



Farm Labor

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Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates up 2 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,092,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 807,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 285,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.91 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.25 per hour, up 20 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.23 per hour compared with \$10.21 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.24 per hour, was up 15 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 6 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In northern and central California, heavy rains from the remnants of Typhoon Melor caused major fieldwork delays. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed. Weather conditions in the Appalachian I, Southern Plains, and Delta regions were considerably wetter compared with last year's relatively dry period, and fieldwork was seriously curtailed for several days. This led to a decreased demand for hired workers.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Florida, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. In the Corn Belt I region, continued strong demand from the equine and horticulture industries kept worker numbers higher than last year, despite the extremely wet conditions. Potato and corn harvests in the Pacific region were in high gear in an attempt to beat oncoming rains, causing stronger demand for field workers. In Florida, the reference week was much drier compared with last year when 2 to 3 inches of rain fell statewide, allowing fieldwork to progress rapidly. Therefore, hired worker demand increased. Strong demand from the dairy and horticulture industries in the Mountain II and Northeast II regions pushed worker numbers above the previous year.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Mountain II, Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northeast II, and Delta regions. The higher wages in the Appalachian II region were due to a higher percentage of workers on equine farms and on nursery and greenhouse operations. In the remaining regions cited, the higher wages were due to a lower percentage of part time workers.

The 2009 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$10.82 per hour, up 2 percent from the 2008 annual average wage rate of \$10.59 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$10.07 per hour, up 29 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$10.11 per hour, up 2 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$9.89 per hour.

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Hired Workers and Wage Rates, United States, with Comparisons

[Excludes Alaska]

Farm employment	October 12-18, 2008	July 12-18, 2009	October 11-17, 2009
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired workers	804	875	807
150 days or more	577	*609	585
149 days or less	227	*266	222
Agricultural services			
Workers working on farms	316	*381	285
Hired farm and service workers	1,120	*1,256	1,092
	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Hours worked			
Hired	41.4	*39.7	39.0
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Wage rate for			
All hired workers ^{1 2}	10.70	*10.66	10.91
Type of worker			
Field and livestock combined	10.09	10.04	10.24
Field	10.05	10.04	10.25
Livestock	10.21	*10.05	10.23

* Revised.

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

² Excludes agricultural service workers.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked by Region and United States: October 11-17, 2009

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

United States and region ¹	Hired			
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked
		150 days or more	149 days or Less	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours per week)
Northeast I	41	28	13	38.5
Northeast II	37	28	9	41.0
Appalachian I	31	21	10	37.1
Appalachian II	24	14	10	37.1
Southeast	32	23	9	35.0
Florida	46	41	5	38.6
Lake	67	46	21	38.0
Cornbelt I	47	29	18	33.6
Cornbelt II	30	20	10	31.1
Delta	33	26	7	38.0
Northern Plains	34	25	9	41.0
Southern Plains	56	44	12	39.0
Mountain I	25	20	5	45.0
Mountain II	22	18	4	41.3
Mountain III	20	18	2	44.9
Pacific	99	55	44	38.0
California	157	124	33	42.1
Hawaii	6	5	1	36.7
United States ²	807	585	222	39.0

¹ Region map on page 19.

² Excludes Alaska.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker by Region and United States: October 11-17, 2009

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

United States and region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	9.96	9.93	9.95	10.41
Northeast II	10.28	9.50	10.05	10.88
Appalachian I	8.67	9.15	8.85	9.55
Appalachian II	9.85	10.38	10.10	11.05
Southeast	8.87	9.33	9.00	9.53
Florida	9.30	10.10	9.40	10.65
Lake	11.03	10.10	10.65	11.24
Cornbelt I	11.30	10.51	11.00	11.17
Cornbelt II	10.46	11.23	10.75	10.85
Delta	8.86	9.16	8.95	9.50
Northern Plains	11.77	10.23	11.20	11.80
Southern Plains	9.17	10.64	9.85	10.17
Mountain I	10.45	8.89	9.70	10.05
Mountain II	11.01	11.70	11.25	11.55
Mountain III	9.10	10.06	9.50	10.30
Pacific	11.07	10.42	11.00	11.82
California	10.25	11.05	10.40	11.25
Hawaii	11.55	13.40	11.69	13.60
United States ²	10.25	10.23	10.24	10.91

¹ Region map on page 19.

