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April Hired Workers Down Over 2 Percent, Wage Rates Increase Over 4 Percent From Previous Year

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 732,000 for the reference week of April 7-13, 2013, down 2 percent from the April 2012 reference week. There were 596,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2013, up 4 percent from the January 2012 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.91 per hour during the April 2013 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.92 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$11.46, up 51 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.10 per hour, was up 48 cents from a year earlier. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.3 hours during the April 2013 reference week, compared with 39.2 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.02 per hour during the January 2013 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.86 per hour, up 5 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.39 per hour compared with \$10.96 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.07 per hour, was up 49 cents from January 2012. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.7 hours during the January 2013 reference week, compared with 39.6 hours a year earlier.

April Reference Week

For the April 2013 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from a year earlier occurred in the Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) regions. In Cornbelt II, continuing strong demand from livestock operations led to an overall increase in workers, despite unfavorable field conditions during the reference week. In the Northeast I region, a jump in demand for greenhouse and vegetable workers, plus unseasonably warm temperatures and favorable field conditions, led to the increase over April 2012.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from a year earlier occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) regions. In the Appalachian II region, unfavorable field conditions and sizeable delays in principal crop seeding kept workers from the field, and livestock worker demand also dropped. In Mountain I, relatively cool and wet conditions had the same effect. In general, worker numbers were below 2012 levels for many states which saw unseasonably bad weather during the April reference week.

Average wage rates for all hired workers were above the previous year rates in the majority of regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) and Appalachian II regions. In both regions, higher proportions of high wage and salaried workers accompanied contractions in worker numbers over the 2012 reference week.

January Reference Week

For the January 2013 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from January 2012 occurred in the Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. The Cornbelt II region saw increased demand for livestock workers, and especially seasonal help, with expanding

livestock inventories. Similarly, a jump in labor demand from livestock operations drove the Northeast II increase in workers.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in Florida and the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) region. In Florida, worker demand returned to historic levels after a spike in field worker numbers accompanied a January 2012 freeze event. In the Cornbelt I region, cooler and wetter conditions meant fewer workers compared to an unusually warm and dry 2012 reference week.

Average wage rates for all hired workers were above the previous year rates in the majority of regions. The largest increases occurred in the Cornbelt II and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. In Cornbelt II, increases in wage rates across all workers types combined with a greater percentage of salaried employees. In Southern Plains, a higher proportion of high wage and salaried workers accompanied a contraction in worker numbers over the 2012 reference week.

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Hired Workers and Wage Rates – United States

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Farm employment	January 8-14, 2012	April 8-14, 2012	July 8-14, 2012	October 7-13, 2012	January 6-12, 2013	April 7-13, 2013
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired workers						
150 days or more	489	580	626	614	506	591
149 days or less	86	168	280	262	90	141
Total	575	748	906	876	596	732
	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Hours worked by hired workers ...	39.6	39.2	40.4	41.5	38.7	40.3
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined ..	10.58	10.62	10.75	11.12	11.07	11.10
Field	10.39	10.50	10.71	11.21	10.86	10.92
Livestock	10.96	10.95	10.89	10.84	11.39	11.46
All hired workers	11.52	11.41	11.36	11.75	12.02	11.91

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Region and United States: April 7-13, 2013

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired			
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked
		150 days or more	149 days or less	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours per week)
Northeast I	35	27	8	40.0
Northeast II	40	30	10	39.2
Appalachian I	26	21	5	39.4
Appalachian II	22	16	6	38.1
Southeast	33	27	6	38.2
Florida	48	37	11	40.5
Lake	56	42	14	37.6
Cornbelt I	38	32	6	37.5
Cornbelt II	28	20	8	28.9
Delta	20	17	3	40.7
Northern Plains	34	29	5	40.0
Southern Plains	50	41	9	39.6
Mountain I	22	19	3	43.8
Mountain II	21	18	3	38.9
Mountain III	21	19	2	46.6
Pacific	74	53	21	41.2
California	158	138	20	44.1
Hawaii	6	5	1	37.9
United States	732	591	141	40.3

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Region and United States: April 7-13, 2013

