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## Hired Workers Down 3 Percent, Wage Rates up 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,117,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 801,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.70 per hour during the October 2008 reference week, up 32 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.05 per hour, up 43 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.19 per hour compared with \$10.02 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.08 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 41.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

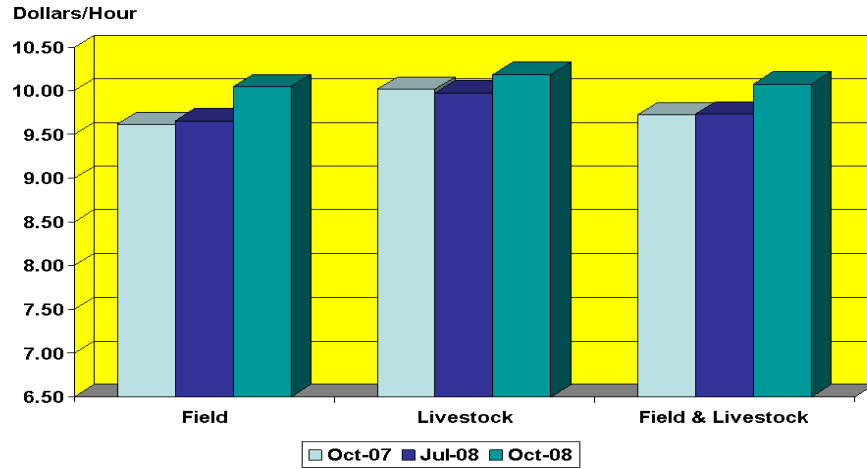
The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California, the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. In California, lack of available irrigation water caused much acreage to be left fallow. Planted acreage of cotton, dry beans, and sugar beets declined sharply from 2007. Therefore, the demand for field workers was considerably lower. Wet conditions in the Corn Belt I, Southern Plains, and the Appalachian I and II regions, compared with the previous year's drier reference week, decreased the need for field workers. Lower cattle inventories in the Appalachian regions led to fewer livestock workers being needed.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Northeast I (New England and New York), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah) regions. In the Pacific region, increased acreage of cherries, berries, and grapes heightened the demand for hired workers. Despite wetter conditions in the Corn Belt II region, compared with the previous year's reference week, increased acreage of major field crops kept the demand for hired workers above last year. In the Northeast I region, drier conditions compared with the previous year's reference week led to a stronger demand for hired workers. In the Delta region, larger cattle and hog inventories increased the demand for livestock workers. Movement of cattle from summer pastures in the Mountain II region was increasing. Therefore, more livestock workers were necessary.

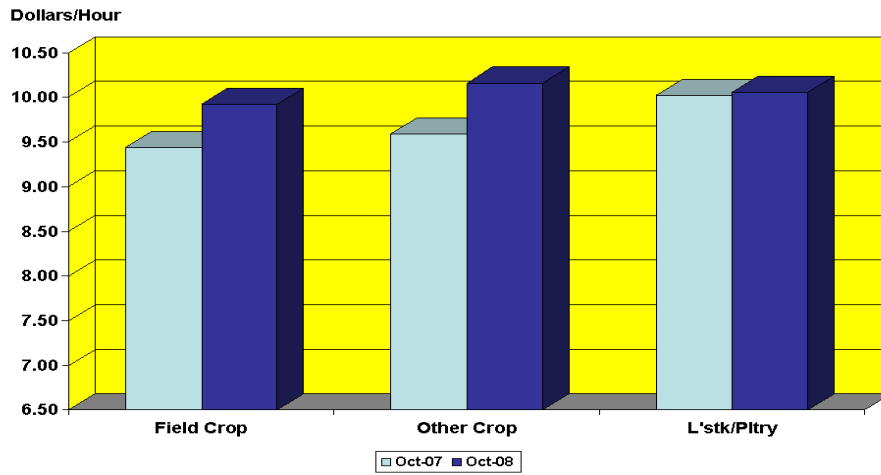
Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Appalachian I, Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Northeast I and Appalachian II regions. In the Mountain III and Appalachian II regions, the higher wages were due to more salaried workers working fewer hours which pushed the average wage up. The wage increases in the Appalachian I and Mountain I regions were because of a smaller proportion of part time workers in the work force. The higher wages in the Northeast I region were due to a higher percentage of dairy, equine, and nursery and greenhouse workers.

The 2008 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$10.59 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2007 annual average wage rate of \$10.23 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$9.78 per hour, up 38 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$9.89 per hour, up 4 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$9.49 per hour.

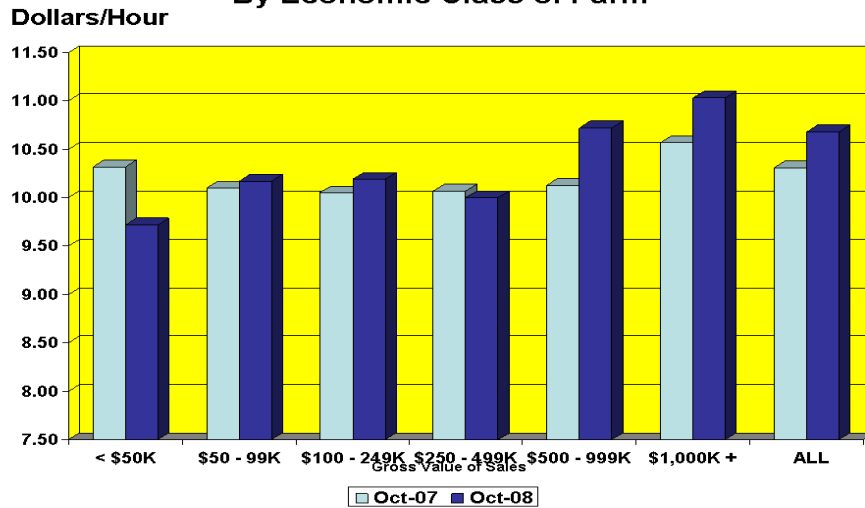
## U.S. Wage Rates By Type of Workers



## Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm



## Wage Rates of All Hired Workers By Economic Class of Farm



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,  
October 12-18, 2008, with Comparisons <sup>1</sup>**

