

Ag Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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United States Wage Rates Up 1 Percent

There were 978,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 10-16, 2005, down 10 percent from a year ago. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.34 per hour during the April 2005 reference week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.55 per hour, up 8 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned \$9.23 per hour compared with \$8.95 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.73 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.6 hours a year ago.

Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States
April 10-16, 2005 with Comparisons ¹

Farm Employment	April 11-17, 2004	January 9-15, 2005	April 10-16, 2005
	1,000		
Hired Workers	827	589 *	746
150 Days or More	651	494 *	596
149 Days or Less	176	95 *	150
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	257	185 *	232
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,084	774 *	978
	Hours Per Week		
Hours Worked, Hired Workers	40.6	37.0 *	39.8
	Dollars Per Hour		
Wage Rate for			
All Hired Workers ^{2,3}	9.23	9.78 *	9.34
Field & Livestock Combined	8.59	8.90 *	8.73
Field	8.47	8.71 *	8.55
Livestock	8.95	9.20 *	9.23

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Alaska.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economics Class of Farm by Region and 48 States ¹

Region ²	Gross Value Sales-\$1,000's						All Farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
Dollars per Hour							
April 10-16, 2005							
N. East	9.41	9.10	8.04	8.85	9.54	10.36	9.55
Appal.	8.17	9.17	7.61	8.99	8.57	9.81	8.81
S. East	6.40	³	9.45	9.21	8.16	9.44	9.13
Lake	9.06	9.35	9.46	9.12	9.45	10.80	9.95
Cornbelt	9.20	8.10	8.74	8.40	9.19	10.33	9.46
Delta	6.15	7.95	7.20	8.44	6.95	8.23	7.64
N. Plains	7.60	6.84	9.61	9.21	8.49	10.93	9.70
S. Plains	8.22	8.32	8.91	8.82	7.92	10.13	9.28
Mountain	6.78	³	7.59	7.42	9.60	9.07	8.67
Pacific	8.62	8.54	9.31	9.22	9.28	9.75	9.60
48 States	8.20	9.12	8.50	8.77	8.76	9.85	9.32
April 11-17, 2004							
N. East	10.56	9.79	9.53	9.04	9.46	10.23	9.85
Appal.	7.28	7.59	8.53	7.78	8.77	9.86	8.95
S. East	8.32	7.90	9.39	8.49	8.25	8.73	8.65
Lake	8.63	9.40	9.33	9.70	9.62	10.87	10.10
Cornbelt	8.70	9.58	8.43	9.18	9.90	10.40	9.65
Delta	7.38	7.48	7.42	8.39	7.96	7.92	7.86
N. Plains	7.54	6.35	7.83	9.60	8.18	10.33	8.95
S. Plains	8.39	7.09	7.16	8.88	7.92	8.38	8.13
Mountain	³	³	7.22	8.90	9.64	9.30	8.99
Pacific	10.88	10.23	8.89	9.46	9.58	9.33	9.38
48 States	9.26	9.86	8.67	9.11	9.23	9.52	9.21

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Worker.

² Regions consist of the following States: Northeast: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT. Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV. Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY. Pacific: CA, OR, WA. 48 States: All States, excluding AK and HI.

³ Insufficient data.

Hired Workers: Distribution by Economic Class of Farm, 48 States ^{1 2}

Gross Value of Sales	April 11-17, 2004	January 9-15, 2005	April 10-16, 2005
Percent of Hired Workers			
Less than \$50,000	11	10	11
\$50,000-\$99,999	7	5	6
\$100,000-\$249,999	22	12	11
\$250,000-\$499,999	10	11	11
\$500,000-\$999,999	11	11	12
\$1,000,000 and over	39	51	49

¹ 48 States, excluding AK and HI.

² Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, April 11-17, 2004 and April 10-16, 2005 ¹

Region	Type of Worker						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock Combined		2004	2005
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005		
Dollars Per Hour								
Northeast I	9.47	9.01	8.81	8.51	9.18	8.83	10.35	9.47
Northeast II	8.68	9.24	8.87	8.62	8.73	9.05	9.25	9.65
Appalachian I	8.01	8.38	8.38	8.85	8.14	8.50	8.82	9.07
Appalachian II	8.48	8.38	8.62	7.69	8.55	8.08	9.06	8.59
Southeast	7.88	8.41	8.71	8.30	8.12	8.38	8.42	8.83
Florida	7.85	8.20	8.60	9.90	7.94	8.37	8.79	9.31
Lake	9.20	8.99	9.95	10.05	9.60	9.45	10.10	9.95
Cornbelt I	9.04	8.84	8.87	9.17	9.00	8.91	9.74	9.51
Cornbelt II	9.04	8.85	9.03	9.27	9.04	9.06	9.48	9.38
Delta	7.75	7.37	7.47	7.18	7.70	7.34	7.86	7.64
Northern Plains	8.87	9.33	8.51	9.69	8.73	9.46	8.95	9.70
Southern Plains	7.50	8.13	7.93	9.15	7.62	8.53	8.13	9.28
Mountain I	8.14	7.89	8.41	8.49	8.31	8.23	8.57	8.43
Mountain II	9.66	7.70	8.83	8.41	9.29	8.02	9.84	8.50
Mountain III	7.55	7.95	8.20	9.40	7.81	8.51	8.37	9.18
Pacific	9.02	8.87	10.16	10.78	9.16	9.23	9.91	9.95
California	8.39	8.59	10.00	10.34	8.52	8.82	9.26	9.48
Hawaii ²	9.51	9.67			9.66	9.79	11.26	11.33
United States ³	8.46	8.55	8.95	9.23	8.58	8.73	9.22	9.34

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Insufficient data for livestock.

³ Excludes AK.

Commercial Red Meat Production: By Selected States and United States
April 2005 with Comparisons ¹

State	April 2004	March 2005	April 2005	April 2005 as Percent of ²	
				April 2004	March 2005
Million Pounds			Percent		
Alabama	2.9	2.9	2.6	93	93
Arkansas	4.9	5.0*	3.9	80	79
Georgia	10.3	12.7	12.1	118	95
Kentucky	41.9	39.6	35.8	85	90
Louisiana	1.0	1.3	1.0	104	81
Mississippi	24.1	25.4	22.7	94	89
Missouri	39.0	43.1	40.4	104	94
Oklahoma	93.5	93.6	93.3	100	100
South Carolina	21.3	21.4	19.1	90	89
Tennessee	16.6	19.2	12.6	76	65
Texas	377.4	380.4	364.9	97	96
United States	3,712.8	3,878.9*	3,622.3	98	93

* Revised.

¹ Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.

² Percentages based on unrounded data.

Chicken Eggs in Incubators, by Region and United States, May 1, 2004-2005

Region	Broiler-Type			Egg-type		
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004	2005	2005/2004
	1,000		Percent	1,000		Percent
North Atlantic	12,592	12,202	97	5,718	4,731	83
East North Central	8,201	8,947	109	7,349	7,456	101
West North Central	25,805	23,840	92	6,542	8,001	122
South Atlantic	235,068	241,162	103	2,424	4,315	178
South Central	354,408	351,361	99	5,374	5,736	107
West	25,467	25,914	102	5,940	5,636	95
United States	661,541	663,426	100	33,347	35,875	108

April Layers and Egg Production, by Selected States and United States, 2004-2005

State	All Layers on Hand		Table Eggs ¹		Hatching Eggs ¹	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000		Million Eggs			
Alabama	9,327	8,999	44	35	127	133
Arkansas	16,077	14,578	112	88	198	190
Florida	11,456	10,737	257	245	9	9
Georgia	20,233	19,656	244	222	167	174
Mississippi	7,022	7,259	41	36	93	102
North Carolina	11,054	11,136	80	77	130	135
Oklahoma	4,057	3,893	43	41	34	32
South Carolina	5,161	4,955	89	82	18	18
Virginia	3,300	3,462	27	28	36	36
United States	342,612	343,975	6,284	6,290	1,074	1,099

¹ Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched, by Selected States and United States, April 2004-2005

State	April			January-April		
	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
	1,000		Percent	1,000		Percent
Alabama	108,686	110,549	102	430,510	433,383	101
Arkansas	111,422	109,920	99	443,724	444,356	100
Florida	4,758	4,811	101	19,306	19,095	99
Georgia	115,342	117,954	102	470,737	476,714	101
Kentucky	24,925	25,155	101	97,860	100,960	103
Mississippi	70,603	71,086	101	281,310	284,178	101
North Carolina	66,700	67,320	101	259,110	262,766	101
Texas	54,413	55,280	102	212,617	216,644	102
United States	774,629	789,780	102	3,068,949	3,132,862	102