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	11.41	11.38	11.40	12.40
Northeast II	11.43	11.09	11.30	12.44
Appalachian I	9.51	9.97	9.71	10.50
Appalachian II	10.18	10.42	10.28	11.00
Southeast	9.71	10.62	9.94	10.76
Florida	10.05	10.70	10.12	11.00
Lake	11.29	11.76	11.55	12.22
Cornbelt I	11.78	10.99	11.45	12.24
Cornbelt II	12.09	12.27	12.20	13.07
Delta	10.13	9.59	10.00	10.30
Northern Plains	13.61	12.79	13.25	13.92
Southern Plains	10.60	12.22	11.60	12.21
Mountain I	10.67	10.89	10.80	11.26
Mountain II	11.55	10.82	11.24	12.12
Mountain III	9.65	11.11	9.90	10.77
Pacific	10.86	11.32	10.95	11.73
California	11.10	11.90	11.25	12.10
Hawaii	12.65	13.20	12.70	14.72
United States	10.92	11.46	11.10	11.91

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Region and United States: January 6-12, 2013

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired			
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked
		150 days or more	149 days or less	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours per week)
Northeast I	23	21	2	41.0
Northeast II	32	27	5	38.2
Appalachian I	21	18	3	36.8
Appalachian II	20	15	5	34.3
Southeast	24	19	5	36.9
Florida	43	37	6	40.3
Lake	47	39	8	32.7
Corbelt I	27	23	4	38.9
Corbelt II	28	19	9	30.8
Delta	15	11	4	34.7
Northern Plains	30	27	3	40.7
Southern Plains	43	37	6	38.4
Mountain I	18	17	1	43.2
Mountain II	16	14	2	40.6
Mountain III	19	17	2	47.1
Pacific	50	44	6	38.2
California	134	116	18	41.0
Hawaii	6	5	1	37.8
United States	596	506	90	38.7

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Region and United States: January 6-12, 2013

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	11.69	11.46	11.55	12.45
Northeast II	11.62	10.79	11.25	12.60
Appalachian I	9.60	9.69	9.65	10.68
Appalachian II	10.42	10.33	10.39	10.92
Southeast	9.59	10.65	9.96	10.90
Florida	9.75	10.85	9.88	10.88
Lake	12.65	11.46	11.85	12.55
Cornbelt I	12.03	11.39	11.70	12.92
Cornbelt II	12.27	12.40	12.35	13.15
Delta	10.41	9.34	10.00	10.46
Northern Plains	13.94	13.04	13.46	14.18
Southern Plains	10.63	12.18	11.53	12.17
Mountain I	10.55	10.89	10.80	11.28
Mountain II	11.53	10.52	10.95	12.24
Mountain III	9.50	11.22	9.85	10.72
Pacific	11.30	11.47	11.35	12.40
California	10.60	11.45	10.80	11.85
Hawaii	12.70	14.00	12.82	14.84
United States	10.86	11.39	11.07	12.02

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Region and United States: October 7-13, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired			
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked
		150 days or more	149 days or less	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours per week)
Northeast I	47	31	16	41.0
Northeast II	48	38	10	37.8
Appalachian I	36	21	15	39.6
Appalachian II	30	19	11	37.9
Southeast	29	22	7	37.0
Florida	47	39	8	37.6
Lake	72	41	31	37.2
Cornbelt I	65	43	22	37.9
Cornbelt II	29	20	9	36.2
Delta	30	17	13	41.0
Northern Plains	43	33	10	43.9
Southern Plains	54	39	15	39.1
Mountain I	30	20	10	53.6
Mountain II	19	15	4	39.9
Mountain III	21	18	3	47.0
Pacific	103	59	44	43.7
California	166	133	33	46.5
Hawaii	7	6	1	35.5
United States	876	614	262	41.5

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Region and United States: October 7-13, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	10.99	10.66	10.90	11.38
Northeast II	11.48	11.83	11.55	12.13
Appalachian I	9.57	10.04	9.70	10.08
Appalachian II	10.48	10.55	10.50	10.98
Southeast	10.03	9.52	9.90	10.41
Florida	9.25	9.90	9.32	10.24
Lake	12.06	10.68	11.50	12.01
Cornbelt I	11.67	11.61	11.65	12.45
Cornbelt II	11.87	10.84	11.50	12.09
Delta	9.45	9.46	9.45	9.79
Northern Plains	13.71	11.44	12.90	13.10
Southern Plains	10.06	11.40	10.60	11.38
Mountain I	10.03	9.47	9.85	10.17
Mountain II	10.74	10.12	10.45	11.63
Mountain III	9.55	11.13	10.10	11.06
Pacific	13.49	11.41	13.30	13.59
California	10.70	11.50	10.81	11.72
Hawaii	12.75	13.90	12.85	15.17
United States	11.21	10.84	11.12	11.75

