

# OREGON AGRI-FACTS



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

Released: September 8, 2008  
Volume: 17-08 USPS 592-430  
Internet-[www.nass.usda.gov/or](http://www.nass.usda.gov/or)

Phone: 503-326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
Email: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)

## Highlights in this issue

- Labor • Agricultural prices
- Mushroom • Cold storage

## National releases in September

- 4 Vegetables • 18 Milk production • 25 Potatoes
- 30 Small grain summary • 30 Grain stocks

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

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 345,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.66 per hour, up 42 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.73 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.74 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California and in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. In California, lack of available irrigation water caused much acreage to be left fallow. Planted acreage of cotton, dry beans, and sugar beets declined sharply from 2007. Therefore, the demand for field workers was considerably lower.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Appalachian II, Mountain II, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Delta, and Mountain I regions. In the Appalachian II and Mountain II regions, the higher wages were due to a larger proportion of nursery and greenhouse workers.

**Hired workers: Number, hours worked and wage rates, selected regions and United States**  
Weeks of July, 2007 and July 6-12, 2008<sup>1</sup>

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 <sup>2</sup>	2007	92	51	41	39.7	9.64	10.65	9.71	10.41
	2008	110	51	59	40.6	9.85	10.22	9.87	10.35
Mountain I <sup>3</sup>	2007	22	15	7	43.4	8.36	9.22	8.70	9.20
	2008	30	24	6	44.0	10.49	8.98	9.78	10.00
California	2007	188	151	37	46.9	9.60	10.60	9.72	10.32
	2008	160	127	33	45.5	9.85	11.00	10.00	10.74
United States <sup>4</sup>	2007	843	596	247	41.4	9.24	9.73	9.37	9.99
	2008	828	585	243	40.5	9.66	9.98	9.74	10.34

<sup>1</sup> Excludes agricultural service workers.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Oregon and Washington.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes Alaska.

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

Commodity	Unit	Oregon			United States		
		Entire month		Preliminary	Entire month		Preliminary
		Aug 2007	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Aug 2007	Jul 2008	Aug 2008
		<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
<b>Field crops</b>							
Wheat, all	Bu	6.58	8.20	8.37	5.64	7.16	8.02
Wheat, winter	Bu	6.54	7.92	8.20	5.66	7.10	7.70
Wheat, spring	Bu	6.77	8.96	9.10	5.53	9.60	8.62
Barley	Bu	3.85	5.16	5.15	3.55	5.11	5.00
Oats	Bu	*	*	*	2.24	3.46	3.17
Hay, all (baled) <sup>2</sup>	Ton	148.00	214.00	216.00	124.00	164.00	165.00
Hay, alfalfa (baled) <sup>2</sup>	Ton	145.00	213.00	216.00	135.00	177.00	180.00
Hay, other (baled) <sup>2</sup>	Ton	156.00	215.00	215.00	105.00	130.00	126.00
Potatoes	Cwt	6.10	12.20	11.30	6.85	12.33	11.32
<b>Vegetables and fruits <sup>1</sup></b>							
Onions, fresh <sup>3</sup>	Cwt	-	-	-	10.80	15.10	11.70
Sweet corn, fresh <sup>3</sup>	Cwt	-	-	-	22.80	28.10	24.80
Pears, fresh	Ton	-	-	-	374.00	710.00	588.00
Apples, fresh	Lb	-	-	-	0.344	0.446	0.534
Strawberries, fresh	Cwt	-	-	-	79.30	65.90	91.00
<b>Livestock and livestock products</b>							
Cows <sup>4</sup>	Cwt	51.00	54.00	52.50	51.50	56.40	57.60
Steers and heifers	Cwt	93.00	95.50	95.00	95.70	99.60	100.00
Beef cattle <sup>5</sup>	Cwt	80.40	83.10	82.30	91.40	95.10	96.10
Calves	Cwt	104.00	101.00	100.00	127.00	115.00	114.00
Lambs <sup>6</sup>	Cwt	96.00	101.00	-	97.90	103.00	-
Sheep <sup>6</sup>	Cwt	32.00	26.00	-	28.30	26.90	-
Milk, all <sup>7</sup>	Cwt	19.20	19.70	19.00	21.60	19.40	18.50
Fat test percent	Pct	3.62	3.56	3.58	3.56	3.56	3.56
Eggs, all <sup>1 2</sup>	Doz	-	-	-	0.866	0.841	0.965
Eggs, market <sup>1 2</sup>	Doz	-	-	-	0.722	0.668	0.815

