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Farm Labor

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

There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.14 per hour compared with \$8.91 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 42.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Northeast I (New England and New York) regions. In California, tightened security at the Mexican border and increased competition from the higher paying construction industry caused farm worker shortages. Fruit and vegetable growers had to leave some acreage unharvested due to the shortage. Thus, fewer workers were hired during the reference week. Declining tobacco acreage in the Appalachian II region continues to greatly decrease the demand for hired workers. In Florida, tropical storms throughout much of the growing season caused significant damage to vegetable and citrus crops and delayed harvest, lessening the need for hired workers. In the Northern Plains and Northeast I regions, rain before and during the reference week delayed field crop harvest and reduced the demand for hired workers.

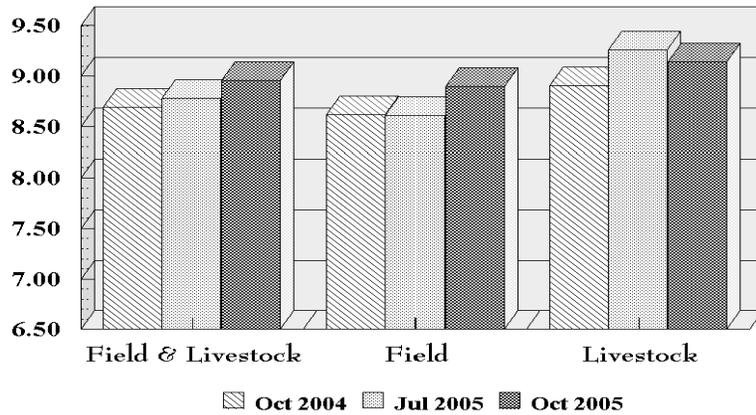
The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. In the Southern Plains region, despite rain in south Texas, the reference week was mainly warm and dry, in sharp contrast to the widespread rain before and during last year's reference week. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. Apple harvest in the Pacific region was virtually complete prior to last year's reference week but was still in full swing during the reference week this year. More workers were required to handle the continuation of the harvest. In the Corn Belt II and Southeast regions, the weather was virtually ideal compared to last year's rain and muddy conditions, increasing the demand for hired workers. Continued strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industries in the Northeast II region kept hired worker levels above last year, despite heavy rains across the region.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt II, California, Appalachian II, Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The higher wages in the Corn Belt II region were due to the accelerated corn and soybean harvests which required highly skilled workers for combining and hauling. In California and in the Appalachian II region, wages were up due to a lower percentage of part time workers. Sugarbeet harvest in the Lake region progressed rapidly, necessitating more highly paid machine operators. Wages in the Mountain III region were higher because of more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed their hourly wage higher.

The 2005 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$9.51, up 3 percent from the 2004 annual average wage rate of \$9.23. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$8.70, up 25 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$8.84, up 3 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$8.56.

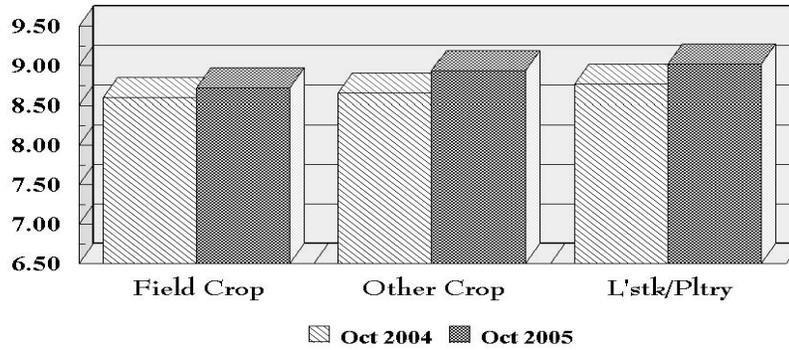
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



