



FARM LABOR



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751
407-648-6013 · (407-648-6029 FAX) · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

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Florida

The total number of workers hired by farms and agricultural service operations during the survey week of October 10-16 was 46,000. Farms hired 43,000 workers, 8,000 more than last quarter, but 3,000 less than last year. Agricultural service operations provided 3,000 workers, 1,000 less than last quarter, but unchanged from last year.

According to AMS Market News, 13.3 million pounds of non-citrus fruit and vegetables moved through the market during the reference week, up from the 2.81 million pounds in July, but down from the 12.4 million pounds in October 2009. Data from the Citrus Administrative Committee reported a preliminary estimate of 247,000 boxes of citrus fruit harvested during the survey week, up from the 57,000 boxes in July, but down from the 402,000 boxes in the previous year. The average wage rate for workers hired by farms and agricultural service operations was \$11.09 per hour, up from both the \$10.76 from last quarter, and the \$10.70 from last year.

The number of hired workers in Florida decreased in comparison to the previous year by 6 percent. The majority of the labor force for this quarter was used by nursery and floriculture operators (47%); by fruit, nut, and berry operators (17%); and by vegetable operations (17%). Part-time workers increased for the last three quarters when compared to the prior year. Full-time workers when compared to the previous quarter also increased.

United States

Hired Workers Up 4 Percent, Wage Rates Up 2 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,157,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2010, up 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 826,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 331,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.13 per hour during the October 2010 reference week, up 20 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.49 per hour, up 27 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.27 per hour compared with \$10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.43 per hour, was up 19 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.7 for hired workers during the survey week, up 7 percent from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. Above normal winter precipitation in California allowed more acreage to be cropped due to increased availability of irrigation water. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. In the remaining three regions, weather conditions were virtually ideal compared with last year's excessively wet reference week. This caused increased demand for field workers as the corn and soybean harvests progressed rapidly.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. Abnormally dry conditions in the Southeast and Southern Plains regions slowed small grain seeding and reduced the demand for hired workers. In the Pacific region, above normal rains kept pasture grasses plentiful and lessened the need for livestock movement. This led to fewer workers being required.

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Florida All Hired Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates by Type of Worker, with Comparisons

| Employer, year, and survey week | Number of hired workers | | | Number of hours worked | Wages paid by type of worker ¹ | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | All | Expected to work | | | All | Field | Livestock |
| | | 150 days or more | 149 days or less | | | | |
| Hired by Farmers ² | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (hours Per week) | (dollars per hour) | (dollars per hour) | (dollars per hour) |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 43 | 37 | 6 | 39.0 | 11.00 | 9.79 | 9.05 |
| July 11 – 17, 2010 | 35 | 28 | 7 | 37.7 | 10.68 | 9.40 | 9.40 |
| April 11 – 17, 2010 | 50 | 41 | 9 | 37.2 | 10.22 | 9.10 | 10.00 |
| January 10 – 16, 2010 | 48 | 43 | 5 | 37.1 | 10.84 | 9.60 | 10.35 |
| October 11 – 17, 2009 | 46 | 41 | 5 | 38.6 | 10.65 | 9.30 | 10.10 |
| July 12 – 18, 2009 | 36 | 32 | 4 | 37.3 | 10.51 | 9.14 | 9.50 |
| April 12 – 18, 2009 | 46 | 39 | 7 | 38.3 | 10.33 | 9.15 | 9.35 |
| January 11 – 17, 2009 | 38 | 31 | 7 | 37.8 | 10.16 | 8.95 | 9.45 |
| October 12 – 18, 2008 | 38 | 32 | 6 | 39.7 | 10.09 | 8.90 | 9.30 |
| Hired by Agricultural Services ³ | | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 3 | | | 46.0 | 12.20 | | |
| July 11 – 17, 2010 | 2 | | | 46.0 | 11.95 | | |
| April 11 – 17, 2010 | 6 | | | 41.0 | 10.80 | | |
| January 10 – 16, 2010 | 7 | | | 41.0 | 10.50 | | |
| October 11 – 17, 2009 | 3 | | | 44.0 | 11.35 | | |
| July 12 – 18, 2009 | 2 | | | 43.0 | 10.65 | | |
| April 12 - 18, 2009 | 7 | | | 33.0 | 10.30 | | |
| January 11 - 17, 2009 | 9 | | | 37.0 | 10.05 | | |
| October 12 – 18, 2008 | 3 | | | 42.0 | 10.05 | | |
| Hired by Farmers & Agricultural Services | | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 46 | | | | 11.09 | | |
| July 11 – 17, 2010 | 37 | | | | 10.76 | | |
| April 11 – 17, 2010 | 56 | | | | 10.29 | | |
| January 10 – 16, 2010 | 55 | | | | 10.79 | | |
| October 11 – 17, 2009 | 49 | | | | 10.70 | | |
| July 12 – 18, 2009 | 38 | | | | 10.52 | | |
| April 12 - 18, 2009 | 53 | | | | 10.33 | | |
| January 11 - 17, 2009 | 47 | | | | 10.14 | | |
| October 12 – 18, 2008 | 41 | | | | 10.09 | | |