| Farm Employment                                   | October 7-13,<br>2007   | July 6-12,<br>2008      | October 12-18,<br>2008  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | <i>1,000</i>            | <i>1,000</i>            | <i>1,000</i>            |
| Hired Workers                                     | 817                     | 828                     | 801                     |
| 150 Days or More                                  | 603                     | 585                     | 575                     |
| 149 Days or Less                                  | 214                     | 243                     | 226                     |
| Agricultural Services<br>Workers Working on Farms | 329                     | 345                     | 316                     |
| Hired Farm & Service Workers                      | 1,146                   | 1,173                   | 1,117                   |
|   | <i>Hours per Week</i>   | <i>Hours per Week</i>   | <i>Hours per Week</i>   |
| Hours Worked<br>Hired                             | 42.2                    | 40.5                    | 41.3                    |
|   | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> |
| Wage Rate for<br>All Hired Workers <sup>2 3</sup> | 10.38                   | 10.34                   | 10.70                   |
| Type of Worker                                    |                         |                         |                         |
| Field & Livestock Combined                        | 9.73                    | 9.74                    | 10.08                   |
| Field   | 9.62                    | 9.66                    | 10.05                   |
| Livestock   | 10.02                   | 9.98                    | 10.19                   |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes AK.

<sup>2</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, October 12-18, 2008<sup>1</sup>**

| U.S.<br>and<br>Region <sup>2</sup> | Hired                   |                         |                     |                              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
|                                    | Number<br>of<br>Workers | Expected to be Employed |                     | Number<br>of Hours<br>Worked |
|                                    |                         | 150 Days<br>or More     | 149 Days<br>or Less |                              |
|                                    | <i>1,000</i>            | <i>1,000</i>            | <i>1,000</i>        | <i>Hours per Week</i>        |
| Northeast I                        | 42                      | 28                      | 14                  | 42.1                         |
| Northeast II                       | 33                      | 21                      | 12                  | 36.8                         |
| Appalachian I                      | 37                      | 28                      | 9                   | 38.3                         |
| Appalachian II                     | 23                      | 13                      | 10                  | 35.1                         |
| Southeast                          | 31                      | 23                      | 8                   | 39.3                         |
| FL                                 | 38                      | 32                      | 6                   | 39.7                         |
| Lake                               | 66                      | 42                      | 24                  | 36.2                         |
| Cornbelt I                         | 38                      | 27                      | 11                  | 37.2                         |
| Cornbelt II                        | 32                      | 25                      | 7                   | 37.0                         |
| Delta                              | 36                      | 26                      | 10                  | 42.4                         |
| Northern Plains                    | 34                      | 20                      | 14                  | 43.3                         |
| Southern Plains                    | 60                      | 43                      | 17                  | 36.7                         |
| Mountain I                         | 23                      | 18                      | 5                   | 45.6                         |
| Mountain II                        | 18                      | 13                      | 5                   | 39.2                         |
| Mountain III                       | 21                      | 19                      | 2                   | 44.5                         |
| Pacific                            | 90                      | 53                      | 37                  | 45.5                         |
| CA                                 | 173                     | 139                     | 34                  | 45.8                         |
| HI                                 | 6                       | 5                       | 1                   | 38.9                         |
| US <sup>3</sup>                    | 801                     | 575                     | 226                 | 41.3                         |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, October 12-18, 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

| U.S.<br>and<br>Region <sup>2</sup> | Type of Worker          |                         |                           | Wage Rates for<br>All Hired Workers |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                    | Field                   | Livestock               | Field & Lvstk<br>Combined |                                     |
|                                    | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>   | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>             |
| Northeast I                        | 10.66                   | 10.08                   | 10.45                     | 10.95                               |
| Northeast II                       | 9.67                    | 9.24                    | 9.57                      | 10.25                               |
| Appalachian I                      | 9.55                    | 9.62                    | 9.57                      | 10.20                               |
| Appalachian II                     | 9.22                    | 9.82                    | 9.45                      | 10.32                               |
| Southeast                          | 9.04                    | 9.44                    | 9.12                      | 9.52                                |
| FL                                 | 8.90                    | 9.30                    | 8.95                      | 10.09                               |
| Lake                               | 11.43                   | 10.20                   | 11.00                     | 11.49                               |
| Cornbelt I                         | 10.31                   | 10.05                   | 10.25                     | 10.60                               |
| Cornbelt II                        | 10.62                   | 11.37                   | 10.90                     | 11.50                               |
| Delta                              | 8.51                    | 8.83                    | 8.60                      | 8.90                                |
| Northern Plains                    | 10.66                   | 9.89                    | 10.40                     | 10.94                               |
| Southern Plains                    | 9.44                    | 9.58                    | 9.50                      | 10.10                               |
| Mountain I                         | 9.71                    | 9.50                    | 9.61                      | 10.10                               |
| Mountain II                        | 9.35                    | 10.13                   | 9.70                      | 10.53                               |
| Mountain III                       | 9.44                    | 10.80                   | 10.00                     | 10.70                               |
| Pacific                            | 10.94                   | 10.54                   | 10.90                     | 11.37                               |
| CA                                 | 9.95                    | 11.95                   | 10.21                     | 10.95                               |
| HI <sup>3</sup>                    | 11.00                   |                         | 11.21                     | 13.24                               |
| US <sup>4</sup>                    | 10.05                   | 10.19                   | 10.08                     | 10.70                               |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Insufficient data for livestock.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, July 6-12, 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

| U.S.<br>and<br>Region <sup>2</sup> | Hired                   |                         |                     |                              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
|                                    | Number<br>of<br>Workers | Expected to be Employed |                     | Number<br>of Hours<br>Worked |
|                                    |                         | 150 Days<br>or More     | 149 Days<br>or Less |                              |
|                                    | <i>1,000</i>            | <i>1,000</i>            | <i>1,000</i>        | <i>Hours per Week</i>        |
| Northeast I                        | 37                      | 24                      | 13                  | 38.0                         |
| Northeast II                       | 35                      | 20                      | 15                  | 41.5                         |
| Appalachian I                      | 35                      | 26                      | 9                   | 40.3                         |
| Appalachian II                     | 21                      | 13                      | 8                   | 33.5                         |
| Southeast                          | 41                      | 29                      | 12                  | 36.6                         |
| FL                                 | 42                      | 39                      | 3                   | 40.9                         |
| Lake                               | 64                      | 44                      | 20                  | 36.5                         |
| Cornbelt I                         | 44                      | 33                      | 11                  | 35.0                         |
| Cornbelt II                        | 28                      | 21                      | 7                   | 35.6                         |
| Delta                              | 39                      | 31                      | 8                   | 39.4                         |
| Northern Plains                    | 36                      | 23                      | 13                  | 44.0                         |
| Southern Plains                    | 57                      | 43                      | 14                  | 39.0                         |
| Mountain I                         | 30                      | 24                      | 6                   | 44.0                         |
| Mountain II                        | 23                      | 15                      | 8                   | 43.0                         |
| Mountain III                       | 20                      | 17                      | 3                   | 42.0                         |
| Pacific                            | 110                     | 51                      | 59                  | 40.6                         |
| CA                                 | 160                     | 127                     | 33                  | 45.5                         |
| HI                                 | 6                       | 5                       | 1                   | 37.0                         |
| US <sup>3</sup>                    | 828                     | 585                     | 243                 | 40.5                         |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, July 6-12, 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