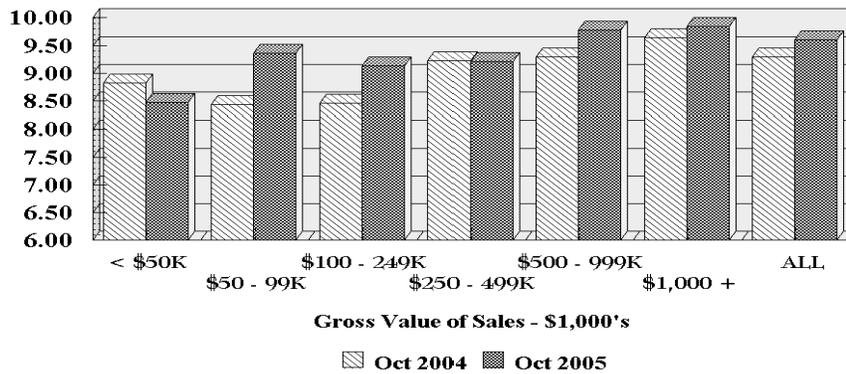
Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
October 9-15, 2005, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	October 10-16, 2004	July 10-16, 2005	October 9-15, 2005
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	851	*936	840
150 Days or More	606	*662	620
149 Days or Less	245	274	220
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	324	*408	289
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,175	*1,344	1,129
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.5	40.6	42.0
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rate for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	9.32	*9.38	9.61
Field & Livestock Combined	8.69	8.78	8.96
Field	8.62	*8.61	8.90
Livestock	8.91	*9.26	9.14

* 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 9-15, 2005¹**

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	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	181	145	36	44.7
HI	7	6	1	39.7
US ³	840	620	220	42.0

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 9-15, 2005 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast I	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	10.40	9.36	10.12
HI ⁴	10.10		10.18	11.73
US ³	8.90	9.14	8.96	9.61

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

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

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

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, July 10-16, 2005 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast I	8.88	9.55	9.11	9.70
Northeast II	8.71	9.37	8.90	9.79
Appalachian I	8.44	8.53	8.46	9.03
Appalachian II	8.46	8.19	8.30	8.68
Southeast	8.39	8.85	8.51	8.91
FL	8.75	9.15	8.81	9.70
Lake	8.66	9.52	8.97	9.66
Cornbelt I	9.20	8.77	9.10	9.56
Cornbelt II	8.86	9.14	9.05	9.56
Delta	7.59	7.80	7.65	7.85
Northern Plains	8.15	9.49	8.60	9.05
Southern Plains	8.07	9.06	8.50	9.27
Mountain I	8.39	8.51	8.44	8.79
Mountain II	8.62	8.49	8.58	9.20
Mountain III	7.90	8.11	7.98	8.53
Pacific	8.60	10.67	8.80	9.21
CA	*8.76	*10.66	*9.00	*9.68
HI ⁴	10.00		10.05	11.76
US ³	*8.61	*9.26	8.78	*9.38

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, October 10-16, 2004¹**

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	45	33	12	36.8
Northeast II	35	28	7	41.2
Appalachian I	41	26	15	34.5
Appalachian II	38	18	20	34.5
Southeast	31	25	6	38.1
FL	52	44	8	39.4
Lake	72	43	29	39.7
Cornbelt I	47	32	15	35.5
Cornbelt II	22	16	6	38.4
Delta	33	25	8	37.3
Northern Plains	44	27	17	45.3
Southern Plains	44	32	12	40.3
Mountain I	29	19	10	42.3
Mountain II	19	14	5	41.6
Mountain III	23	19	4	44.0
Pacific	68	42	26	39.3
CA	200	156	44	45.0
HI	8	7	1	37.5
US ³	851	606	245	40.5

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 10-16, 2004 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	9.37	8.64	9.10	9.81
Northeast II	8.84	8.90	8.85	9.59
Appalachian I	8.38	8.30	8.35	8.94
Appalachian II	7.75	7.56	7.70	8.14
Southeast	8.01	8.08	8.03	8.56
FL	7.95	9.10	8.05	9.14
Lake	9.06	9.51	9.20	9.77
Cornbelt I	9.40	9.40	9.40	9.98
Cornbelt II	9.00	9.38	9.16	9.72
Delta	7.78	8.23	7.91	8.17
Northern Plains	9.70	9.00	9.50	9.76
Southern Plains	8.44	8.68	8.53	9.34
Mountain I	8.25	8.62	8.40	8.84
Mountain II	8.32	8.95	8.56	9.40
Mountain III	7.03	8.04	7.36	7.75
Pacific	9.32	9.23	9.31	9.81
CA	8.43	9.57	8.63	9.33
HI ⁴	9.97		10.01	11.52
US ³	8.62	8.91	8.69	9.32

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

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

Region ²	October 10-16, 2004			
	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	9.65	9.01	8.80	8.98
Appalachian	7.71	8.58	7.96	8.02
Southeast	(³)	8.00	8.90	8.04
Lake	9.05	9.05	9.37	9.20
Cornbelt	8.77	(³)	9.22	9.32
Delta	8.45	6.27	7.69	7.91
Northern Plains	9.57	9.64	9.22	9.50
Southern Plains	8.19	9.33	8.71	8.53
Mountain	7.72	7.93	8.46	8.09
Pacific	9.00	8.73	8.76	8.75
48 States	8.60	8.66	8.77	8.67