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Region and United States: July 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired				Number of hours worked (hours per week)
	Number of workers (1,000)	Expected to be employed (1,000)			
		150 days or more	149 days or less		
Northeast I	50	30	20	40.9	
Northeast II	60	40	20	37.7	
Appalachian I	39	23	16	40.2	
Appalachian II	27	19	8	36.1	
Southeast	30	22	8	36.6	
Florida	39	35	4	39.0	
Lake	68	39	29	35.0	
Cornbelt I	56	43	13	37.4	
Cornbelt II	30	21	9	37.6	
Delta	28	16	12	37.8	
Northern Plains	43	32	11	39.9	
Southern Plains	57	38	19	37.3	
Mountain I	29	21	8	48.5	
Mountain II	22	15	7	40.3	
Mountain III	18	16	2	43.8	
Pacific	127	64	63	42.6	
California	176	146	30	44.6	
Hawaii	7	6	1	35.1	
United States	906	626	280	40.4	

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Region and United States: July 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	10.91	10.49	10.80	11.21
Northeast II	10.71	12.21	10.95	11.44
Appalachian I	9.28	10.65	9.60	9.92
Appalachian II	10.66	10.64	10.65	11.33
Southeast	9.72	9.87	9.75	10.23
Florida	9.28	9.50	9.30	10.47
Lake	10.42	10.48	10.45	11.07
Cornbelt I	11.01	11.64	11.20	12.15
Cornbelt II	11.58	10.41	11.10	11.57
Delta	9.17	9.80	9.35	9.63
Northern Plains	12.40	11.66	12.10	12.49
Southern Plains	9.95	11.29	10.60	11.15
Mountain I	9.76	9.38	9.60	9.87
Mountain II	10.12	9.83	10.00	10.81
Mountain III	10.02	10.78	10.35	11.31
Pacific	11.66	12.15	11.70	12.10
California	10.75	11.55	10.85	11.61
Hawaii	12.85	13.40	12.90	15.27
United States	10.71	10.89	10.75	11.36

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Region and United States: April 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired				Number of hours worked (hours per week)
	Number of workers (1,000)	Expected to be employed (1,000)			
		150 days or more	149 days or less		
Northeast I	30	23	7		41.9
Northeast II	35	26	9		39.3
Appalachian I	28	22	6		41.7
Appalachian II	29	17	12		32.4
Southeast	36	26	10		36.4
Florida	55	41	14		36.5
Lake	57	42	15		35.6
Cornbelt I	44	35	9		37.3
Cornbelt II	24	19	5		32.6
Delta	23	18	5		39.4
Northern Plains	33	26	7		41.1
Southern Plains	58	40	18		40.9
Mountain I	29	24	5		38.4
Mountain II	19	13	6		42.4
Mountain III	20	18	2		50.7
Pacific	66	48	18		42.3
California	156	137	19		39.8
Hawaii	6	5	1		37.5
United States	748	580	168		39.2

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Region and United States: April 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	11.52	10.30	11.05	11.70
Northeast II	10.19	9.84	10.10	11.14
Appalachian I	9.57	9.80	9.62	10.09
Appalachian II	8.80	8.76	8.78	9.64
Southeast	9.61	9.91	9.67	10.13
Florida	10.60	10.35	10.58	11.56
Lake	11.71	11.59	11.66	12.55
Cornbelt I	11.81	12.59	12.10	12.54
Cornbelt II	11.94	11.60	11.80	12.21
Delta	9.41	10.38	9.62	10.27
Northern Plains	12.29	11.18	11.90	12.83
Southern Plains	9.40	10.00	9.55	10.05
Mountain I	10.74	10.60	10.65	11.23
Mountain II	9.60	9.82	9.67	10.97
Mountain III	9.07	10.07	9.22	9.79
Pacific	10.85	12.62	11.04	11.67
California	10.55	11.85	10.83	11.81
Hawaii	12.35	14.80	12.65	15.26
United States	10.50	10.95	10.62	11.41

