



# NASS

FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

# Farm Labor

Released November 17, 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.

This report is being republished due to the omission of the "48 States" data on pages 10 and 11. This reissued report now includes these data.

## Hired Workers Down 5 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 2006, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 797,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 280,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.95 per hour during the October 2006 reference week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.25 per hour, up 35 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.41 per hour compared with \$9.15 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.29 per hour, was up 33 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) regions. Rain, snow, and freezing temperatures in the Lake region slowed progress of field activities considerably, decreasing the need for hired workers. In the Southern Plains region, cool, wet weather in Texas caused most field work to be delayed, lowering the demand for hired workers. Drought conditions through most of the Southeast region curtailed hay growth and postponed small grain seeding which led to a minimized demand for field workers. In the Mountain I region, rain and wet fields slowed progress of winter wheat seeding and lessened the need for hired workers.

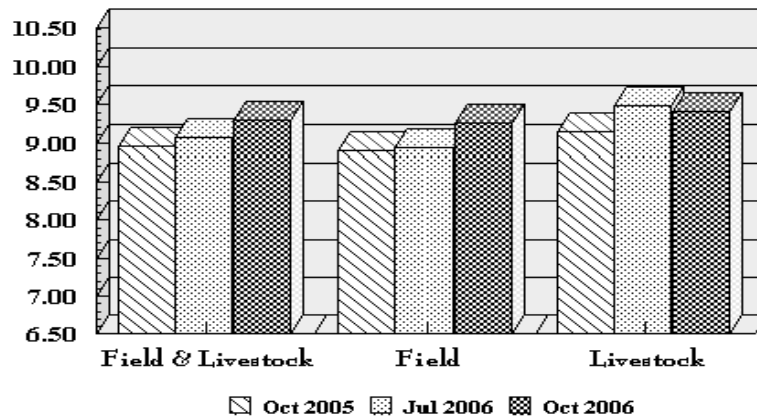
The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions, and Florida. In the Pacific region, ideal weather allowed winter wheat seeding and fall crop harvests to progress rapidly, increasing the demand for hired workers. Field activities in the Northeast II region were accelerating due to the drier conditions compared with last year's very wet reference week. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. In the Appalachian II region, cotton and soybean harvests in Tennessee continued to make excellent progress and remained ahead of normal, necessitating more field workers. In Florida, drier conditions compared with the previous year's deluge of tropical storms led to more normal progress of field activities and caused stronger demand for hired workers.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific, Southern Plains, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Mountain I, and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In the Pacific and Mountain II regions, the higher wages were due to a larger percentage of salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed the average hourly wage higher. The higher wages in the Southern Plains region were due to the wet conditions which kept hours worked down and drove the wage rates up. In the Mountain I region, the higher wages were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. The higher wages in the Delta region were due to a greater percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force.

The 2006 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$9.87, up 4 percent from the 2005 annual average wage rate of \$9.51. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$9.06, up 36 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$9.15, up 4 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$8.84.

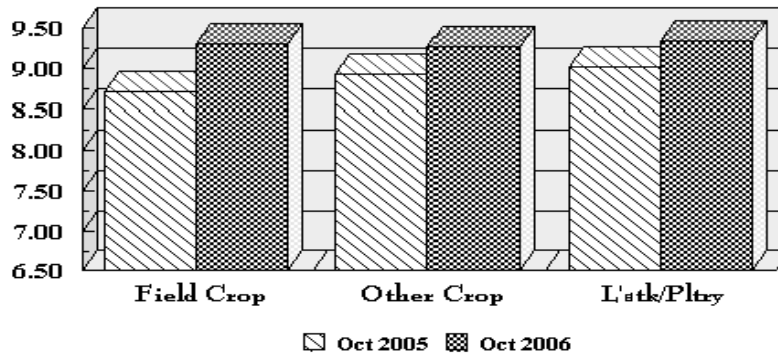
## U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



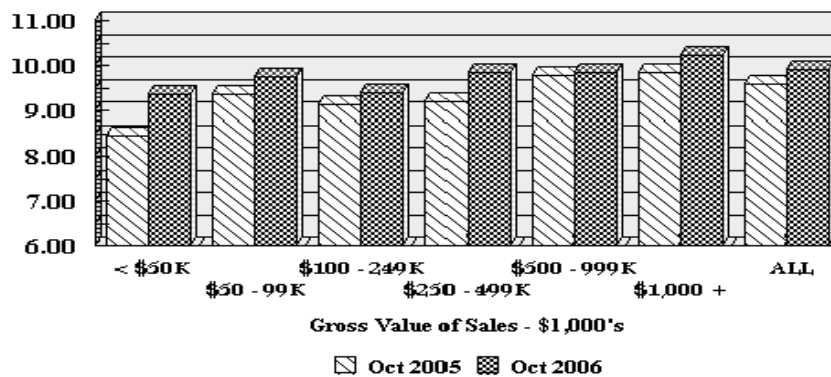
## Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



## Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,  
October 8-14, 2006, with Comparisons <sup>1</sup>**

Farm Employment	October 9-15, 2005	July 9-15, 2006	October 8-14, 2006
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	842	*876	797
150 Days or More	621	630	592
149 Days or Less	221	*246	205
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	294	*320	280
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,136	*1,196	1,077
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	42.0	*41.0	41.6
	<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>	9.61	*9.72	9.95
Field & Livestock Combined	8.96	*9.07	9.29
Field	8.90	*8.93	9.25
Livestock	9.15	*9.49	9.41

\* Revised.

<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, October 8-14, 2006 <sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region <sup>2</sup>	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	37	27	10	40.9	
Northeast II	42	31	11	38.0	
Appalachian I	32	23	9	36.8	
Appalachian II	27	15	12	35.7	
Southeast	29	24	5	39.1	
FL	44	40	4	41.1	
Lake	57	36	21	39.4	
Cornbelt I	48	33	15	40.5	
Cornbelt II	25	20	5	43.1	
Delta	34	24	10	44.0	
Northern Plains	34	23	11	42.0	
Southern Plains	49	36	13	39.7	
Mountain I	24	17	7	47.6	
Mountain II	19	15	4	38.7	
Mountain III	21	20	1	45.1	
Pacific	85	53	32	41.9	
CA	183	149	34	44.6	
HI	7	6	1	37.9	
US <sup>3</sup>	797	592	205	41.6	

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, October 8-14, 2006 <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	9.80	8.62	9.42	10.20
Northeast II	9.17	7.91	8.86	9.65
Appalachian I	9.15	8.26	8.90	9.35
Appalachian II	8.66	9.22	8.85	9.30
Southeast	8.76	8.65	8.72	9.10
FL	8.50	9.10	8.58	9.42
Lake	9.89	9.61	9.80	10.35
Cornbelt I	10.12	9.04	9.75	10.63
Cornbelt II	9.70	10.26	9.95	10.65
Delta	7.83	8.09	7.90	8.32
Northern Plains	10.13	9.59	9.95	10.20
Southern Plains	8.14	10.09	9.02	9.60
Mountain I	8.87	9.24	9.00	9.55
Mountain II	8.86	9.32	9.05	9.80
Mountain III	7.56	8.86	8.05	8.50
Pacific	10.25	11.00	10.31	10.85
CA	9.13	10.40	9.31	10.10
HI <sup>4</sup>	10.61		10.69	12.47
US <sup>3</sup>	9.25	9.41	9.29	9.95

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

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

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, July 9-15, 2006 <sup>1</sup>**

U.S. and Region <sup>2</sup>	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	*191	160	*31	*46.4	
HI	7	6	1	39.1	
US <sup>3</sup>	*876	630	*246	*41.0	

\* Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, July 9-15, 2006 <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	9.28	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	*8.92	*10.24	*9.09	*9.89
HI <sup>4</sup>	10.26		10.38	12.31
US <sup>3</sup>	*8.93	*9.49	*9.07	*9.72

\* Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

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

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, October 9-15, 2005 <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	38	29	9	40.1
Northeast II	39	32	7	39.6
Appalachian I	36	23	13	36.7
Appalachian II	24	15	9	38.1
Southeast	37	29	8	37.0
FL	42	37	5	39.4
Lake	72	46	26	40.6
Cornbelt I	50	33	17	42.1
Cornbelt II	29	23	6	40.1
Delta	34	24	10	42.2
Northern Plains	35	25	10	44.4
Southern Plains	64	51	13	39.1
Mountain I	29	17	12	51.4
Mountain II	22	18	4	45.9
Mountain III	25	20	5	44.8
Pacific	76	47	29	43.1
CA	183	146	37	44.4
HI	7	6	1	39.7
US <sup>3</sup>	842	621	221	42.0

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.