² Excludes Alaska.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked by Region and United States: July 12-18, 2009

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

United States and region ¹	Hired			
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked
		150 days or more	149 days or less	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours per week)
Northeast I	37	24	13	38.5
Northeast II	38	27	11	39.1
Appalachian I	40	24	16	37.9
Appalachian II	29	18	11	34.5
Southeast	40	28	12	37.4
Florida	36	32	4	37.3
Lake	76	50	26	34.6
Cornbelt I	56	34	22	36.2
Cornbelt II	28	20	8	33.6
Delta	34	28	6	38.5
Northern Plains	40	28	12	41.0
Southern Plains	61	42	19	39.5
Mountain I	29	22	7	41.1
Mountain II	20	14	6	40.1
Mountain III	18	16	2	45.4
Pacific	117	62	55	40.4
California	170	*135	*35	*45.6
Hawaii	6	5	1	37.4
United States ²	875	*609	*266	*39.7

* Revised.

¹ Region map on page 19.

² Excludes Alaska.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker by Region and United States: July 12-18, 2009

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

United States and region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	10.32	9.86	10.15	10.92
Northeast II	9.83	9.09	9.65	10.20
Appalachian I	9.18	10.40	9.50	9.88
Appalachian II	9.36	9.76	9.55	10.34
Southeast	8.92	8.84	8.90	9.27
Florida	9.14	9.50	9.20	10.51
Lake	10.55	10.27	10.45	11.04
Cornbelt I	9.78	9.45	9.70	10.30
Cornbelt II	10.88	10.05	10.55	11.01
Delta	8.69	9.15	8.85	9.42
Northern Plains	10.67	10.20	10.50	10.73
Southern Plains	8.94	9.72	9.30	9.88
Mountain I	9.67	9.33	9.50	10.00
Mountain II	10.16	8.54	9.60	10.21
Mountain III	10.09	10.94	10.38	11.19
Pacific	10.93	11.77	11.00	11.43
California	10.10	*11.30	*10.30	*11.08
Hawaii	11.60	13.60	11.81	13.97
United States ²	10.04	*10.05	10.04	*10.66

* Revised.

¹ Region map on page 19.

² Excludes Alaska.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked by Region and United States: October 12-18, 2008

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

United States and region ¹	Hired			
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked
		150 days or more	149 days or less	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours per week)
Northeast I	42	28	14	42.1
Northeast II	33	21	12	36.8
Appalachian I	37	28	9	38.3
Appalachian II	23	13	10	35.1
Southeast	31	23	8	39.3
Florida	38	32	6	39.7
Lake	66	42	24	36.2
Cornbelt I	38	27	11	37.2
Cornbelt II	32	25	7	37.0
Delta	36	26	10	42.4
Northern Plains	34	20	14	43.3
Southern Plains	60	43	17	36.7
Mountain I	23	18	5	45.6
Mountain II	18	13	5	39.2
Mountain III	21	19	2	44.5
Pacific	90	53	37	45.5
California	176	141	35	46.1
Hawaii	6	5	1	38.9
United States ²	804	577	227	41.4

¹ Region map on page 19.