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Region and United States: January 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired				Number of hours worked (hours per week)
	Number of workers (1,000)	Expected to be employed (1,000)			
		150 days or more	149 days or less		
Northeast I	21	19	2	41.3	
Northeast II	25	21	4	34.8	
Appalachian I	19	17	2	39.4	
Appalachian II	19	15	4	36.7	
Southeast	26	20	6	36.1	
Florida	50	41	9	38.5	
Lake	39	35	4	34.5	
Corbelt I	31	29	2	37.9	
Corbelt II	17	16	1	36.5	
Delta	16	14	2	36.0	
Northern Plains	25	22	3	41.5	
Southern Plains	47	37	10	37.8	
Mountain I	19	18	1	44.3	
Mountain II	14	12	2	41.5	
Mountain III	19	18	1	48.0	
Pacific	47	38	9	38.9	
California	135	112	23	42.8	
Hawaii	6	5	1	37.1	
United States	575	489	86	39.6	

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Region and United States: January 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	11.62	10.48	11.00	11.65
Northeast II	10.50	10.25	10.42	11.86
Appalachian I	9.76	10.18	9.91	10.56
Appalachian II	8.46	9.06	8.79	9.77
Southeast	9.64	10.49	9.81	10.53
Florida	10.35	10.65	10.37	11.43
Lake	12.99	11.47	11.95	13.12
Cornbelt I	12.16	12.42	12.30	13.05
Cornbelt II	11.90	10.93	11.30	11.50
Delta	9.33	10.48	9.74	10.67
Northern Plains	13.34	10.92	12.15	13.05
Southern Plains	9.75	10.36	9.95	10.75
Mountain I	9.81	10.15	10.05	10.90
Mountain II	10.70	9.95	10.31	11.89
Mountain III	9.06	10.70	9.37	10.05
Pacific	10.73	12.58	11.00	11.85
California	10.08	11.75	10.42	11.38
Hawaii	12.20	15.30	12.45	15.05
United States	10.39	10.96	10.58	11.52

¹ Region map on page 23.

Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Region and 48 States: April 7-13, 2013

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast ²	10.72	11.05	11.70	11.35
Appalachian ³	9.81	9.39	10.41	9.96
Southeast and Florida	9.26	9.94	10.67	10.05
Lake	14.38	10.03	11.85	11.55
Cornbelt ⁴	12.90	10.28	11.81	11.73
Delta	10.29	9.72	9.68	10.00
Northern Plains	14.18	9.60	12.81	13.25
Southern Plains	10.19	9.83	12.24	11.60
Mountain ⁵	10.72	10.19	10.97	10.61
Pacific and California	12.48	10.94	11.66	11.16
48 States ⁶	11.85	10.52	11.63	11.10

¹ Region map on page 23.

² Includes Northeast I and Northeast II.

³ Includes Appalachian I and Appalachian II.

⁴ Includes Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II.

⁵ Includes Mountain I, Mountain II and Mountain III.

⁶ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii

Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Region and 48 States: January 6-12, 2013

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast ²	12.55	11.03	11.52	11.38
Appalachian ³	9.65	9.71	10.42	10.01
Southeast and Florida	9.25	9.70	10.59	9.91
Lake	16.89	10.31	11.51	11.85
Cornbelt ⁴	12.94	10.07	12.06	12.01
Delta	10.49	10.06	9.61	10.00
Northern Plains	14.27	10.60	12.94	13.46
Southern Plains	10.72	9.78	12.04	11.53
Mountain ⁵	10.50	9.67	11.05	10.51
Pacific and California	11.59	10.54	11.84	10.94
48 States ⁶	12.05	10.24	11.57	11.07

¹ Region map on page 23.

² Includes Northeast I and Northeast II.

³ Includes Appalachian I and Appalachian II.

⁴ Includes Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II.

⁵ Includes Mountain I, Mountain II and Mountain III.

