



# Farm Labor

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 October 2020 Farm Labor Survey collected from late December to late January. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the July and October 2020 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 2020 Farm Labor Survey.

**Southern Plains Highlights:** There were 50,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2020, up 16 percent from the July 2019 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 49,000 for the week of October 11-17, 2020, unchanged from the October 2019 reference week.

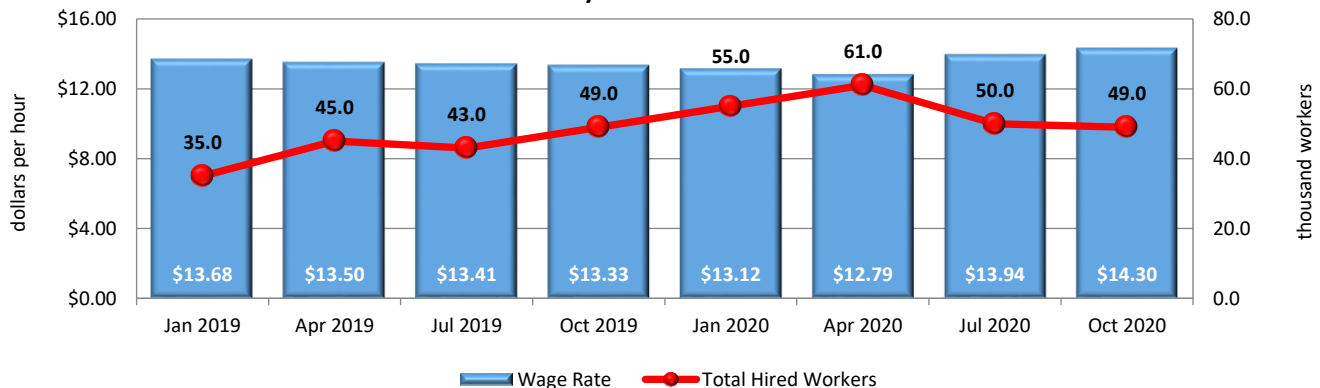
Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2020 reference week averaged \$13.94 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2020 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$14.30, 7 percent above the October 2019 wage and up 3 percent from July 2020.

**U.S. Highlights:** There were 777,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2020, down 3 percent from the July 2019 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 758,000 for the reference week of October 11-17, 2020, down 6 percent from the October 2019 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.62 per hour during the July 2020 reference week, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.4 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from July 2019.

During the October 2020 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.87 per hour, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 42.1 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from October 2019.

Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate  
January 2019-October 2020



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

Farm employment	July 7-13, 2019	October 6-12, 2019	January 12-18, 2020	April 12-18, 2020	July 12-18, 2020	October 11-17, 2020
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more .....	35	36	47	51	40	40
149 days or less .....	8	13	8	10	10	9
Total .....	43	49	55	61	50	49
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers .....	40.6	40.2	39.1	39.2	40.8	41.1
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined .....	12.80	12.70	12.65	12.35	13.55	13.80
Field .....	12.67	12.61	12.31	11.91	13.26	13.47
Livestock .....	12.93	12.76	12.93	12.73	13.84	14.08
All hired workers .....	13.41	13.33	13.12	12.79	13.94	14.30

<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	July 7-13, 2019	October 6-12, 2019	January 12-18, 2020	April 12-18, 2020	July 12-18, 2020	October 11-17, 2020
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more .....	594	603	495	578	575	577
149 days or less .....	208	206	73	110	202	181
Total .....	802	809	568	688	777	758
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers .....	41.7	42.5	40.2	40.3	41.4	42.1
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined .....	14.08	14.21	14.20	14.16	14.85	15.10
Field .....	14.19	14.38	14.18	14.19	14.98	15.28
Livestock .....	13.79	13.77	14.22	14.10	14.50	14.62
All hired workers .....	14.91	15.02	15.28	15.07	15.62	15.87

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

NASS provides accurate, timely, useful and objective statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. In order to view the full national report, please visit the following website: [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/).