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

Region ²	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	(³)	9.08	9.80
Cornbelt	8.62	9.03	9.72	9.72
Delta	(³)	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

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 10-16, 2004						
	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	(³)	8.46	8.30	8.75	9.08	10.17	9.71
Appal.	6.77	7.58	8.33	9.08	8.53	9.99	8.56
S. East	8.20	7.97	8.54	9.89	8.84	8.92	8.93
Lake	9.43	10.41	8.37	9.47	10.51	10.40	9.77
Cornbelt	9.84	8.62	8.18	9.24	(³)	10.75	9.89
Delta	8.87	7.15	8.67	8.07	7.04	8.12	8.17
N. Plains	8.49	7.54	8.30	8.85	9.70	(³)	9.76
S. Plains	9.28	6.14	8.42	7.98	10.18	10.08	9.34
Mountain	8.66	9.28	7.59	9.83	8.35	8.59	8.62
Pacific	9.47	9.57	9.41	9.53	9.19	9.37	9.40
48 States	8.83	8.44	8.46	9.23	9.29	9.64	9.29

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

Region ²	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	(³)	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	(³)	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	(³)	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

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 10-16, 2004	July 10-16, 2005	October 9-15, 2005
	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>
Field Crops	16	14	14
Other Crops	57	53	55
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	27	33	31

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

Gross Value of Sales	October 10-16, 2004	July 10-16, 2005	October 9-15, 2005
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$50,000	12	13	10
\$50,000-\$99,999	5	5	7
\$100,000-\$249,999	11	11	12
\$250,000-\$499,999	11	10	11
\$500,000-\$999,999	13	11	11
\$1,000,000 and over	48	50	49

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

Category	October 10-16, 2004	July 10-16, 2005	October 9-15, 2005
	<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	11
2 Workers	9	9	9
3-6 Workers	16	18	16
7-10 Workers	10	8	9
11-20 Workers	12	10	12
21-50 Workers	12	14	14
51 or more Workers	31	32	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 289,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005. Agricultural service workers in California numbered 102,000 this October, down 18 percent from last year. Florida's number of agricultural service workers was 3,000, unchanged from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$9.86 and \$9.65 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 2004 were \$9.02 in California and \$10.20 in Florida.

**Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,
for California, Florida, and United States ¹**

State	Number of Workers Working on Farms			Hours Worked ²			Wage Rates ^{2 3}		
	Oct 2004	Jul 2005	Oct 2005	Oct 2004	Jul 2005	Oct 2005	Oct 2004	Jul 2005	Oct 2005
	<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	124.0	*141.0	102.0	38.9	*37.8	41.5	9.02	*9.08	9.86
FL	3.0	2.0	3.0	40.0	45.0	41.0	10.20	9.90	9.65
US	324.0	*408.0	289.0						

* 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, 2004-05 ¹**

State and Region	Hired Workers		Hours Worked	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	36.2	35.2	38.5	39.1
Northeast II	34.2	33.2	38.6	38.6
Appalachian I	35.7	31.7	35.0	34.8
Appalachian II	34.5	27.0	33.1	33.5
Southeast	34.7	35.2	36.5	35.5
FL	52.2	45.0	39.7	39.4
Lake	62.0	61.2	36.7	38.2
Cornbelt I	41.0	43.2	36.6	37.7
Cornbelt II	23.2	27.0	35.8	37.7
Delta	27.5	26.0	37.4	38.4
Northern Plains	34.2	33.5	41.0	41.2
Southern Plains	54.5	58.0	37.9	38.7
Mountain I	24.7	23.5	43.4	45.9
Mountain II	21.2	21.2	40.8	43.1
Mountain III	20.0	21.5	44.8	45.1
Pacific	71.2	71.7	37.7	40.0
CA	210.5	178.0	44.4	44.0
HI	7.2	7.0	38.4	38.9
US ³	825.2	779.5	39.6	40.1

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 17.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
By Region and United States, 2004-05^{1 3}**

