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National Agricultural Statistics Service

Keystone Ag Digest

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Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are **not** published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

HIRED WORKERS UP 3 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1,122,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2007, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 806,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $10.33 per hour during the October 2007 reference week, up 37 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $9.62 per hour, up 36 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $9.98 per hour compared with $9.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $9.72 per hour, was up 42 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 42.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up fractionally from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. In the Southern Plains and Lake regions, considerably drier conditions compared with last year's reference week resulted in a stronger demand for hired workers. Warm, dry conditions in the Appalachian I region caused vegetables to mature rapidly, and cotton harvest in North Carolina was well ahead of last year's pace. These factors led to an increased need for hired workers. In the Appalachian II region, worker demand was higher due to increased sorghum harvest in Kentucky and increased cotton harvest in Tennessee compared with last year's pace.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), California, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In the Pacific region, wetter conditions compared with last year's reference week caused some fieldwork delays and reduced the demand for hired workers. In California, worker numbers were down slightly from last year due to continued shortages caused by unsettled political issues on immigration. Some California grape growers have resorted to mechanical harvest methods because of the worker shortages. Persistent dryness in the Mountain II region delayed completion of small grain seeding. The lack of precipitation also caused pastures to deteriorate and led some livestock producers to reduce inventories. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed. In the Northeast II region, lingering effects from the season-long drought caused production of corn and soybeans to be considerably below last year, lowering worker demand. Dry conditions In the Delta region slowed the progress of winter wheat seeding, decreasing the demand for hired workers.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II, Lake, Mountain II, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Northeast II, Mountain II, and Corn Belt II regions, the higher wages were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. Strong demand for skilled workers in the dairy industry pushed wages higher in the Mountain III region. In the Lake Region, the higher wages were due to the heavy demand for skilled fruit pickers and dairy workers.

The 2007 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $10.21, up 3 percent from the 2006 annual average wage rate of $9.87. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $9.40, up 34 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $9.49, up 4 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $9.15.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF October 7-13, 2007 [1]

Item	NE II [2]	U. S. [3]
	Thousands	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	38	806
Expected to be Employed		
150 Days or More	30	590
149 Days or Less	8	216
	Hours	
Hours Worked		
Hired	41.8	42.1
	Dollars per Hour	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers	10.63	10.33
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	9.82	9.72
Field	9.81	9.62
Livestock	9.86	9.98

[1] Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. [2] NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. [3] Excludes AK.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, NOVEMBER 2007

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Nov 2006	Oct 2007	Nov 2007 [1]	Nov 2006	Oct 2007	Nov 2007 [1]
				Dollars			
Corn	Bu.	3.35	3.80	4.03	2.88	3.29	3.49
Wheat, Winter [2]	Bu.	-	-	-	4.67	7.54	7.50
Oats	Bu.	2.06	2.64	2.80	2.05	2.44	2.35
Barley [2]	Bu.	-	-	-	2.92	4.50	4.69
Soybeans [2]	Bu.	-	-	-	6.08	8.36	9.48
Hay, Dry All	Ton	136.00	172.00	185.00	109.00	133.00	131.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	162.00	195.00	206.00	110.00	137.00	135.00
Dry Other	Ton	132 00	169.00	182.00	106.00	122.00	123.00
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.240	.376	.308	0.361	0.361	0.345
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	42.80	47.00	42.90	43.60	46.60	43.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	82.50	86.50	83.50	90.00	96.40	95.40
Calves	Cwt.	114.00	120.00	119.00	119.00	122.00	118.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	42.10	36 60	33.40	45 30	42.80	39.00
Sows	Cwt.	33.80	28.30	26.80	35.40	27.50	26.50
Sheep	Cwt.	46.80	45.00	-	30.30	25.30	-
Lambs	Cwt.	106.00	114.00	-	95.60	97.00	-
Eggs [3]	Doz.	0.650	0.770	1.150	0.677	0.802	1.180
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	15.40	23.60	-	13.90	21.40	21.70
Manufactured Grade [4]	Cwt.	13.20	-	-	13.70	19.70	20.20
All	Cwt.	15.40	23.60	23.50	13.90	21.40	21.60
Milk Cows [5]	Head	-	2,100.00	-	-	2,020.00	-

[1] Preliminary. [2] Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. [3] Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. [4] PA is no longer published due to insufficient manufacturing grade milk volume. [5] Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul, Oct.). [6] Apples insufficient sales to establish a price.