**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, October 9-15, 2005 <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	9.42	9.42	9.42	10.19
Northeast II	9.21	8.62	9.09	10.00
Appalachian I	8.17	8.91	8.43	8.89
Appalachian II	8.48	8.26	8.40	9.03
Southeast	8.51	8.86	8.60	9.05
FL	8.60	8.45	8.58	9.33
Lake	9.96	9.49	9.80	10.35
Cornbelt I	9.88	8.68	9.57	10.10
Cornbelt II	9.21	10.89	10.02	11.16
Delta	7.04	7.95	7.26	7.70
Northern Plains	10.14	9.37	9.86	10.12
Southern Plains	7.60	7.84	7.68	8.38
Mountain I	8.26	9.27	8.55	8.91
Mountain II	7.94	8.39	8.14	8.75
Mountain III	7.27	8.87	7.67	8.28
Pacific	8.96	9.58	9.00	9.62
CA	9.21	10.45	9.37	10.13
HI <sup>4</sup>	10.10		10.18	11.73
US <sup>3</sup>	8.90	9.15	8.96	9.61

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<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>	October 9-15, 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	9.57	9.26	9.12	9.25
Appalachian	8.18	8.17	8.85	8.42
Southeast	8.14	8.55	8.26	8.59
Lake	10.31	( <sup>3</sup> )	9.08	9.80
Cornbelt	8.62	9.03	9.72	9.72
Delta	( <sup>3</sup> )	7.80	8.08	7.26
Northern Plains	10.56	10.54	9.20	9.86
Southern Plains	7.97	8.09	7.29	7.68
Mountain	7.47	8.06	8.86	8.14
Pacific	9.39	9.11	10.19	9.26
48 States	8.72	8.94	9.02	8.96

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

Region <sup>2</sup>	October 8-14, 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	9.48	9.53	8.50	9.13
Appalachian	8.42	9.33	8.76	8.88
Southeast	8.57	8.59	8.77	8.64
Lake	10.96	9.49	9.53	9.80
Cornbelt	10.09	9.83	9.62	9.82
Delta	8.19	7.47	8.07	7.90
Northern Plains	10.06	10.50	9.54	9.95
Southern Plains	8.50	8.21	( <sup>3</sup> )	9.02
Mountain	7.73	8.79	8.78	8.69
Pacific	9.89	9.45	10.41	9.61
48 States	9.31	9.28	9.34	9.29

<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>	October 9-15, 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	10.90	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.67	8.35	8.59	10.59	10.09
Appal.	7.83	8.97	8.91	8.51	8.97	9.64	8.95
S. East	10.09	8.09	8.49	9.02	8.69	9.21	9.20
Lake	9.29	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.98	10.30	10.34	10.40	10.35
Cornbelt	9.41	8.78	9.92	8.99	10.19	11.04	10.48
Delta	7.93	8.86	7.75	6.77	8.26	7.87	7.70
N. Plains	8.20	8.98	10.11	9.55	10.75	10.11	10.12
S. Plains	6.73	8.31	7.89	9.53	8.50	9.27	8.38
Mountain	8.11	8.57	9.13	7.78	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.60	8.67
Pacific	9.60	8.66	10.18	10.07	10.21	9.97	9.98
48 States	8.47	9.36	9.14	9.22	9.78	9.85	9.60

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

Region <sup>2</sup>	October 8-14, 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	8.20	9.95	8.33	9.58	10.47	10.70	9.92
Appal.	8.61	8.86	7.91	9.42	8.07	10.26	9.33
S. East	9.00	( <sup>3</sup> )	8.60	9.30	8.67	9.51	9.30
Lake	9.28	10.32	9.13	10.13	9.85	11.19	10.35
Cornbelt	10.51	8.25	9.55	9.98	10.03	11.25	10.64
Delta	7.50	7.85	9.86	8.12	8.77	8.18	8.32
N. Plains	10.73	8.25	8.43	9.61	10.49	11.01	10.20
S. Plains	( <sup>3</sup> )	9.49	( <sup>3</sup> )	10.47	8.94	8.97	9.60
Mountain	8.05	9.22	8.40	10.46	9.69	9.22	9.26
Pacific	10.44	10.30	10.17	10.19	10.58	10.30	10.33
48 States	9.38	9.76	9.40	9.84	9.85	10.25	9.93

<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	October 9-15, 2005	July 9-15, 2006	October 8-14, 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	13	11	13
Other Crops	56	58	57
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	31	31	30

