



**USDA/NASS
NEW MEXICO
FIELD OFFICE**

**SPECIAL SURVEY RESULTS
OCTOBER QUARTERLY LABOR**

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NOVEMBER 2006 EXCLUSIVELY FOR SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Dear Respondent:

This issue of the **USDA/NASS NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE SURVEY RESULTS** covers the results of the **QUARTERLY FARM LABOR SURVEY** for the week of October 8-14, 2006. This is being sent exclusively to those of you who responded to our request for data. The information you provided made these published estimates possible. Thank you for your cooperation and the time spent completing the surveys.

Sincerely,

Dwaine C. Nelson
Director

NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA: There were 21,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of October 8-14, 2006, down 16 percent from a year ago. Average hours worked by all hired workers increased to 45.1 hours a week compared to 44.8 hours last year. Wage rates for field workers were up from the previous year at \$7.56 an hour, an increase of 29 cents. Livestock worker wages were down slightly to \$8.86, compared to \$8.87 an hour in October 2005. Overall, average wage rates for all hired agricultural workers increased to \$8.50 an hour.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 2006, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 797,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 280,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.95 per hour during the October 2006 reference week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.25 per hour, up 35 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.41 per hour compared with \$9.15 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.29 per hour, was up 33 cents from last year.

Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and U.S., October 2005-2006 ^{1/}

| | Mountain II ^{2/} | | Mountain III ^{3/} | | Southern Plains ^{4/} | | United States ^{5/} | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | Oct 9-15 2005 | Oct 8-14 2006 | Oct 9-15 2005 | Oct 8-14 2006 | Oct 9-15 2005 | Oct 8-14 2006 | Oct 9-15 2005 | Oct 8-14 2006 |
| Workers on Farms | -----Thousands----- | | | | | | | |
| All Hired Workers | 22 | 19 | 25 | 21 | 64 | 49 | 842 | 797 |
| Hours Worked | -----Hours Per Week----- | | | | | | | |
| All Hired Workers | 45.9 | 38.7 | 44.8 | 45.1 | 39.1 | 39.7 | 221 | 41.6 |
| Wages By Work Type | -----Dollars Per Hour----- | | | | | | | |
| Field | 7.94 | 8.86 | 7.27 | 7.56 | 7.60 | 8.14 | 8.90 | 9.25 |
| Livestock | 8.39 | 9.32 | 8.87 | 8.86 | 7.84 | 10.09 | 9.15 | 9.41 |
| Field & Livestock | 8.14 | 9.05 | 7.67 | 8.05 | 7.68 | 9.02 | 8.96 | 9.29 |
| All Workers | 8.75 | 9.80 | 8.28 | 8.50 | 8.38 | 9.60 | 9.61 | 9.95 |

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers. ^{2/} Mountain Region II consists of CO, NV & UT. ^{3/} Mountain Region III consists of AZ & NM.

^{4/} Southern Plains region consists of OK & TX. ^{5/} Excludes AK.