

Farm Labor, 2003

By Natasha L. Bruton

Farmers in the Commonwealth voluntarily participate in quarterly agricultural labor surveys in January, April, July and October. This survey provides data concerning the number of hired farm workers, hours worked, and wage rates. The survey reference week is the seven-day period (Sunday through Saturday) which includes the 12th day of the month. Results for Pennsylvania are published as part of Northeast II Region, which includes Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

23,000 in January to a high of 45,000 in July. The average hours worked during the survey week by the hired workers varied from 40.5 hours in July, 2003 down to 37.2 hours in January, 2003.

In 2003 all hired workers earned between \$8.93 per hour in July to \$9.83 in January. During the same period field workers hourly wage rate ranged between \$8.18 in July and \$9.16 in January. In contrast, livestock workers hourly wage rates ranged between \$8.20 in April and \$8.56 in July.

The total number of workers hired by farm operators in the Northeast II Region during 2003 ranged between a low of

Northeast II: Hired Farm Labor, Quarterly, 1999-2003 ^{1 2 3}

Year & Survey Week	All Hired Workers				Wage Rates by Type of Worker			
	Total	Expected to be Employed		Hours Worked During the Week	Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock	All Hired Workers
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less					
	<i>1,000 Workers</i>		<i>Hours</i>	<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>				
1999								
January 10-16	25	22	3	38.3	7.79	6.13	6.99	8.01
April 11-17	37	30	7	42.6	7.73	6.05	7.20	7.73
July 11-17	49	31	18	40.8	7.17	6.45	6.98	7.34
October 10-16	37	29	8	39.5	7.22	6.60	7.00	7.55
2000								
January 9-15	27	24	3	36.0	7.84	6.66	7.42	8.33
April 9-15	41	33	8	41.7	7.66	6.00	7.21	7.84
July 9-15	54	34	20	38.7	7.67	7.22	7.58	8.04
October 8-14	45	33	12	41.7	7.44	6.67	7.26	8.04
2001								
January 7-13	31	27	4	37.9	7.98	7.01	7.59	8.47
April 8-14	35	28	7	38.4	7.95	6.60	7.60	8.42
July 8-14	50	35	15	40.5	7.41	7.85	7.50	8.23
October 7-13	45	35	10	44.2	7.21	7.33	7.24	7.97
2002								
January 6-12	33	29	4	38.1	8.71	6.88	7.95	8.87
April 7-13	45	35	10	35.7	8.20	7.01	7.78	8.83
July 7-13	46	33	13	42.5	7.87	7.18	7.74	8.35
October 6-12	41	34	7	36.4	8.61	8.17	8.51	9.29
2003								
January 12-18	23	19	4	37.2	9.16	8.34	8.83	9.83
April 6-12	30	23	7	39.3	8.75	8.20	8.63	9.68
July 6-12	45	33	12	40.5	8.18	8.56	8.25	8.93
October 12-18	34	26	8	38.5	8.79	8.27	8.66	9.59

¹ Northeast II Region includes DE, MD, NJ and PA. ² Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers. ³ Farm labor excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

Pennsylvania: Annual Average Wage Rates for Hired Workers, 1999-2003 ^{1 2}

Year	All Hired	Field	Field and Livestock
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
1999	7.21	7.24	6.68
2000	7.66	7.38	7.05
2001	7.93	7.30	7.22
2002	8.50	8.24	7.77
2003	9.50	8.84	8.72

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.