



# Farm Labor Report

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

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This report contains the results from the April 2018 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 2018 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 2018 Farm Labor Survey.

**Southern Plains Highlights:** There were 40,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of January 7-13, 2018, up 11 percent from the January 2017 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 44,000 for the week of April 8-14, 2018, down 2 percent from the April 2017 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2018 reference week averaged \$12.65 per hour, down 3 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2018 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$12.26, 5 percent below the April 2017 wage and down 3 percent from January 2018.

**U.S. Highlights:** There were 534,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 7-13, 2018, up slightly from the January 2017 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 648,000 for the reference week of April 8-14, 2018, down 4 percent from the April 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.08 per hour during the January 2018 reference week, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 38.0 for hired workers during the reference week, unchanged from January 2017.

During the April 2018 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.72 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 for hired workers during the reference week, down slightly from April 2017.

**Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate  
July 2016-April 2018**



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

Farm employment	January 8-14, 2017	April 9-15, 2017	July 9-15, 2017	October 8-14, 2017	January 7-13, 2018	April 8-14, 2018
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more.....	29	32	41	39	31	33
149 days or less.....	7	13	18	17	9	11
Total .....	36	45	59	56	40	44
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers.....	33.5	34.0	36.8	37.4	37.3	37.8
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined.....	12.20	12.20	11.60	11.75	12.05	11.75
Field.....	11.31	11.54	11.58	11.59	11.68	11.40
Livestock.....	12.93	12.87	11.61	11.87	12.48	12.13
All hired workers .....	13.02	12.95	12.16	12.32	12.65	12.26

<sup>1</sup>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 8-14, 2017	April 9-15, 2017	July 9-15, 2017	October 8-14, 2017	January 7-13, 2018	April 8-14, 2018
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more.....	450	536	631	618	449	517
149 days or less.....	83	137	248	222	85	131
Total .....	533	673	879	840	534	648
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers.....	38.0	40.4	41.4	41.6	38.0	40.2
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined.....	12.35	12.32	12.47	12.66	12.86	12.74
Field.....	12.15	12.22	12.57	12.83	12.84	12.72
Livestock.....	12.66	12.53	12.21	12.22	12.89	12.78
All hired workers .....	13.43	13.23	13.23	13.42	14.08	13.72

<sup>1</sup> 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>

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