

NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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SPECIAL SURVEY RESULTS OCTOBER QUARTERLY LABOR

NOVEMBER 2003 EXCLUSIVELY FOR SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Dear Respondent:

This issue of the **NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE SPECIAL SURVEY RESULTS** covers the results of the **QUARTERLY FARM LABOR SURVEY** for the week of October 12-18, 2003. This is being sent exclusively to those of you who responded to our request for data. The information you provided made these published estimates possible. Thank you for your cooperation and the time spent completing the surveys.

Sincerely,



Dwaine C. Nelson
State Statistician

NEW MEXICO: NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA: There were 18,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of October 12th -18th 2003, down 5.3 percent from a year ago. Hours worked increased 4.8 percent to an average of 47.9 hours per worker. Average wage rates for all hired workers declined by 7 cents from last year to \$8.18 an hour. Field and livestock workers, however, saw increases in wage rates from last October, improving an average of 21 cents to \$7.63 an hour.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,197,000 hired workers on the Nation s farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 891,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 306,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.05 per hour during the October 2003 reference week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 8 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.64 per hour compared with \$8.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.47 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

**Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers,
Selected Regions and U.S., October 2002-2003 ^{1/}**

| | Mountain II ^{2/} | | Mountain III ^{3/} | | Southern Plains ^{4/} | | United States ^{5/} | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | Oct 7-13 2002 | Oct 12-18 2003 | Oct 7-13 2002 | Oct 12-18 2003 | Oct 7-13 2002 | Oct 12-18 2003 | Oct 7-13 2002 | Oct 12-18 2003 |
| Workers on Farms | -----Thousands----- | | | | | | | |
| All Hired Workers | 16 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 58 | 54 | 940 | 891 |
| Hours Worked | -----Hours Per Week----- | | | | | | | |
| All Hired Workers | 35.7 | 41.5 | 45.7 | 47.9 | 41.7 | 41.7 | 40.4 | 40.2 |
| Wages By Work Type | -----Dollars Per Hour----- | | | | | | | |
| Field | 8.31 | 8.11 | 7.07 | 7.16 | 7.05 | 7.12 | 8.34 | 8.42 |
| Livestock | 8.79 | 8.12 | 8.24 | 8.73 | 7.32 | 7.70 | 8.42 | 8.64 |
| Field & Livestock | 8.50 | 8.11 | 7.42 | 7.63 | 7.18 | 7.39 | 8.36 | 8.47 |
| All Workers | 8.79 | 8.97 | 8.25 | 8.18 | 7.57 | 8.01 | 8.95 | 9.05 |

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers. ^{2/} Mountain Region II consists of CO, NV & UT. ^{3/} Mountain Region III consists of AZ & NM. ^{4/} Southern Plains region consists of OK & TX. ^{5/} Excludes AK.