⁶ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Region and 48 States: April 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast ²	13.70	10.61	10.05	10.55
Appalachian ³	9.38	9.19	9.18	9.24
Southeast and Florida	10.71	10.10	10.43	10.22
Lake	14.17	11.21	11.62	11.66
Cornbelt ⁴	12.10	11.25	11.89	12.00
Delta	9.45	9.34	10.19	9.62
Northern Plains	13.25	10.19	10.68	11.90
Southern Plains	10.06	8.81	10.44	9.55
Mountain ⁵	10.32	9.17	10.11	9.78
Pacific and California	10.72	10.55	12.20	10.89
48 States ⁶	11.40	10.16	10.95	10.62

¹ Region map on page 23.

² Includes Northeast I and Northeast II.

³ Includes Appalachian I and Appalachian II.

⁴ Includes Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II.

⁵ Includes Mountain I, Mountain II and Mountain III.

⁶ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Region and 48 States: January 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast ²	14.94	11.00	10.18	10.72
Appalachian ³	9.52	8.86	9.52	9.37
Southeast and Florida	11.43	9.96	11.21	10.19
Lake	16.88	12.44	11.45	11.95
Cornbelt ⁴	12.28	11.21	11.42	11.96
Delta	9.34	9.54	10.12	9.74
Northern Plains	13.49	9.28	11.08	12.15
Southern Plains	11.00	9.23	10.65	9.95
Mountain ⁵	10.35	9.34	9.95	9.88
Pacific and California	10.92	10.10	12.30	10.56
48 States ⁶	11.64	10.02	10.97	10.58

¹ Region map on page 23.

² Includes Northeast I and Northeast II.

³ Includes Appalachian I and Appalachian II.

⁴ Includes Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II.

⁵ Includes Mountain I, Mountain II and Mountain III.

⁶ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

All Hired Worker Wage Rates by Economic Class of Farm – Region and 48 States: April 7-13, 2013

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast ²	15.49	14.13	10.32	12.15	10.96	12.39	12.42
Appalachian ³	11.01	13.90	8.95	11.20	9.75	10.90	10.73
Southeast and Florida	10.60	9.83	10.71	10.91	11.29	10.91	10.91
Lake	10.34	17.91	9.98	12.81	13.06	12.04	12.22
Cornbelt ⁴	10.20	10.51	11.59	12.43	12.28	12.90	12.54
Delta	10.41	8.72	9.75	8.78	10.16	11.15	10.30
Northern Plains	13.62	11.63	10.62	12.26	14.50	14.22	13.92
Southern Plains	13.03	9.53	12.37	9.38	12.07	12.28	12.21
Mountain ⁵	10.73	14.98	10.87	10.83	11.89	11.45	11.34
Pacific and California	13.02	11.16	12.86	12.36	12.49	11.85	11.99
48 States ⁶	12.35	12.21	11.20	11.72	11.85	11.97	11.89

¹ Region map on page 23.

² Includes Northeast I and Northeast II.

³ Includes Appalachian I and Appalachian II.

⁴ Includes Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II.

⁵ Includes Mountain I, Mountain II and Mountain III.

⁶ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

All Hired Worker Wage Rates by Economic Class of Farm – Region and 48 States: January 6-12, 2013

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast ²	15.22	14.62	10.53	13.55	10.76	12.35	12.53
Appalachian ³	10.04	14.07	9.01	11.31	9.68	11.18	10.79
Southeast and Florida	10.54	9.72	10.68	11.05	11.04	10.94	10.89
Lake	8.76	-	10.12	12.03	14.48	12.53	12.55
Cornbelt ⁴	10.05	11.33	11.21	13.12	12.54	13.51	13.02
Delta	10.31	8.81	9.97	9.49	10.06	11.44	10.46
Northern Plains	13.72	11.62	10.62	12.48	14.30	14.58	14.18
Southern Plains	11.69	9.18	12.65	8.96	12.34	12.46	12.17
Mountain ⁵	11.15	12.38	11.72	10.74	12.38	11.27	11.33
Pacific and California	11.73	12.11	13.10	12.67	11.90	11.90	11.99
48 States ⁶	11.57	12.27	11.53	11.84	11.74	12.17	11.99

¹ Region map on page 23.

² Includes Northeast I and Northeast II.

³ Includes Appalachian I and Appalachian II.

⁴ Includes Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II.

⁵ Includes Mountain I, Mountain II and Mountain III.