¹ Includes all paid staff, supervisors, and field and livestock workers. Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

² Excludes agricultural services workers.

³ Data are for agricultural services performed on the farm by custom service units. Blank data cells for these statistics are not included in the State-Regional tables.

Hired Workers by Farmers, Wage Rates, and Hours Worked, Selected States, with Comparisons

[Excludes Agricultural Service workers]

| Item | Florida | California | Texas & Oklahoma | Arizona & New Mexico | Hawaii | United States ¹ |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) |
| Hired workers | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 43 | 192 | 52 | 17 | 7 | 826 |
| July 11–17, 2010 | 35 | 200 | 53 | 19 | 6 | 885 |
| October 11 - 17, 2009..... | 46 | 179 | 56 | 20 | 6 | 829 |
| Expected to work | | | | | | |
| 150 days or more | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 37 | 156 | 43 | 15 | 6 | 588 |
| July 11–17, 2010 | 28 | 164 | 44 | 16 | 5 | 627 |
| October 11 - 17, 2009..... | 41 | 144 | 44 | 18 | 5 | 605 |
| 149 days or less | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 6 | 36 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 238 |
| July 11–17, 2010 | 7 | 36 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 258 |
| October 11 - 17, 2009..... | 5 | 35 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 224 |
| | (hours per week) | (hours per week) | (hours per week) | (hours per week) | (hours per week) | (hours per week) |
| Hours worked by hired workers | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 39.0 | 44.3 | 42.0 | 47.1 | 37.0 | 41.7 |
| July 11–17, 2010 | 37.7 | 43.4 | 44.0 | 44.6 | 37.8 | 40.7 |
| October 11 - 17, 2009..... | 38.6 | 41.6 | 39.0 | 44.9 | 36.7 | 39.0 |
| | (dollars per hour) | (dollars per hour) | (dollars per hour) | (dollars per hour) | (dollars per hour) | (dollars per hour) |
| Wages by type of worker² | | | | | | |
| Field | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 9.79 | 10.20 | 9.68 | 9.43 | 12.00 | 10.49 |
| July 11–17, 2010 | 9.40 | 10.10 | 8.98 | 9.70 | 12.00 | 10.09 |
| October 11 - 17, 2009..... | 9.30 | 10.14 | 9.17 | 9.10 | 11.55 | 10.22 |
| Livestock | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 9.05 | 11.20 | 10.01 | 10.07 | 14.30 | 10.27 |
| July 11–17, 2010 | 9.40 | 11.10 | 9.54 | 9.69 | 14.20 | 10.15 |
| October 11 - 17, 2009..... | 10.10 | 11.28 | 10.64 | 10.06 | 13.40 | 10.28 |
| Field and livestock combined | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 9.65 | 10.34 | 9.85 | 9.75 | 12.16 | 10.43 |
| July 11–17, 2010 | 9.40 | 10.23 | 9.20 | 9.70 | 12.19 | 10.11 |
| October 11 - 17, 2009..... | 9.40 | 10.35 | 9.85 | 9.50 | 11.69 | 10.24 |
| Hired worker wage rate | | | | | | |
| October 10 – 16, 2010 | 11.00 | 11.18 | 10.30 | 10.45 | 14.38 | 11.13 |
| July 11–17, 2010 | 10.68 | 11.12 | 9.90 | 10.50 | 14.41 | 10.79 |
| October 11 - 17, 2009..... | 10.65 | 11.26 | 10.17 | 10.30 | 13.60 | 10.93 |

