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Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates Up 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 851,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 322,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.30 per hour during the October 2004 reference week, up 25 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.60 per hour, up 18 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.64 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.67 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota), Northeast I (New England and New York), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions, and in Florida. After a cool, wet growing season, reference week weather in the Northern Plains region was virtually ideal. This allowed field crop harvests to progress rapidly, necessitating more hired workers. In the Northeast I region, a return to dry, seasonable conditions compared to last year's rain and strong winds allowed field activities to accelerate. Therefore, the demand for field workers was stronger. Nurseries were gearing up for fall plantings in the Mountain III region, and cotton harvest progress exceeded last year's pace, both of which caused more field workers to be needed. Also, more livestock workers were required due to increased movement of cattle from summer pastures. In Florida, warm and dry conditions returned after several weeks of tropical storms, allowing most field activities to resume. Thus, more field workers were necessary.

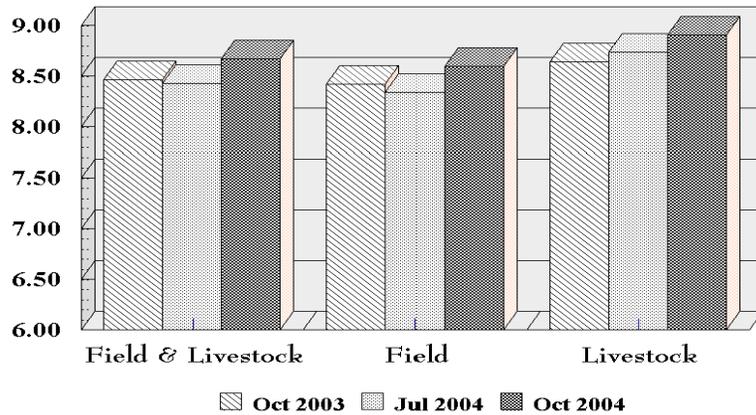
The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in California and in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) regions. In California, an early start to the spring growing season pushed the maturity of many fruit and vegetable crops well ahead of normal through the summer and fall. Therefore, much of the harvest had been completed by the reference week, which caused fewer workers to be needed. Apple harvest in the Pacific region was winding down earlier than normal, so field worker demand was down. Precipitation prior to the reference week kept pastures green, minimizing supplemental feeding, and decreasing the need for livestock workers. Rain and muddy conditions delayed field activities in much of the Southern Plains, Southeast, Appalachian I and Corn Belt II regions, reducing the demand for field workers. In the Mountain I region, pasture and range conditions were improved from last year, which enabled cattle to graze longer and minimized supplemental feeding. Therefore, fewer livestock workers were required.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains, Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio), and Mountain I regions. The higher wages in the Southern Plains and Delta regions were due to a larger concentration of salaried workers putting in fewer hours and a lower percentage of part-time seasonal workers in the work force. Corn Belt I wages were up due to a higher percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force. In the Mountain I region, wages were higher because of more salaried livestock workers working fewer hours which pushed their hourly wage higher.

The 2004 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$9.22, up 2 percent from the 2003 annual average wage rate of \$9.08. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$8.45, up 14 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$8.55, up 2 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$8.42.

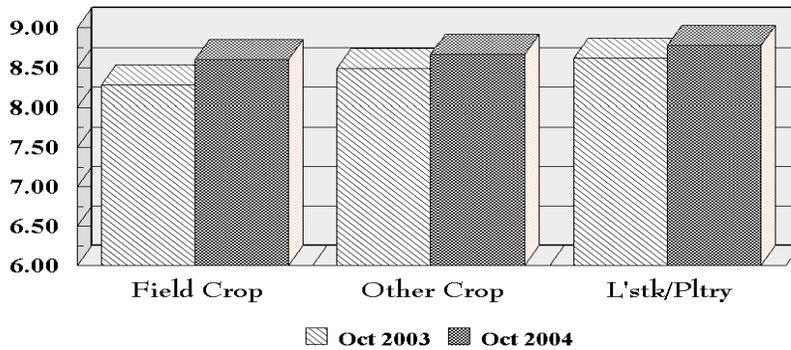
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