| U.S.<br>and<br>Region <sup>2</sup> | Type of Worker          |                         |                           | Wage Rates for<br>All Hired Workers |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                    | Field                   | Livestock               | Field & Lvstk<br>Combined |                                     |
|                                    | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>   | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>             |
| Northeast I                        | 9.68                    | 9.89                    | 9.75                      | 10.50                               |
| Northeast II                       | 9.66                    | 8.68                    | 9.50                      | 10.10                               |
| Appalachian I                      | 9.04                    | 9.29                    | 9.10                      | 9.60                                |
| Appalachian II                     | 9.80                    | 9.38                    | 9.65                      | 10.72                               |
| Southeast                          | 8.56                    | 8.27                    | 8.50                      | 9.00                                |
| FL                                 | 8.84                    | 9.25                    | 8.90                      | 9.90                                |
| Lake                               | 10.10                   | 10.09                   | 10.10                     | 10.75                               |
| Cornbelt I                         | 10.27                   | 10.87                   | 10.43                     | 10.90                               |
| Cornbelt II                        | 10.29                   | 9.23                    | 9.90                      | 10.25                               |
| Delta                              | 9.18                    | 9.74                    | 9.42                      | 9.88                                |
| Northern Plains                    | 9.89                    | 10.17                   | 10.00                     | 10.27                               |
| Southern Plains                    | 8.60                    | 10.12                   | 9.20                      | 9.80                                |
| Mountain I                         | 10.49                   | 8.98                    | 9.78                      | 10.00                               |
| Mountain II                        | 10.39                   | 11.14                   | 10.65                     | 11.00                               |
| Mountain III                       | 9.21                    | 11.44                   | 9.85                      | 10.55                               |
| Pacific                            | 9.85                    | 10.22                   | 9.87                      | 10.35                               |
| CA                                 | 9.85                    | 11.00                   | 10.00                     | 10.74                               |
| HI <sup>3</sup>                    | 11.10                   |                         | 11.21                     | 13.33                               |
| US <sup>4</sup>                    | 9.66                    | 9.98                    | 9.74                      | 10.34                               |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Insufficient data for livestock.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region  
and United States, October 7-13, 2007<sup>1</sup>**

| U.S.<br>and<br>Region <sup>2</sup> | Hired                   |                         |                     |                              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
|                                    | Number<br>of<br>Workers | Expected to be Employed |                     | Number<br>of Hours<br>Worked |
|                                    |                         | 150 Days<br>or More     | 149 Days<br>or Less |                              |
|                                    | <i>1,000</i>            | <i>1,000</i>            | <i>1,000</i>        | <i>Hours per Week</i>        |
| Northeast I                        | 34                      | 23                      | 11                  | 39.8                         |
| Northeast II                       | 38                      | 30                      | 8                   | 41.8                         |
| Appalachian I                      | 43                      | 30                      | 13                  | 37.7                         |
| Appalachian II                     | 31                      | 18                      | 13                  | 38.0                         |
| Southeast                          | 28                      | 21                      | 7                   | 37.1                         |
| FL                                 | 43                      | 39                      | 4                   | 41.8                         |
| Lake                               | 67                      | 42                      | 25                  | 38.9                         |
| Cornbelt I                         | 50                      | 33                      | 17                  | 42.7                         |
| Cornbelt II                        | 23                      | 19                      | 4                   | 41.0                         |
| Delta                              | 30                      | 20                      | 10                  | 43.0                         |
| Northern Plains                    | 35                      | 23                      | 12                  | 46.3                         |
| Southern Plains                    | 69                      | 55                      | 14                  | 39.0                         |
| Mountain I                         | 22                      | 16                      | 6                   | 50.7                         |
| Mountain II                        | 13                      | 11                      | 2                   | 43.7                         |
| Mountain III                       | 22                      | 21                      | 1                   | 46.1                         |
| Pacific                            | 75                      | 45                      | 30                  | 40.7                         |
| CA                                 | 188                     | 152                     | 36                  | 45.5                         |
| HI                                 | 6                       | 5                       | 1                   | 40.0                         |
| US <sup>3</sup>                    | 817                     | 603                     | 214                 | 42.2                         |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.



**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers  
by Region and United States, October 7-13, 2007 <sup>1</sup>**

| U.S.<br>and<br>Region <sup>2</sup> | Type of Worker          |                         |                           | Wage Rates for<br>All Hired Workers |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                    | Field                   | Livestock               | Field & Lvstk<br>Combined |                                     |
|                                    | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>   | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>             |
| Northeast I                        | 9.96                    | 9.22                    | 9.70                      | 10.35                               |
| Northeast II                       | 9.81                    | 9.86                    | 9.82                      | 10.63                               |
| Appalachian I                      | 8.66                    | 8.60                    | 8.64                      | 8.97                                |
| Appalachian II                     | 9.24                    | 9.53                    | 9.35                      | 9.75                                |
| Southeast                          | 8.53                    | 8.33                    | 8.47                      | 9.08                                |
| FL                                 | 8.70                    | 8.95                    | 8.74                      | 9.76                                |
| Lake                               | 10.75                   | 10.64                   | 10.70                     | 11.30                               |
| Cornbelt I                         | 10.24                   | 9.75                    | 10.10                     | 10.60                               |
| Cornbelt II                        | 10.69                   | 10.90                   | 10.80                     | 11.25                               |
| Delta                              | 8.26                    | 8.24                    | 8.25                      | 8.53                                |
| Northern Plains                    | 10.68                   | 9.82                    | 10.45                     | 10.78                               |
| Southern Plains                    | 8.59                    | 10.46                   | 9.45                      | 10.05                               |
| Mountain I                         | 8.31                    | 9.10                    | 8.56                      | 9.00                                |
| Mountain II                        | 9.80                    | 10.69                   | 10.05                     | 10.66                               |
| Mountain III                       | 8.26                    | 9.91                    | 8.85                      | 9.21                                |
| Pacific                            | 10.48                   | 11.07                   | 10.55                     | 11.30                               |
| CA                                 | 9.70                    | 11.00                   | 9.89                      | 10.74                               |
| HI <sup>3</sup>                    | 11.00                   |                         | 11.13                     | 13.19                               |
| US <sup>4</sup>                    | 9.62                    | 10.02                   | 9.73                      | 10.38                               |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Insufficient data for livestock.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes AK.

