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Hired Workers Down Nearly 5 Percent, Wage Rates Up Nearly 2 Percent From a Year Ago

Beginning in 2012, two quarters of farm labor data are published semi-annually. Additionally, the agricultural service component was discontinued in 2012. Hired worker estimates exclude agricultural service employees.

There were 575,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2012, down nearly 5 percent from a year ago. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 748,000 for the following quarter's reference week of April 8-14, 2012. Because NASS did not publish estimates for the April 2011 quarter, no previous year comparison is available for April.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.52 per hour during the January 2012 reference week, up nearly 2 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.39 per hour, up more than 1 percent, while livestock workers earned \$10.96 per hour compared with \$10.52 a year ago. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.58 per hour, was up 21 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.6 for hired workers during the reference week, up fractionally from a year ago.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.41 per hour during the April 2012 reference week, down 11 cents from the January quarter. Field workers received an average of \$10.50 per hour, up 11 cents from January. Livestock workers earned \$10.95, down just 1 cent from January. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.62 per hour, was up 4 cents from January. The number of hours worked averaged 39.2 for hired workers during the April reference week.

For the January reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) region and in Florida. The increase in Corn Belt I was largely driven by strong demand for livestock workers resulting from increased cattle and hog inventories. The increase in Florida was largely driven by strong demand from fruit and vegetable producers during recovery from a prior week freeze event.

For the January reference week, the largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) regions. The decrease in the Delta region resulted primarily from softening demand for cotton workers, ahead of a substantial decrease in cotton acreage. In the Northern Plains and Northeast I regions, record mild January temperatures reduced the need for livestock overwintering activities and associated labor requirements.

For the January reference week, hired worker wage rates were above a year ago in the majority of regions. The largest increases occurred in Hawaii, Florida, and the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. The increase in Hawaii was mainly driven by a higher proportion of supervisory and specialty labor combined with wage increases for all worker groups. The higher wages in Florida resulted from the increased demand from fruit and vegetable producers. In the Lake region, generally higher wages followed a drop in overall hired workers.

Contents

Hired Workers and Wage Rates – United States.....	5
Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: April 8-14, 2012	6
Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: April 8-14, 2012	7
Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: January 8-14, 2012	8
Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: January 8-14, 2012	9
Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: October 9-15, 2011	10
Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: October 9-15, 2011.....	11
Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: July 10-16, 2011	12
Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: July 10-16, 2011.....	13
Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: April 10-16, 2011	14
Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: April 10-16, 2011	15
Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: January 9-15, 2011	16
Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: January 9-15, 2011	17
Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Regions and 48 States: April 8-14, 2012	18
Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Regions and 48 States: January 8-14, 2012	18
Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Regions and 48 States: April 10-16, 2011	19
Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Regions and 48 States: January 9-15, 2011	19
All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm – Regions and 48 States: April 8-14, 2012.....	20
All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm – Regions and 48 States: January 8-14, 2012.....	20
All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm – Regions and 48 States: April 10-16, 2011.....	21
All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm – Regions and 48 States: January 9-15, 2011.....	21
Field and Livestock Workers by Type of Farm	22
Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm	22
Hired Workers by Number of Workers on Farm	22

Farm Labor Regions 23

Farm Labor Definitions..... 24

Survey Methodology..... 26

Information Contacts 27

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Hired Workers and Wage Rates – United States

[Excludes Alaska]

Farm employment	January 9-15, 2011	April 10-16, 2011 ³	July 10-16, 2011	October 9-15, 2011	January 8-14, 2012	April 8-14, 2012
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired workers						
150 days or more	506		603	590	489	580
149 days or less	97		231	238	86	168
Total	603		834	828	575	748
	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Hours worked by hired workers ...	39.0		41.2	41.6	39.6	39.2
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Wage rate						
Field and livestock combined ..	10.37		10.28	10.57	10.58	10.62
Field	10.26		10.27	10.54	10.39	10.50
Livestock	10.52		10.29	10.67	10.96	10.95
All hired workers ^{1 2}	11.30		10.93	11.15	11.52	11.41

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

² Excludes agricultural service workers.