² Excludes Alaska.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker by Region and United States: October 12-18, 2008

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

United States and region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	10.66	10.08	10.45	10.95
Northeast II	9.67	9.24	9.57	10.25
Appalachian I	9.55	9.62	9.57	10.20
Appalachian II	9.22	9.82	9.45	10.32
Southeast	9.04	9.44	9.12	9.52
Florida	8.90	9.30	8.95	10.09
Lake	11.43	10.20	11.00	11.49
Cornbelt I	10.31	10.05	10.25	10.60
Cornbelt II	10.62	11.37	10.90	11.50
Delta	8.51	8.83	8.60	8.90
Northern Plains	10.66	9.89	10.40	10.94
Southern Plains	9.44	9.58	9.50	10.10
Mountain I	9.71	9.50	9.61	10.10
Mountain II	9.35	10.13	9.70	10.53
Mountain III	9.44	10.80	10.00	10.70
Pacific	10.94	10.54	10.90	11.37
California	9.95	11.90	10.22	10.93
Hawaii	11.00	13.00	11.21	13.24
United States ²	10.05	10.21	10.09	10.70

¹ Region map on page 19.

² Excludes Alaska.

**Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates, by Type of Farm, by Region
and 48 States: October 12-18, 2008**

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	10.36	10.02	10.13	10.09
Appalachian	8.88	10.21	9.45	9.53
Southeast	8.91	8.96	9.76	9.03
Lake	(D)	10.70	10.13	11.00
Cornbelt	10.21	10.66	10.82	10.55
Delta	8.17	(D)	8.91	8.60
Northern Plains	9.84	12.07	10.20	10.40
Southern Plains	9.32	9.28	9.43	9.50
Mountain	9.54	9.68	9.81	9.77
Pacific	10.43	10.30	11.18	10.44
48 States	9.91	10.15	10.06	10.08

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

**Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates, by Type of Farm, by Region
and 48 States: October 11-17, 2009**

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	(D)	10.12	9.73	10.00
Appalachian	9.81	8.89	9.33	9.39
Southeast	10.21	9.07	9.70	9.24
Lake	11.87	10.71	10.12	10.65
Cornbelt	11.41	10.10	10.69	10.91
Delta	8.46	9.94	9.22	8.95
Northern Plains	11.51	(D)	10.20	11.20
Southern Plains	9.08	8.82	10.63	9.85
Mountain	9.90	9.58	9.83	10.12
Pacific	10.90	10.58	10.69	10.62
48 States	10.65	10.14	10.16	10.24

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

- Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.
- Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
- Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.
- Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.
- Cornbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.
- Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.
- Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.
- Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.
- Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.
- Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.
- 48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm by Region and 48 States: October 12-18, 2008

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	(D)	(D)	9.71	10.11	9.90	11.03	10.66
Appalachian	10.34	9.92	8.42	9.52	8.99	11.99	10.24
Southeast	9.52	9.17	9.34	9.86	10.51	10.07	9.84
Lake	8.96	10.43	8.98	9.98	11.74	12.23	11.49
Cornbelt	9.86	11.81	10.48	8.69	11.28	11.59	11.01
Delta	(D)	8.26	8.52	8.50	8.77	9.61	8.90
Northern Plains	(D)	7.36	10.47	10.77	10.90	11.96	10.94
Southern Plains	10.59	9.26	11.51	10.37	9.90	9.64	10.10
Mountain	9.76	11.01	9.90	9.97	10.53	10.61	10.42
Pacific	10.73	10.36	11.88	10.84	11.39	11.02	11.09
48 States	9.72	10.17	10.19	10.00	10.72	11.03	10.68

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm by Region and 48 States: October 11-17, 2009

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	11.17	9.60	9.04	10.38	10.44	11.20	10.64
Appalachian	9.08	8.92	(D)	8.64	8.55	10.75	10.20
Southeast	10.40	10.30	9.09	9.74	10.22	10.38	10.22
Lake	10.53	8.73	9.54	9.94	10.70	12.37	11.24
Cornbelt	9.98	10.18	11.25	10.49	10.62	11.87	11.05
Delta	8.39	(D)	9.41	10.79	9.52	9.26	9.50
Northern Plains	(D)	9.78	9.96	10.50	11.40	13.17	11.80
Southern Plains	9.44	9.77	10.78	(D)	9.98	10.12	10.17
Mountain	10.72	(D)	10.55	10.18	11.75	10.25	10.59
Pacific	10.96	10.93	10.41	12.22	11.76	11.44	11.46
48 States	9.94	10.94	10.53	11.17	10.74	11.18	10.90

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.

Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Cornbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.

Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.

48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

Field and Livestock Workers by Type of Farm

[Excluding Alaska and Hawaii. Excludes agricultural service workers]

Type of farm	October 12-18, 2008	July 12-18, 2009	October 11-17, 2009
	(percent of field and livestock workers)	(percent of field and livestock workers)	(percent of field and livestock workers)
Field crops	15	16	15
Other crops	51	54	54
Livestock, dairy, and poultry	34	30	31

Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

[Excluding Alaska and Hawaii. Excludes agricultural service workers]

Gross value of sales	October 12-18, 2008	July 12-18, 2009	October 11-17, 2009
	(percent of hired workers)	(percent of hired workers)	(percent of hired workers)
Less than \$50,000	10	12	9
\$50,000-\$99,999	4	5	5
\$100,000-\$249,999	10	10	11
\$250,000-\$499,999	12	11	11
\$500,000-\$999,999	15	12	14
\$1,000,000 and over	49	50	50

Hired Workers by Number of Workers on Farm

[Excluding Alaska and Hawaii. Excludes agricultural service workers]

Number of workers on farm	October 12-18, 2008	July 12-18, 2009	October 11-17, 2009
	(percent of hired workers)	(percent of hired workers)	(percent of hired workers)
Employed on farms hiring			
1 worker	9	10	9
2 workers	10	9	9
3-6 workers	21	19	19
7-10 workers	8	9	9
11-20 workers	12	11	11
21-50 workers	14	13	14
51 or more workers	26	29	29

Agricultural Services

Agricultural service operations provided 285,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009. Agricultural service workers in California numbered 120,000 this October, down 9 percent from last year. Florida's number of agricultural service workers was 3,000, unchanged from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$10.75 and \$11.35 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 2008 were \$10.75 per hour in California and \$10.05 per hour in Florida.

Number of Agricultural Service Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates, for California, Florida, and United States

[Data are for agricultural services performed on the farm by custom service units. These statistics are not included in the State-Regional tables.]

State	Number of workers working on farms			Hours worked			Wage rates ¹		
	October 2008	July 2009	October 2009	October 2008	July 2009	October 2009	October 2008	July 2009	October 2009
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours)	(hours)	(hours)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
California	132.0	135.0	120.0	38.6	38.4	36.1	10.75	10.25	10.75
Florida	3.0	2.0	3.0	42.0	43.0	44.0	10.05	10.65	11.35
United States	316.0	381.0	285.0	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not available.

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Annual Average Number of Hired Workers and Hours Worked By Region and United States: 2008 and 2009

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

United States and region ¹	Hired workers		Hours worked	
	2008 (1,000)	2009 (1,000)	2008 (Hours per week)	2009 (Hours per week)
Northeast I	34.5	34.0	41.2	39.6
Northeast II	29.8	29.5	38.2	38.9
Appalachian I	30.5	30.3	38.4	37.2
Appalachian II	25.0	22.8	33.5	35.0
Southeast	31.5	34.5	37.5	38.6
Florida	45.0	41.5	41.1	38.1
Lake	55.5	60.5	36.4	36.6
Cornbelt I	38.3	40.3	36.2	35.7
Cornbelt II	27.0	25.0	36.8	32.5
Delta	28.8	31.8	39.7	36.1
Northern Plains	30.3	30.0	42.3	39.8
Southern Plains	55.3	61.0	38.8	39.9
Mountain I	23.3	22.3	43.4	42.3
Mountain II	19.3	19.0	41.4	41.0
Mountain III	18.3	19.5	44.0	46.3
Pacific	77.5	82.3	42.1	38.8
California	156.0	149.3	44.2	43.3
Hawaii	6.0	6.0	38.2	37.2
United States ²	731.5	739.3	40.4	39.3

¹ Region map on page 19.

