



Farm Labor

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 and Texas Department of Agriculture

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This report contains the results from the April 2023 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 2023 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 2023 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 January 8-14, 2023, up 2 percent from the January 2022 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 60,000 for the week of April 9-15, 2023, up 7 percent from the April 2022 reference week.

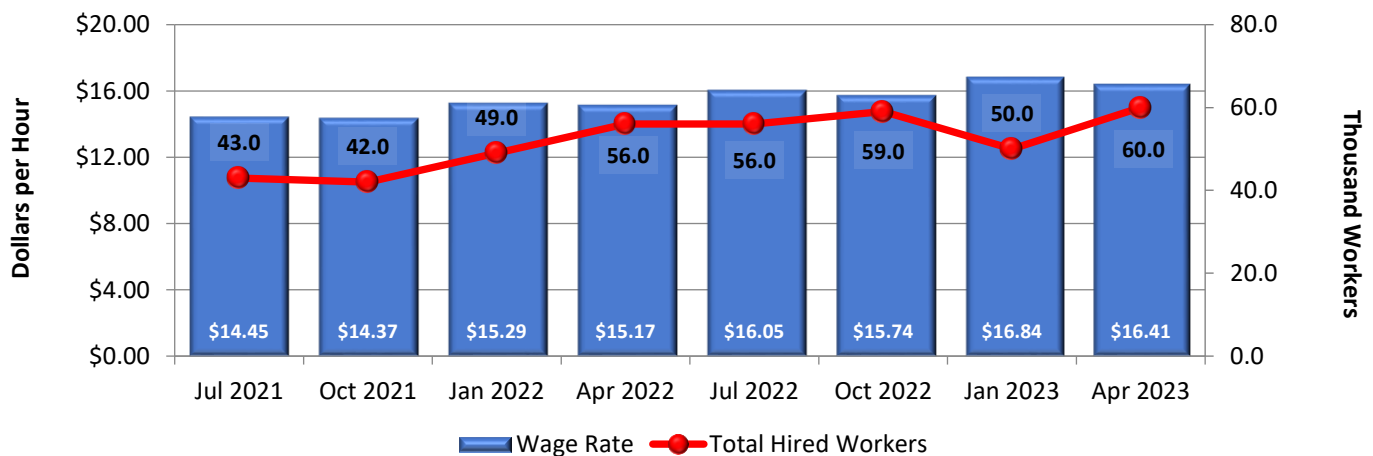
Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2023 reference week averaged \$16.84 per hour, up 10 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2023 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$16.41, 8 percent above the April 2022 wage but down 3 percent from January 2023.

U.S. Highlights: There were 511,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2023, up 1 percent from the January 2022 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 651,000 for the reference week of April 9-15, 2023, up 3 percent from the April 2022 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$18.55 per hour during the January 2023 reference week, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 38.9 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from January 2022.

During the April 2023 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$18.08 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 for hired workers during the reference week, up 2 percent from April 2022.

Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate
July 2021-April 2023



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

Farm employment	January 9-15, 2022	April 10-16, 2022	July 10-16, 2022	October 9-15, 2022	January 8-14, 2023	April 9-15, 2023
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	44	46	45	45	44	55
149 days or less	5	10	11	14	6	5
Total	49	56	56	59	50	60
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers.....	39.8	40.8	40.5	41.2	38.8	41.9
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	14.53	14.39	15.37	15.10	15.91	15.57
Field	14.37	14.20	14.55	14.24	17.04	15.45
Livestock	14.68	14.56	16.23	15.98	14.91	15.69
All hired workers	15.29	15.17	16.05	15.74	16.84	16.41

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 9-15, 2022	April 10-16, 2022	July 10-16, 2022	October 9-15, 2022	January 8-14, 2023	April 9-15, 2023
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	420	518	591	593	452	551
149 days or less	87	112	206	192	59	100
Total	507	630	797	785	511	651
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers.....	39.3	39.7	41.1	41.8	38.9	40.6
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	16.37	16.27	16.76	16.90	17.26	16.99
Field	16.54	16.50	16.80	17.04	17.67	17.26
Livestock	16.12	15.82	16.65	16.52	16.71	16.48
All hired workers	17.63	17.22	17.63	17.72	18.55	18.08

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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