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Hired Workers Up 3 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,122,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2007, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 806,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.33 per hour during the October 2007 reference week, up 37 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.62 per hour, up 36 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.72 per hour, was up 42 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 42.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up fractionally from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. In the Southern Plains and Lake regions, considerably drier conditions compared with last year's reference week resulted in a stronger demand for hired workers. Warm, dry conditions in the Appalachian I region caused vegetables to mature rapidly, and cotton harvest in North Carolina was well ahead of last year's pace. These factors led to an increased need for hired workers. In the Appalachian II region, worker demand was higher due to increased sorghum harvest in Kentucky and increased cotton harvest in Tennessee compared with last year's pace.

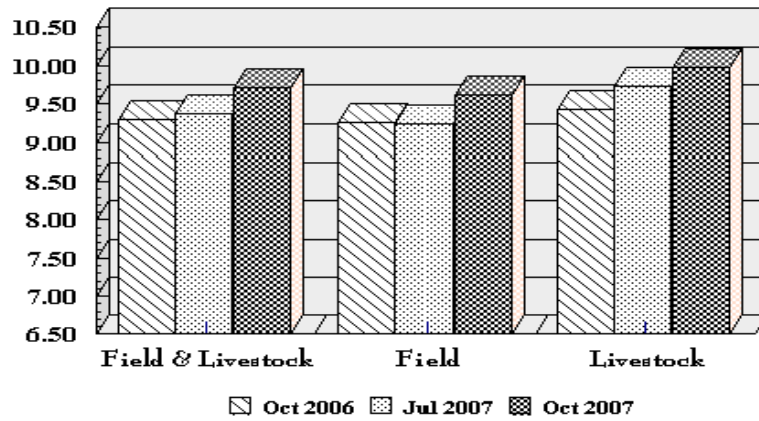
The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), California, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In the Pacific region, wetter conditions compared with last year's reference week caused some fieldwork delays and reduced the demand for hired workers. In California, worker numbers were down slightly from last year due to continued shortages caused by unsettled political issues on immigration. Some California grape growers have resorted to mechanical harvest methods because of the worker shortages. Persistent dryness in the Mountain II region delayed completion of small grain seeding. The lack of precipitation also caused pastures to deteriorate and led some livestock producers to reduce inventories. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed. In the Northeast II region, lingering effects from the season-long drought caused production of corn and soybeans to be considerably below last year, lowering worker demand. Dry conditions in the Delta region slowed the progress of winter wheat seeding, decreasing the demand for hired workers.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II, Lake, Mountain II, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Northeast II, Mountain II, and Corn Belt II regions, the higher wages were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. Strong demand for skilled workers in the dairy industry pushed wages higher in the Mountain III region. In the Lake Region, the higher wages were due to the heavy demand for skilled fruit pickers and dairy workers.

The 2007 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$10.21, up 3 percent from the 2006 annual average wage rate of \$9.87. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$9.40, up 34 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$9.49, up 4 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$9.15.

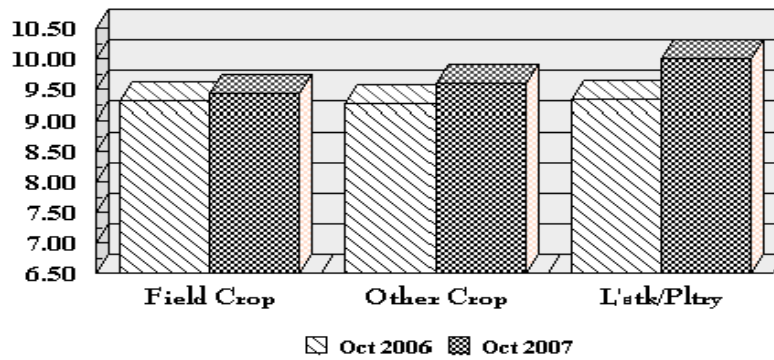
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