² Excludes Alaska.

Annual Average Wage Rates By Region and United States: 2008 and 2009

[Excludes agricultural service workers. Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week]

United States and region ¹	All hired		Field		Field and livestock	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	(Dollars per hour)	(Dollars per hour)	(Dollars per hour)	(Dollars per hour)	(Dollars per hour)	(Dollars per hour)
Northeast I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT)	10.96	10.83	10.35	10.32	10.20	10.16
Northeast II (DE, MD, NJ, PA)	10.32	10.79	9.72	10.23	9.50	9.94
Appalachian I (NC, VA)	9.94	10.22	9.24	9.40	9.34	9.59
Appalachian II (KY, TN, WV)	10.30	10.59	9.14	9.40	9.41	9.71
Southeast (AL, GA, SC)	9.27	9.48	8.74	9.02	8.77	9.11
Florida	10.06	10.42	9.04	9.15	9.08	9.20
Lake (MI, MN, WI)	11.25	11.22	10.80	10.82	10.63	10.57
Cornbelt I (IL, IN, OH)	11.10	11.09	10.36	10.63	10.45	10.51
Cornbelt II (IA, MO)	11.24	11.22	10.57	10.64	10.77	10.86
Delta (AR, LA, MS)	9.38	9.60	8.77	9.05	8.92	9.10
Northern Plains (KS, NE, ND, SD)	10.87	11.08	10.47	11.01	10.39	10.66
Southern Plains (OK, TX)	9.86	10.30	8.77	9.48	9.27	9.78
Mountain I (ID, MT, WY)	9.99	10.36	9.94	10.22	9.64	9.90
Mountain II (CO, NV, UT)	10.43	10.72	9.69	10.28	9.88	10.06
Mountain III (AZ, NM)	10.46	10.45	9.20	9.40	9.82	9.71
Pacific (OR, WA)	10.69	11.56	10.05	10.84	10.12	10.85
California	11.03	11.14	9.98	10.05	10.17	10.25
Hawaii	13.22	13.40	10.92	11.28	11.06	11.45
United States ²	10.59	10.82	9.78	10.07	9.89	10.11

¹ Region map on page 19.

² Excludes Alaska.

Annual Average Wage Rates By State: 2008 and 2009

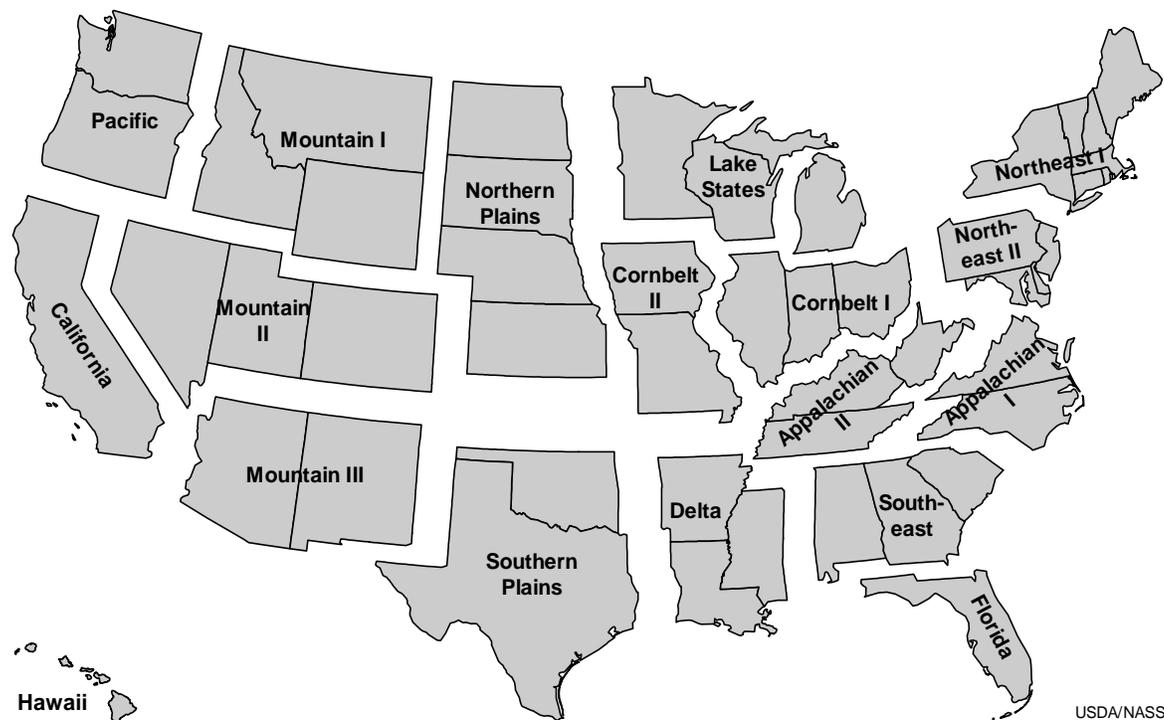
[Excludes agricultural service workers. Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October]

