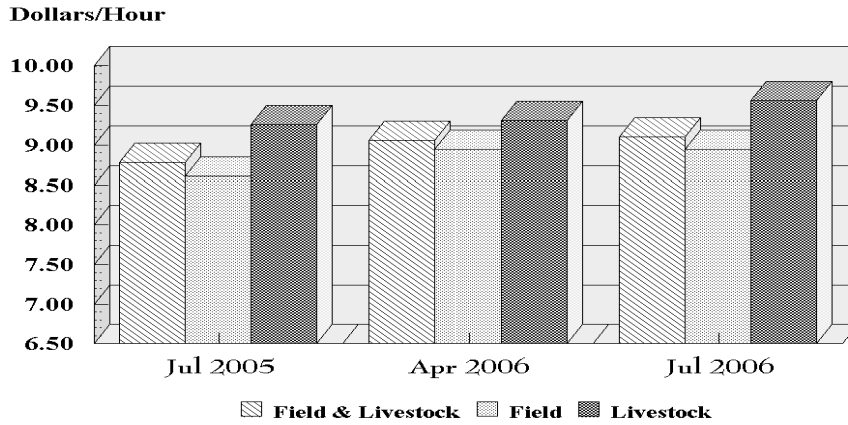
The number of hours worked averaged 40.9 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California and in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Northeast I (New England and New York), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In California, the cool, wet spring caused considerable delays in planting and slowed development of many field and vegetable crops. The ongoing worker shortages due to the heightened security at the Mexican border, combined with the late growing season, have kept the number of hired workers below last year. Wheat harvest in the Pacific region was behind normal due to cool early season temperatures, and worker shortages were reported due to the tight Mexican border security. In the Northeast I region, rain and wet conditions delayed field activities, and worker shortages were also reported in New York. These factors combined to reduce the number of hired workers from the previous year. Although some rain was received in the Southern Plains region, drought conditions prevailed over much of the area and severely curtailed crop growth and hay production, minimizing the need for field workers. Deteriorating pastures and decreased hay supplies caused more culling of livestock herds, reducing the demand for livestock workers. In the Corn Belt II region, wet conditions compared with the extreme dryness experienced during last year's reference week lessened the need for hired workers.

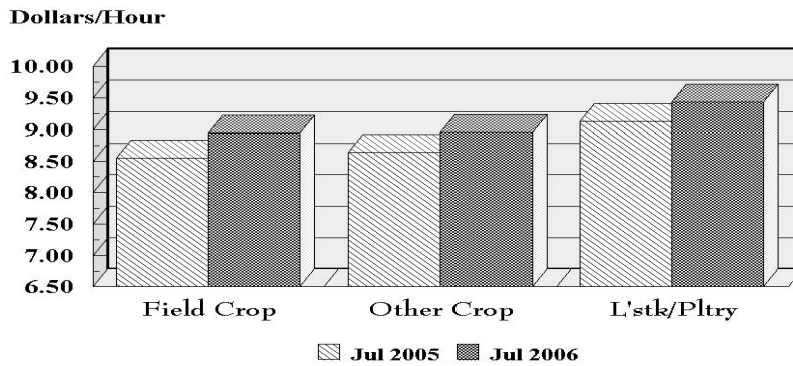
The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions, and in Florida. Warm, dry weather in the Delta region allowed field activities to progress rapidly and increased the need for irrigation, causing more hired workers to be required. In the Appalachian II region, dry conditions in Tennessee more than offset the impact of wet weather in the remainder of the region, resulting in a collectively stronger demand for hired workers. Slightly drier conditions in the Appalachian I region compared with last year's reference week allowed field activities to make good progress and increased the need for hired workers. In Florida, the previous year's reference week was heavily impacted by moisture from earlier hurricanes. A return to more normal weather patterns this year led to an increased demand for field workers.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific, Appalachian II, Corn Belt II, Delta, and Appalachian I regions. In the Pacific and Corn Belt II regions, the higher wages were due to a significantly lower percentage of part time workers in the work force. The higher wages in the Appalachian II region were due to a larger proportion of highly paid equine workers in the work force. In the Delta region, the higher wages were due to increased demand for highly skilled workers on aquaculture and dairy farms. The higher wages in the Appalachian I region were due to a greater percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force.

