October Hired Workers Up 2 Percent; Gross Wage Rate Increased 5 Percent from Previous Year

There were 772,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2021, up 2 percent from the October 2020 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 797,000 during the week of July 11-17, 2021, up 3 percent from the July 2020 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average gross wage of $16.59 per hour during the October 2021 reference week, up 5 percent from the October 2020 reference week. Field workers received an average of $16.10 per hour, up 7 percent, while livestock workers earned $15.19 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at $15.85 per hour, was up 7 percent from the July 2020 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 42.0 hours during the October 2021 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the October 2020 reference week.

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Northeast Region I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont)

There were 35,000 workers hired directly by farms during the week of July 11-17, 2021. All hired workers worked an average of 39.5 hours during the survey week. The average wage rate for all hired workers was $16.74 per hour. Field workers earned an average of $16.50 per hour and livestock workers averaged $15.06 per hour, and field & livestock workers combined earned an average of $15.98 per hour.

There were 38,000 workers hired directly by farms during the week of October 10-16, 2021. All hired workers worked an average of 42.3 hours during the survey week. The average wage rate for all hired workers was $16.48 per hour. Field workers averaged $16.03 per hour, livestock workers averaged $15.46 per hour, and field & livestock workers combined earned an average of $15.85 per hour.

Northeast Region II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania)

There were 42,000 workers hired directly by farms during the week of July 11-17, 2021. Hired workers worked an average of 35.4 hours during the survey week. The average wage rate for all hired workers was $16.30 per hour. Field workers earned an average of $15.69 per hour and livestock workers averaged $14.65 per hour. Field & livestock workers combined earned an average of $15.51 per hour.

There were 40,000 workers hired directly by farms during the week of October 10-16, 2021. Hired workers worked an average of 37.4 hours during the survey week. The average wage rate for all hired workers was $16.77 per hour. Field workers earned an average of $16.17 per hour and livestock workers averaged $14.96 per hour. Field & livestock workers combined earned an average of $15.96 per hour.

For the complete “Farm Labor” report, go to: https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/s920fw89s
The Farm Labor report and all other NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

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