³ The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: April 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired				Number of hours worked (hours per week)
	Number of workers (1,000)	Expected to be employed (1,000)			
		150 days or more	149 days or less		
Northeast I	30	23	7		41.9
Northeast II	35	26	9		39.3
Appalachian I	28	22	6		41.7
Appalachian II	29	17	12		32.4
Southeast	36	26	10		36.4
Florida	55	41	14		36.5
Lake	57	42	15		35.6
Cornbelt I	44	35	9		37.3
Cornbelt II	24	19	5		32.6
Delta	23	18	5		39.4
Northern Plains	33	26	7		41.1
Southern Plains	58	40	18		40.9
Mountain I	29	24	5		38.4
Mountain II	19	13	6		42.4
Mountain III	20	18	2		50.7
Pacific	66	48	18		42.3
California	156	137	19		39.8
Hawaii	6	5	1		37.5
United States	748	580	168		39.2

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: April 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	11.52	10.30	11.05	11.70
Northeast II	10.19	9.84	10.10	11.14
Appalachian I	9.57	9.80	9.62	10.09
Appalachian II	8.80	8.76	8.78	9.64
Southeast	9.61	9.91	9.67	10.13
Florida	10.60	10.35	10.58	11.56
Lake	11.71	11.59	11.66	12.55
Cornbelt I	11.81	12.59	12.10	12.54
Cornbelt II	11.94	11.60	11.80	12.21
Delta	9.41	10.38	9.62	10.27
Northern Plains	12.29	11.18	11.90	12.83
Southern Plains	9.40	10.00	9.55	10.05
Mountain I	10.74	10.60	10.65	11.23
Mountain II	9.60	9.82	9.67	10.97
Mountain III	9.07	10.07	9.22	9.79
Pacific	10.85	12.62	11.04	11.67
California	10.55	11.85	10.83	11.81
Hawaii	12.35	14.80	12.65	15.26
United States	10.50	10.95	10.62	11.41

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: January 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired				Number of hours worked (hours per week)
	Number of workers (1,000)	Expected to be employed (1,000)			
		150 days or more	149 days or less		
Northeast I	21	19	2	41.3	
Northeast II	25	21	4	34.8	
Appalachian I	19	17	2	39.4	
Appalachian II	19	15	4	36.7	
Southeast	26	20	6	36.1	
Florida	50	41	9	38.5	
Lake	39	35	4	34.5	
Cornbelt I	31	29	2	37.9	
Cornbelt II	17	16	1	36.5	
Delta	16	14	2	36.0	
Northern Plains	25	22	3	41.5	
Southern Plains	47	37	10	37.8	
Mountain I	19	18	1	44.3	
Mountain II	14	12	2	41.5	
Mountain III	19	18	1	48.0	
Pacific	47	38	9	38.9	
California	135	112	23	42.8	
Hawaii	6	5	1	37.1	
United States	575	489	86	39.6	

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: January 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	11.62	10.48	11.00	11.65
Northeast II	10.50	10.25	10.42	11.86
Appalachian I	9.76	10.18	9.91	10.56
Appalachian II	8.46	9.06	8.79	9.77
Southeast	9.64	10.49	9.81	10.53
Florida	10.35	10.65	10.37	11.43
Lake	12.99	11.47	11.95	13.12
Cornbelt I	12.16	12.42	12.30	13.05
Cornbelt II	11.90	10.93	11.30	11.50
Delta	9.33	10.48	9.74	10.67
Northern Plains	13.34	10.92	12.15	13.05
Southern Plains	9.75	10.36	9.95	10.75
Mountain I	9.81	10.15	10.05	10.90
Mountain II	10.70	9.95	10.31	11.89
Mountain III	9.06	10.70	9.37	10.05
Pacific	10.73	12.58	11.00	11.85
California	10.08	11.75	10.42	11.38
Hawaii	12.20	15.30	12.45	15.05
United States	10.39	10.96	10.58	11.52

