



Southern Plains Farm Labor Report

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This report contains the results from the April 2014 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 2014 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 2014 Farm Labor Survey.

Southern Plains Highlights: There were 39,000 **workers hired** directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of January 12-18, 2014, down 9 percent from the January 2013 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 49,000 for the week of April 6-12, 2014, down 2 percent from the April 2013 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2014 reference week averaged \$11.15 per hour, down 8 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2014 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$10.66, 13 percent below the April 2013 wage and down 4 percent from January 2014.

U.S. Highlights: There were 540,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 12-18, 2014, down 9 percent from the January 2013 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 688,000 for the reference week of April 6-12, 2014, down 7 percent from the April 2013 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.23 per hour during the January 2014 reference week, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.10 per hour, up 2 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.36 per hour compared with \$11.39 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.20 per hour, was up 1 percent from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.9 for hired workers during the reference week, up 1 percent from January 2013.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.00 per hour during the April 2014 reference week, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.01 per hour, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$11.35, down 1 percent from last year. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.11 per hour, was up slightly from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from April 2013.

Link to the full U.S. report: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1063>

Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma and Texas)
[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Farm employment	January 6-12 2013	April 7-13 2013	July 7-13 2013	October 6-12 2013	January 12-18 2014	April 6-12 2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	37	41	46	45	31	37
149 days or less	6	9	28	20	8	12
Total	43	50	74	65	39	49
Hours worked by hired workers	38.4	39.6	37.9	38.1	37.4	37.7
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	11.53	11.60	10.40	10.40	10.50	10.10
Field.....	10.63	10.60	10.11	10.10	10.29	9.75
Livestock	12.18	12.22	11.02	10.87	10.70	10.58
All hired workers.....	12.17	12.21	10.85	10.85	11.15	10.66

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 2013	April 7-13 2013	July 7-13 2013	October 6-12 2013	January 12-18 2014	April 6-12 2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	506	594	634	619	459	556
149 days or less	90	142	272	252	81	132
Total	596	736	906	871	540	688
Hours worked by hired workers	38.7	40.5	40.9	41.7	38.9	40.2
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	11.07	11.07	10.99	11.27	11.20	11.11
Field.....	10.86	10.88	11.02	11.38	11.10	11.01
Livestock	11.39	11.45	10.88	10.93	11.36	11.35
All hired workers.....	12.02	11.89	11.68	11.96	12.23	12.00

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