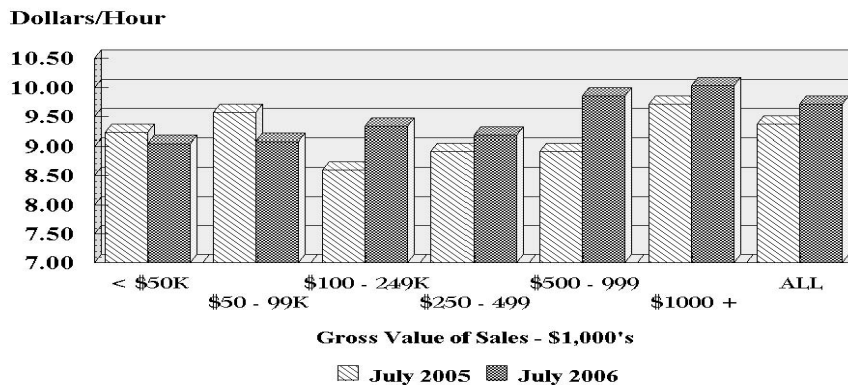
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



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 9-15, 2006, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	July 10-16, 2005	April 9-15, 2006	July 9-15, 2006
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	936	*720	875
150 Days or More	662	*581	630
149 Days or Less	274	*139	245
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	408	*241	327
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,344	*961	1,202
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.6	40.8	40.9
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rate for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	9.38	*9.78	9.74
Field & Livestock Combined	8.78	*9.06	9.10
Field	8.61	*8.95	8.95
Livestock	9.26	*9.31	9.56

* 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, July 9-15, 2006 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired				Number of Hours Worked <i>Hours per Week</i>
	Number of Workers <i>1,000</i>	Expected to be Employed		<i>1,000</i>	
		150 Days or More <i>1,000</i>	149 Days or Less <i>1,000</i>		
Northeast I	36	24	12	39.1	
Northeast II	49	30	19	39.8	
Appalachian I	40	28	12	37.1	
Appalachian II	27	15	12	34.3	
Southeast	41	30	11	38.3	
FL	43	38	5	41.0	
Lake	68	44	24	38.4	
Cornbelt I	55	33	22	34.7	
Cornbelt II	23	20	3	41.8	
Delta	30	24	6	40.0	
Northern Plains	41	26	15	40.9	
Southern Plains	53	38	15	37.6	
Mountain I	30	21	9	42.3	
Mountain II	25	20	5	44.7	
Mountain III	25	23	2	47.2	
Pacific	92	50	42	41.3	
CA	190	160	30	45.7	
HI	7	6	1	39.1	
US ³	875	630	245	40.9	

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, July 9-15, 2006 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	9.28	9.57	9.38	9.95
Northeast II	9.26	9.03	9.20	9.90
Appalachian I	9.14	9.18	9.15	9.64
Appalachian II	8.64	9.63	9.07	9.56
Southeast	8.21	8.05	8.18	8.68
FL	8.39	9.10	8.48	9.40
Lake	9.37	9.72	9.50	10.22
Cornbelt I	9.46	9.28	9.40	10.14
Cornbelt II	9.85	10.15	10.00	10.40
Delta	8.06	9.03	8.36	8.52
Northern Plains	8.94	9.92	9.28	9.60
Southern Plains	8.53	9.12	8.75	9.38
Mountain I	8.41	9.06	8.74	9.14
Mountain II	8.33	8.89	8.55	9.34
Mountain III	7.55	9.10	8.12	8.70
Pacific	9.50	11.06	9.59	10.15
CA	8.98	10.90	9.20	9.96
HI ⁴	10.26		10.38	12.31
US ³	8.95	9.56	9.10	9.74

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, April 9-15, 2006 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired				Number of Hours Worked <i>Hours per Week</i>
	Number of Workers <i>1,000</i>	Expected to be Employed		<i>1,000</i>	
		150 Days or More <i>1,000</i>	149 Days or Less <i>1,000</i>		
Northeast I	34	28	6	43.1	
Northeast II	25	20	5	40.2	
Appalachian I	34	27	7	39.9	
Appalachian II	29	20	9	37.3	
Southeast	31	24	7	36.5	
FL	52	44	8	40.4	
Lake	57	40	17	38.0	
Cornbelt I	*47	*40	7	*42.0	
Cornbelt II	27	23	4	38.3	
Delta	34	26	8	40.6	
Northern Plains	27	21	6	39.4	
Southern Plains	55	42	13	39.2	
Mountain I	23	19	4	44.1	
Mountain II	19	17	2	50.6	
Mountain III	17	16	1	48.7	
Pacific	65	52	13	37.5	
CA	137	*116	*21	*43.0	
HI	7	6	1	36.6	
US ³	*720	*581	*139	40.8	

