



Farm Labor

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

November 21, 2019

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This report contains the results from the October 2019 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of October. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the July and October 2019 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 October 2019 Farm Labor Survey.

Southern Plains Highlights: There were 43,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2019, down 25 percent from the July 2018 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 49,000 for the week of October 6-12, 2019, down 8 percent from the October 2018 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2019 reference week averaged \$13.41 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2019 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$13.33, 1 percent below the October 2018 wage and down 1 percent from July 2019.

U.S. Highlights: There were 802,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2019, down 5 percent from the July 2018 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 809,000 for the reference week of October 6-12, 2019, up 3 percent from the October 2018 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.91 per hour during the July 2019 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.7 for hired workers during the reference week, up 1 percent from July 2018.

During the October 2019 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.02 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 42.5 for hired workers during the reference week, up 2 percent from October 2018.



Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region
[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Farm employment	July 8-14, 2018	October 7-13, 2018	January 6-12, 2019	April 7-13, 2019	July 7-13, 2019	October 6-12, 2019
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	42	43	29	32	35	36
149 days or less	15	10	6	13	8	13
Total	57	53	35	45	43	49
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	36.8	36.1	39.2	38.8	40.6	40.2
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	12.30	12.70	12.55	12.60	12.80	12.70
Field	12.33	12.67	11.71	12.01	12.67	12.61
Livestock	12.28	12.73	13.18	13.05	12.93	12.76
All hired workers	13.12	13.53	13.68	13.50	13.41	13.33

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	July 8-14, 2018	October 7-13, 2018	January 6-12, 2019	April 7-13, 2019	July 7-13, 2019	October 6-12, 2019
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	585	576	425	510	594	603
149 days or less	258	208	74	119	208	206
Total	843	784	499	629	802	809
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	41.2	41.5	39.3	40.6	41.7	42.5
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	13.48	13.64	13.78	13.73	14.08	14.21
Field	13.58	13.74	13.77	13.80	14.19	14.38
Livestock	13.22	13.38	13.80	13.61	13.79	13.77
All hired workers	14.28	14.47	14.96	14.71	14.91	15.02

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

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