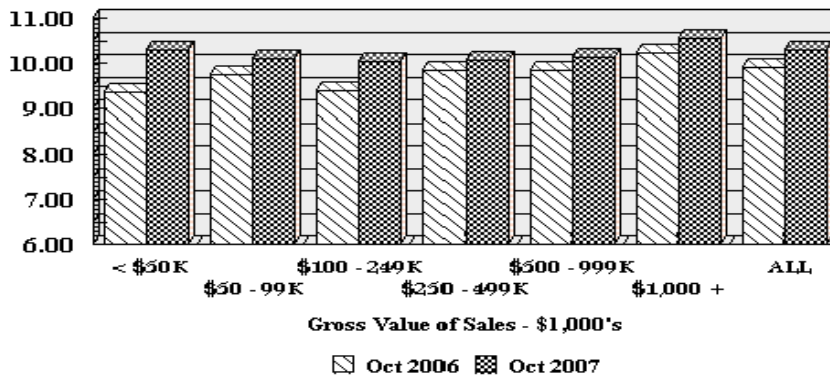
Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
October 7-13, 2007, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	October 8-14, 2006	July 8-14, 2007	October 7-13, 2007
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	800	*843	806
150 Days or More	595	*596	590
149 Days or Less	205	247	216
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	286	*363	316
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,086	*1,206	1,122
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	41.9	*41.4	42.1
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rate for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	9.96	*9.99	10.33
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	9.30	*9.37	9.72
Field	9.26	*9.24	9.62
Livestock	9.42	*9.73	9.98

* 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 7-13, 2007¹**

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	34	23	11	39.8
Northeast II	38	30	8	41.8
Appalachian I	43	30	13	37.7
Appalachian II	31	18	13	38.0
Southeast	28	21	7	37.1
FL	43	39	4	41.8
Lake	67	42	25	38.9
Cornbelt I	50	33	17	42.7
Cornbelt II	23	19	4	41.0
Delta	30	20	10	43.0
Northern Plains	35	23	12	46.3
Southern Plains	69	55	14	39.0
Mountain I	22	16	6	50.7
Mountain II	13	11	2	43.7
Mountain III	22	21	1	46.1
Pacific	75	45	30	40.7
CA	177	139	38	45.7
HI	6	5	1	40.0
US ³	806	590	216	42.1

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 7-13, 2007 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	9.96	9.22	9.70	10.35
Northeast II	9.81	9.86	9.82	10.63
Appalachian I	8.66	8.60	8.64	8.97
Appalachian II	9.24	9.53	9.35	9.75
Southeast	8.53	8.33	8.47	9.08
FL	8.70	8.95	8.74	9.76
Lake	10.75	10.64	10.70	11.30
Cornbelt I	10.24	9.75	10.10	10.60
Cornbelt II	10.69	10.90	10.80	11.25
Delta	8.26	8.24	8.25	8.53
Northern Plains	10.68	9.82	10.45	10.78
Southern Plains	8.59	10.46	9.45	10.05
Mountain I	8.31	9.10	8.56	9.00
Mountain II	9.80	10.69	10.05	10.66
Mountain III	8.26	9.91	8.85	9.21
Pacific	10.48	11.07	10.55	11.30
CA	9.70	10.80	9.86	10.56
HI ⁴	11.00		11.13	13.19
US ³	9.62	9.98	9.72	10.33

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, July 8-14, 2007¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired			
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	39	25	14	41.6
Northeast II	36	26	10	42.0
Appalachian I	40	26	14	37.1
Appalachian II	30	18	12	34.2
Southeast	31	22	9	36.3
FL	41	39	2	41.0
Lake	78	47	31	40.2
Cornbelt I	53	34	19	36.0
Cornbelt II	24	20	4	38.0
Delta	25	18	7	38.1
Northern Plains	40	23	17	44.4
Southern Plains	58	43	15	41.0
Mountain I	22	15	7	43.4
Mountain II	18	14	4	40.5
Mountain III	22	19	3	45.0
Pacific	92	51	41	39.7
CA	*188	*151	37	*46.9
HI	6	5	1	39.0
US ³	*843	*596	247	*41.4