¹ Excludes Alaska.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), Northeast I (New England and New York), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. In the two Northeast regions, the higher wages were due to strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industry. The higher wages in the Corn Belt II region were due to strong demand for skilled workers to help with the grain harvest. In the Lake region, the higher wages were due to more salaried workers working fewer hours which pushed the average wage up.

The 2010 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$10.95 per hour, up 1 percent from the 2009 annual average wage rate of \$10.83 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$10.19 per hour, up 12 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$10.22 per hour, up 1 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$10.12 per hour.

SPECIAL NOTE: Revisions have been made to workers, hours, and wages for California and the U.S. for the July 2008 through April 2010 time period. These revisions are published in Quick Stats 2.0 accessible via the NASS website at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. For direct access to Quick Stats, go to your web browser: <http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

Annual Wages, Hired Workers, and Hours

The 2010 Florida all hired labor annual wage rate was \$10.67, up 25 cents from the 2009 annual average. The annual wage rate for field workers in Florida was \$9.46, up 31 cents from the previous year. The annual wage rate for field and livestock workers combined was \$9.50, up 30 cents from last year.

The 2010 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$10.95 per hour, up 12 cents from the 2009 annual average wage rate of \$10.83 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$10.19 per hour, up 12 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$10.22 per hour, up 10 cents from last year's annual average wage rate of \$10.12 per hour.

Annual Number of Hired Workers, Hours Worked, Average Wage Rates by Region and United States: 2009-2010

[Excludes agricultural service workers.]

| United States and region | Wages by type of worker ¹ | | | Number of hired workers (1,000) | Hours worked by hired workers (hours per week) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| | All hired ² (dollars per hour) | Field (dollars per hour) | Field & livestock combined (dollars per hour) | | |
| 2009 | | | | | |
| Florida | 10.42 | 9.15 | 9.20 | 41.5 | 38.1 |
| Texas & Oklahoma | 10.30 | 9.48 | 9.78 | 61.0 | 39.9 |
| Arizona & New Mexico | 10.45 | 9.40 | 9.71 | 19.5 | 46.3 |
| California | 11.14 | 10.04 | 10.26 | 164.5 | 43.2 |
| Hawaii | 13.40 | 11.28 | 11.45 | 6.0 | 37.2 |
| United States ³ | 10.83 | 10.07 | 10.12 | 754.5 | 39.4 |
| 2010 | | | | | |
| Florida | 10.67 | 9.46 | 9.50 | 44.0 | 37.7 |
| Texas & Oklahoma | 10.12 | 9.30 | 9.65 | 53.8 | 40.3 |
| Arizona & New Mexico | 10.32 | 9.15 | 9.60 | 18.3 | 45.5 |
| California | 11.24 | 10.14 | 10.31 | 170.0 | 43.0 |
| Hawaii | 14.24 | 11.85 | 12.01 | 6.3 | 36.7 |
| United States ³ | 10.95 | 10.19 | 10.22 | 767.3 | 40.1 |

¹ 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.

² Includes all paid staff, supervisors, and field and livestock workers. Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Alaska.