**Field and Livestock Workers Combined: Wage Rates, by Type  
of Farm, by Region and 48 States <sup>1</sup>**

| Region <sup>2</sup> | October 7-13, 2007      |                         |                         |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                     | Field Crops             | Other Crops             | Livestock & Poultry     | All Farms               |
|                     | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> |
| Northeast           | ( <sup>3</sup> )        | 9.89                    | 9.48                    | 9.76                    |
| Appalachian         | 8.58                    | 9.20                    | 8.96                    | 8.94                    |
| Southeast           | 7.97                    | 8.71                    | 8.62                    | 8.64                    |
| Lake                | 11.30                   | 10.69                   | 10.61                   | 10.70                   |
| Cornbelt            | 10.03                   | 10.34                   | 10.64                   | 10.32                   |
| Delta               | 7.56                    | 7.90                    | 9.18                    | 8.25                    |
| Northern Plains     | 10.67                   | 11.41                   | 9.45                    | 10.45                   |
| Southern Plains     | 8.27                    | 8.77                    | 10.15                   | 9.45                    |
| Mountain            | ( <sup>3</sup> )        | 8.58                    | 9.82                    | 9.12                    |
| Pacific             | 9.87                    | 9.85                    | 11.09                   | 10.04                   |
| 48 States           | 9.44                    | 9.59                    | 10.02                   | 9.72                    |

**Field and Livestock Workers Combined: Wage Rates, by Type  
of Farm, by Region and 48 States <sup>1</sup>**

| Region <sup>2</sup> | October 12-18, 2008     |                         |                         |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                     | Field Crops             | Other Crops             | Livestock & Poultry     | All Farms               |
|                     | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> |
| Northeast           | 10.36                   | 10.02                   | 10.13                   | 10.09                   |
| Appalachian         | 8.88                    | 10.21                   | 9.45                    | 9.53                    |
| Southeast           | 8.91                    | 8.96                    | 9.76                    | 9.03                    |
| Lake                | ( <sup>3</sup> )        | 10.70                   | 10.13                   | 11.00                   |
| Cornbelt            | 10.21                   | 10.66                   | 10.82                   | 10.55                   |
| Delta               | 8.17                    | ( <sup>3</sup> )        | 8.91                    | 8.60                    |
| Northern Plains     | 9.84                    | 12.07                   | 10.20                   | 10.40                   |
| Southern Plains     | 9.32                    | 9.28                    | 9.43                    | 9.50                    |
| Mountain            | 9.54                    | 9.68                    | 9.81                    | 9.77                    |
| Pacific             | 10.43                   | 10.30                   | 11.18                   | 10.44                   |
| 48 States           | 9.91                    | 10.15                   | 10.06                   | 10.08                   |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV.

Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC.

Lake: MI, MN, WI.

Cornbelt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH.

Delta: AR, LA, MS.

Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD.

Southern Plains: OK, TX.

Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY.

Pacific: CA, OR, WA.

48 States: All States, excluding AK and HI.

<sup>3</sup> Insufficient data.

**All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm  
by Region and 48 States <sup>1</sup>**

| Region <sup>2</sup> | October 7-13, 2007          |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                     | Gross Value Sales-\$1,000's |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         | All Farms               |
|                     | <50                         | 50-99                   | 100-249                 | 250-499                 | 500-999                 | 1,000+                  |                         |
|                     | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>     | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> |
| N. East             | 10.42                       | 9.70                    | 10.18                   | 9.40                    | 10.86                   | 10.72                   | 10.50                   |
| Appal.              | 9.22                        | 8.56                    | 8.80                    | 8.82                    | 9.28                    | 9.77                    | 9.30                    |
| S. East             | 9.19                        | 9.39                    | 8.03                    | 8.47                    | 9.22                    | 9.90                    | 9.51                    |
| Lake                | ( <sup>3</sup> )            | 11.45                   | 11.27                   | 10.46                   | 11.77                   | 11.39                   | 11.30                   |
| Cornbelt            | 10.49                       | 8.93                    | 9.80                    | 11.87                   | 10.66                   | 11.16                   | 10.80                   |
| Delta               | ( <sup>3</sup> )            | 9.21                    | 9.01                    | 8.01                    | 7.75                    | 8.00                    | 8.53                    |
| N. Plains           | ( <sup>3</sup> )            | 8.01                    | 10.26                   | 10.32                   | 10.79                   | 10.94                   | 10.78                   |
| S. Plains           | 9.37                        | 10.74                   | 10.86                   | 10.22                   | 8.70                    | 10.56                   | 10.05                   |
| Mountain            | 10.30                       | 10.77                   | 9.14                    | 8.61                    | 8.94                    | 9.71                    | 9.43                    |
| Pacific             | 10.15                       | 10.81                   | 11.07                   | 10.70                   | 10.83                   | 10.73                   | 10.76                   |
| 48 States           | 10.32                       | 10.10                   | 10.05                   | 10.07                   | 10.13                   | 10.57                   | 10.31                   |