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, July 8-14, 2007 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	9.58	9.37	9.51	10.00
Northeast II	9.62	10.04	9.74	10.78
Appalachian I	8.80	8.80	8.80	9.25
Appalachian II	8.55	9.85	9.05	9.53
Southeast	8.57	8.52	8.55	9.12
FL	8.50	8.60	8.51	9.49
Lake	9.52	9.33	9.44	10.26
Cornbelt I	9.22	10.32	9.57	10.20
Cornbelt II	9.44	11.37	10.40	10.90
Delta	8.14	9.78	8.80	9.07
Northern Plains	9.13	9.18	9.15	9.54
Southern Plains	8.14	9.67	8.85	9.18
Mountain I	8.36	9.22	8.70	9.20
Mountain II	9.25	9.85	9.45	9.85
Mountain III	8.34	9.65	8.80	9.47
Pacific	9.64	10.65	9.71	10.41
CA	*9.60	*10.60	*9.72	*10.32
HI ⁴	10.70		10.89	12.87
US ³	*9.24	*9.73	*9.37	*9.99

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, October 8-14, 2006¹**

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	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	*186	*152	34	*45.7
HI	7	6	1	37.9
US ³	*800	*595	205	*41.9

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 8-14, 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	9.80	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	*9.14	*10.41	*9.32	*10.11
HI ⁴	10.61		10.69	12.47
US ³	*9.26	*9.42	*9.30	*9.96

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

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 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	(³)	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

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

Region ²	October 7-13, 2007			
	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)	9.88	9.47	9.75
Appalachian	8.58	9.20	8.96	8.94
Southeast	7.97	8.71	8.62	8.64
Lake	11.30	10.69	10.61	10.70
Cornbelt	10.03	10.34	10.64	10.32
Delta	7.56	7.90	9.18	8.25
Northern Plains	10.67	11.41	9.45	10.45
Southern Plains	8.27	8.77	10.15	9.45
Mountain	(³)	8.58	9.82	9.12
Pacific	9.87	9.85	11.09	10.04
48 States	9.44	9.59	10.02	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.

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

Region ²	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	(³)	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	(³)	9.49	(³)	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

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

Region ²	October 7-13, 2007						
	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	10.43	9.71	10.19	9.41	10.87	10.73	10.51
Appal.	9.22	8.56	8.80	8.82	9.28	9.77	9.30
S. East	9.19	9.39	8.03	8.47	9.22	9.90	9.51
Lake	(³)	11.45	11.27	10.46	11.77	11.39	11.30
Cornbelt	10.49	8.93	9.80	11.87	10.66	11.16	10.80
Delta	(³)	9.21	9.01	8.01	7.75	8.00	8.53
N. Plains	(³)	8.01	10.26	10.32	10.79	10.94	10.78
S. Plains	9.37	10.74	10.86	10.22	8.70	10.56	10.05
Mountain	10.30	10.77	9.14	8.61	8.94	9.71	9.43
Pacific	10.15	10.81	11.07	10.70	10.83	10.73	10.76
48 States	10.32	10.10	10.05	10.07	10.13	10.57	10.31

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 8-14, 2006	July 8-14, 2007	October 7-13, 2007
	<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	13	14
Other Crops	57	56	54
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	30	31	32

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

Gross Value of Sales	October 8-14, 2006	July 8-14, 2007	October 7-13, 2007
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$50,000	9	10	9
\$50,000-\$99,999	7	6	5
\$100,000-\$249,999	10	11	10
\$250,000-\$499,999	11	13	13
\$500,000-\$999,999	15	11	13
\$1,000,000 and over	48	49	50

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

Category	October 8-14, 2006	July 8-14, 2007	October 7-13, 2007
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	10	9	10
2 Workers	9	8	9
3-6 Workers	16	18	17
7-10 Workers	11	10	10
11-20 Workers	11	9	9
21-50 Workers	15	16	16
51 or more Workers	28	30	29

¹ 48 States, excluding AK and HI.

² Field and Livestock Workers combined.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

Agricultural Services

Agricultural service operations provided 316,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2007. Agricultural service workers in California numbered 122,000 this October, up 20 percent from last year. Florida's number of agricultural service workers was 4,000, down 20 percent from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$10.00 and \$9.55 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 2006 were \$10.44 in California and \$9.90 in Florida.

**Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,
for California, Florida, and United States¹**

State	Number of Workers Working on Farms			Hours Worked ²			Wage Rates ^{2,3}		
	Oct 2006	Jul 2007	Oct 2007	Oct 2006	Jul 2007	Oct 2007	Oct 2006	Jul 2007	Oct 2007
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
CA	*102.0	*135.0	122.0	*37.0	*36.0	38.0	*10.44	10.00	10.00
FL	5.0	2.0	4.0	42.0	43.0	42.0	9.90	9.60	9.55
US	*286.0	*363.0	316.0						

* 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.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Number and Hours Worked
By Region and United States, 2006-07¹**

State and Region ²	Hired Workers		Hours Worked	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	32.5	31.5	40.5	40.7
Northeast II	35.0	33.3	39.0	39.7
Appalachian I	33.0	31.5	37.1	36.8
Appalachian II	26.8	25.8	35.0	34.9
Southeast	32.3	29.5	37.2	36.8
FL	47.0	46.8	40.4	40.3
Lake	56.3	59.8	38.4	38.6
Cornbelt I	46.8	46.5	38.3	39.5
Cornbelt II	25.0	23.3	39.9	38.7
Delta	30.8	27.3	39.5	38.2
Northern Plains	31.3	31.8	40.6	42.9
Southern Plains	50.0	54.8	38.9	39.0
Mountain I	23.5	22.0	42.9	43.9
Mountain II	21.3	18.3	44.3	42.3
Mountain III	21.0	20.8	46.9	45.7
Pacific	73.5	70.5	39.7	39.0
CA	159.0	160.3	44.2	45.2
HI	7.0	6.5	37.8	39.1
US ³	751.8	739.8	40.5	40.7

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 16.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
By Region and United States, 2006-07^{1 3}**

