



Farm Labor Report

Southern Plains Regional Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-626-3142 · www.nass.usda.gov
Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

November 19, 2015

Contact: [Ricardo Lowe](#) or [Jason Hardegree](#)

This report contains the results from the October 2015 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 2015 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 2015 Farm Labor Survey.

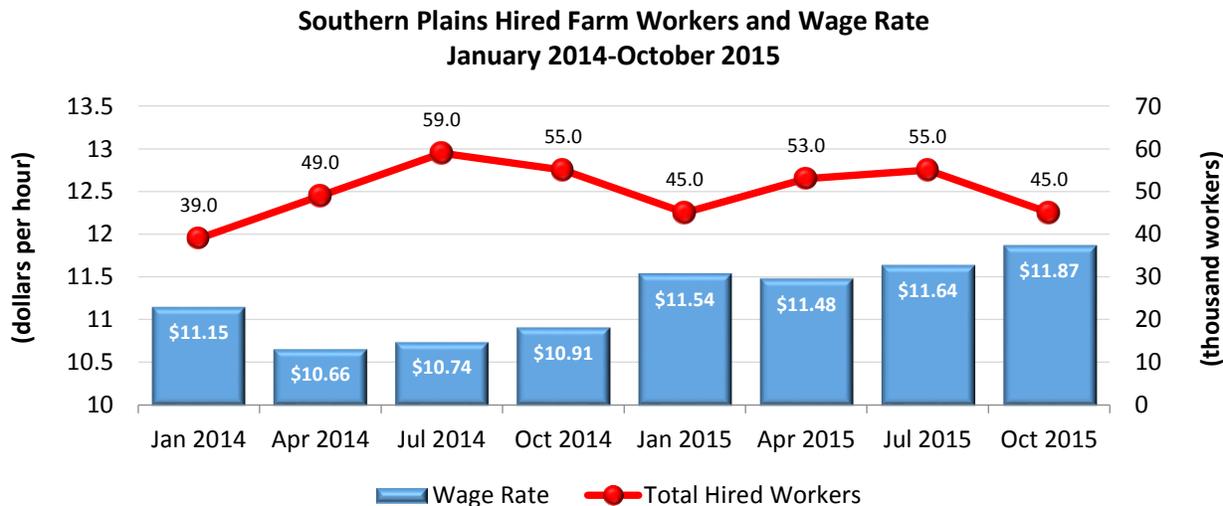
Southern Plains Highlights: There were 55,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2015, down 7 percent from the July 2014 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 45,000 for the week of October 11-17, 2015, down 18 percent from the October 2014 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2015 reference week averaged \$11.64 per hour, up 8 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2015 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$11.87, 9 percent above the October 2014 wage and up 2 percent from July 2015.

U.S. Highlights: There were 872,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2015, up 4 percent from the July 2014 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 841,000 for the reference week of October 11-17, 2015, up 8 percent from the October 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.47 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 for hired workers during the reference week, up 1 percent from July 2014.

During the October 2015 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.82 per hour, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.7 for hired workers during the reference week, up 1 percent from October 2014.



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

| Farm employment | July 6-12, 2014 | October 12-18, 2014 | January 11-17, 2015 | April 12-18, 2015 | July 12-18, 2015 | October 11-17, 2015 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) |
| Hired Workers | | | | | | |
| 150 days or more..... | 42 | 42 | 34 | 40 | 36 | 35 |
| 149 days or less..... | 17 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 19 | 10 |
| Total..... | 59 | 55 | 45 | 53 | 55 | 45 |
| Hours worked by hired workers | 37.0 | 38.6 | 40.5 | 40.2 | 34.5 | 35.4 |
| Wage rate ¹ | | | | | | |
| Field and livestock combined..... | 10.25 | 10.55 | 11.25 | 11.20 | 11.05 | 11.10 |
| Field..... | 10.15 | 10.61 | 11.60 | 11.27 | 10.77 | 10.91 |
| Livestock..... | 10.35 | 10.48 | 11.04 | 11.15 | 11.32 | 11.25 |
| All hired workers | 10.74 | 10.91 | 11.54 | 11.48 | 11.64 | 11.87 |

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 6-12, 2014 | October 12-18, 2014 | January 11-17, 2015 | April 12-18, 2015 | July 12-18, 2015 | October 11-17, 2015 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) |
| Hired Workers | | | | | | |
| 150 days or more..... | 583 | 561 | 458 | 545 | 626 | 610 |
| 149 days or less..... | 255 | 221 | 91 | 142 | 246 | 231 |
| Total..... | 838 | 782 | 549 | 687 | 872 | 841 |
| Hours worked by hired workers | 40.5 | 41.3 | 39.2 | 39.9 | 41.0 | 41.7 |
| Wage rate ¹ | | | | | | |
| Field and livestock combined..... | 11.33 | 11.46 | 11.52 | 11.43 | 11.75 | 12.09 |
| Field..... | 11.36 | 11.52 | 11.40 | 11.36 | 11.73 | 12.11 |
| Livestock..... | 11.26 | 11.29 | 11.69 | 11.58 | 11.80 | 12.02 |
| All hired workers | 11.96 | 12.12 | 12.53 | 12.28 | 12.47 | 12.82 |

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

Link to the full U.S. Farm Labor report:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1063>

NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at http://bit.ly/NASS_Subscriptions and look for the "NASS Data User Community."