U.S. and Region	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<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)	9.96	9.88	9.41	9.13	9.05	9.16
Northeast II (DE, MD, NJ, PA)	9.18	9.80	8.44	8.96	8.48	8.95
Appalachian I (NC, VA)	8.85	9.11	8.18	8.37	8.24	8.51
Appalachian II (KY, TN, WV)	8.63	8.81	8.05	8.43	8.17	8.24
Southeast (AL, GA, SC)	8.53	8.84	7.96	8.36	8.07	8.37
FL	9.04	9.46	7.97	8.50	8.07	8.56
Lake (MI, MN, WI)	9.88	10.08	8.91	9.27	9.18	9.43
Cornbelt I (IL, IN, OH)	9.89	9.79	9.16	9.35	9.20	9.21
Cornbelt II (IA, MO)	9.45	10.16	8.79	9.00	8.95	9.49
Delta (AR, LA, MS)	8.08	7.93	7.71	7.54	7.80	7.58
Northern Plains (KS, NE, ND, SD)	9.33	9.61	9.08	9.22	9.00	9.23
Southern Plains (OK, TX)	8.60	9.08	7.72	7.92	7.89	8.32
Mountain I (ID, MT, WY)	8.55	8.84	8.08	8.27	8.20	8.47
Mountain II (CO, NV, UT)	9.63	9.06	8.89	8.06	8.93	8.37
Mountain III (AZ, NM)	8.18	8.61	7.33	7.65	7.63	8.00
Pacific (OR, WA)	9.61	9.62	8.99	8.84	9.03	9.01
CA	9.33	9.76	8.41	8.81	8.58	9.00
HI	11.34	11.58	9.64	9.92	9.75	9.99
US ²	9.23	9.50	8.45	8.69	8.56	8.83

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Excludes AK.

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

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates
By State, 2004-05^{1 2}**

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>					
AL	7.85	8.89	7.14	8.36	7.45	8.29
AZ	7.80	8.50	7.08	7.70	7.16	7.86
AR	8.40	8.23	8.12	7.91	8.13	8.00
CA	9.33	9.76	8.41	8.81	8.58	9.00
CO	9.73	9.04	9.14	8.09	9.09	8.32
DE	8.97	10.35	7.51	8.43	7.81	8.73
FL	9.04	9.46	7.97	8.50	8.07	8.56
GA	9.10	8.99	8.52	8.34	8.51	8.50
HI	11.34	11.58	9.64	9.92	9.75	9.99
ID	8.63	8.73	8.00	8.09	8.36	8.43
IL	10.21	9.87	9.26	9.15	9.34	9.12
IN	9.31	9.19	8.69	8.81	8.59	8.73
IA	9.64	10.72	8.49	8.88	8.94	9.87
KS	9.35	9.71	8.64	8.35	8.75	9.10
KY	8.79	8.93	8.07	8.40	8.26	8.22
LA	7.80	7.95	7.44	7.47	7.56	7.53
MD	9.88	9.74	9.24	9.09	9.05	8.97
MI	9.40	9.79	8.32	8.56	8.65	8.88
MN	10.93	11.05	10.13	10.70	10.02	10.49
MS	7.87	7.63	7.41	7.19	7.56	7.21
MO	9.29	9.48	9.01	9.12	8.95	9.07
MT	9.18	9.46	8.85	8.84	8.72	9.06
NE	8.94	9.21	8.60	9.00	8.65	8.81
NV	8.99	8.62	8.43	7.53	8.18	8.12
NJ	8.96	9.90	8.00	8.62	8.15	8.82
NM	8.71	8.78	7.92	7.53	8.24	8.23
NY	9.37	9.41	9.25	8.81	8.79	8.85
NC	8.64	8.74	8.06	8.17	8.14	8.23
ND	9.85	10.46	9.89	10.51	9.78	10.42
OH	9.95	10.05	9.42	9.91	9.47	9.60
OK	8.81	9.85	7.68	8.36	8.22	9.15
OR	9.66	9.90	8.91	8.95	8.84	9.06
PA	9.13	9.76	8.56	9.13	8.53	9.00
SC	8.01	8.48	7.65	8.39	7.79	8.19
SD	9.44	9.08	9.02	8.32	9.07	8.74
TN	8.47	8.87	8.06	8.65	8.06	8.46
TX	8.54	8.80	7.73	7.83	7.80	8.03
UT	9.65	9.29	8.54	8.16	8.84	8.57
VA	9.32	9.66	8.52	8.78	8.49	8.98
WA	9.58	9.44	9.03	8.77	9.15	8.98
WV	8.32	7.70	7.68	7.55	8.08	7.33
WI	9.74	9.37	9.33	8.97	9.28	8.96
WY	7.16	8.15	7.01	8.14	6.69	7.48
Oth Sts ³	10.64	10.40	9.56	9.46	9.37	9.50
US ⁴	9.23	9.50	8.45	8.69	8.56	8.83