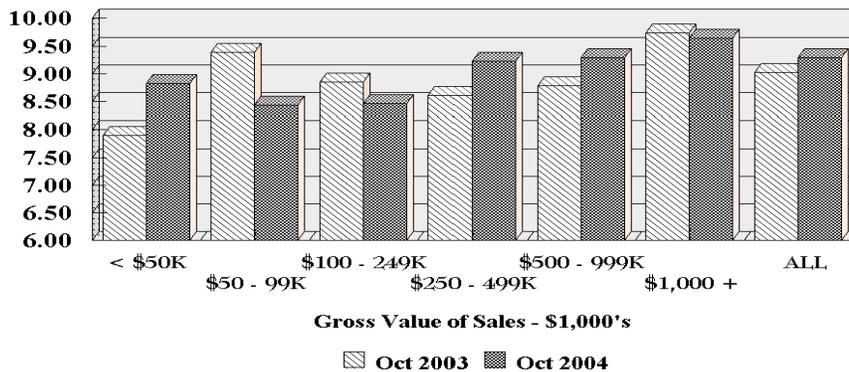
Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
October 10-16, 2004, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	October 12-18, 2003	July 11-17, 2004	October 10-16, 2004
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	891	*961	851
150 Days or More	626	637	605
149 Days or Less	265	*324	246
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	306	*343	322
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,197	*1,304	1,173
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	40.2	*39.2	40.5
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rate for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	9.05	*9.04	9.30
Field & Livestock Combined	8.47	*8.43	8.67
Field	8.42	*8.34	8.60
Livestock	8.64	*8.74	8.91

* 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 10-16, 2004 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired				Number of Hours Worked <i>Hours per Week</i>
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed			
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less		
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</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	155	45		44.8
HI	8	7	1		37.5
US ³	851	605	246		40.5

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers 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	8.37	9.57	8.57	9.28
HI ⁴	9.97		10.01	11.52
US ³	8.60	8.91	8.67	9.30

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, July 11-17, 2004 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	43	32	11	39.9
Northeast II	52	35	17	37.2
Appalachian I	51	30	21	34.8
Appalachian II	33	14	19	27.9
Southeast	44	30	14	35.6
FL	39	33	6	39.2
Lake	69	40	29	36.4
Cornbelt I	50	33	17	34.7
Cornbelt II	24	15	9	38.3
Delta	31	23	8	39.1
Northern Plains	39	23	16	37.4
Southern Plains	68	48	20	37.8
Mountain I	34	24	10	47.8
Mountain II	23	16	7	41.1
Mountain III	24	21	3	45.0
Pacific	112	47	65	37.3
CA	*218	167	*51	*44.6
HI	7	6	1	39.4
US ³	*961	637	*324	*39.2

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, July 11-17, 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	9.31	8.14	8.89	9.72
Northeast II	7.90	8.79	8.09	8.81
Appalachian I	8.07	8.25	8.10	8.67
Appalachian II	7.63	8.40	7.84	8.16
Southeast	8.19	8.68	8.34	8.88
FL	8.70	9.10	8.78	9.63
Lake	8.29	9.13	8.55	9.30
Cornbelt I	8.80	8.96	8.85	9.60
Cornbelt II	8.08	8.61	8.35	8.70
Delta	7.26	7.58	7.35	7.65
Northern Plains	8.24	9.22	8.52	8.86
Southern Plains	7.59	8.18	7.81	8.58
Mountain I	7.91	7.89	7.90	8.23
Mountain II	8.63	9.39	8.90	9.47
Mountain III	7.45	8.24	7.73	8.34
Pacific	8.88	8.90	8.88	9.25
CA	*8.41	*9.91	*8.60	*9.26
HI ⁴	9.77		9.90	11.46
US ³	*8.34	*8.74	*8.43	*9.04

