

OREGON AGRI-FACTS



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

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Hired Workers

There were 919,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 2008, down 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 700,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 219,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.60 per hour during the April 2008 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.65 per hour, up 30 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.32 per hour compared with \$9.59 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.87 per hour, was up 45 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

The Pacific region (Oregon and Washington) accounts for almost 10 percent of workers hired directly by farm operators. Farm operators within the region paid their hired workers an average wage of 10.00 per hour, down 24 cents from a year earlier and 60 cents lower than the US average. Pacific region field workers received an average of \$9.14 per hour, down 25 cents from last April, while livestock workers in the region earned \$11.34 per hour, up \$1.64 from the previous year. Number of hours worked per week by Pacific region hired workers is above the US average at 44.0 hours.

Hired workers: Number, hours worked, and wage rates, selected regions and United States
Weeks of April, 2007 and April 6-12, 2008¹

United States and region	Hired workers				Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock	
		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>	<i>Dollars per hour</i>	<i>Dollars per hour</i>	<i>Dollars per hour</i>	<i>Dollars per hour</i>
Pacific ²								
2007	63	48	15	38.5	9.39	9.70	9.45	10.24
2008	68	48	20	44.0	9.14	11.34	9.41	10.00
Mountain I ³								
2007	28	20	8	44.7	8.79	9.01	8.90	9.35
2008	21	17	4	43.2	9.46	9.09	9.25	9.50
California								
2007	176	148	28	45.6	9.62	10.90	9.82	10.71
2008	156	135	21	44.5	10.00	11.50	10.26	11.14
United States ⁴								
2007	736	593	143	40.7	9.35	9.59	9.42	10.20
2008	700	563	137	41.0	9.65	10.32	9.87	10.60

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers.

² Includes Oregon and Washington.

³ Includes Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

⁴ Excludes Alaska.

Prices received by farmers, selected commodities, Oregon and United States

Commodity	Unit	Oregon			United States		
		Entire month		Preliminary	Entire month		Preliminary
		May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008	May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008
		<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Field crops							
Wheat, all	Bu	5.42	11.20	8.13	4.88	10.00	8.80
Wheat, winter	Bu	5.39	11.10	8.00	4.77	9.61	7.76
Wheat, spring	Bu	5.58	11.60	8.90	4.98	10.50	10.20
Barley	Bu	3.67	5.17	5.10	3.12	4.54	4.76
Oats	Bu	*	*	*	2.49	3.48	3.46
Hay, all (baled) ²	Ton	142.00	176.00	179.00	138.00	152.00	166.00
Hay, alfalfa (baled) ²	Ton	144.00	176.00	179.00	145.00	157.00	177.00
Hay, other (baled) ²	Ton	138.00	175.00	180.00	115.00	140.00	134.00
Potatoes	Cwt	7.75	8.70	9.15	7.95	8.45	9.21
Vegetables and fruits ¹							
Onions, fresh ³	Cwt	-	-	-	24.20	17.40	31.70
Sweet corn, fresh ³	Cwt	-	-	-	21.40	21.00	23.10
Pears, fresh	Ton	-	-	-	651.00	491.00	525.00
Apples, fresh	Lb	-	-	-	0.269	0.335	0.339
Strawberries, fresh	Cwt	-	-	-	68.60	65.80	66.70
Livestock and livestock products							
Cows ⁴	Cwt	51.00	47.00	51.60	51.70	50.50	53.10
Steers and heifers	Cwt	96.00	87.80	90.60	98.10	91.60	95.40
Beef cattle ⁵	Cwt	82.50	75.60	78.90	92.80	86.60	90.50
Calves	Cwt	109.00	102.00	102.00	124.00	116.00	116.00
Lambs ⁶	Cwt	95.00	93.00	-	97.10	99.40	-
Sheep ⁶	Cwt	34.50	34.00	-	30.80	28.80	-
Milk, all ⁷	Cwt	17.50	18.00	17.90	18.00	18.00	18.20
Fat test percent	Pct	3.63	3.70	3.63	3.60	3.68	3.62
Eggs, all ^{1 2}	Doz	-	-	-	0.780	1.030	0.794
Eggs, market ^{1 2}	Doz	-	-	-	0.618	0.884	0.698

* Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms or insufficient sales reported to establish a price. ¹ Oregon not published monthly. ² Most recent price is a mid-month price. ³ F.O.B. shipping point. ⁴ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. ⁵ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined. ⁶ Entire month. ⁷ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