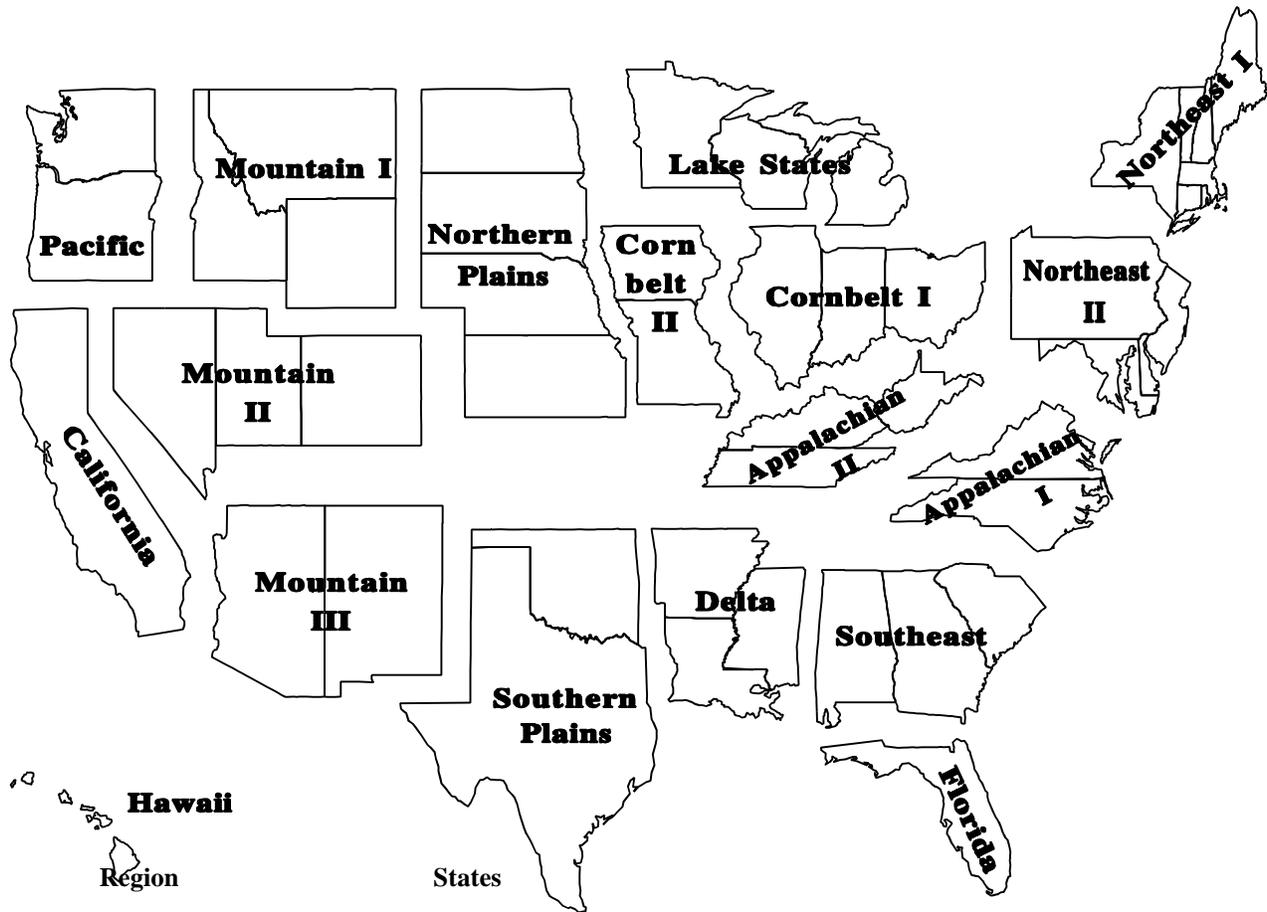
¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

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

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

⁴ Excludes AK.

Farm Labor Regions



Region

Northeast I
 Northeast II
 Appalachian I
 Appalachian II
 Southeast
 Lake
 Cornbelt I
 Cornbelt II
 Delta
 Northern Plains
 Southern Plains
 Mountain I
 Mountain II
 Mountain III
 Pacific

States

CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.
 DE, MD, NJ, PA.
 NC, VA.
 KY, TN, WV.
 AL, GA, SC.
 MI, MN, WI.
 IL, IN, OH.
 IA, MO.
 AR, LA, MS.
 KS, NE, ND, SD.
 OK, TX.
 ID, MT, WY.
 CO, NV, UT.
 AZ, NM.
 OR, WA.