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, April 9-15, 2006¹**

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	9.71	9.54	9.65	10.49
Northeast II	10.54	8.80	10.10	10.75
Appalachian I	8.84	8.34	8.70	9.48
Appalachian II	8.20	7.75	8.00	8.85
Southeast	8.49	8.68	8.55	9.19
FL	8.37	8.50	8.39	9.19
Lake	9.32	9.94	9.63	10.30
Cornbelt I	10.18	*9.59	10.00	*10.47
Cornbelt II	8.45	10.38	9.46	10.12
Delta	7.64	8.15	7.75	8.00
Northern Plains	9.67	8.64	9.25	9.84
Southern Plains	8.24	9.06	8.64	9.37
Mountain I	9.20	8.57	8.81	9.22
Mountain II	8.39	8.98	8.65	9.08
Mountain III	8.14	9.13	8.60	9.17
Pacific	9.24	10.13	9.45	10.10
CA	*8.93	*10.80	*9.21	*10.18
HI ⁴	9.79		9.93	11.96
US ³	*8.95	*9.31	*9.06	*9.78

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, July 10-16, 2005 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired				Number of Hours Worked <i>Hours per Week</i>
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed			
		150 Days or More ³	149 Days or Less ³		
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>		
Northeast I	46	35	11	40.0	
Northeast II	50	40	10	39.1	
Appalachian I	38	25	13	34.6	
Appalachian II	24	17	7	31.4	
Southeast	44	30	14	37.5	
FL	41	39	2	41.3	
Lake	75	51	24	40.9	
Cornbelt I	54	31	23	36.0	
Cornbelt II	31	25	6	40.4	
Delta	24	19	5	38.0	
Northern Plains	45	26	19	42.2	
Southern Plains	63	47	16	36.5	
Mountain I	29	20	9	45.0	
Mountain II	26	18	8	42.0	
Mountain III	24	21	3	45.6	
Pacific	109	50	59	39.3	
CA	206	162	44	45.3	
HI	7	6	1	40.0	
US ³	936	662	274	40.6	

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, July 10-16, 2005 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	8.88	9.55	9.11	9.70
Northeast II	8.71	9.37	8.90	9.79
Appalachian I	8.44	8.53	8.46	9.03
Appalachian II	8.46	8.19	8.30	8.68
Southeast	8.39	8.85	8.51	8.91
FL	8.75	9.15	8.81	9.70
Lake	8.66	9.52	8.97	9.66
Cornbelt I	9.20	8.77	9.10	9.56
Cornbelt II	8.86	9.14	9.05	9.56
Delta	7.59	7.80	7.65	7.85
Northern Plains	8.15	9.49	8.60	9.05
Southern Plains	8.07	9.06	8.50	9.27
Mountain I	8.39	8.51	8.44	8.79
Mountain II	8.62	8.49	8.58	9.20
Mountain III	7.90	8.11	7.98	8.53
Pacific	8.60	10.67	8.80	9.21
CA	8.76	10.66	9.00	9.68
HI ⁴	10.00		10.05	11.76
US ³	8.61	9.26	8.78	9.38

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

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 10-16, 2005			
	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	9.28	8.66	9.45	9.01
Appalachian	7.74	8.78	8.40	8.40
Southeast	7.75	8.62	9.05	8.66
Lake	8.18	8.53	9.62	8.97
Cornbelt	(³)	8.34	8.75	9.08
Delta	7.51	7.69	7.83	7.65
Northern Plains	8.45	8.11	8.95	8.60
Southern Plains	6.89	8.74	8.86	8.50
Mountain	7.27	8.60	8.42	8.32
Pacific	8.84	8.72	10.34	8.94
48 States	8.54	8.64	9.13	8.78

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

Region ²	July 9-15, 2006			
	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	8.87	9.41	9.07	9.28
Appalachian	8.16	9.09	9.54	9.12
Southeast	8.07	8.29	8.76	8.33
Lake	(³)	9.09	9.66	9.50
Cornbelt	10.18	8.95	9.62	9.61
Delta	7.78	7.51	9.58	8.36
Northern Plains	9.14	8.99	9.46	9.28
Southern Plains	7.38	8.95	8.94	8.75
Mountain	8.28	7.80	8.93	8.46
Pacific	9.54	9.17	10.31	9.32
48 States	8.94	8.96	9.43	9.10

