

FLORIDA

Released:

11/22/2005

Access our reports
Via the internet at
www.nass.usda.gov/fl

The number of workers paid by farmers and agricultural services totaled 45,000 for the week of October 9 through 15. Farmers hired 42,000 workers compared with 41,000 in July 2005. Agricultural services provided 3,000 paid workers, up 1,000 workers from last quarter and the same as the number supplied a year ago.

Dry weather and sunny days allowed vegetable harvesting to progress on schedule in most areas during the survey week. Favorable weather conditions allowed peanut and cotton harvesting to advance. Statewide, peanuts were in good condition. Sugarcane harvesting was active around the Lake Okeechobee area. In Santa Rosa County, producers started defoliating the oldest cotton fields with harvesting running behind schedule due to late plantings as well as the effects of the earlier tropical systems. Vegetable growers marketed light amounts of eggplant, okra, pickles, squash, tomatoes and watermelon. Grove caretakers mowed middles, pulled vines and cleaned groves, as harvesting got underway.

The October all hired worker wage rate average \$9.35 per hour, 15 cents more than the \$9.20 paid last year but 36 cents less than last quarter. Farmers paid an average of \$9.33 per hour, 37 cents lower than the \$9.70 paid in July 2005, but 19 cents above the \$9.14 paid last year. Agricultural services paid workers an average of \$9.65 per hour, 25 cents lower than the \$9.90 paid last quarter and 55 cents below the \$10.20 paid last year.

UNITED STATES

There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.14 per hour compared with \$8.91 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 42.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Northeast I (New England and New York) regions. In California, tightened security at the Mexican border and increased competition from the higher paying construction industry caused farm worker shortages. Fruit and vegetable growers had to leave some acreage unharvested due to the shortage. Thus, fewer workers were hired during the reference week. Declining tobacco acreage in the Appalachian II region continues to greatly decrease the demand for hired workers. In Florida, tropical storms throughout much of the growing season caused significant damage to vegetable and citrus crops and delayed harvest, lessening the need for hired workers. In the Northern Plains and Northeast I regions, rain before and during the reference week delayed field crop harvest and reduced the demand for hired workers.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. In the Southern Plains region, despite rain in south Texas, the reference week was mainly warm and dry, in sharp contrast to the widespread rain before and during last year's reference week. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. Apple harvest in the Pacific region was virtually complete prior to last year's reference week but was still in full swing during the reference week this year. More workers were required to handle the continuation of the harvest. In the Corn Belt II and Southeast regions, the weather was virtually ideal compared to last year's rain and muddy conditions, increasing the demand for hired workers. Continued strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industries in the Northeast II region kept hired worker levels above last year, despite heavy rains across the region.

(Continued on Page 4)

United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Florida
Field Office

Benjamin F. Klugh, Jr.
Director
407/648-6013

TABLE 1 -- Florida agricultural workers, number of workers, wage rates, and hours worked, October 9 - 15, 2005, with comparisons

Employer, Year, and survey week	Hired Workers							
	Number of workers			Hours Worked Per Week	Wages Paid by Type of Work			
	All	Expected to work			All	Field	Livestock	
150 days or more		149 days or less						
HIRED BY FARMERS								
2005		<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Hours</i>	<i>Dollars Per Hour^{1/}</i>			
October 9 - 15	42.0	37.0	5.0	39.4	9.33	8.60	8.45	
July 10 - 16	41.0	39.0	2.0	41.3	9.70	8.75	9.15	
April 10 - 16	49.0	41.0	8.0	38.7	9.31	8.20	9.90	
January 9 - 15	48.0	37.0	11.0	38.7	9.52	8.50	8.60	
2004								
October 9 - 15	52.0	44.0	8.0	39.4	9.14	7.95	9.10	
July 11 - 17	39.0	33.0	6.0	39.2	9.63	8.70	9.10	
April 11 - 17	57.0	53.0	4.0	38.3	8.79	7.85	8.60	
January 11-17	61.0	54.0	7.0	41.7	8.85	7.70	8.60	
2003								
October 12 - 18	49.0	43.0	6.0	39.1	9.53	8.55	7.95	
HIRED BY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES								
2005								
October 9 - 15	3.0			41.0	9.65			
July 10 -16	2.0			45.0	9.90			
April 10 - 16	10.0			39.0	9.10			
January 9 - 15	8.0			40.0	9.50			
2004								
October 9 - 15	3.0			40.0	10.20			
July 11 - 17	3.0			45.0	9.70			
April 11 - 17	9.0			38.0	9.25			
January 11-17	14.0			38.5	9.25			
2003								
October 12 -18	4.0			38.0	9.65			
HIRED BY BOTH FARMERS & AGRICULTURAL SERVICES								
2005								
October 9 - 15	45.0				9.35			
July 10 -16	43.0				9.71			
April 10 - 16	59.0				9.27			
January 9 - 15	56.0				9.52			
2004								
October 10 - 16	55.0				9.20			
July 11 - 17	42.0				9.64			
April 11 - 17	66.0				8.85			
January 11-17	75.0				8.92			
2003								
October 12 -18	53.0				9.54			