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, October 12-18, 2003 ¹**

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	40	28	12	39.7
Northeast II	34	26	8	38.5
Appalachian I	45	29	16	32.5
Appalachian II	38	18	20	36.2
Southeast	38	26	12	38.9
FL	49	43	6	39.1
Lake	72	45	27	37.7
Cornbelt I	45	26	19	40.6
Cornbelt II	26	16	10	42.6
Delta	31	20	11	37.0
Northern Plains	35	25	10	43.8
Southern Plains	54	43	11	41.7
Mountain I	33	22	11	45.0
Mountain II	20	15	5	41.5
Mountain III	18	15	3	47.9
Pacific	76	44	32	37.6
CA	230	179	51	42.7
HI	7	6	1	38.9
US ³	891	626	265	40.2

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, October 12-18, 2003 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	9.62	8.64	9.33	10.12
Northeast II	8.79	8.27	8.66	9.59
Appalachian I	8.19	7.92	8.10	8.66
Appalachian II	7.56	8.12	7.70	8.04
Southeast	7.90	7.84	7.88	8.26
FL	8.55	7.95	8.48	9.53
Lake	9.25	9.11	9.20	9.70
Cornbelt I	8.76	9.67	8.91	9.34
Cornbelt II	8.62	9.83	8.87	9.30
Delta	7.01	7.15	7.05	7.48
Northern Plains	9.29	8.59	9.07	9.31
Southern Plains	7.12	7.70	7.39	8.01
Mountain I	7.80	8.05	7.93	8.24
Mountain II	8.11	8.12	8.11	8.97
Mountain III	7.16	8.73	7.63	8.18
Pacific	8.90	10.10	9.11	9.62
CA	8.37	9.80	8.54	9.13
HI ⁴	9.82		9.88	11.56
US ³	8.42	8.64	8.47	9.05

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 14.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

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

Region ²	October 12-18, 2003			
	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)	9.26	8.59	9.03
Appalachian	6.98	8.37	8.54	7.90
Southeast	8.35	8.36	7.85	8.22
Lake	9.42	8.89	9.53	9.20
Cornbelt	8.65	8.19	10.27	8.89
Delta	7.45	6.54	7.07	7.05
Northern Plains	8.89	(³)	8.57	9.07
Southern Plains	7.56	7.20	7.43	7.39
Mountain	8.06	7.79	7.98	7.88
Pacific	8.55	8.53	10.02	8.67
48 States	8.28	8.49	8.62	8.47

**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

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 12-18, 2003						
	Gross Value Sales-\$1,000's						All Farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
N. East	9.54	(³)	8.77	9.42	8.83	10.52	9.88
Appal.	6.58	7.30	8.00	8.14	8.05	9.85	8.36
S. East	7.74	9.03	8.13	9.07	8.58	9.39	8.98
Lake	9.76	8.17	9.06	9.50	8.87	10.57	9.70
Cornbelt	8.15	(³)	8.37	9.38	9.68	10.53	9.32
Delta	7.14	7.06	8.33	7.46	6.93	7.70	7.48
N. Plains	8.18	7.15	8.20	8.93	(³)	10.08	9.31
S. Plains	7.52	7.85	8.83	7.49	8.29	9.77	8.01
Mountain	8.30	9.62	7.33	8.17	7.91	8.41	8.41
Pacific	9.54	8.14	9.12	8.63	9.02	9.71	9.24
48 States	7.90	9.39	8.85	8.61	8.78	9.74	9.03

**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

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 12-18, 2003	July 11-17, 2004	October 10-16, 2004
	<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	15	15	16
Other Crops	58	54	57
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	27	31	27

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

Gross Value of Sales	October 12-18, 2003	July 11-17, 2004	October 10-16, 2004
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$50,000	11	15	12
\$50,000-\$99,999	7	6	5
\$100,000-\$249,999	25	13	11
\$250,000-\$499,999	11	11	11
\$500,000-\$999,999	12	12	13
\$1,000,000 and over	34	43	48

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

Category	October 12-18, 2003	July 11-17, 2004	October 10-16, 2004
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	9	9	10
2 Workers	9	10	9
3-6 Workers	18	19	16
7-10 Workers	7	9	10
11-20 Workers	11	10	12
21-50 Workers	14	14	12
51 or more Workers	32	29	31

¹ 48 States, excluding AK and HI.