⁶ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

**All Hired Worker Wage Rates by Economic Class of Farm – Region
and 48 States: April 8-14, 2012**

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms (dollars per hour)
	<50 (dollars per hour)	50-99 (dollars per hour)	100-249 (dollars per hour)	250-499 (dollars per hour)	500-999 (dollars per hour)	1,000+ (dollars per hour)	
Northeast ²	13.70	7.76	11.36	9.84	11.03	12.04	11.41
Appalachian ³	8.43	9.25	9.07	9.49	9.92	11.00	9.89
Southeast and Florida	10.94	8.38	12.23	16.08	9.29	11.00	11.00
Lake	9.21	14.34	12.28	12.83	11.59	12.79	12.55
Cornbelt ⁴	14.03	10.37	12.28	11.10	11.35	13.47	12.43
Delta	10.56	9.39	9.74	10.52	10.80	10.22	10.27
Northern Plains	9.66	9.35	10.15	13.55	13.38	13.52	12.83
Southern Plains	10.89	11.56	10.94	9.45	9.84	9.13	10.05
Mountain ⁵	7.04	10.07	11.02	10.76	11.04	11.08	10.66
Pacific and California	12.93	12.63	11.38	11.21	12.36	11.72	11.77
48 States ⁶	9.50	10.37	11.29	11.56	11.33	11.63	11.37

¹ Region map on page 23.

² Includes Northeast I and Northeast II.

³ Includes Appalachian I and Appalachian II.

⁴ Includes Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II.

⁵ Includes Mountain I, Mountain II and Mountain III.

⁶ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

**All Hired Worker Wage Rates by Economic Class of Farm – Region
and 48 States: January 8-14, 2012**

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms (dollars per hour)
	<50 (dollars per hour)	50-99 (dollars per hour)	100-249 (dollars per hour)	250-499 (dollars per hour)	500-999 (dollars per hour)	1,000+ (dollars per hour)	
Northeast ²	14.67	7.60	11.46	10.31	11.91	12.31	11.76
Appalachian ³	9.06	9.26	10.86	9.19	10.22	11.20	10.18
Southeast and Florida	10.56	6.63	13.29	17.02	9.60	11.24	11.14
Lake	7.67	16.47	12.71	13.60	12.38	13.43	13.12
Cornbelt ⁴	14.09	10.05	10.07	11.34	11.59	13.51	12.51
Delta	10.45	9.41	9.93	11.50	10.66	11.33	10.67
Northern Plains	8.36	10.15	11.06	13.93	13.48	13.46	13.05
Southern Plains	10.89	12.60	12.01	10.75	11.27	9.71	10.75
Mountain ⁵	6.70	9.98	12.49	11.20	11.60	11.25	10.81
Pacific and California	10.28	11.43	10.78	11.20	12.26	11.57	11.49
48 States ⁶	9.30	10.48	11.59	11.98	11.50	11.78	11.48

¹ Region map on page 23.

² Includes Northeast I and Northeast II.

³ Includes Appalachian I and Appalachian II.

⁴ Includes Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II.

⁵ Includes Mountain I, Mountain II and Mountain III.

⁶ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

Field and Livestock Workers by Type of Farm

[Excludes agricultural service workers, Alaska and Hawaii]

Type of farm	January 8-14, 2012	April 8-14, 2012	July 8-14, 2012	October 7-13, 2012	January 6-12, 2013	April 7-13, 2013
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Field crops	13	14	14	16	12	12
Other crops	53	58	56	55	43	49
Livestock, dairy, and poultry	34	28	30	29	45	39

Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

[Excludes agricultural service workers, Alaska and Hawaii]

Gross value of sales	January 8-14, 2012	April 8-14, 2012	July 8-14, 2012	October 7-13, 2012	January 6-12, 2013	April 7-13, 2013
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Less than \$50,000	9	10	11	10	9	8
\$50,000-\$99,999	5	5	5	4	3	3
\$100,000-\$249,999	8	8	8	8	7	7
\$250,000-\$499,999	8	9	9	8	9	9
\$500,000-\$999,999	14	13	12	13	11	10
\$1,000,000 and over	56	55	55	57	61	63

Hired Workers by Number of Workers on Farm

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Gross value of sales	January 8-14, 2012	April 8-14, 2012	July 8-14, 2012	October 7-13, 2012	January 6-12, 2013	April 7-13, 2013
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Employed on farms hiring						
1 worker	11	9	10	11	11	9
2 workers	10	10	7	7	10	10
3-6 workers	19	20	18	18	16	17
7-10 workers	8	8	9	9	9	8
11-20 workers	9	8	11	12	10	11
21-50 workers	14	13	14	13	14	14
51 or more workers	29	32	31	30	30	31