**All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm  
by Region and 48 States <sup>1</sup>**

| Region <sup>2</sup> | October 12-18, 2008         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                     | Gross Value Sales-\$1,000's |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         | All Farms               |
|                     | <50                         | 50-99                   | 100-249                 | 250-499                 | 500-999                 | 1,000+                  |                         |
|                     | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>     | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> |
| N. East             | ( <sup>3</sup> )            | ( <sup>3</sup> )        | 9.71                    | 10.11                   | 9.90                    | 11.03                   | 10.66                   |
| Appal.              | 10.34                       | 9.92                    | 8.42                    | 9.52                    | 8.99                    | 11.99                   | 10.24                   |
| S. East             | 9.52                        | 9.17                    | 9.34                    | 9.86                    | 10.51                   | 10.07                   | 9.84                    |
| Lake                | 8.96                        | 10.43                   | 8.98                    | 9.98                    | 11.74                   | 12.23                   | 11.49                   |
| Cornbelt            | 9.86                        | 11.81                   | 10.48                   | 8.69                    | 11.28                   | 11.59                   | 11.01                   |
| Delta               | ( <sup>3</sup> )            | 8.26                    | 8.52                    | 8.50                    | 8.77                    | 9.61                    | 8.90                    |
| N. Plains           | ( <sup>3</sup> )            | 7.36                    | 10.47                   | 10.77                   | 10.90                   | 11.96                   | 10.94                   |
| S. Plains           | 10.59                       | 9.26                    | 11.51                   | 10.37                   | 9.90                    | 9.64                    | 10.10                   |
| Mountain            | 9.76                        | 11.01                   | 9.90                    | 9.97                    | 10.53                   | 10.61                   | 10.42                   |
| Pacific             | 10.73                       | 10.36                   | 11.88                   | 10.84                   | 11.39                   | 11.02                   | 11.09                   |
| 48 States           | 9.72                        | 10.17                   | 10.19                   | 10.00                   | 10.72                   | 11.03                   | 10.68                   |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV.

Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC.

Lake: MI, MN, WI.

Cornbelt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH.

Delta: AR, LA, MS.

Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD.

Southern Plains: OK, TX.

Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY.

Pacific: CA, OR, WA.

48 States: All States, excluding AK and HI.

<sup>3</sup> Insufficient data.

**Field and Livestock Workers: Distribution  
by Type of Farm, 48 States<sup>1 2 3</sup>**

| Type of Farm                   | October 7-13,<br>2007                         | July 6-12,<br>2008                            | October 12-18,<br>2008                        |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
|                                | <i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i> | <i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i> | <i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i> |
| Field Crops                    | 14  | 13  | 15  |
| Other Crops                    | 54  | 56  | 51  |
| Livestock, Dairy,<br>& Poultry | 32  | 31  | 34  |

**Hired Workers: Distribution by Economic  
Class of Farm, 48 States<sup>1 3</sup>**

| Gross Value of Sales | October 7-13,<br>2007           | July 6-12,<br>2008              | October 12-18,<br>2008          |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                      | <i>Percent of Hired Workers</i> | <i>Percent of Hired Workers</i> | <i>Percent of Hired Workers</i> |
| Less than \$50,000   | 9                               | 11                              | 10                              |
| \$50,000-\$99,999    | 5                               | 5                               | 4                               |
| \$100,000-\$249,999  | 10                              | 10                              | 10                              |
| \$250,000-\$499,999  | 13                              | 11                              | 12                              |
| \$500,000-\$999,999  | 13                              | 13                              | 15                              |
| \$1,000,000 and over | 50                              | 50                              | 49                              |

**Hired Workers: Distribution by Category, United States,<sup>1 3</sup>**

| Category                 | October 7-13,<br>2007           | July 6-12,<br>2008              | October 12-18,<br>2008          |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                          | <i>Percent of Hired Workers</i> | <i>Percent of Hired Workers</i> | <i>Percent of Hired Workers</i> |
| Employed on Farms Hiring |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| 1 Worker                 | 10                              | 10                              | 9                               |
| 2 Workers                | 9                               | 9                               | 10                              |
| 3-6 Workers              | 17                              | 19                              | 21                              |
| 7-10 Workers             | 10                              | 9                               | 8                               |
| 11-20 Workers            | 9                               | 11                              | 12                              |
| 21-50 Workers            | 16                              | 14                              | 14                              |
| 51 or more Workers       | 29                              | 28                              | 26                              |

<sup>1</sup> 48 States, excluding AK and HI.

<sup>2</sup> Field and Livestock Workers combined.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

## Agricultural Services

Agricultural service operations provided 316,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2008. Agricultural service workers in California numbered 132,000 this October, down 2 percent from last year. Florida's number of agricultural service workers was 3,000, down 25 percent from last year.

The average wages received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$10.75 and \$10.05 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in October 2007 were \$10.40 per hour in California and \$9.55 per hour in Florida.

**Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates,  
for California, Florida, and United States<sup>1</sup>**

| State | Number of Workers Working on Farms |              |              | Hours Worked <sup>2</sup> |              |              | Wage Rates <sup>2,3</sup> |                         |                         |
|-------|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|       | Oct 2007                           | Jul 2008     | Oct 2008     | Oct 2007                  | Jul 2008     | Oct 2008     | Oct 2007                  | Jul 2008                | Oct 2008                |
|       | <i>1,000</i>                       | <i>1,000</i> | <i>1,000</i> | <i>Hours</i>              | <i>Hours</i> | <i>Hours</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i>   | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> |
| CA    | 135.0                              | 113.0        | 132.0        | 36.0                      | 38.0         | 38.6         | 10.40                     | 10.00                   | 10.75                   |
| FL    | 4.0                                | 2.0          | 3.0          | 42.0                      | 43.0         | 42.0         | 9.55                      | 9.85                    | 10.05                   |
| US    | 329.0                              | 345.0        | 316.0        |                           |              |              |                           |                         |                         |

<sup>1</sup> Data are for Agricultural Services performed on the farm by custom service units such as crew leaders or custom crews. These statistics are not included in the State-Regional tables.

<sup>2</sup> United States data not available.