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

**Index summary table**

Indexes/Ratios	1910-14=100		1990-92=100	
	Aug 2007	Aug 2008	Aug 2007	Aug 2008
<b>United States</b>				
Prices received	883	984	139	155
Prices paid	2,153	2,591	162	194
Ratio <sup>1</sup>	-	-	86	80
Parity Ratio <sup>2</sup>	41	38	-	-
<b>Oregon</b>				
Commodity group				
All farm products	871	992	144	165
All crops	847	1,015	151	181
Livestock <sup>3</sup>	929	938	127	128

**Feed price ratios: United States, August 2008**

Feed price ratio <sup>1 2</sup>	2007	2008	
	Aug	Jul *	Aug
Broiler Feed	5.2	3.4	3.5
Market egg feed	9.5	5.3	7.0
Hog-corn	15.7	10.3	12.2
Milk-feed	3.19	1.91	1.89
Steer and heifer-corn	29.4	19.0	20.4
Turkey-feed	6.7	4.5	4.9

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

<sup>2</sup> Feed price ratio definitions are available in the national release.

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid by farmers.

<sup>2</sup> Ratio of index of prices received to PPITW (1910-14=100)

<sup>3</sup> Includes livestock and livestock products.

## United States Mushrooms

Sales of the 2007-08 U.S. mushroom crop are 809 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 2006-07 season and 4 percent below two years ago. Value of sales for the 2007-08 U.S. mushroom crop is \$964 million, virtually unchanged from the previous season but 8 percent above the 2005-06 season. The number of growers, at 286, is up 6 from last season. The average price is \$1.19 per pound, up 3 cents from 2006-07.

Agaricus mushroom volume of sales totaled 793 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 2006-07 season and 5 percent below 2005-06. Pennsylvania accounted for 63 percent of the total volume of sales and second-ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop was estimated at \$914 million dollars, down slightly from the 2006-07 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 105 million pounds, up 6 percent from last season but 11 percent lower than the 2005-06 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 13 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2007-08 season is \$143 million dollars, 16 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Volume of sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 9.90 million pounds for the 2007-08 season, up 42 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.81 per pound, is down 55 cents from 2006-07. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 4.30 million pounds, is down 16 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.87 per pound, is up 46 cents from the previous season. Volume of Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, is 2.01 million pounds, down 3 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$4.86 per pound, is up 2 cents from 2006-07.

**Specialty Mushrooms: Number of growers, total production,  
volume of sales, price and value of sales, by variety,  
United States, July 1, 2005-June 30, 2008<sup>1</sup>**

Year and variety	Growers <sup>2</sup>	Total production <sup>3</sup>	All sales		
			Volume of sales <sup>4</sup>	Price per pound <sup>5</sup>	Value of sales
	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
2005-2006					
Shiitake	178	8,014	7,685	3.25	24,942
Oyster	67	4,765	4,563	2.15	9,827
Other varieties	24	1,377	1,188	4.85	5,760
<b>Total, U.S.</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>14,156</b>	<b>13,436</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>40,529</b>
2006-2007					
Shiitake	160	7,155	6,985	3.36	23,469
Oyster	62	5,265	5,055	2.41	12,185
Other varieties	30	2,180	2,113	4.84	10,231
<b>Total, U.S.</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>14,153</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>45,885</b>
2007-2008					
Shiitake	166	10,190	9,890	2.81	27,794
Oyster	59	4,371	4,253	2.87	12,206
Other varieties	26	2,086	2,045	4.86	9,936
<b>Total, U.S.</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>16,647</b>	<b>16,188</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>49,936</b>

<sup>1</sup> Specialty mushroom estimates represent growers who have at least 200 natural wood logs in production or commercial indoor growing areas. <sup>2</sup> Growers counted only once for US total if growing more than one specialty type mushroom. Growers producing Agaricus and specialty mushrooms are included. <sup>3</sup> Total production includes all fresh market and processing sales plus amount harvested but not sold (shrinkage, cullage, dumped, etc). <sup>4</sup> Virtually all specialty mushroom sales are for fresh market. <sup>5</sup> Prices for mushrooms are the average prices producers receive at the first point of sale, commonly referred to as the average price as sold.