Farm Labor Regions



USDA/NASS

Region

States

Northeast I	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.
Northeast II	Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.
Appalachian I	North Carolina, Virginia.
Appalachian II	Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia.
Southeast	Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina.
Lake	Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.
Cornbelt I	Illinois, Indiana, Ohio.
Cornbelt II	Iowa, Missouri.
Delta	Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.
Northern Plains	Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.
Southern Plains	Oklahoma, Texas.
Mountain I	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming.
Mountain II	Colorado, Nevada, Utah.
Mountain III	Arizona, New Mexico.
Pacific	Oregon, Washington.

Farm Labor Definitions

The following definitions are provided to assist in interpreting statistics published in 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. Types of workers include:

Field Workers: Employees engaged in planting, tending and harvesting crops including operation of farm machinery on crop farms. The Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) codes and titles associated with field workers are 45-2041, graders and sorters of crop, nursery and greenhouse products, 45-2091, agricultural equipment operators on crop, nursery and greenhouse operations, 45-2092, farm workers and laborers on crop, nursery and greenhouse operations, 45-2099 all other agricultural workers on crop, nursery and greenhouse operations, 53-7064 packers and packagers, hand on crop, nursery and greenhouse operations.

Livestock Workers: Employees tending livestock, milking cows or caring for poultry, including operation of farm machinery on livestock or poultry operations. SOC codes and titles associated with livestock workers are 45-2041, graders and sorters, farm, ranch and aquacultural animal products, 45-2093, farm workers, farms, ranch and aquacultural animal products, 45-2099, all other workers, farms, ranch and aquacultural animal products, 53-7064, packers and packagers, hand, farms, ranch and aquacultural animal products.

Supervisors: Hired managers, range foremen, crew leaders, etc. SOC codes and titles associated with supervisors 11-9013, farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers, 45-1011, first-line supervisors of farming and fishing workers.

Other Workers: Employees engaged in agricultural work not included in the other three categories. Bookkeepers and pilots are examples. SOC codes and titles associated with other workers are 45-2011, agricultural inspectors, 45-2021, animal breeders, 37-2012, pesticide handlers, sprayers, and applicators, vegetation.

For more information on the applicable Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) codes, see “Crosswalk from National Agricultural Statistics Service Farm Labor Survey to the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification” at the “Surveys and Programs” page for Farm Labor, on the NASS website (<http://www.nass.usda.gov>).

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.

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. The agricultural services component has been discontinued from the Farm Labor Survey.

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. The Farm Labor Survey excludes measures of contract labor.

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.

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 and the value of products produced under contract. When commodities are placed under CCC loan, they are considered as sold.

Survey Methodology

Survey Procedures: The NASS Farm Labor Survey is conducted bi-annually in April and October. During the April data collection, data for both the January and April reference weeks are collected. During the October data collection, data for both the July and October reference weeks are collected. The quarterly reference week is the week containing the 12th of the month.

The target population for the Farm Labor Survey program is all farms and ranches with \$1,000 or more in agricultural sales (or potential sales). An optimal sample is selected in each state with a U.S. sample size of about 15,000.

The Farm Labor Survey is a multiple frame survey, incorporating samples from both the NASS list and area frames to ensure adequate coverage.

Farms on the list frame are sampled through a stratified design, based on measures of size. Those operations with associated control data indicating peak numbers of workers are stratified based on these values, and those expected to employ large numbers of workers (higher peak number values) are selected with the greatest frequency. Peak number strata are state specific, owing to varying employment distributions between states. Farms on the list frame which do not have peak worker control data (mostly farms which have not participated in the Farm Labor Survey in the past), are stratified and sampled based on gross value of sales. Farms stratified by gross value of sales are selected at a lower frequency.

In order to provide coverage of farms which are not currently part of the NASS list frame, a second sample is drawn consisting of segments of land selected from the NASS area frame. The area frame contains all land in the state and, as such, is complete. The land is stratified according to intensity of agriculture using satellite imagery. The land in each stratum is divided into segments of roughly one square mile. Segments are optimally allocated and sampled to effectively measure crops and livestock. The sampled segments are fully enumerated in June. All farms and ranches found operating tracts in these segments are checked to see if they are included in the list frame hired labor population. The farms and ranches that are not included in the list frame labor population, called nonoverlap tracts, are sampled for the Farm Labor Survey so that the target population is completely represented. The area frame component is enumerated during each bi-annual data collection period along with the list sample.