Farm Labor Definitions

The following definitions are provided to assist in interpreting statistics published in quarterly Farm Labor reports. To ensure consistency in data collection, the questionnaires and instruction manual used by the interviewers provide more in-depth explanations of these terms.

Farm or Ranch: Places that sell, or would normally sell, at least \$1000 worth of agricultural products during the year.

Agricultural Work: Work done on a farm or ranch in connection with the production of agricultural products, including nursery and greenhouse products and animal specialties such as fur farms or apiaries. Also included is work done off the farm to handle farm related business, such as trips to buy feed or deliver products to local market.

Hired Worker: Anyone, other than an agricultural service worker, who was paid for at least one hour of agricultural work on a farm or ranch. Worker type is determined by what the employee was primarily hired to do, not necessarily what work was done during the survey week. Type of workers include:

Field Workers: Employees engaged in planting, tending and harvesting crops including operation of farm machinery on crop farms.

Livestock Workers: Employees tending livestock, milking cows or caring for poultry, including operation of farm machinery on livestock or poultry operations.

Supervisors: Hired managers, range foremen, crew leaders, etc.

Other Workers: Employees engaged in agricultural work not included in the other three categories. Bookkeepers and pilots are examples.

Methods of Pay: Wage rates are calculated based on total wages and hours worked during the survey week.

Perquisites: Benefits, such as cash bonuses, housing, or meals, provided to an employee in addition to pay are included in perquisites. Wage rates published in this release do not include the value of these benefits.

Term of Employment: The length of time during the year the farm operator expects to employ those workers who were on the payroll during the survey week.

Definitions - continued

Agricultural Service: Service on a contract or fee basis such as veterinarian work, artificial insemination, sheep shearing, milk testing, etc., performed on the farm or ranch. This also includes custom crews and crew leaders.

Contract Labor: Contract workers are paid by a crew leader, contractor, buyer, processor, cooperative, or other person who has an oral or written agreement with a farmer/rancher. Pruning, thinning, weeding or harvesting of fruit, vegetable or berry crops are examples. A machine is not a part of the service activity provided by the contractor.

Custom Work: Work performed by machines and labor hired as a unit. Hay baling, combining, corn or cotton picking, spraying, fertilizing, laser leveling are examples of custom work when the equipment is included in the service activity.

Type of Farm (or Ranch): An operation is classified in the farm type which accounts for the largest portion of the total value of sales for its agricultural production.

The three types of farms are:

Field Crops: A farm producing wheat, rice, corn, soybeans, barley, dry beans, rye, sorghum, cotton, popcorn, tobacco, potatoes, sugar crops, hay, peanuts, hops, mint, or other such crops.

Other Crops: A farm producing vegetables, melons, berry crops, grapes, tree nuts, citrus fruits, deciduous tree fruits, avocados, dates, figs, olives, nursery, or greenhouse crops.

Livestock or Poultry: A farm producing cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, milk, chickens, eggs, turkeys, or animal specialties such as furs, fish, honey, etc.

Gross Value of Sales: Gross value includes all income during a year from the sale of crops, livestock, dairy, poultry, or other related agricultural products, including the landlord's share. When commodities are placed under CCC loan, they are considered as sold.

Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates

Survey Procedures: These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the last two weeks of October using sampling procedures to ensure every employer of agricultural workers had a chance of being selected.

Two samples of farm operators are selected. First, NASS maintains a list of farms that hire farm workers. Farms on this list are classified by size and type. Those expected to employ large numbers of workers are selected with greater frequency than those hiring few or no workers. A second sample consists of segments of land scientifically selected from an area sampling frame. Each June, highly trained interviewers locate each selected land segment and identify every farm operating land within the sample segment's boundaries. The names of farms found in these area segments are matched against the NASS list of farms; those not found on the list are included in the labor survey sample to represent all farms. This methodology is known as multiple frame sampling, with an area sample used to measure the incompleteness of the list. Additionally, a list of agricultural service firms was sampled in California and Florida. The survey reference week was October 9-15, 2005.

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 4 and 27 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.1 percent. The relative sampling error was 1.0 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 9 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 23 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 2004 and July 2005 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.

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