

Farm Labor, 1998

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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.

The total number of workers hired by farm operators in the Northeast II Region during 1998 ranged between a

low of 20,000 in January to a high of 47,000 in July. The average hours worked during the survey week by the hired workers varied from 38.4 hours in October, 1998 up to 40.7 hours in July, 1998.

In 1998 all hired workers earned between \$7.22 per hour in July to \$7.59 in October. During the same period field workers hourly wage rate ranged between \$6.95 in July and \$7.45 in January. In contrast livestock workers hourly wage rates ranged between \$6.08 in January and \$6.74 in October.

Northeast II: Hired Farm Labor, Quarterly, 1995-1998^{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					
	(000) Workers			Hours	Dollars Per Hour			
1995								
January 08-14	22	19	3	40.9	6.63	5.12	5.84	6.40
April 09-15	33	26	7	41.1	6.53	5.30	6.06	6.44
July 09-15	52	32	20	40.9	6.10	5.22	5.86	6.32
October 08-14	37	25	12	39.1	6.47	5.33	6.15	6.54
1996								
January 07-13	21	19	2	39.5	6.53	5.54	6.04	6.76
April 07-13	35	30	5	38.4	6.62	5.31	6.11	6.78
July 07-13	43	31	12	41.9	6.28	5.94	6.16	6.51
October 06-12	38	28	10	40.1	6.91	5.57	6.58	7.10
1997								
January 12-18	30	26	4	40.5	7.38	6.12	6.66	7.40
April 06-12	41	35	6	40.8	6.62	5.81	6.25	6.94
July 06-12	48	33	15	46.0	6.29	5.71	6.10	6.56
October 12-18	43	34	9	37.1	6.68	6.18	6.50	7.06
1998								
January 11-17	20	17	3	38.7	7.45	6.08	6.80	7.51
April 12-18	29	21	8	39.3	7.23	6.20	7.00	7.53
July 12-18	47	30	17	40.7	6.95	6.20	6.75	7.22
October 11-17	32	24	8	38.4	7.11	6.74	6.98	7.59

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.