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

**TABLE 2 -- Number of workers hired by farmers, wage rates, and hours worked,
Selected States, October 9 - 15, 2005, with comparisons ^{1/}**

Item	Florida	California	Texas & Oklahoma	Arizona & New Mexico	Hawaii	United States ^{2/}
<i>Thousands</i>						
ALL HIRED WORKERS						
October 9 – 15, 2005	42	181	64	25	7	840
July 10 -16, 2005	41	*206	63	24	7	*936
October 10 – 16, 2004	52	200	44	23	8	851
EXPECTED TO WORK						
150 days or more						
October 9 – 15, 2005	37	145	51	20	6	620
July 10 -16, 2005	39	*162	47	21	6	*662
October 10 – 16, 2004	44	156	32	19	7	606
149 days or less						
October 9 – 15, 2005	5	36	13	5	1	220
July 10 -16, 2005	2	44	16	3	1	274
October 10 – 16, 2004	8	44	12	4	1	245
<i>Dollars per hour ^{3/}</i>						
ALL HIRED WORKER WAGE RATE						
October 9 – 15, 2005	9.33	10.12	8.38	8.28	11.73	9.61
July 10 -16, 2005	9.70	*9.68	9.27	8.53	11.76	*9.38
October 10 – 16, 2004	9.14	9.33	9.34	7.75	11.52	9.32
WAGES BY TYPE OF WORKER						
Field & Livestock						
October 9 – 15, 2005	8.58	9.36	7.68	7.67	10.18	8.96
July 10 -16, 2005	8.81	*9.00	8.50	7.98	10.05	8.78
October 10 – 16, 2004	8.05	8.63	8.53	7.36	10.01	8.69
Field						
October 9 – 15, 2005	8.60	9.21	7.60	7.27	10.10	8.90
July 10 -16, 2005	8.75	*8.76	8.07	7.90	10.00	*8.61
October 10 – 16, 2004	7.95	8.43	8.44	7.03	9.97	8.62
Livestock						
October 9 – 15, 2005	8.45	10.40	7.84	8.87	^{4/}	9.14
July 10 -16, 2005	9.15	*10.66	9.06	8.11	^{4/}	*9.26
October 10 – 16, 2004	9.10	9.57	8.68	8.04	^{4/}	8.91
<i>Average hours per week</i>						
HOURS WORKED BY ALL HIRED WORKERS						
October 9 – 15, 2005	39.4	44.7	39.1	44.8	39.7	42.0
July 10 -16, 2005	41.3	*45.3	36.5	45.6	40.0	40.6
October 10 – 16, 2004	39.4	45.0	40.3	44.0	37.5	40.5

^{1/} Excludes Agricultural Service workers.

^{2/} United States excludes Alaska.

^{3/} Value of any perquisites provided are not included in wage rates.

^{4/} Insufficient data for livestock.

* Revised.

(Continued from Page 1)

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt II, California, Appalachian II, Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The higher wages in the Corn Belt II region were due to the accelerated corn and soybean harvests which required highly skilled workers for combining and hauling. In California and in the Appalachian II region, wages were up due to a lower percentage of part time workers. Sugarbeet harvest in the Lake region progressed rapidly, necessitating more highly paid machine operators. Wages in the Mountain III region were higher because of more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed their hourly wage higher.

ANNUAL WAGES, HIRED WORKERS AND HOURS

The 2005 U.S. hired worker annual average wage rate was \$9.50, up 3 percent from the 2004 annual wage rate of \$9.23. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$8.69, up 24 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average rate at the U.S. level was \$8.83, up 3 percent from last year's annual wage of \$8.56.

The 2005 hired worker annual wage rate for Florida average \$9.46, up 42 cents from the 2004 annual average of \$9.04. The annual average wage rate for Florida field workers was \$8.50, up 53 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate for Florida was \$8.56, up 49 cents from last year's annual average wage rate of \$8.07.

TABLE 3--ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS, AND HOURS WORKED, 2005 AND 2004 ^{1/2/}

State and Region	Wages by Type of Worker			Number of Hired Workers	Hours Worked by Hired Workers
	All Hired	Field	Field & Livestock		
2005					
Florida	9.46	8.50	8.56	45.0	39.4
Texas & Oklahoma	9.08	7.92	8.32	58.0	38.7
Arizona & New Mexico	8.61	7.65	8.00	21.5	45.1
California	9.76	8.81	9.00	178.0	44.0
Hawaii	11.58	9.92	9.99	7.0	38.9
United States ^{3/}	9.50	8.69	8.83	779.5	40.1
2004					
Florida	9.04	7.97	8.07	52.2	39.7
Texas & Oklahoma	8.60	7.72	7.89	54.5	37.9
Arizona & New Mexico	8.18	7.33	7.63	20.0	44.8
California	9.33	8.41	8.58	210.5	44.4
Hawaii	11.34	9.64	9.75	7.2	38.4
United States ^{3/}	9.23	8.45	8.56	825.2	39.6

^{1/} Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

^{2/} 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.

^{3/} Excludes AK.