<sup>3</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Number and Hours Worked  
By Region and United States, 2007-08<sup>1</sup>**

| State and Region <sup>2</sup> | Hired Workers |              | Hours Worked          |                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                               | 2007          | 2008         | 2007                  | 2008                  |
|                               | <i>1,000</i>  | <i>1,000</i> | <i>Hours per Week</i> | <i>Hours per Week</i> |
| Northeast I                   | 31.5          | 34.5         | 40.7                  | 41.2                  |
| Northeast II                  | 33.3          | 29.8         | 39.7                  | 38.2                  |
| Appalachian I                 | 31.5          | 30.5         | 36.8                  | 38.4                  |
| Appalachian II                | 25.8          | 25.0         | 34.9                  | 33.5                  |
| Southeast                     | 29.5          | 31.5         | 36.8                  | 37.5                  |
| FL                            | 46.8          | 45.0         | 40.3                  | 41.1                  |
| Lake                          | 59.8          | 55.5         | 38.6                  | 36.4                  |
| Cornbelt I                    | 46.5          | 38.3         | 39.5                  | 36.2                  |
| Cornbelt II                   | 23.3          | 27.0         | 38.7                  | 36.8                  |
| Delta                         | 27.3          | 28.8         | 38.2                  | 39.7                  |
| Northern Plains               | 31.8          | 30.3         | 42.9                  | 42.3                  |
| Southern Plains               | 54.8          | 55.3         | 39.0                  | 38.8                  |
| Mountain I                    | 22.0          | 23.3         | 43.9                  | 43.4                  |
| Mountain II                   | 18.3          | 19.3         | 42.3                  | 41.4                  |
| Mountain III                  | 20.8          | 18.3         | 45.7                  | 44.0                  |
| Pacific                       | 70.5          | 77.5         | 39.0                  | 42.1                  |
| CA                            | 167.0         | 155.3        | 45.1                  | 44.1                  |
| HI                            | 6.5           | 6.0          | 39.1                  | 38.2                  |
| US <sup>3</sup>               | 746.5         | 730.8        | 40.8                  | 40.4                  |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Region map on page 17.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates  
By Region and United States, 2007-08<sup>1 3</sup>**

| U.S.<br>and<br>Region                       | All Hired               |                         | Field                   |                         | Field & Livestock       |                         |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | 2007                    | 2008                    | 2007                    | 2008                    | 2007                    | 2008                    |
|   | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> |
| Northeast I<br>(CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT) | 10.49                   | 10.96                   | 9.92                    | 10.35                   | 9.70                    | 10.20                   |
| Northeast II<br>(DE, MD, NJ, PA)            | 10.62                   | 10.32                   | 9.88                    | 9.72                    | 9.70                    | 9.50                    |
| Appalachian I<br>(NC, VA)                   | 9.36                    | 9.94                    | 8.78                    | 9.24                    | 8.85                    | 9.34                    |
| Appalachian II<br>(KY, TN, WV)              | 9.75                    | 10.30                   | 8.79                    | 9.14                    | 9.13                    | 9.41                    |
| Southeast<br>(AL, GA, SC)                   | 9.15                    | 9.27                    | 8.50                    | 8.74                    | 8.53                    | 8.77                    |
| FL  | 9.73                    | 10.06                   | 8.82                    | 9.04                    | 8.82                    | 9.08                    |
| Lake<br>(MI, MN, WI)                        | 10.87                   | 11.25                   | 10.12                   | 10.80                   | 10.01                   | 10.63                   |
| Cornbelt I<br>(IL, IN, OH)                  | 10.55                   | 11.10                   | 10.08                   | 10.36                   | 9.90                    | 10.45                   |
| Cornbelt II<br>(IA, MO)                     | 11.10                   | 11.24                   | 9.89                    | 10.57                   | 10.44                   | 10.77                   |
| Delta<br>(AR, LA, MS)                       | 8.78                    | 9.38                    | 8.28                    | 8.77                    | 8.41                    | 8.92                    |
| Northern Plains<br>(KS, NE, ND, SD)         | 10.36                   | 10.87                   | 10.13                   | 10.47                   | 9.90                    | 10.39                   |
| Southern Plains<br>(OK, TX)                 | 9.53                    | 9.86                    | 8.38                    | 8.77                    | 9.02                    | 9.27                    |
| Mountain I<br>(ID, MT, WY)                  | 9.24                    | 9.99                    | 8.50                    | 9.94                    | 8.74                    | 9.64                    |
| Mountain II<br>(CO, NV, UT)                 | 10.03                   | 10.43                   | 9.23                    | 9.69                    | 9.42                    | 9.88                    |
| Mountain III<br>(AZ, NM)                    | 9.37                    | 10.46                   | 8.26                    | 9.20                    | 8.70                    | 9.82                    |
| Pacific<br>(OR, WA)                         | 10.69                   | 10.69                   | 9.87                    | 10.05                   | 9.94                    | 10.12                   |
| CA  | 10.58                   | 11.04                   | 9.57                    | 9.98                    | 9.74                    | 10.16                   |
| HI  | 12.84                   | 13.22                   | 10.70                   | 10.92                   | 10.86                   | 11.06                   |
| US <sup>2</sup>                             | 10.23                   | 10.59                   | 9.40                    | 9.78                    | 9.49                    | 9.89                    |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes AK.

<sup>3</sup> Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The 2007 annual average for all Regions and the U.S. is based on modeled data for January and survey data for April, July, and October.

**Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates  
By State, 2007-08<sup>1,2</sup>**

| State                | All Hired               |                         | Field                   |                         | Field & Livestock       |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                      | 2007 <sup>3</sup>       | 2008                    | 2007 <sup>3</sup>       | 2008                    | 2007 <sup>3</sup>       | 2008                    |
|                      | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> | <i>Dollars per Hour</i> |
| AL                   |                         | 9.21                    |                         | 8.61                    |                         | 8.62                    |
| AZ                   |                         | 10.54                   |                         | 9.21                    |                         | 9.77                    |
| AR                   |                         | 9.45                    |                         | 8.77                    |                         | 8.98                    |
| CA                   |                         | 11.04                   |                         | 9.98                    |                         | 10.16                   |
| CO                   |                         | 10.56                   |                         | 9.90                    |                         | 9.99                    |
| DE                   |                         | 10.86                   |                         | 11.41                   |                         | 9.94                    |
| FL                   |                         | 10.06                   |                         | 9.04                    |                         | 9.08                    |
| GA                   |                         | 9.24                    |                         | 8.88                    |                         | 8.87                    |
| HI                   |                         | 13.22                   |                         | 10.92                   |                         | 11.06                   |
| ID                   |                         | 10.02                   |                         | 9.79                    |                         | 9.71                    |
| IL                   |                         | 11.08                   |                         | 10.36                   |                         | 10.44                   |
| IN                   |                         | 11.85                   |                         | 10.69                   |                         | 11.00                   |
| IA                   |                         | 11.30                   |                         | 10.34                   |                         | 10.80                   |
| KS                   |                         | 10.68                   |                         | 10.18                   |                         | 10.12                   |
| KY                   |                         | 10.78                   |                         | 8.69                    |                         | 9.62                    |
| LA                   |                         | 9.45                    |                         | 8.76                    |                         | 8.94                    |
| MD                   |                         | 11.26                   |                         | 9.84                    |                         | 9.72                    |
| MI                   |                         | 10.91                   |                         | 9.91                    |                         | 10.20                   |
| MN                   |                         | 12.41                   |                         | 12.15                   |                         | 11.81                   |
| MS                   |                         | 9.23                    |                         | 8.81                    |                         | 8.85                    |
| MO                   |                         | 11.16                   |                         | 10.78                   |                         | 10.71                   |
| MT                   |                         | 10.14                   |                         | 10.45                   |                         | 9.72                    |
| NE                   |                         | 11.05                   |                         | 10.29                   |                         | 10.49                   |
| NV                   |                         | 10.14                   |                         | 9.11                    |                         | 9.44                    |
| NJ                   |                         | 10.25                   |                         | 9.52                    |                         | 9.63                    |
| NM                   |                         | 10.25                   |                         | 9.14                    |                         | 9.94                    |
| NY                   |                         | 10.59                   |                         | 9.89                    |                         | 9.95                    |
| NC                   |                         | 9.74                    |                         | 9.15                    |                         | 9.20                    |
| ND                   |                         | 11.29                   |                         | 11.26                   |                         | 11.10                   |
| OH                   |                         | 10.70                   |                         | 10.17                   |                         | 10.17                   |
| OK                   |                         | 10.13                   |                         | 9.63                    |                         | 9.54                    |
| OR                   |                         | 10.59                   |                         | 9.70                    |                         | 9.80                    |
| PA                   |                         | 10.10                   |                         | 9.76                    |                         | 9.34                    |
| SC                   |                         | 9.47                    |                         | 8.52                    |                         | 8.69                    |
| SD                   |                         | 10.57                   |                         | 10.45                   |                         | 10.14                   |
| TN                   |                         | 9.94                    |                         | 9.61                    |                         | 9.39                    |
| TX                   |                         | 9.81                    |                         | 8.62                    |                         | 9.22                    |
| UT                   |                         | 10.27                   |                         | 9.46                    |                         | 9.83                    |
| VA                   |                         | 10.31                   |                         | 9.45                    |                         | 9.60                    |
| WA                   |                         | 10.76                   |                         | 10.24                   |                         | 10.30                   |
| WV                   |                         | 8.58                    |                         | 8.39                    |                         | 7.88                    |
| WI                   |                         | 10.71                   |                         | 10.90                   |                         | 10.13                   |
| WY                   |                         | 9.55                    |                         | 9.93                    |                         | 8.98                    |
| Oth Sts <sup>4</sup> |                         | 11.55                   |                         | 10.91                   |                         | 10.64                   |
| US <sup>5</sup>      | 10.23                   | 10.59                   | 9.40                    | 9.78                    | 9.49                    | 9.89                    |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

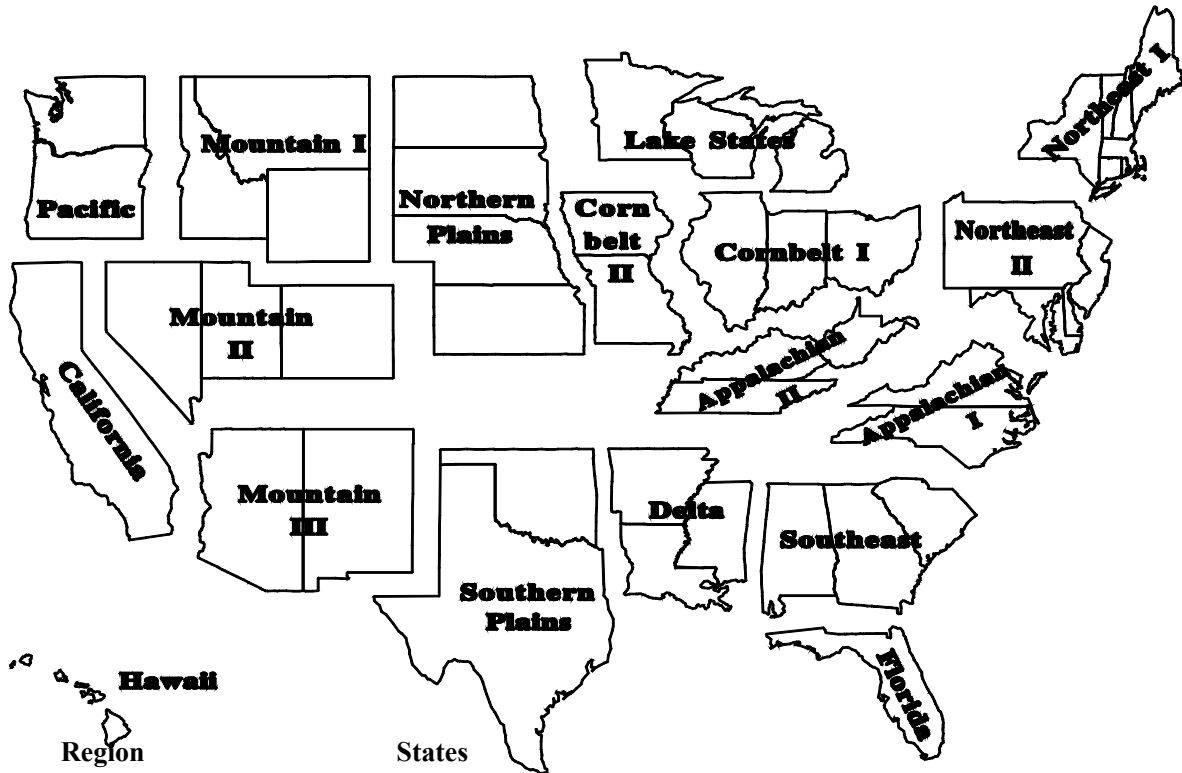
<sup>3</sup> State level estimates for 2007 not available.

<sup>4</sup> Includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

<sup>5</sup> Excludes AK.