Index summary table

Indexes/Ratios	1910-14=100		1990-92=100	
	May 2007	May 2008	May 2007	May 2008
United States				
Prices received	861	954	136	150
Prices paid	2,144	2,449	161	184
Ratio ¹	-	-	84	82
Parity Ratio ²	40	39	-	-
Oregon				
Commodity group				
All farm products	801	832	131	137
All crops	750	801	133	142
Livestock ³	920	906	126	124

Feed price ratios: United States, May 2008

Feed price ratio ^{1 2}	2007	2008	
	May	Apr *	May
Broiler Feed	5.5	3.3	3.5
Market egg feed	8.1	7.4	5.8
Hog-corn	15.2	8.6	10.6
Milk-feed	2.54	1.89	1.83
Steer and heifer-corn	28.1	17.8	18.6
Turkey-feed	5.9	4.0	4.3

¹ Effective January 1995, prices of commercial prepared feeds are based on current US prices received for corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay, and all wheat.

² Feed price ratio definitions are available in the national release.

* Revised.

¹ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid by farmers.

² Ratio of index of prices received to PPITW (1910-14=100)

³ Includes livestock and livestock products.

Agricultural Chemical Use – Apples



Seven states were included in the 2007 survey. Nitrogen was applied to 71 percent of the 2007 apple acres in the Program States at an average rate of 53 pounds per acre per crop year. Phosphate was applied to 24 percent of the planted acres, at an average rate of 36 pounds per acre per crop year. An average of 65 pounds per acre per crop year of Potash was applied to 34 percent of the bearing acreage. Sulfur was applied to 12 percent of the planted acres at an average rate of 27 pounds per acre per crop year.

Herbicides were applied to 61 percent of the apple bearing acreage in 2007 in the 7 Program States. The most used herbicide was Glyphosate isopropylamine salt, on 45 percent of the acreage at an average of 1.925 pounds per acre per crop year.

Insecticides were applied to 97 percent of the surveyed acreage. The most commonly used insecticides were Azinphos-methyl, Chlorpyrifos, and Petroleum distillate on 62, 59, and 58 percent of the acreage, respectively. The average rate per application per crop year for the three most commonly applied insecticides were 2.045, 1.732, and 31.410 pounds per acre, respectively.

Fungicides were used on 91 percent of the acreage. Mancozeb was the most commonly applied fungicide with 37 percent of the bearing acreage being treated. It was applied at an average rate of 7.309 pounds per acre per crop year.

Apples: Fertilizer Use by State, 2007

State	Bearing acreage	Percent of acres treated and total applied							
		Nitrogen		Phosphate		Potash		Sulfur	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000. lbs.</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000. lbs.</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000. lbs.</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000. lbs.</i>
CA	20,500	41	704.0	10	54.6	14	82.2	(¹)	
MI	35,000	58	941.5	25	294.1	51	1,122.6	6	36.1
NY	42,000	79	1,047.5	25	198.3	72	3,027.0	17	168.6
NC	6,800	56	267.2	53	297.1	54	300.7	(¹)	
OR	4,200	66	136.8	41	73.7	40	60.2	24	27.7
PA	21,500	45	287.0	29	182.2	29	234.5	(¹)	
WA	158,000	81	7,477.9	22	1,345.8	22	1,499.7	15	717.3
Total	288,000	71	10,861.8	24	2,445.8	34	6,327.0	12	962.1

¹ Insufficient reports to publish data for one or more of the fertilizer primary nutrients.

Apples: Bearing acreage, pesticide, percent of area receiving application, and total, 2007

State	Bearing acreage	Area receiving and total applied							
		Herbicide		Insecticide ¹		Fungicide ¹		Other ¹	
	<i>1,000 acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 lbs.</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 lbs.</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 lbs.</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 lbs.</i>
CA	20,500	35	14.2	74	537.1	67	212.1	29	0.3
MI	35,000	58	51.1	99	329.9	100	874.9	67	5.0
NY	42,000	73	72.2	100	408.3	100	1,154.8	49	2.5
NC	6,800	21	3.8	97	254.5	98	202.0		
OR	4,200	70	10.1	95	146.9	84	60.7	67	1.0
PA	21,500	84	30.7	98	235.2	97	307.6	70	4.2
WA	158,000	61	305.1	99	5,611.2	89	1,891.3	75	148.7
Total	288,000	61	487.2	97	7,523.2	91	4,703.4	65	161.8

¹ Total Applied excludes Bt's (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) and other biologicals. Quantities are not available because amounts of active ingredient are not comparable between products.

The full reports in this issue can be found on the NASS Homepage at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. Select **Publication** tab, under **Reports Calendar**, click **May** and select the commodity you want to view.

Farm Labor – May 16

Chemical Usage (Apples)– May 21

Agricultural prices – May 30

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