Most respondents are first contacted through self-administered mailed questionnaires, which can be completed either by hand or securely online. All completed survey questionnaires are returned to one location, the NASS National Operations Center, where they are visually reviewed and key entered. Non-response follow-up is completed either by computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted from NASS Data Collection Centers, or in person by an enumerator.

Nonsampling errors are present in any survey process. These errors include reporting, recording, and editing errors. Steps are taken to minimize the impact of these errors, such as questionnaire testing, comprehensive interviewer training, validation, and verification of processing systems, application of detailed computer edits, and evaluation of the data via the analysis tools.

Response to the Farm Labor Survey is voluntary. Some producers refuse to participate in the survey, others cannot be located during the data collection period, and some submit incomplete reports. These nonrespondents must be accounted for if accurate estimates of farm labor are to be made. For the Farm Labor Survey, nonrespondents are accounted for by adjusting the weights of the respondents. The adjustment occurs by stratum as the bounded strata represent homogeneous groupings of similar sized farms. The adjustment is performed by individual item on the questionnaire so adjustments for item nonresponse (partial reports) and unit nonresponse (refusals and inaccessibles) are done in a single calculation.

Point estimates, called direct expansions, are calculated by multiplying the reported value by the nonresponse weight and summing to a stratum total. A variance estimate is also computed at the stratum level. The nonoverlap tracts are treated as an additional stratum. Totals and variances are additive across strata to form a state estimate and states are additive to a national estimate.

Ratio estimates are also computed for many items. For example, wage rates are calculated as the ratio of total wages to total hours worked. Ratio indications use the reweighted estimator described above for the numerator and denominator direct expansions. Both the numerator and denominator must be usable in order for that record to be used in the ratio estimator.

The number of hired workers, average hours worked, average wage rate data, and all associated sub-items are summarized from the dataset. Because an identical data collection instrument (questionnaire) and follow-up interview are used for all states, as well as identical editing, analysis, and summarization processes, state data can be summarized and national survey point estimates, or indications, computed. The summary results provide multiple direct expansion and ratio indications for each data series being estimated. The results also provide information used to assess the performance of the current survey and evaluate the quality of the survey indications. NASS Regional Field Offices interpret the survey indications and submit state level recommendations for all member states to NASS headquarters, providing justification in cases where recommendations deviate from summary indications, as well other state specific comments and justifications. NASS headquarters completes the regional and U.S. level summaries, which utilize the same estimators and produce the same indications as the state level summaries.

For the final step in the estimation process, NASS assembles a panel of statisticians to serve as the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB), which reviews the U.S. level, regional, and state level summary indications and establishes all final, official estimates. Since larger sample sizes yield more precise results, the ASB employs the “top-down” approach by determining the U.S. level estimates first and reconciling the state recommendations to the U.S. and regional numbers for all estimates including number of hired workers, average hours worked, average wage rates, and associated sub-items. Through examining indications across states and regions, re-examining outliers, and considering state level recommendations and comments, the ASB is uniquely able to set final estimates according to both local conditions and regional and national conditions and trends.

Revision Policy: Farm labor statistics are subject to revision semi-annually and annually. Revisions must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. Worker numbers and wages rates for January, April, and October 2012 were subject to revision with this report.

For More Information

For more information on the Farm Labor Survey methodology and quality measures, see “Farm Labor Survey Methodology and Quality Measures” on the NASS website (<http://www.nass.usda.gov>).

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Environmental and Demographics Section of the Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

Troy Joshua, Chief, Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch	(202) 720-6146
Scott Shimmin, Head, Environmental and Demographics Section	(202) 720-0684
Liana Cuffman – Census of Agriculture	(202) 690-0392
Doug Farmer – Census of Agriculture	(202) 720-7492
Steve Peterson – Farms, Land in Farms, Census of Agriculture.....	(202) 720-5581
Jackie Ross – Census of Agriculture.....	(202) 720-7644
Theresa Varner – Farm Labor	(202) 690-2284

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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