

Farm Labor

MOUNTAIN REGION II (includes Utah, Nevada, and Colorado): During the week of October 12-18, 2003 there were 20,000 workers hired by farm operators in the region. All hired workers (excluding Agricultural Service Workers) were paid an average wage of \$8.97 per hour, up 41 cents from July 2003 but 8 cents lower than the national average. Field workers received \$8.11 per hour on average, down 25 cents from July 2003. Livestock workers received \$8.12 per hour, down 50 cents from July 2003.

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.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region and United States, October 12-18, 2003¹

U.S. and Region	Hired							Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked	Type of Worker			
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less		Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Hours per Week	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour
Mountain I ²	33	22	11	45.0	7.80	8.05	7.93	8.24
Mountain II ³	20	15	5	41.5	8.11	8.12	8.11	8.97
Mountain III ⁴	18	15	3	47.9	7.16	8.73	7.63	8.18
US	891	626	265	40.2	8.42	8.64	8.47	9.05

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Mountain I - Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. ³ Mountain II - Colorado, Nevada and Utah. ⁴ Mountain III - Arizona and New Mexico.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.0 million head on November 1, 2003. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2002 but 7 percent below November 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.78 million, 16 percent above 2002 and 3 percent above 2001. Net placements were 2.68 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 1.02 million, 600-699 pounds were 796,000, 700-799

pounds were 508,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 454,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.86 million, 6 percent below 2002 and 2 percent below 2001.

Other disappearance totaled 101,000 during October, 20 percent above 2002 and 49 percent above 2001.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000 + Capacity Feedlots, United States, November 1, 2001- 2003

Item	Number			2003 as % of	
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002
On Feed Oct 1 ¹	11,125	10,416	10,213	92	98

..... 1,000 Head Percent

Placed on Feed during Oct	2,702	2,389	2,781	103	116
Fed Cattle Marketed during Oct.	1,896	1,979	1,855	98	94
Other Disappearance during Oct ²	68	84	101	149	120
On Feed Nov ¹	11,863	10,742	11,038	93	103

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. *Revised

Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: Commercial red meat production totaled 36.8 million pounds in October 2003, 18.8 percent below October of last year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for October 2003 totaled 48,600 head, 13.4 percent below a year ago. The average live weight was 1,196 pounds, down 69 pounds from October 2002. **Hog slaughter** totaled 2,500 head, down 2,500 head from October 2002. The average live weight was 245 pounds compared with 183 pounds last year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during October 2003 totaled 3,200 head, an increase of 300 head from a year ago. Average live weight, at 128 pounds, was up 2 pounds from a year ago.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.15 billion pounds in October, down 5 percent from the 4.38 billion pounds produced in October 2002. **Beef production**, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 12 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, down 8 percent from October 2002. The average live weight was down 39 pounds from the previous year, at 1,231 pounds. **Veal production**

totalled 16.4 million pounds, 13 percent below October a year ago and a record monthly low. Calf slaughter totaled 87,500 head, down 13 percent from October 2002. The average live weight was unchanged last year, at 308 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.91 billion pounds, a record monthly high and up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.64 million head, 3 percent above October 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 267 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 265,500 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago. **January to October 2003 commercial red meat production** was 39.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter, October 2002-2003¹

Item	Utah		United States	
	October		October	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Production (Million Pounds)				
Red Meat	45.3	36.8	4,382.1	4,154.0
Number Slaughtered (Thousand Head)				
Cattle	56.1	48.6	3,266.6	3,002.6
Calves	1	1	100.9	87.5
Hogs	5.0	2.5	9,403.6	9,638.7
Sheep & Lamb	2.9	3.2	300.6	265.5
Average Live Weight (Pounds)				
Cattle	1,265	1,196	1,270	1,231
Calves	1	1	308	308
Hogs	183	245	264	267
Sheep & Lamb	126	128	132	135

¹ Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2003 were greater than year earlier levels for frozen eggs and vegetables. Butter stocks were down 22 percent from September 2003 and 2 percent below a year ago. **Total red meat supplies** in freezers were 3 percent above September 30, 2003, but were 17 percent below October 2002. Frozen pork stocks were 7 percent above last month, but 5 percent below last year. Stocks of pork bellies were 106 percent above last month and 103 percent above October 2002 stocks. **Total frozen poultry supplies** on October 31, 2003 were down 6 percent from last month and down 21 percent below last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were down slightly from last month and down 30 percent from last year's level. Total pounds of turkey in freezers decreased 12 percent from last month and were 8 percent below last year. **Public cooler occupancy** on October 31, 2003, was at 42 percent of capacity, up 2 points from last year. Public freezer occupancy, was at 57 percent, unchanged from last year.

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Oct 31, 2002</i>	<i>Sep 30, 2003</i>	<i>Oct 31, 2003</i>
<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			
Total Frozen			
<i>Eggs</i>	13,085	16,640	16,907
<i>Chicken</i>	861,284	604,452	603,471
<i>Turkey</i>	624,940	647,483	572,360
<i>Total Poultry</i>	1,495,099	1,254,866	1,178,564
<i>Cherries, Tart</i>			
<i>RTP</i>	66,942	96,035	83,201
<i>Juice</i>	2,424	2,438	1,731
<i>Cherries, Sweet . .</i>	9,888	8,835	8,184
<i>Potatoes</i>	1,252,157	1,153,673	1,254,530
<i>Beef</i>	525,167	379,828	375,930
<i>Pork</i>	489,802	435,182	465,331
<i>Lamb & Mutton</i>	12,004	6,210	5,913
<i>Total Meat</i>	1,038,867	832,155	857,859
Total in Storage			
<i>Apples, Fresh</i>	5,248,551	2,678,660	5,418,294
<i>Butter</i>	164,640	207,175	161,857
<i>Cheese, Natural . .</i>			
<i>American</i>	501,401	516,616	488,582
<i>Swiss</i>	18,927	22,884	22,205
<i>Other Natural . . .</i>	200,064	232,091	209,158

Agricultural Prices

Utah: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-November 2003, compared with October 2003, were up for barley, down for alfalfa hay, and remained the same for other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for October 2003 was \$94.00 per cwt, up \$12.00 from November 2002. The October 2003 sheep price, at \$30.00, remained the same as November 2002.

Barley, at \$2.36 per bushel, was up 11 cents from the previous month's price but 9 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$70.00 per ton, down \$6.00 from last month and \$27.00 below last year. Other hay, at \$60.00 per ton, remained the same as last month but \$2.00 higher than November 2002.

United States: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 117, based on 1990-92=100, 4 points (3.5 percent) above the October Index. Both the Livestock and Products Index and the All Crops Index were higher in November. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, and wheat. Lower prices were received for cotton, hogs, and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of all milk, cotton, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, and potatoes.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points (20.6 percent) from November 2002. The Food Commodities Index increased 5 points (4.3 percent) above last month to 121, and is 25 points (26.0 percent) above November 2002. This index value is the highest since records began in 1975.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Nov 2002	Oct 2003	Nov 2003 ¹	Nov 2002	Oct 2003	Nov 2003 ¹
Livestock & Products							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	82.00	94.00	(²)	84.00	96.90	(²)
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	30.00	30.00	(²)	31.30	34.80	(²)
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.45	2.25	2.36	2.79	2.77	2.56
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	97.00	76.00	70.00	101.00	88.80	88.00
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	58.00	60.00	60.00	73.90	71.40	64.90

¹ Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month.

² November data will be published next month.