² Field and Livestock Workers combined.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

Agricultural Services

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 322,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2004. Service workers in California numbered 122,000 this October, up 3 percent from last year. Florida's number of service workers was 3,000, down 25 percent from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$9.04 and \$10.20 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 2003 were \$9.16 in California and \$9.65 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 2003	Jul 2004	Oct 2004	Oct 2003	Jul 2004	Oct 2004	Oct 2003	Jul 2004	Oct 2004
	<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	118.0	*128.0	122.0	32.3	*36.4	39.7	9.16	8.63	9.04
FL	4.0	3.0	3.0	38.0	45.0	40.0	9.65	9.70	10.20
US	306.0	*343.0	322.0						

* 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, 2003-04 ¹**

State and Region	Hired Workers		Hours Worked	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	41.0	36.2	39.0	38.5
Northeast II	33.0	34.2	39.1	38.6
Appalachian I	38.5	35.7	33.2	35.0
Appalachian II	33.7	34.5	33.0	33.1
Southeast	31.0	34.7	37.3	36.5
FL	54.2	52.2	38.2	39.7
Lake	58.7	62.0	35.9	36.7
Cornbelt I	42.7	41.0	36.2	36.6
Cornbelt II	23.2	23.2	36.2	35.8
Delta	26.2	27.5	39.4	37.4
Northern Plains	30.7	34.2	42.0	41.0
Southern Plains	53.5	54.5	39.5	37.9
Mountain I	23.2	24.7	44.8	43.4
Mountain II	21.5	21.2	41.3	40.8
Mountain III	18.5	20.0	47.5	44.8
Pacific	71.5	71.2	37.6	37.7
CA	227.5	210.5	43.0	44.3
HI	7.0	7.2	37.2	38.4
US ³	836.0	825.2	39.5	39.6

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, 2003-04^{1 3}**

U.S. and Region	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>					
Northeast I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT)	9.93	9.96	9.40	9.41	9.01	9.05
Northeast II (DE, MD, NJ, PA)	9.41	9.18	8.58	8.44	8.52	8.48
Appalachian I (NC, VA)	8.68	8.85	7.97	8.18	8.06	8.24
Appalachian II (KY, TN, WV)	8.00	8.63	7.53	8.05	7.63	8.17
Southeast (AL, GA, SC)	8.41	8.53	7.66	7.96	7.88	8.07
FL	9.14	9.04	8.18	7.97	8.18	8.07
Lake (MI, MN, WI)	9.80	9.88	9.04	8.91	9.11	9.18
Cornbelt I (IL, IN, OH)	9.61	9.89	8.88	9.16	9.00	9.20
Cornbelt II (IA, MO)	9.75	9.45	9.21	8.79	9.28	8.95
Delta (AR, LA, MS)	7.77	8.08	7.30	7.71	7.38	7.80
Northern Plains (KS, NE, ND, SD)	9.21	9.33	8.70	9.08	8.83	9.00
Southern Plains (OK, TX)	8.30	8.60	7.61	7.72	7.73	7.89
Mountain I (ID, MT, WY)	7.98	8.55	7.59	8.08	7.69	8.20
Mountain II (CO, NV, UT)	9.11	9.63	8.16	8.89	8.36	8.93
Mountain III (AZ, NM)	8.08	8.18	7.07	7.33	7.54	7.63
Pacific (OR, WA)	9.25	9.61	8.49	8.99	8.73	9.03
CA	9.25	9.32	8.34	8.40	8.50	8.56
HI	11.33	11.34	9.56	9.64	9.60	9.75
US ²	9.08	9.22	8.31	8.45	8.42	8.55