State	All hired		Field		Field and livestock	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	(Dollars per hour)	(Dollars per hour)				
Alabama	9.21	9.69	8.61	9.55	8.62	9.42
Arizona	10.54	10.55	9.21	9.41	9.77	9.66
Arkansas	9.45	9.45	8.77	8.94	8.98	9.10
California	11.03	11.14	9.98	10.05	10.17	10.25
Colorado	10.56	10.88	9.90	10.56	9.99	10.17
Delaware	10.86	11.58	11.41	10.80	9.94	10.93
Florida	10.06	10.42	9.04	9.15	9.08	9.20
Georgia	9.24	9.40	8.88	8.90	8.87	9.04
Hawaii	13.22	13.40	10.92	11.28	11.06	11.45
Idaho	10.02	10.34	9.79	10.08	9.71	9.86
Illinois	11.08	11.23	10.36	10.86	10.44	10.67
Indiana	11.85	11.85	10.69	11.22	11.00	11.17
Iowa	11.30	11.32	10.34	11.03	10.80	11.11
Kansas	10.68	11.07	10.18	10.47	10.12	10.55
Kentucky	10.78	10.90	8.69	9.44	9.62	9.71
Louisiana	9.45	9.83	8.76	9.32	8.94	9.31
Maryland	11.26	11.07	9.84	10.76	9.72	9.74
Michigan	10.91	11.02	9.91	10.10	10.20	10.25
Minnesota	12.41	11.89	12.15	11.83	11.81	11.30
Mississippi	9.23	9.40	8.81	8.56	8.85	8.72
Missouri	11.16	11.08	10.78	10.24	10.71	10.54
Montana	10.14	10.48	10.45	10.52	9.76	10.05
Nebraska	11.05	10.88	10.29	11.11	10.49	10.63
Nevada	10.14	10.21	9.11	9.35	9.44	9.49
New Jersey	10.25	11.26	9.52	10.19	9.63	10.29
New Mexico	10.25	10.25	9.14	9.40	9.94	9.81
New York	10.59	10.66	9.89	10.18	9.95	10.06
North Carolina	9.74	10.06	9.15	9.24	9.20	9.46
North Dakota	11.29	11.85	11.26	12.03	11.10	11.60
Ohio	10.70	10.41	10.17	10.04	10.17	9.89
Oklahoma	10.13	10.58	9.63	9.24	9.54	9.54
Oregon	10.59	11.61	9.70	10.67	9.80	10.65
Pennsylvania	10.10	10.38	9.76	10.13	9.34	9.71
South Carolina	9.47	9.50	8.52	8.86	8.69	8.94
South Dakota	10.57	10.87	10.45	10.71	10.14	10.14
Tennessee	9.94	10.31	9.61	9.44	9.39	9.82
Texas	9.81	10.25	8.62	9.50	9.22	9.82
Utah	10.27	10.59	9.46	10.04	9.83	10.05
Virginia	10.31	10.47	9.45	9.78	9.60	9.81
Washington	10.76	11.53	10.24	10.92	10.30	10.95
West Virginia	8.58	9.44	8.39	8.72	7.88	8.65
Wisconsin	10.71	10.93	10.90	11.23	10.13	10.35
Wyoming	9.55	10.23	9.93	10.49	8.98	9.83
Other States ¹	11.55	11.09	10.91	10.51	10.64	10.32
United States ²	10.59	10.82	9.78	10.07	9.89	10.11