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

Gross Value of Sales	October 9-15, 2005	July 9-15, 2006	October 8-14, 2006
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$50,000	10	10	9
\$50,000-\$99,999	6	7	7
\$100,000-\$249,999	12	10	10
\$250,000-\$499,999	11	11	11
\$500,000-\$999,999	11	12	15
\$1,000,000 and over	50	50	48

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

Category	October 9-15, 2005	July 9-15, 2006	October 8-14, 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	11	9	10
2 Workers	9	9	9
3-6 Workers	16	18	16
7-10 Workers	9	7	11
11-20 Workers	12	12	11
21-50 Workers	14	14	15
51 or more Workers	29	31	28

<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

Agricultural service operations provided 280,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 2006. Agricultural service workers in California numbered 96,000 this October, down 10 percent from last year. Florida's number of agricultural service workers was 5,000, up 67 percent from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$10.40 and \$9.90 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 2005 were \$9.79 in California and \$9.65 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>		
	Oct 2005	Jul 2006	Oct 2006	Oct 2005	Jul 2006	Oct 2006	Oct 2005	Jul 2006	Oct 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	107.0	*111.0	96.0	41.5	*40.1	36.7	9.79	*9.49	10.40
FL	3.0	3.0	5.0	41.0	45.0	42.0	9.65	9.50	9.90
US	294.0	*320.0	280.0						

\* Revised.

<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.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Number and Hours Worked  
By Region and United States, 2005-06 <sup>1</sup>**

State and Region	Hired Workers		Hours Worked	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	35.3	32.5	39.1	40.5
Northeast II	33.3	35.0	38.7	39.0
Appalachian I	31.8	33.0	34.9	37.1
Appalachian II	27.0	26.8	33.5	35.0
Southeast	35.3	32.3	35.6	37.2
FL	45.0	47.0	39.5	40.4
Lake	61.3	56.3	38.2	38.4
Cornbelt I	43.3	46.8	37.7	38.3
Cornbelt II	27.0	25.0	37.7	39.9
Delta	26.0	30.8	38.5	39.5
Northern Plains	33.5	31.3	41.3	40.6
Southern Plains	58.0	50.0	38.7	38.9
Mountain I	23.5	23.5	46.0	42.9
Mountain II	21.3	21.3	43.2	44.3
Mountain III	21.5	21.0	45.1	46.9
Pacific	71.8	73.5	40.1	39.7
CA	178.5	159.0	44.0	44.2
HI	7.0	7.0	38.9	37.8
US <sup>3</sup>	780.0	751.8	40.1	40.5

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

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates  
By Region and United States, 2005-06<sup>1 3</sup>**

U.S. and Region	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<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)	9.88	10.35	9.14	9.70	9.17	9.50
Northeast II (DE, MD, NJ, PA)	9.81	10.09	8.97	9.58	8.96	9.29
Appalachian I (NC, VA)	9.11	9.64	8.37	9.08	8.52	9.02
Appalachian II (KY, TN, WV)	8.82	9.30	8.44	8.43	8.24	8.65
Southeast (AL, GA, SC)	8.85	9.05	8.37	8.48	8.38	8.51
FL	9.46	9.38	8.50	8.51	8.56	8.56
Lake (MI, MN, WI)	10.08	10.37	9.27	9.64	9.43	9.65
Cornbelt I (IL, IN, OH)	9.79	10.59	9.35	10.18	9.22	9.88
Cornbelt II (IA, MO)	10.17	10.65	9.01	9.39	9.50	9.95
Delta (AR, LA, MS)	7.94	8.34	7.54	7.83	7.58	8.01
Northern Plains (KS, NE, ND, SD)	9.62	9.95	9.22	9.65	9.23	9.55
Southern Plains (OK, TX)	9.08	9.33	7.92	8.17	8.32	8.66
Mountain I (ID, MT, WY)	8.85	9.25	8.27	8.77	8.47	8.76
Mountain II (CO, NV, UT)	9.06	9.36	8.06	8.42	8.37	8.64
Mountain III (AZ, NM)	8.61	8.91	7.66	7.78	8.01	8.27
Pacific (OR, WA)	9.63	10.37	8.84	9.68	9.02	9.77
CA	9.77	10.09	8.81	9.00	9.01	9.20
HI	11.59	12.18	9.93	10.20	10.00	10.32
US <sup>2</sup>	9.51	9.87	8.70	9.06	8.84	9.15

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

<sup>2</sup> Excludes AK.