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	July 10-16, 2005						
	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	10.31	8.68	7.59	8.64	9.68	10.32	9.75
Appal.	8.80	8.17	8.37	8.52	8.28	9.55	8.90
S. East	10.05	8.56	7.68	9.12	9.25	9.60	9.31
Lake	(³)	(³)	9.19	8.87	9.34	10.03	9.66
Cornbelt	8.08	(³)	9.44	8.66	8.72	9.67	9.56
Delta	8.41	7.53	7.28	7.27	7.10	8.91	7.85
N. Plains	(³)	8.33	7.68	8.79	8.10	11.33	9.05
S. Plains	9.75	6.55	7.41	7.15	7.84	10.78	9.27
Mountain	9.79	8.65	8.85	9.29	8.40	8.66	8.84
Pacific	8.91	9.46	9.55	9.58	9.29	9.61	9.54
48 States	9.23	9.58	8.60	8.91	8.91	9.72	9.37

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

Region ²	July 9-15, 2006						
	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	9.58	7.45	8.49	8.68	10.43	10.62	9.92
Appal.	9.59	8.20	9.32	9.45	9.17	10.18	9.61
S. East	8.28	9.17	8.18	8.19	9.16	9.31	9.06
Lake	8.90	(³)	9.23	9.91	10.05	10.78	10.22
Cornbelt	9.47	8.74	10.09	9.58	10.55	10.82	10.23
Delta	8.91	7.85	(³)	7.60	8.02	8.51	8.52
N. Plains	8.80	7.92	9.12	9.87	9.81	10.19	9.60
S. Plains	7.28	(³)	(³)	8.20	8.63	9.94	9.38
Mountain	8.74	8.27	8.32	8.38	9.53	9.25	9.06
Pacific	10.07	9.73	9.68	9.60	10.34	10.07	10.02
48 States	9.05	9.08	9.34	9.19	9.86	10.04	9.72

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 10-16, 2005	April 9-15, 2006	July 9-15, 2006
	<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	14	10	11
Other Crops	53	54	58
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	33	36	31

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

Gross Value of Sales	July 10-16, 2005	April 9-15, 2006	July 9-15, 2006
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$50,000	13	10	10
\$50,000-\$99,999	5	5	7
\$100,000-\$249,999	11	10	10
\$250,000-\$499,999	10	11	11
\$500,000-\$999,999	11	11	12
\$1,000,000 and over	50	53	50

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

Category	July 10-16, 2005	April 9-15, 2006	July 9-15, 2006
	<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	10	9
2 Workers	9	10	9
3-6 Workers	18	17	18
7-10 Workers	8	9	7
11-20 Workers	10	12	12
21-50 Workers	14	14	14
51 or more Workers	32	28	31

¹ 48 States, excluding AK and HI.

² Field and Livestock Workers combined.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

Agricultural Services

Agricultural service operations provided 327,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2006. Agricultural service workers in California numbered 118,000 this July, down 16 percent from last year. Florida's number of agricultural service workers was 3,000, up 50 percent from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$9.19 and \$9.50 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in July 2005 were \$9.08 in California and \$9.90 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 2005	Apr 2006	Jul 2006	Jul 2005	Apr 2006	Jul 2006	Jul 2005	Apr 2006	Jul 2006
	<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	141.0	*86.0	118.0	37.8	33.4	41.4	9.08	*9.87	9.19
FL	2.0	8.0	3.0	45.0	40.0	45.0	9.90	9.60	9.50
US	408.0	*241.0	327.0						