¹ Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

² Excludes Alaska.

Farm Labor Regions



USDA/NASS

Region

States

Northeast I	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.
Northeast II	Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.
Appalachian I	North Carolina, Virginia.
Appalachian II	Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia.
Southeast	Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina.
Lake	Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.
Cornbelt I	Illinois, Indiana, Ohio.
Cornbelt II	Iowa, Missouri.
Delta	Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.
Northern Plains	Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.
Southern Plains	Oklahoma, Texas.
Mountain I	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming.
Mountain II	Colorado, Nevada, Utah.
Mountain III	Arizona, New Mexico.
Pacific	Oregon, Washington.

Farm Labor Definitions

The following definitions are provided to assist in interpreting statistics published in quarterly Farm Labor reports. To ensure consistency in data collection, the questionnaires and instruction manual used by the interviewers provide more in-depth explanations of these terms.

Farm or Ranch: A place that sells, or would normally sell, at least \$1,000 worth of agricultural products during the year.

Agricultural Work: Work done on a farm or ranch in connection with the production of agricultural products, including nursery and greenhouse products and animal specialties such as fur farms or apiaries. Also included is work done off the farm to handle farm related business, such as trips to buy feed or deliver products to local market.

Hired Worker: Anyone, other than an agricultural service worker, who was paid for at least one hour of agricultural work on a farm or ranch. Worker type is determined by what the employee was primarily hired to do, not necessarily what work was done during the survey week. Type of workers include:

Field Workers: Employees engaged in planting, tending and harvesting crops including operation of farm machinery on crop farms.

Livestock Workers: Employees tending livestock, milking cows or caring for poultry, including operation of farm machinery on livestock or poultry operations.

Supervisors: Hired managers, range foremen, crew leaders, etc.

Other Workers: Employees engaged in agricultural work not included in the other three categories. Bookkeepers and pilots are examples.

Methods of Pay: All wage rates are calculated based on total wages paid and total hours worked during the survey reference week. Wages paid other than hourly (bi-weekly, monthly, etc.) are converted to an hourly basis prior to summarization. Wages paid by piece rate (per quantity of produce picked, etc.) are also converted to an hourly basis.

Perquisites: Benefits, such as cash bonuses, housing, or meals, provided to an employee in addition to pay are included in perquisites. Wage rates published in this release do not include the value of these benefits.

Term of Employment: The length of time during the year the farm operator expects to employ those workers who were on the payroll during the survey week.

Definitions - continued

Agricultural Service: Any farm-related service performed on a farm or ranch on a contract or fee basis. This primarily includes activities performed by contract workers on fruit, vegetable, or berry operations. It also includes custom work (see below), veterinarian work, artificial insemination, sheep shearing, milk testing, or any other farm-related activity performed on a farm or ranch on a “fee per service” basis rather than hourly.

Contract Labor: Contract workers are paid by a crew leader, contractor, buyer, processor, cooperative, or other person who has an oral or written agreement with a farmer/rancher. Pruning, thinning, weeding or harvesting of fruit, vegetable or berry crops are examples. A machine is not a part of the service activity provided by the contractor.

