



Farm Labor Report

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Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Texas Department of Agriculture

May 19, 2016

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This report contains the results from the April 2016 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of April. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the January and April 2016 reference weeks. Estimates for the Southern Plains region were made possible by data provided by respondents in Oklahoma and Texas. Our thanks to all who responded to the April 2016 Farm Labor Survey.

Southern Plains Highlights: There were 48,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of January 10-16, 2016, up 7 percent from the January 2015 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 56,000 for the week of April 10-16, 2016, up 6 percent from the April 2015 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2016 reference week averaged \$11.83 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2016 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$11.97, 4 percent above the April 2015 wage and up 1 percent from January 2016.

U.S. Highlights: There were 582,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 10-16, 2016, up 6 percent from the January 2015 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 703,000 for the reference week of April 10-16, 2016, up 2 percent from the April 2015 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.83 per hour during the January 2016 reference week, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 38.8 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from January 2015.

During the April 2016 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.75 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 for hired workers during the reference week, up 1 percent from April 2015.

Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma and Texas)

[Excludes agricultural service workers.]

Farm employment	January 11-17, 2015	April 12-18, 2015	July 12-18, 2015	October 11-17, 2015	January 10-16, 2016	April 10-16, 2016
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	34	40	36	35	38	38
149 days or less	11	13	19	10	10	18
Total	45	53	55	45	48	56
Hours worked by hired workers.....	40.5	40.2	34.5	35.4	34.9	34.9
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	11.25	11.20	11.05	11.10	11.50	11.55
Field	11.60	11.27	10.77	10.91	11.40	11.42
Livestock	11.04	11.15	11.32	11.25	11.59	11.65
All hired workers	11.54	11.48	11.64	11.87	11.83	11.97

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

Hired Workers and Wage Rates, United States

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska.]

Farm employment	January 6-12 2015	April 7-13 2015	July 7-13 2015	October 6-12 2015	January 12-18 2016	April 6-12 2016
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	458	545	626	610	494	558
149 days or less	91	142	246	231	88	145
Total	549	687	872	841	582	703
Hours worked by hired workers.....	39.2	39.9	41.0	41.7	38.8	40.4
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	11.52	11.43	11.75	12.09	11.91	12.00
Field	11.40	11.36	11.73	12.11	11.84	12.00
Livestock	11.69	11.58	11.80	12.02	12.02	12.01
All hired workers	12.53	12.28	12.47	12.82	12.83	12.75

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