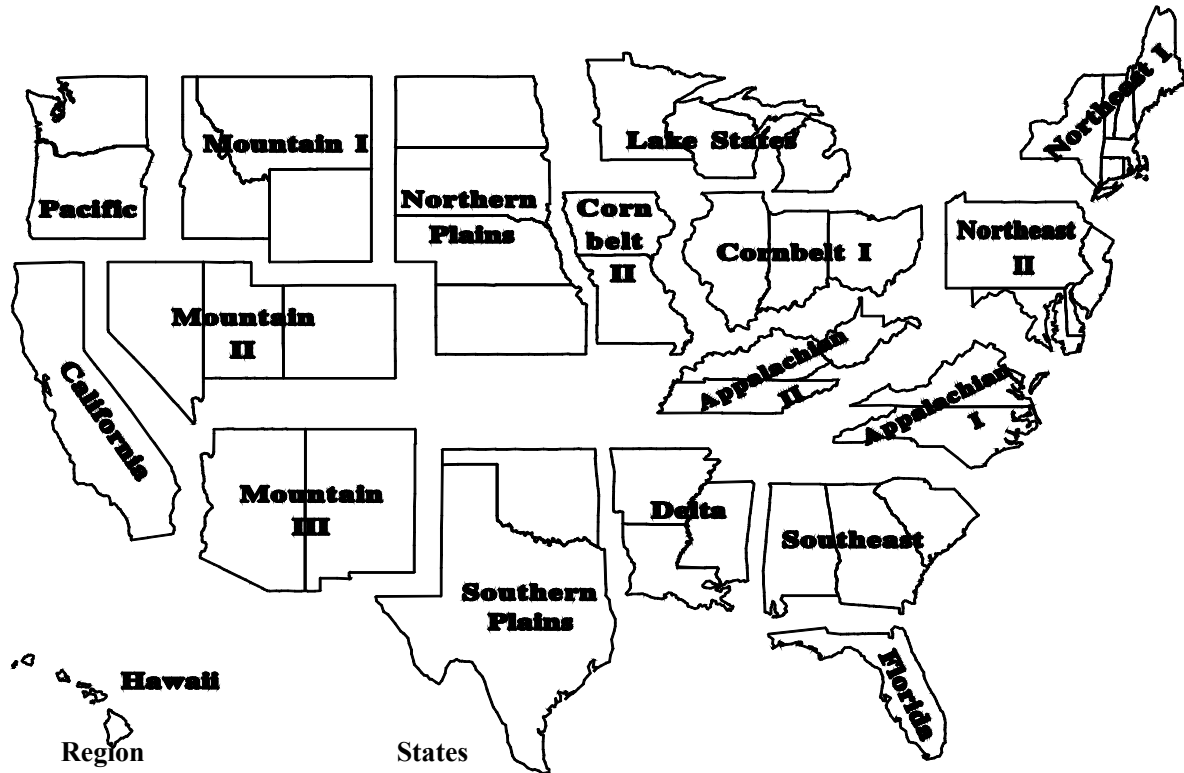
U.S. and Region	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT)	10.35	10.49	9.70	9.92	9.50	9.70
Northeast II (DE, MD, NJ, PA)	10.09	10.62	9.58	9.88	9.29	9.70
Appalachian I (NC, VA)	9.64	9.36	9.08	8.78	9.02	8.85
Appalachian II (KY, TN, WV)	9.30	9.75	8.43	8.79	8.65	9.13
Southeast (AL, GA, SC)	9.05	9.15	8.48	8.50	8.51	8.53
FL	9.38	9.73	8.51	8.82	8.56	8.82
Lake (MI, MN, WI)	10.37	10.87	9.64	10.12	9.65	10.01
Cornbelt I (IL, IN, OH)	10.59	10.55	10.18	10.08	9.88	9.90
Cornbelt II (IA, MO)	10.65	11.10	9.39	9.89	9.95	10.44
Delta (AR, LA, MS)	8.34	8.78	7.83	8.28	8.01	8.41
Northern Plains (KS, NE, ND, SD)	9.95	10.36	9.65	10.13	9.55	9.90
Southern Plains (OK, TX)	9.33	9.53	8.17	8.38	8.66	9.02
Mountain I (ID, MT, WY)	9.25	9.24	8.77	8.50	8.76	8.74
Mountain II (CO, NV, UT)	9.36	10.03	8.42	9.23	8.64	9.42
Mountain III (AZ, NM)	8.91	9.37	7.78	8.26	8.27	8.70
Pacific (OR, WA)	10.37	10.69	9.68	9.87	9.77	9.94
CA	10.09	10.51	9.00	9.56	9.20	9.72
HI	12.18	12.84	10.20	10.70	10.32	10.86
US ²	9.87	10.21	9.06	9.40	9.15	9.49

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 2007 annual average for all Regions and the U.S. is based on modeled data for January and survey data for April, July, and October.

Farm Labor Regions



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 7-13, 2007.

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 17 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 0.8 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 2 and 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 18 percent at the regional level.

Non-sampling errors can occur in a complete census as well as in sample surveys. They are caused by the inability to obtain correct information from each operation sampled, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, and mistakes in editing, coding or processing the data. Special efforts are taken at each step of the survey to minimize non-sampling errors.

Revision Policy: Farm labor information is subject to revision the next time the information is published or the year after the original publication date. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. Worker numbers and wage rates for July 2007 and October 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.

Annual Average Estimate Methodology

The January 2007 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted due to Agency budget constraints. Since the data in all Farm Labor Surveys is tied to a specific reference week, it was not possible to conduct this survey at a later time. In lieu of survey data, January 2007 estimates were generated through modeling of historical data and time series analysis. Eighteen years of U.S. and regional quarterly estimates from 1989 through 2006 were used to generate indications of January workers, hours worked, and wages. These indications were then used to set January estimates for the 15 Farm Labor regions, California, Florida, Hawaii, and the U.S. These January 2007 estimates were combined with the quarterly estimates from April, July, and October to calculate annual average estimates for 2007. The U.S. and regional annual averages published in this report are for All Hired Wages, Field and Livestock (combined) Wages, and Field Wages.

For further information on the methodology which was used to generate the January 2007 estimates, please go to the NASS web site at www.nass.usda.gov. Under “Browse NASS by Subject”, click on “Research and Science”. At the bottom of the next screen, click on the link to “Research Reports”. On the next screen, click on the link to the report titled “January 2007 Labor Estimates Methodology.”

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