United States Catfish: Sales, Average Price and Ending Inventory, April 2004-2005

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Pounds		Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
Fresh						
Whole Fish	3,001	2,938	1.60	1.59	184	110
Fillets ¹	5,887	4,979	2.73	2.87	487	368
Other ²	1,426	1,271	1.78	1.71	128	95
Total Fresh	10,314	9,188	2.27	2.30	799	573
Frozen						
Whole Fish	1,008	1,141	2.03	2.01	1,363	1,110
Fillets ¹	9,871	10,424	2.70	2.66	6,032	8,139
Other ²	3,840	3,783	1.63	1.49	3,867	3,162
Total Frozen	14,719	15,348	2.38	2.32	11,262	12,411
Total Fresh & Frozen	25,033	24,536	2.33	2.31	12,061	12,984

¹ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded products.

² Includes all products not already reported including weight of breading and added ingredients.

United States Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed, Prices Paid to Producers by Major Processors, and United States Imports, 2004-2005

Month	Round Weight Processed				Average Price Paid to Producers ¹		Imports of Catfish ²	
	Monthly		Cumulative		2004	2005	2004	2005
	2004	2005	2004	2005				
	1,000 Pounds				Dollars		1,000 Pounds	
January	53,849	53,856	53,849	53,856	.668	.725	215	1,383
February	54,173	51,720	108,022	105,576	.703	.731	204	1,230
March	60,272	57,117	168,294	162,693	.723	.733	295	1,161
April	53,896	50,306	222,190	212,999	.728	.725	328	
May	52,324		274,514		.720		248	
June	50,155		324,669		.689		270	
July	51,055		375,724		.682		123	
August	53,295		429,019		.683		1,637	
September	51,329		480,348		.683		1,801	
October	52,396		532,744		.695		1,104	
November	49,536		582,280		.689		1,579	
December	48,170		630,450		.690		1,420	

¹ Price for fish delivered to processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

² Pounds of frozen boneless fillets. Includes Ictalurus, Pangasius and Siluriformes catfish. Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Fertilizer and Agricultural Limestone: Prices Paid,
by Selected Region and United States, April 2004-2005

Item	Region ^{1 2}							
	E. South Central		South Central		Southeast		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Dollars Per Ton							
0-18-36	212	264	204	252			208	258
0-20-20	226	258	207	242	210	241	220	248
5-10-10					162	193	165	193
5-10-15	189	215			185	241	186	233
5-10-30					209	252	209	244
5-20-20	207	247					207	247
6-6-6					203	239	203	232
6-6-18					223	254	223	247
6-12-12	209	223					209	223
6-24-24	245	275						287
8-8-8					194	216	194	204
10-10-10	177	205			209	244	202	235
10-20-10			229	240			226	247
10-20-20					237	288	241	279
10-34-0			248	247			261	271
13-13-13	230	272	214	242			229	265
15-15-15	230	275					257	288
16-4-8					249	290	249	289
16-6-12			214	245			214	232
16-20-0			214	241			263	293
17-17-17			227	276	260	300	251	293
18-46-0 (DAP)	290	310	265	285	290	319	276	303
19-19-19	259	310					256	304
24-8-0			209	245			209	244
Ammonium Nitrate	270	292	259	293	287	324	263	292
Anhydrous Ammonia	387	448	326	368			379	416
Aqua Ammonia							132	139
Limestone, Spread	25.30	21.20	27.30	30.50	28.80	31.70	21.10	20.70
Muriate of Potash								
60-62% K ₂ O	189	258	175	241	202	270	181	245
Nitrate of Soda	342	345			301	318	308	323
Nitrogen Solutions								
28% N	174	219	182	224			179	218
30% N					174	211	178	215
32% N	181	224	185	235	183	229	197	243
Sulfate of Ammonia			183	241			205	244
Superphosphate								
44-46% P ₂ O ₅	265	296	245	267	268	298	266	299
Urea 44-46%	269	330	253	318			276	332

¹ East South Central: AL, KY, LA, MS, TN; South Central: AR, OK, TX; Southeast: FL, GA, NC, SC, VA.