<sup>3</sup> 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, 2005-06<sup>1 2</sup>**

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<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	8.90	8.98	8.36	8.46	8.29	8.34
AZ	8.50	9.02	7.70	7.86	7.86	8.27
AR	8.23	8.44	7.91	7.95	8.01	8.21
CA	9.77	10.09	8.81	9.00	9.01	9.20
CO	9.04	9.51	8.09	8.56	8.33	8.79
DE	10.36	10.58	8.44	9.29	8.74	9.46
FL	9.46	9.38	8.50	8.51	8.56	8.56
GA	8.99	9.20	8.35	8.57	8.51	8.63
HI	11.59	12.18	9.93	10.20	10.00	10.32
ID	8.73	9.36	8.10	8.81	8.43	8.97
IL	9.87	10.86	9.16	10.34	9.12	10.08
IN	9.20	10.57	8.81	10.04	8.74	9.72
IA	10.73	11.28	8.88	9.50	9.88	10.41
KS	9.71	9.92	8.36	9.25	9.10	9.30
KY	8.93	9.72	8.41	8.37	8.22	8.82
LA	7.95	8.35	7.48	7.81	7.53	7.96
MD	9.74	10.51	9.09	9.80	8.97	9.75
MI	9.79	9.95	8.57	9.20	8.89	9.22
MN	11.05	11.07	10.70	10.16	10.50	10.21
MS	7.63	8.21	7.20	7.70	7.22	7.83
MO	9.48	9.65	9.12	9.27	9.08	9.27
MT	9.46	9.39	8.84	8.95	9.09	8.72
NE	9.21	9.84	9.01	9.17	8.81	9.43
NV	8.62	9.17	7.54	8.38	8.12	8.34
NJ	9.90	9.82	8.62	9.07	8.82	9.16
NM	8.78	8.68	7.53	7.44	8.23	8.28
NY	9.41	10.05	8.81	9.54	8.86	9.30
NC	8.74	9.48	8.17	9.06	8.24	8.94
ND	10.46	10.67	10.52	10.79	10.43	10.60
OH	10.06	10.33	9.91	10.09	9.60	9.79
OK	9.86	9.62	8.36	8.54	9.16	8.56
OR	9.91	10.33	8.96	9.39	9.06	9.48
PA	9.76	10.09	9.14	9.84	9.00	9.24
SC	8.49	8.72	8.40	8.30	8.19	8.38
SD	9.09	9.24	8.33	9.04	8.74	8.97
TN	8.87	8.90	8.65	8.63	8.47	8.56
TX	8.80	9.24	7.84	8.09	8.04	8.69
UT	9.30	9.08	8.17	8.13	8.57	8.39
VA	9.66	9.93	8.78	9.13	8.98	9.18
WA	9.45	10.40	8.77	9.87	8.99	9.97
WV	7.71	8.34	7.56	7.78	7.33	7.94
WI	9.38	10.18	8.98	9.80	8.97	9.59
WY	8.16	8.42	8.15	7.90	7.49	7.59
Oth Sts <sup>3</sup>	10.40	10.80	9.46	9.90	9.51	9.79
US <sup>4</sup>	9.51	9.87	8.70	9.06	8.84	9.15