## Farm Labor Regions



|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Northeast I     | CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. |
| Northeast II    | DE, MD, NJ, PA.             |
| Appalachian I   | NC, VA.                     |
| Appalachian II  | KY, TN, WV.                 |
| Southeast       | AL, GA, SC.                 |
| Lake            | MI, MN, WI.                 |
| Cornbelt I      | IL, IN, OH.                 |
| Cornbelt II     | IA, MO.                     |
| Delta           | AR, LA, MS.                 |
| Northern Plains | KS, NE, ND, SD.             |
| Southern Plains | OK, TX.                     |
| Mountain I      | ID, MT, WY.                 |
| Mountain II     | CO, NV, UT.                 |
| Mountain III    | AZ, NM.                     |
| Pacific         | OR, WA.                     |

## Farm Labor Definitions

The following definitions are provided to assist in interpreting statistics published in quarterly Farm Labor reports. To ensure consistency in data collection, the questionnaires and instruction manual used by the interviewers provide more in-depth explanations of these terms.

**Farm or Ranch:** A place that sells, or would normally sell, at least \$1,000 worth of agricultural products during the year.

**Agricultural Work:** Work done on a farm or ranch in connection with the production of agricultural products, including nursery and greenhouse products and animal specialties such as fur farms or apiaries. Also included is work done off the farm to handle farm related business, such as trips to buy feed or deliver products to local market.

**Hired Worker:** Anyone, other than an agricultural service worker, who was paid for at least one hour of agricultural work on a farm or ranch. Worker type is determined by what the employee was primarily hired to do, not necessarily what work was done during the survey week. Type of workers include:

**Field Workers:** Employees engaged in planting, tending and harvesting crops including operation of farm machinery on crop farms.

**Livestock Workers:** Employees tending livestock, milking cows or caring for poultry, including operation of farm machinery on livestock or poultry operations.

**Supervisors:** Hired managers, range foremen, crew leaders, etc.

**Other Workers:** Employees engaged in agricultural work not included in the other three categories. Bookkeepers and pilots are examples.

**Methods of Pay:** All wage rates are calculated based on total wages paid and total hours worked during the survey reference week. Wages paid other than hourly (bi-weekly, monthly, etc.) are converted to an hourly basis prior to summarization. Wages paid by piece rate (per quantity of produce picked, etc.) are also converted to an hourly basis.

**Perquisites:** Benefits, such as cash bonuses, housing, or meals, provided to an employee in addition to pay are included in perquisites. Wage rates published in this release do not include the value of these benefits.

**Term of Employment:** The length of time during the year the farm operator expects to employ those workers who were on the payroll during the survey week.

## Definitions - continued

**Agricultural Service:** Any farm-related service performed on a farm or ranch on a contract or fee basis. This primarily includes activities performed by contract workers on fruit, vegetable, or berry operations. It also includes custom work (see below), veterinarian work, artificial insemination, sheep shearing, milk testing, or any other farm-related activity performed on a farm or ranch on a “fee per service” basis rather than hourly.

**Contract Labor:** Contract workers are paid by a crew leader, contractor, buyer, processor, cooperative, or other person who has an oral or written agreement with a farmer/rancher. Pruning, thinning, weeding or harvesting of fruit, vegetable or berry crops are examples. A machine is not a part of the service activity provided by the contractor.

**Custom Work:** Work performed by machines and labor hired as a unit. Hay baling, combining, corn or cotton picking, spraying, fertilizing, and laser leveling are examples of custom work when the equipment is included in the service activity.

**Type of Farm (or Ranch):** An operation is classified in the farm type which accounts for the largest portion of the total gross value of sales for its agricultural production.

### The three types of farms broken out in this publication are:

**Field Crops:** A farm producing wheat, rice, corn, soybeans, barley, dry beans, rye, sorghum, cotton, popcorn, tobacco, or other such crops.

**Other Crops:** A farm producing vegetables, melons, berry crops, grapes, tree nuts, citrus fruits, deciduous tree fruits, avocados, dates, figs, olives, nursery, or greenhouse crops. This category also includes farms producing potatoes, sugar crops, hay, peanuts, hops, mint, and maple syrup.

**Livestock or Poultry:** A farm producing cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, milk, chickens, eggs, turkeys, or animal specialties such as furs, fish, honey, etc.

**Gross Value of Sales:** This includes all income during a year from the sale of crops, livestock, dairy, poultry, or other related agricultural products, including the landlord's share. When commodities are placed under CCC loan, they are considered as sold.

## Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the last two weeks of October using sampling procedures to ensure every employer of agricultural workers had a chance of being selected.

Two samples of farm operators are selected. First, NASS maintains a list of farms that hire farm workers. Farms on this list are classified by size and type. Those expected to employ large numbers of workers are selected with greater frequency than those hiring few or no workers. A second sample consists of segments of land scientifically selected from an area sampling frame. Each June, highly trained interviewers locate each selected land segment and identify every farm operating land within the sample segment's boundaries. The names of farms found in these area segments are matched against the NASS list of farms; those not found on the list are included in the labor survey sample to represent all farms. This methodology is known as multiple frame sampling, with an area sample used to measure the incompleteness of the list. Additionally, a list of agricultural service firms was sampled in California and Florida. The survey reference week was October 12-18, 2008.

**Reliability:** Two types of errors, sampling and non-sampling, are always present in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both types affect the "accuracy" of the estimates.

Sampling error occurs because a complete census is not taken. The sampling error measures the variation in estimates from the average of all possible samples. An estimate of 100 with a sampling error of 1 would mean that chances are 19 out of 20 that the estimates from all possible samples averaged together would be between 98 and 102; which is the survey estimate, plus or minus two times the sampling error. The sampling error expressed as a percent of the estimate is called the relative sampling error. The relative sampling error for number of hired workers at the U.S. level is normally less than 5 percent. The relative sampling error for the number of hired workers generally ranged between 8 and 19 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 0.7 percent. The relative sampling error was 0.7 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 2 and 4 percent at the regional levels. Relative sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm generally ranged between 2 and 18 percent at the regional level.

Non-sampling errors can occur in a complete census as well as in sample surveys. They are caused by the inability to obtain correct information from each operation sampled, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, and mistakes in editing, coding or processing the data. Special efforts are taken at each step of the survey to minimize non-sampling errors.

**Revision Policy:** Farm labor information is subject to revision the next time the information is published or the year after the original publication date. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. Worker numbers and wage rates for July 2008 and October 2007 were subject to revision with this report. If any revisions were made to previous data, they are reprinted in this report for your information, and they are identified as such.

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