**Agaricus Mushrooms: Area, sales, price, and value  
Western States and United States, July 1 - June 30, 2005-2008**

Area and year	Area in production		Volume of sales	Price <sup>1</sup> per pound	Value of sales
	Growing Area	Total Fillings			
	<i>1,000 square feet</i>	<i>1,000 square feet</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
California					
2005-2006	4,368	21,911	117,916	1,500.00	176,638
2006-2007	4,919	24,831	117,851	1,590.00	187,473
2007-2008	4,690	24,195	114,318	1,620.00	185,662
West Region <sup>2</sup>					
2005-2006	5,898	29,940	157,137	1,450.00	228,577
2006-2007	7,609	32,714	161,015	1,520.00	244,007
2007-2008	7,303	33,115	151,037	1,590.00	239,502
United States					
2005-2006	28,422	142,550	833,677	1.02	848,836
2006-2007	29,901	145,743	813,849	1.12	915,561
2007-2008	28,417	139,783	792,846	1.15	913,586

<sup>1</sup> Prices for mushrooms are the average prices producers receive at the point of first sale, commonly referred to as the average price as sold.

<sup>2</sup> West region includes: CA, CO, MT, OR, UT, and WA.

**Agaricus Mushrooms: Yield and dollars  
per square foot of growing area, by state and  
United States, July 1, 2005-June 30, 2008**

State and region	Yield per square foot		
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Pennsylvania	6.24	5.94	6.36
East <sup>1</sup>	6.13	5.90	6.22
Central <sup>2</sup>	5.28	5.04	4.87
California	5.38	4.75	4.72
West <sup>3</sup>	5.25	4.92	4.56
<b>US</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>5.58</b>	<b>5.67</b>
	Dollars per square foot		
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Pennsylvania	4.78	5.29	5.80
East <sup>1</sup>	5.12	5.60	6.03
Central <sup>2</sup>	7.91	8.06	8.00
California	8.06	7.55	7.67
West <sup>3</sup>	7.63	7.46	7.23
<b>US</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>6.28</b>	<b>6.54</b>

<sup>1</sup> East: CT, DE, FL, MD, NY, PA, and TN.

<sup>2</sup> Central: IL, IN, MI, OK, TX, and WI.

<sup>3</sup> West: CA, CO, MT, OR, UT, and WA.

**Brown mushrooms (Portabello and Crimini):  
Number of growers, sales, and value,  
West Region and United States,  
July 1, 2005-June 30, 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Region and year	Growers	Volume of sales	Value
	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 lbs</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
West Region <sup>2</sup>			
2005-2006	15	15,066	31,981
2006-2007	16	17,098	37,588
2007-2008	15	17,677	36,521
United States			
2005-2006	59	117,297	152,038
2006-2007	58	99,188	139,899
2007-2008	47	104,862	143,435

<sup>1</sup> Brown mushrooms are included in Agaricus mushrooms.

<sup>2</sup> West region: CA, CO, MT, OR, UT, and WA.

**Cold Storage holdings, selected commodities, Jul 31, 2007 and Jul 31, 2008**

Commodity	Pacific Region <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	Jul 31, 2007	Jul 31, 2008	2008/2007	Jul 31, 2007	Jul 31, 2008	2008/2007
	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
	<b>Frozen fruit</b>					
Blueberries	25,268	18,124	72	84,342	69,818	83
Blackberries	*	*	*	43,124	31,066	72
Raspberries, black	*	*	*	2,623	1,562	60
Raspberries, red	66,633	40,911	61	72,044	44,292	61
Strawberries	384,946	315,562	82	476,180	373,885	79
	<b>Fresh fruit</b>					
Apples <sup>2</sup>	327,002	226,771	69	359,114	294,358	82
	<b>Frozen vegetables</b>					
Green beans, regular cut	61,179	57,962	95	123,094	119,693	97
Green beans, French style	9,369	15,704	168	21,970	25,464	116
Corn, cut	110,284	121,943	111	165,472	169,481	102
Corn, cob	50,345	58,204	116	79,662	81,697	103
Green peas	242,640	219,068	90	400,957	380,186	95
	<b>Potatoes</b>					
French fries	357,687	376,729	105	788,741	857,573	109
Other frozen potatoes	65,178	68,134	105	203,026	249,695	123

<sup>1</sup> Oregon, Washington, and California.

<sup>2</sup> In regular and controlled atmosphere storage.

\* Not published.