NOVEMBER FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASED 2 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 143 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.4 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 2 points (1.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, eggs, corn, and broilers and lower prices were received for lettuce, hogs, cattle, and broccoli. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, cotton, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 24 points (20 percent) from November 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 147, increased 2 points (1.4 percent) from last month and increased 27 points (23 percent) from November 2006.

Feed Grains & Hay: The November index is 156, up 4.7 percent from last month and 21 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at $3.49 per bushel, is up 20 cents from last month and 61 cents above November 2006. The all hay price, at $131 per ton, is down $2.00 from October but up $22.00 from last November

Fruits & Nuts: The November index, at 178, is up 4.1 percent from October and 9.9 percent higher than a year ago. Price increases for oranges, grapes, strawberries, and grapefruit more than offset price decreases for apples and pears.

Commercial Vegetables: The November index, at 141, is down 28 percent from last month but 19 percent above November 2006. Price declines during November for lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, and cucumbers more than offset price increases for snap beans, tomatoes, celery, and cantaloupes.

Dairy Products: The November index, at 165, is up 0.6 percent from a month ago and 56 percent higher than November last year. The November all milk price of $21.60 per cwt is up 20 cents from last month and up $7.70 from November 2006. The fluid grade milk price is up 30 cents and the manufacturing grade milk price is up 50 cents from the previous month.

U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS [1]

Commodity	Unit	Nov 2006	Oct 2007	Nov 2007
			Dollars	
Wheat	Bu.	10.40	11.00	11.10
Corn	Bu.	7.72	8.14	8.24
All Milk, Sold to Plants [2]	Cwt.	38.20	40.70	41.20
Wool	Lb.	1.61	1.74	1.76
Barley	Bu.	7.21	7.67	7.77
Oats	Bu.	4.29	4.56	4.62
Potatoes	Cwt.	16.00	17.30	17.60
Rye	Bu.	6.88	8.77	8.89
Soybeans	Bu.	17.10	18.00	18.20
Apples, For Fresh Use [3]	Lb.	0.524	0.638	0.646
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	191.00	215.00	218.00
Calves	Cwt.	266.00	309.00	313.00
Hogs	Cwt.	116.00	124.00	125.00
Lambs	Cwt.	231.00	252.00	255.00
Sheep	Cwt.	94.80	104.00	105.00
Eggs	Doz.	1.76	1.86	1.89
Turkeys, Live	Lb.	1.090	1.190	1.200

[1] Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956.
[2] Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price.
[3] Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only). Price at point of first sale for other states.

APPLE COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 2,615,000 bushels on September 30, 2007, compared to 2,355,000 bushels on September 30, 2006. The 3 largest varieties in storage were: Golden Delicious, 1,402,000 bushels; Rome, 331,000 bushels; and Gala, 192,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 109,830,000 pounds on September 30, 2007, compared to 98,910,000 pounds on September 30, 2006.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE (BUSHELS), SEPTEMBER 2007