² Items left blank were not surveyed.

Prices Paid for Farm Equipment and Tractors, United States, April 2003-2005

Item and Unit	2003	2004	2005
	Dollars		
Baler, Square, Pick-Up, Automatic Tie, P.T.O.			
Conventional Size Bales Under 200 Pounds	17,300	17,400	18,200
Round, 1200-1500 Lb bale	18,300	19,500	20,300
Round, 1900-2200 Lb bale	25,600	27,000	28,200
Chisel Plow, 16-20 Foot	13,100	15,300	15,600
Combine, Self-Propelled with Grain Head			
Extra-Large Capacity	196,000	218,000	232,000
Large Capacity	159,000	180,000	192,000
Cotton Picker, Self-Propelled, with Spindle, 4-Row	216,000	237,000	238,000
Cultivator, Row Crop, Front or Rear Mounted			
6-Row	6,330	6,920	7,490
12-Row, Flexible	13,700	15,300	17,300
Disk Harrow, Tandem, Drawn with Hydraulic Lift			
15-17 Foot	15,200	14,300	15,700
18-20 Foot	19,300	19,400	21,600
Field Cultivator, Mounted or Drawn			
17-19 Foot	11,600	12,400	14,400
20-25 Foot, Flexible	15,900	17,500	19,600
Front-End Loader, Hydraulic, Tractor Mounted			
1800-2500 Lb. Capacity, 60 Inch Bucket	5,000	5,150	5,450
Manure Spreader, Conveyor Type, P.T.O., 2-Wheel			
141-190 Bushel Capacity	6,760	7,210	7,790
225-300 Bushel Capacity	10,100	10,900	11,900
Planter, Row Crop			
With Fertilizer Attachment, 4-Row	15,200	16,100	16,900
With Fertilizer Attachment, 8-Row	30,000	32,000	31,400
With Fertilizer Attachment, 24-Row	95,700	102,000	108,000
With Fertilizer Attachment, 12-Row Conservation	52,400	53,100	57,900
Tractor, 2-Wheel Drive			
30-39 P.T.O Horsepower	16,000	16,100	16,700
50-59 P.T.O Horsepower	21,300	21,500	23,400
70-89 P.T.O Horsepower	33,600	33,900	36,800
110-129 P.T.O Horsepower	63,800	65,700	68,500
140-159 P.T.O Horsepower	84,100	86,900	91,900
190-220 P.T.O Horsepower	116,000	121,000	126,000
Tractor, 4-Wheel Drive			
200-280 P.T.O Horsepower	133,000	141,000	142,000

Mississippi and United States Price Highlights, May 2005 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	May 2004 Entire Month		April 2005 Entire Month		May 2005 Mid-Month	
		MS	US	MS	US	MS	US
Dollars							
Corn	bu	---	2.87	---	2.00	---	1.92
Cotton, Upland	lb	.616	.597	.395	.431	.395 ¹	.422 ¹
Sorghum, grain	cwt	---	4.82	---	2.96	---	2.86
Soybeans	bu	9.14	9.56	6.15	6.03	6.35	6.09
Winter Wheat	bu	---	3.72	---	3.27	---	3.13
Rice, Rough	cwt	---	8.82	---	7.06	---	7.00
All Milk	cwt	---	19.30	---	15.20	---	14.90
Fluid	cwt	---	19.30	---	15.20	---	14.90
Manufacturing	cwt	---	18.80	---	14.70	---	14.20
All Beef Cattle	cwt	---	88.50	---	94.00	---	92.90
Cows	cwt	---	52.50	---	57.10	---	58.70
Calves	cwt	---	121.00	---	140.00	---	141.00
Steers & Heifers	cwt	---	92.60	---	98.30	---	96.90
All Hogs	cwt	---	56.60	---	51.20	---	55.40
Barrows & Gilts	cwt	---	57.30	---	51.50	---	56.10
Sows	cwt	---	43.50	---	41.70	---	41.70
Broilers, Live	lb	---	.500	---	.440	---	.440
Market Eggs	doz	.430 ²	.430 ²	.243 ²	.261 ²	.220	.236

--- Estimates not made.

¹ Based on sales during the first half of the month.

² Mid-month prices.