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, 2003-04^{1 2}**

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>					
AL	8.00	7.85	7.19	7.14	7.53	7.45
AZ	7.86	7.80	7.07	7.08	7.16	7.16
AR	7.37	8.40	6.99	8.12	7.12	8.13
CA	9.25	9.32	8.34	8.40	8.50	8.56
CO	9.13	9.73	8.27	9.14	8.42	9.09
DE	9.88	8.97	8.79	7.51	8.77	7.81
FL	9.14	9.04	8.18	7.97	8.18	8.07
GA	8.78	9.10	8.09	8.52	8.22	8.51
HI	11.33	11.34	9.56	9.64	9.60	9.75
ID	8.04	8.63	7.63	8.00	7.81	8.36
IL	9.88	10.21	9.04	9.26	9.27	9.34
IN	9.73	9.31	8.95	8.69	9.00	8.59
IA	10.34	9.64	9.74	8.49	9.87	8.94
KS	9.54	9.35	8.73	8.64	8.97	8.75
KY	8.03	8.79	7.37	8.07	7.67	8.26
LA	7.88	7.80	7.69	7.44	7.55	7.56
MD	9.95	9.88	9.54	9.24	8.82	9.05
MI	9.74	9.40	8.42	8.32	8.86	8.65
MN	10.23	10.93	9.80	10.13	9.56	10.02
MS	8.09	7.87	7.21	7.41	7.47	7.56
MO	9.11	9.29	8.67	9.01	8.70	8.95
MT	8.37	9.18	8.08	8.85	7.92	8.82
NE	8.67	8.94	8.28	8.60	8.39	8.65
NV	8.56	8.99	7.90	8.43	7.92	8.18
NJ	8.88	8.96	7.78	8.00	7.85	8.15
NM	8.39	8.71	7.05	7.92	8.04	8.24
NY	9.55	9.37	9.25	9.25	8.78	8.79
NC	8.55	8.64	7.80	8.06	7.94	8.14
ND	9.49	9.85	9.32	9.89	9.32	9.78
OH	9.14	9.95	8.58	9.42	8.66	9.47
OK	9.04	8.81	8.32	7.68	8.24	8.22
OR	9.39	9.66	8.47	8.91	8.76	8.84
PA	9.50	9.13	8.84	8.56	8.72	8.53
SC	8.01	8.01	7.08	7.65	7.42	7.79
SD	9.23	9.44	8.46	9.02	8.94	9.07
TN	8.01	8.47	7.63	8.06	7.63	8.06
TX	8.12	8.54	7.52	7.73	7.63	7.80
UT	9.25	9.65	7.92	8.54	8.38	8.84
VA	8.98	9.32	8.42	8.52	8.33	8.49
WA	9.14	9.58	8.50	9.03	8.70	9.15
WV	7.77	8.32	7.99	7.68	7.41	8.08
WI	9.37	9.74	9.04	9.33	8.92	9.28
WY	7.17	7.16	6.70	7.01	6.59	6.69
Oth Sts ³	10.40	10.64	9.52	9.56	9.31	9.37
US ⁴	9.08	9.22	8.31	8.45	8.42	8.55