Variety	September 30, 2006					September 30, 2007				
	Fresh Market [1]		Processing		Total	Fresh Market [1]		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	Bushels									
Braeburn						0	0	0	0	0
Cortland						5,000	500	1,000	0	6,500
Empire						5,000	25,000	15,000	0	45,000
Fuji	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	0	0	1,000
Gala	240,000	50,000	88,500	17,500	156,000	105,000	80,000	7,000	0	192,000
Golden Delicious	39,200	215,000	590,000	422,000	1,266,000	107,000	170,000	625,000	500,000	1,402,000
Granny Smith						0	0	8,000	0	8,000
Idared						500	0	57,000	23,000	80,500
Jonagold						3,000	7,000	38,000	0	48,000
Jonathan						2,000	0	14,000	0	16,000
McIntosh	31,500	0	28,000	0	59,500	30,000	4,000	15,000	0	49,000
Mutsu/Crispin						8,000	0	5,000	0	13,000
Northern Spy						0	0	0	0	0
Pink Lady						0	0	0	0	0
Red Delicious	32,000	185,000	37,000	0	254,000	60,000	45,000	65,000	0	170,000
Rome	0	0	87,000	110,000	197,000	105,000	0	130,000	96,000	331,000
Rome Sport						2,000	0	10,000	0	12,000
Spartan						0	0	0	0	0
Stayman	500	0	29,000	0	29,500	1,000	0	1,000	0	2,000
Winesap						500	0	0	0	500
York	0	0	15,000	12,500	27,500	0	0	140,000	0	140,000
All Other Varieties						25,500	1,000	60,000	2,000	88,500
Not Segregated	31,800	40,500	251,500	41,500	365,300	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
All Varieties	**185,000**	**529,000**	**1,055,000**	**586,000**	**2,355,000**	**460,000**	**333,000**	**1,201,000**	**621,000**	**2,615,000**

[1] Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified.

APPLE STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	September 30, 2006	August 31, 2007	September 30, 2007
Pennsylvania			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	52,080,000	11,466,000	69,762,000
Controlled Atmosphere	46,830,000	357,000	40,068,000
TOTAL APPLES	**98,910,000**	**11,823,000**	**109,830,000**
United States			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	1,043,557,000	29,159,000	1,038,976,000
Controlled Atmosphere	2,045,622,000	70,207,000	1,936,993,000
TOTAL APPLES	**3,089,179,000**	**99,366,000**	**2,975,969,000**

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Oct 2006	Sep 2007	Oct 2007	Oct 2006	Sep 2007	Oct 2007
Layers	Thous.	23,497	22,090	21,973	344,538	339,841	341,490
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,388	2,313	2,421	2,228	2,169	2,253
Eggs Produced	Million	561	511	532	7,678	7,370	7,695
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,556	4,165	4,165	36,162	35,270	35,767
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	14,322	14,704	15,028	772,942	784,155	795,371
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	24,891	24,073	25,395

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during October 2007 totaled 532 million eggs, down 5 percent from the 561 million eggs produced in October 2006. The total number of layers averaged 22.0 million during October, a 6 percent drop from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,421 eggs during the month, an increase of 33 eggs from October 2006. Egg-type chicks hatched during October 2007 totaled 4.2 million, down 9 percent from the 4.6 million hatched the previous October. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 15.0 million during October 2007, up 5 percent from the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.70 billion during October 2007, slightly above from last year's total during October. The total number of layers during October averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,253 eggs, an increase of 25 eggs from October 2006. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during October totaled 35.8 million, down 1 percent from October 2006. Broiler-type hatch totaled 795 million, a 3 percent increase from last year at this time. There were 25.9 million turkey poults placed in the United States during October 2007, up 3 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, OCT 2007

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Million pounds	119.6	4,613.5
Cattle	1,000 Head	89.5	3,099.6
	1,000 pounds live	111,101	4,015,128
Calves	1,000 Head	14.6	65.2
	1,000 pounds live	5,950	18,559
Hogs	1,000 Head	272.1	10,654.4
	1,000 pounds live	69,505	2,870,108
Sheep & Lambs	1,000 Head	5.0	248.0
	1,000 pounds live	478	32,710

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during October 2007 totaled 119.6 million pounds, up 7 percent from October 2006. Beef production, at 111.1 million pounds live weight, was up 15 percent from October 2006. Total head slaughtered was 89,500, up 14 percent from the same month last year. Live weight averaged 1,251 pounds, up 19 pounds from last year. Veal production was 6.0 million pounds live weight, down 7 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 14,600 head was down 9 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 5 pounds to 407 pounds. Pork production was 69.5 million pounds live weight, up 2 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 272,100, up 3 percent from October 2006. Average live weight decreased 1 pound from last year to 256 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during October 2007 was 478,000 pounds live weight, up 5 percent from October 2006. The number slaughtered was 5,000, up 4 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 2 pounds to 96 pounds.

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