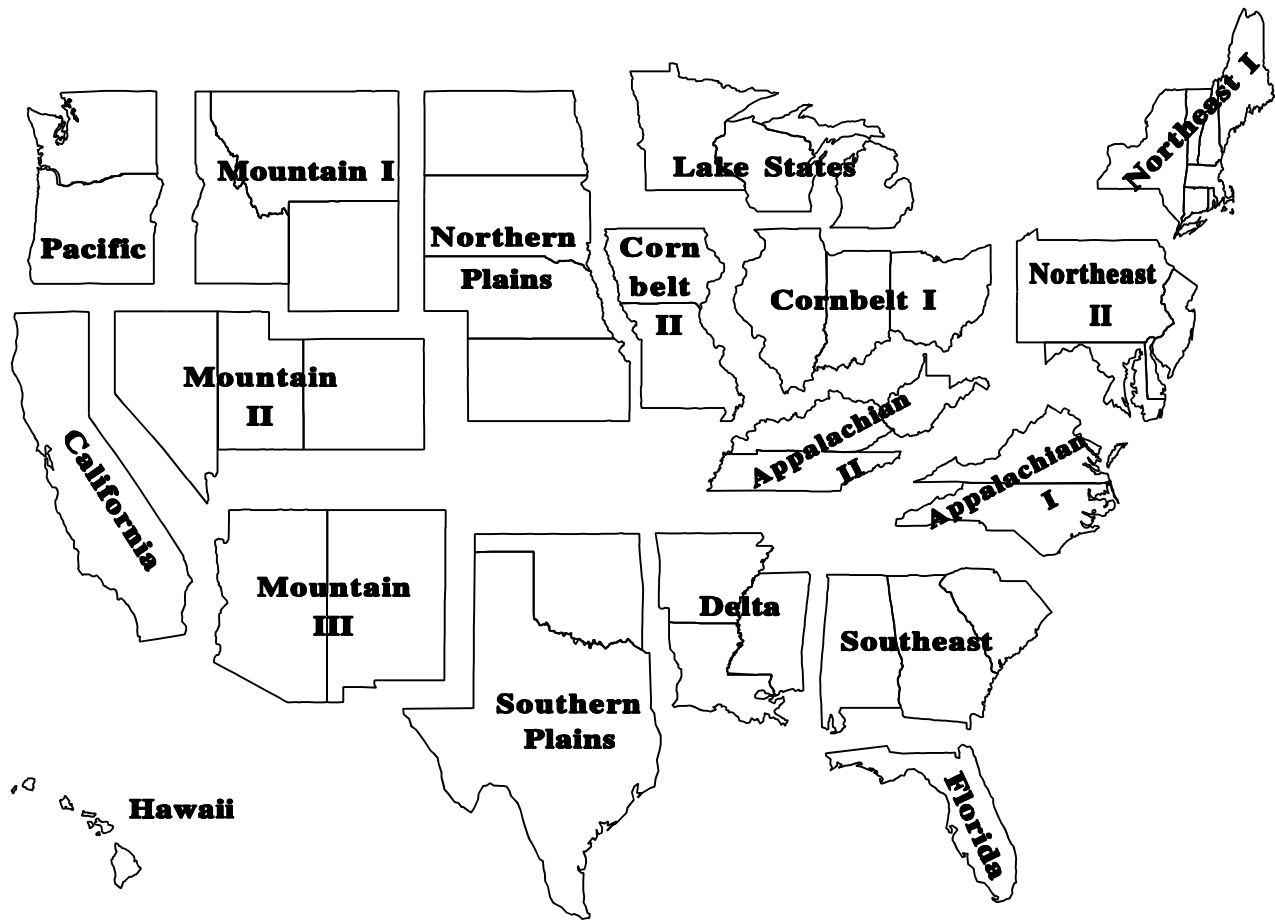
* Revised.

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 \$1,000 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. This also includes custom crews and crew leaders.

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, and 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 9-15, 2006.

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 10 and 15 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 0.8 percent. The relative sampling error was 0.7 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 1 and 5 percent at the regional levels. Relative sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm generally ranged between 2 and 14 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 2005 and April 2006 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.

Index

	Page
U.S. Hired Workers on Farms, Wage Rates and Hours Worked	3
Number of Workers and Average Hours Worked by Region and U.S.	
July 2006	4
April 2006	6
July 2005	8
Wage Rates by Region and U.S.	
July 2006	5
April 2006	7
July 2005	9
Agricultural Services: Workers, Average Hours Worked, and Wages	
July 2006	13
April 2006	13
July 2005	13
Other Labor Estimates	
U.S. Distribution of Workers	12
Wage Rates by Type of Farm, by Region, State, 48 States	10
Wage Rates by Economic Class of Farm, by Region, State, 48 States	11
Farm Labor Region Map	14
Farm Labor Definitions	15
Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates	17
Revision Policy	17

The next *Farm Labor* report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on November 17, 2006.

ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: www.nass.usda.gov.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS Home Page at www.nass.usda.gov, under the right navigation, *Receive reports by Email*, click on **National** or **State**. Follow the instructions on the screen.

PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 703-605-6220 FAX: 703-605-6900
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.