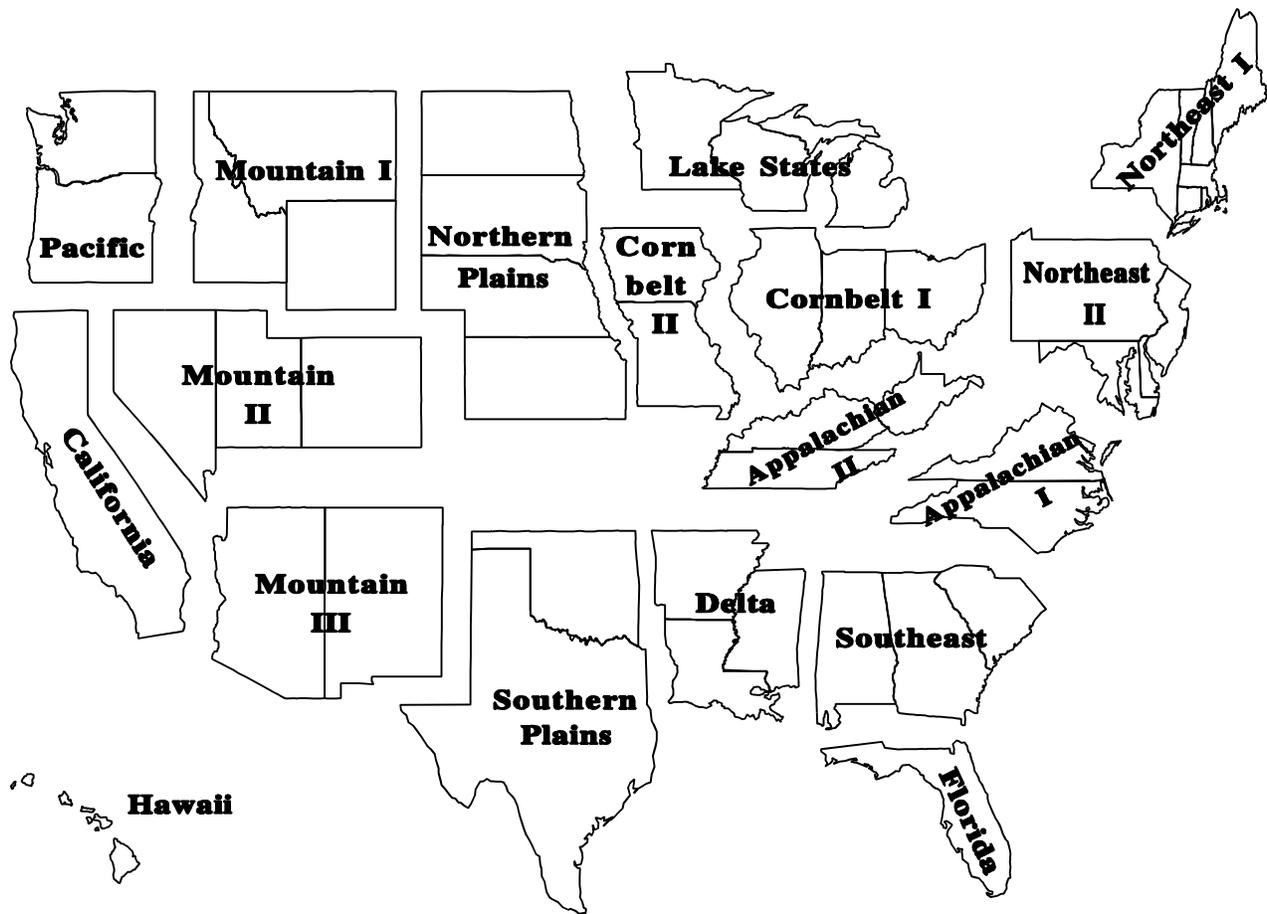
¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

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

States

Northeast I	CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.
Northeast II	DE, MD, NJ, PA.
Appalachian I	NC, VA.
Appalachian II	KY, TN, WV.
Southeast	AL, GA, SC.
Lake	MI, MN, WI.
Cornbelt I	IL, IN, OH.
Cornbelt II	IA, MO.
Delta	AR, LA, MS.
Northern Plains	KS, NE, ND, SD.
Southern Plains	OK, TX.
Mountain I	ID, MT, WY.
Mountain II	CO, NV, UT.
Mountain III	AZ, NM.
Pacific	OR, WA.

Farm Labor Definitions

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

Farm or Ranch: Places that sell, or would normally sell, at least \$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.

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 10-16, 2004.

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 8 and 21 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.3 percent. The relative sampling error was 1.4 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 3 and 14 percent at the regional levels. Relative sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm generally ranged between 3 and 30 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 2003 and July 2004 were subject to revision with this report. If any revisions were made to previous data, they are reprinted in this report for your information, and they are identified as such.

Index

	Page
U.S. Hired Workers on Farms, Wage Rates and Hours Worked	3
Number of Workers and Average Hours Worked by Region and U.S.	
October 2004	4
July 2004	6
October 2003	8
Wage Rates by Region and U.S.	
October 2004	5
July 2004	7
October 2003	9
Agricultural Services: Workers, Average Hours Worked, and Wages	
October 2004	13
July 2004	13
October 2003	13
Annual Averages 2003 - 2004	
Number of Workers and Average Hours Worked by Region and U.S.	14
Hired Workers Wage Rates by Region and U.S.	15
Hired Workers Wage Rates by State	16
Other Labor Estimates	
U.S. Distribution of Workers	12
Wage Rates by Type of Farm, by Region, State, 48 States	10
Wage Rates by Economic Class of Farm, by Region, State, 48 States	11
Farm Labor Region Map	17
Farm Labor Definitions.	18
Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates	20
Revision Policy	20

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