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

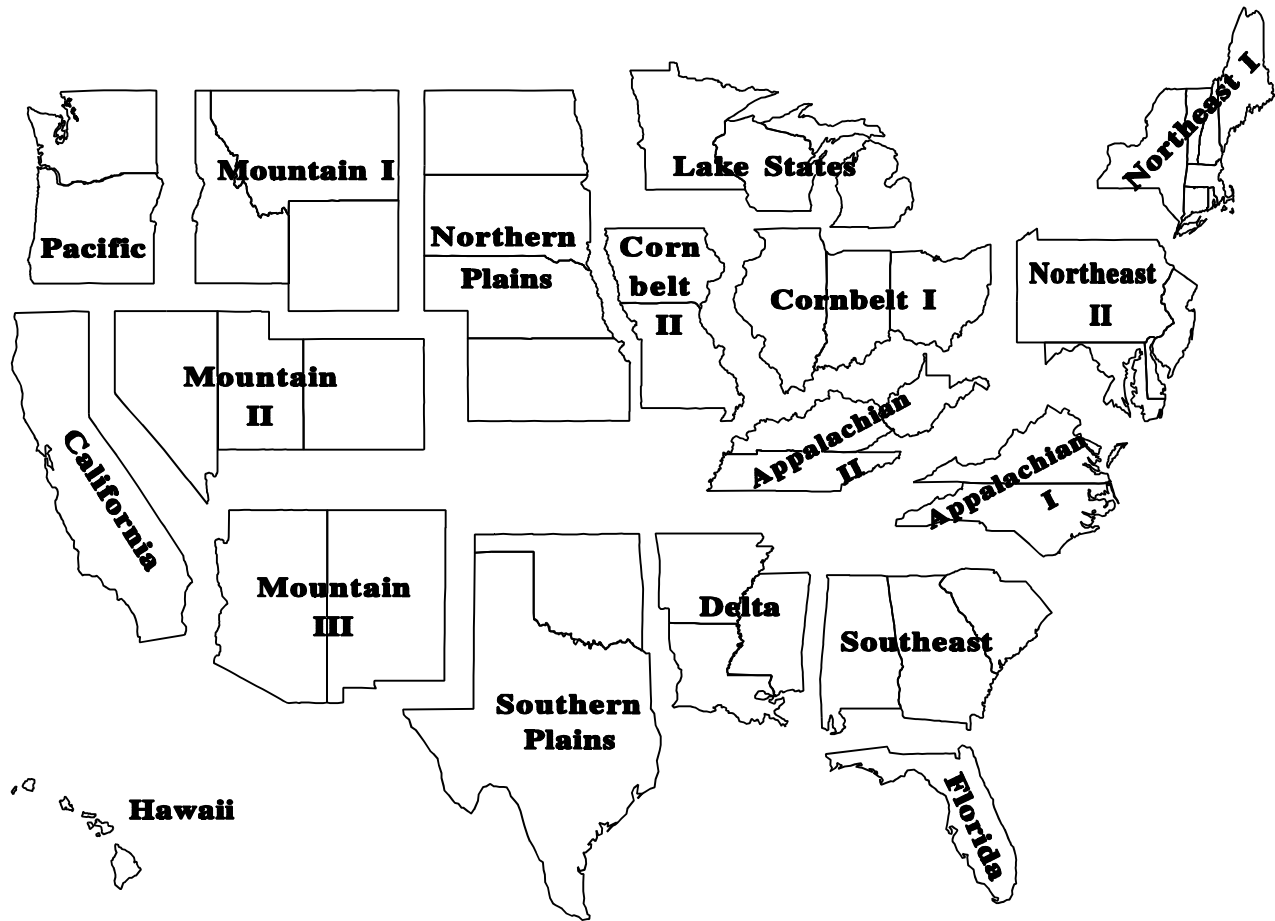
<sup>2</sup> Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

<sup>3</sup> Includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

<sup>4</sup> 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:** A place that sells, 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:** All wage rates are calculated based on total wages paid and total hours worked during the survey reference week. Wages paid other than hourly (bi-weekly, monthly, etc.) are converted to an hourly basis prior to summarization. Wages paid by piece rate (per quantity of produce picked, etc.) are also converted to an hourly basis.

**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:** Any farm-related service performed on a farm or ranch on a contract or fee basis. This primarily includes activities performed by contract workers on fruit, vegetable, or berry operations. It also includes custom work (see below), veterinarian work, artificial insemination, sheep shearing, milk testing, or any other farm-related activity performed on a farm or ranch on a “fee per service” basis rather than hourly.

**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 gross value of sales for its agricultural production.

### The three types of farms broken out in this publication are:

**Field Crops:** A farm producing wheat, rice, corn, soybeans, barley, dry beans, rye, sorghum, cotton, popcorn, tobacco, 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. This category also includes farms producing potatoes, sugar crops, hay, peanuts, hops, mint, and maple syrup.

**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:** This 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 8-14, 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 15 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 October 2005 and July 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.	
October 2006 .....	4
July 2006 .....	6
October 2005 .....	8
Wage Rates by Region and U.S.	
October 2006 .....	5
July 2006 .....	7
October 2005 .....	9
Agricultural Services: Workers, Average Hours Worked, and Wages	
October 2006 .....	13
July 2006 .....	13
October 2005 .....	13
Annual Averages 2005 - 2006	
Number of Workers and Average Hours Worked by Region and U.S. ....	14
Hired Workers Wage Rates by Region and U.S. ....	15
Hired Workers Wage Rates by State .....	16
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 .....	17
Farm Labor Definitions. ....	18
Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates .....	20
Revision Policy .....	20

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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, audiotape, 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.