



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM LABOR



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Florida

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) collected data on agricultural hired workers and wage rates for two reference weeks: October 7-13, 2012 and July 8-14, 2012.

For the October reference week: The wage rates were \$10.24 for all hired workers, \$9.25 for field workers and \$9.90 for livestock workers. There were 47,000 hired workers on farm operations, 39,000 workers worked 150 or more days per year. During the reference week there was little rain across Florida. The harvest of hay, peanuts, and corn continued. Cotton defoliation was underway. Planting of cabbage was underway. Producers marketed cucumbers, okra, tomatoes, and watermelons. Early citrus harvesting was underway.

For the July reference week: The wage rates were \$10.47 for all hired workers, \$9.28 for field workers and \$9.50 for livestock workers. There were 39,000 hired workers on farm operations. Of these 39,000 workers, 35,000 workers worked 150 or more days per year. During the reference week, rain was widespread across Florida. Vegetable producers were busy preparing fields for vegetable planting.

United States

October Hired Workers and Wage Rates Increase Over 5 Percent From a Year Ago

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 872,000 for the reference week of October 7-13, 2012, up more than 5 percent from the October 2011 reference week. There were 906,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2012, up nearly 9 percent from the July 2011 reference week.

For the October reference week: Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.76 per hour, up over 5 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.22 per hour, up over 6 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$10.83, up 16 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.13 per hour, was up 56 cents from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.5 for hired workers during the reference week, nearly the same as hours worked in October 2011.

The largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) region followed by the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) region.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) region followed by California. In Cornbelt II, early harvest of principle crops meant less workers in the field during the reference week this year and California saw decreases in hired worker demand from primarily nurseries and fruit and nut operations.

Hired worker wage rates were above the previous year rates in the majority of regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington) region followed by the Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) region. The field and livestock worker wage was up substantially in the Pacific region. Increases in the wage rate for field and livestock workers, plus a slight increase in the proportion of supervisory and other workers, were seen in the Mountain III region.

For the July reference week: Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.36 per hour, up nearly 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.71 per hour, up more than 4 percent, while livestock workers earned \$10.89 per hour compared with \$10.29 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.75 per hour, was up 47 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 for hired workers during the reference week, down a little over 2 percent from July 2011.

The largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) region followed by the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) region.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) region followed by the Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) region. Wet conditions prevailed in Appalachian II and fewer workers were in the field during the reference week this year. In Cornbelt II, the drought conditions led to decreased labor demand for field crop and hay operations.

Hired worker wage rates were above the previous year rates in the majority of regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) region followed by the Cornbelt I region. Increases in the wage rate for field and livestock workers, plus a slight increase in the proportion of supervisory and other workers, was seen in both regions.

Number of Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates - Selected Regions and United States

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

	Florida	Southeast	Delta	Southern Plains	California	United States
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
All hired workers						
October 7-13, 2012.....	47	29	30	54	162	872
July 8-14, 2012.....	39	30	28	57	176	906
April 8-14, 2012.....	55	36	23	58	156	748
January 8-14, 2012.....	50	26	16	47	135	575
October 9-15, 2011.....	41	29	31	45	185	828
July 10-16, 2011.....	40	31	25	51	177	834
Expected to work						
150 days or more						
October 7-13, 2012.....	39	22	17	39	129	610
July 8-14, 2012.....	35	22	16	38	146	626
April 8-14, 2012.....	41	26	18	40	137	580
January 8-14, 2012.....	41	20	14	37	112	489
October 9-15, 2011.....	34	19	22	37	150	590
July 10-16, 2011.....	37	22	18	40	142	603
149 days or less						
October 7-13, 2012.....	8	7	13	15	33	262
July 8-14, 2012.....	4	8	12	19	30	280
April 8-14, 2012.....	14	10	5	18	19	168
January 8-14, 2012.....	9	6	2	10	23	86
October 9-15, 2011.....	7	10	9	8	35	238
July 10-16, 2011.....	3	9	7	11	35	231
Hours worked by all hired workers	(hours per week)					
October 7-13, 2012.....	37.6	37.0	41.0	39.1	46.5	41.5
July 8-14, 2012.....	39.0	36.6	37.8	37.3	44.6	40.4
April 8-14, 2012.....	36.5	36.4	39.4	40.9	39.8	39.2
January 8-14, 2012.....	38.5	36.1	36.0	37.8	42.8	39.6
October 9-15, 2011.....	37.3	33.8	44.7	41.0	43.6	41.6
July 10-16, 2011.....	40.3	39.4	39.5	40.0	44.7	41.2
Wages by type of worker ¹	(dollars per hour)					
Field						
October 7-13, 2012.....	9.25	10.03	9.45	10.06	10.70	11.22
July 8-14, 2012.....	9.28	9.72	9.17	9.95	10.75	10.71
April 8-14, 2012.....	10.60	9.61	9.41	9.40	10.55	10.50
January 8-14, 2012.....	10.35	9.64	9.33	9.75	10.08	10.39
October 9-15, 2011.....	9.25	9.87	9.12	9.53	10.15	10.54
July 10-16, 2011.....	9.90	9.18	9.24	10.14	10.10	10.27
Livestock						
October 7-13, 2012.....	9.90	9.52	9.46	11.40	11.50	10.83
July 8-14, 2012.....	9.50	9.87	9.80	11.29	11.55	10.89
April 8-14, 2012.....	10.35	9.91	10.38	10.00	11.85	10.95
January 8-14, 2012.....	10.65	10.49	10.48	10.36	11.75	10.96
October 9-15, 2011.....	10.20	9.09	9.68	11.03	11.20	10.67
July 10-16, 2011.....	10.20	8.72	10.27	10.25	10.90	10.29
Field and livestock combined						
October 7-13, 2012.....	9.32	9.90	9.45	10.60	10.80	11.13
July 8-14, 2012.....	9.30	9.75	9.35	10.60	10.85	10.75
April 8-14, 2012.....	10.58	9.67	9.62	9.55	10.83	10.62
January 8-14, 2012.....	10.37	9.81	9.74	9.95	10.42	10.58
October 9-15, 2011.....	9.35	9.65	9.20	10.10	10.30	10.57
July 10-16, 2011.....	9.95	9.05	9.50	10.20	10.20	10.28
All hired worker wage rate						
October 7-13, 2012.....	10.24	10.41	9.79	11.38	11.73	11.76
July 8-14, 2012.....	10.47	10.23	9.63	11.15	11.61	11.36
April 8-14, 2012.....	11.56	10.13	10.27	10.05	11.81	11.41
January 8-14, 2012.....	11.43	10.53	10.67	10.75	11.38	11.52
October 9-15, 2011.....	10.56	10.10	9.64	10.78	10.96	11.15
July 10-16, 2011.....	12.15	9.70	9.85	10.60	10.90	10.93

¹ Reported wages do not include the value of benefits such as housing, meals, or insurance.