Custom Work: Work performed by machines and labor hired as a unit. Hay baling, combining, corn or cotton picking, spraying, fertilizing, and laser leveling are examples of custom work when the equipment is included in the service activity.

Type of Farm (or Ranch): An operation is classified in the farm type which accounts for the largest portion of the total gross value of sales for its agricultural production.

The three types of farms broken out in this publication are:

Field Crops: A farm producing wheat, rice, corn, soybeans, barley, dry beans, rye, sorghum, cotton, popcorn, tobacco, or other such crops.

Other Crops: A farm producing vegetables, melons, berry crops, grapes, tree nuts, citrus fruits, deciduous tree fruits, avocados, dates, figs, olives, nursery, or greenhouse crops. This category also includes farms producing potatoes, sugar crops, hay, peanuts, hops, mint, and maple syrup.

Livestock or Poultry: A farm producing cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, milk, chickens, eggs, turkeys, or animal specialties such as furs, fish, honey, etc.

Gross Value of Sales: This includes all income during a year from the sale of crops, livestock, dairy, poultry, or other related agricultural products, including the landlord's share and the value of products produced under contract. When commodities are placed under CCC loan, they are considered as sold.

Survey Methodology

Survey Procedures: These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the last two weeks of October using sampling procedures to ensure every employer of agricultural workers had a chance of being selected.

Two samples of farm operators are selected. First, NASS maintains a list of farms that hire farm workers. Farms on this list are classified by size and type. Those expected to employ large numbers of workers are selected with greater frequency than those hiring few or no workers. A second sample consists of segments of land scientifically selected from an area sampling frame. Each June, highly trained interviewers locate each selected land segment and identify every farm operating land within the sample segment's boundaries. The names of farms found in these area segments are matched against the NASS list of farms; those not found on the list are included in the labor survey sample to represent all farms. This methodology is known as multiple frame sampling, with an area sample used to measure the incompleteness of the list. Additionally, a list of agricultural service firms was sampled in California and Florida. The survey reference week was October 11-17, 2009.

Reliability: Two types of errors, sampling and non-sampling, are always present in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both types affect the "accuracy" of the estimates.

Sampling error occurs because a complete census is not taken. The sampling error measures the variation in estimates from the average of all possible samples. An estimate of 100 with a sampling error of 1 would mean that chances are 19 out of 20 that the estimates from all possible samples averaged together would be between 98 and 102; which is the survey estimate, plus or minus two times the sampling error. The sampling error expressed as a percent of the estimate is called the relative sampling error. The relative sampling error for number of hired workers at the U.S. level is normally less than 5 percent. The relative sampling error for the number of hired workers generally ranged between 9 and 20 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 0.8 percent. The relative sampling error was 1.0 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 2 and 6 percent at the regional levels. Relative sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm generally ranged between 2 and 20 percent at the regional level.

Non-sampling errors can occur in a complete census as well as in sample surveys. They are caused by the inability to obtain correct information from each operation sampled, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, and mistakes in editing, coding or processing the data. Special efforts are taken at each step of the survey to minimize non-sampling errors.

Revision Policy: Farm labor information is subject to revision the next time the information is published or the year after the original publication date. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. Worker numbers and wage rates for July 2009 and October 2008 were subject to revision with this report. If any revisions were made to previous data, they are reprinted in this report for your information, and they are identified as such.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Environmental and Demographics Section of the Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

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Mark R. Miller, Head, Environmental and Demographics Section (202) 720-0684

Mark Aitken – Farm Labor (202) 720-9525

Jerry Campbell – Field Crops Chemical Usage (202) 720-5581

Liana Cuffman – Livestock Chemical Usage, Postharvest Chemical Usage..... (202) 690-0392

Doug Farmer – Fruit Chemical Usage, Vegetable Chemical Usage..... (202) 720-7492

Kim Nielsen – Census of Agriculture (202) 720-7644

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and in the “Syndication” box under “Receive reports by E-mail,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports and products may be purchased by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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