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: October 9-15, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired				Number of hours worked (hours per week)
	Number of workers (1,000)	Expected to be employed (1,000)		Number of hours worked (hours per week)	
		150 days or more	149 days or less		
Northeast I	40	30	10	41.8	
Northeast II	36	26	10	39.0	
Appalachian I	39	28	11	41.3	
Appalachian II	20	11	9	35.7	
Southeast	29	19	10	33.8	
Florida	41	34	7	37.3	
Lake	77	46	31	40.8	
Corbelt I	50	31	19	39.5	
Corbelt II	33	20	13	38.3	
Delta	31	22	9	44.7	
Northern Plains	39	30	9	43.8	
Southern Plains	45	37	8	41.0	
Mountain I	29	21	8	50.7	
Mountain II	18	14	4	41.1	
Mountain III	19	16	3	49.1	
Pacific	90	49	41	41.4	
California	185	150	35	43.6	
Hawaii	7	6	1	38.0	
United States	828	590	238	41.6	

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: October 9-15, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	11.36	11.18	11.30	11.84
Northeast II	10.04	10.43	10.15	11.16
Appalachian I	9.54	10.50	9.70	10.10
Appalachian II	9.44	9.58	9.50	10.43
Southeast	9.87	9.09	9.65	10.10
Florida	9.25	10.20	9.35	10.56
Lake	11.59	10.71	11.30	11.83
Cornbelt I	11.15	11.01	11.10	11.38
Cornbelt II	12.07	10.60	11.50	11.66
Delta	9.12	9.68	9.20	9.64
Northern Plains	12.58	10.61	11.85	12.13
Southern Plains	9.53	11.03	10.10	10.78
Mountain I	10.38	10.08	10.25	10.45
Mountain II	10.90	10.22	10.60	11.36
Mountain III	8.77	10.55	9.50	10.10
Pacific	11.42	11.78	11.45	12.04
California	10.15	11.20	10.30	10.96
Hawaii	12.55	13.60	12.65	14.83
United States	10.54	10.67	10.57	11.15

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: July 10-16, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired			
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked
		150 days or more	149 days or less	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(hours per week)
Northeast I	38	28	10	41.3
Northeast II	33	21	12	39.2
Appalachian I	41	31	10	42.8
Appalachian II	32	19	13	34.0
Southeast	31	22	9	39.4
Florida	40	37	3	40.3
Lake	74	50	24	36.7
Cornbelt I	41	29	12	34.4
Cornbelt II	33	25	8	37.1
Delta	25	18	7	39.5
Northern Plains	37	27	10	45.2
Southern Plains	51	40	11	40.0
Mountain I	28	21	7	44.5
Mountain II	19	16	3	46.0
Mountain III	16	15	1	46.8
Pacific	111	56	55	42.5
California	177	142	35	44.7
Hawaii	7	6	1	38.0
United States	834	603	231	41.2

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: July 10-16, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	10.63	9.83	10.35	11.00
Northeast II	9.93	10.46	10.05	10.95
Appalachian I	9.20	9.89	9.35	9.85
Appalachian II	9.49	9.51	9.50	10.50
Southeast	9.18	8.72	9.05	9.70
Florida	9.90	10.20	9.95	12.15
Lake	10.33	10.24	10.30	10.75
Cornbelt I	10.66	10.63	10.65	11.15
Cornbelt II	12.25	11.43	12.00	12.15
Delta	9.24	10.27	9.50	9.85
Northern Plains	11.04	10.96	11.00	11.20
Southern Plains	10.14	10.25	10.20	10.60
Mountain I	10.18	9.91	10.05	10.25
Mountain II	9.77	9.19	9.55	10.55
Mountain III	9.89	10.65	10.20	11.10
Pacific	10.82	10.56	10.80	11.28
California	10.10	10.90	10.20	10.90
Hawaii	12.70	13.25	12.76	14.91
United States	10.27	10.29	10.28	10.93

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: April 10-16, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska. The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted]

Region ¹	Hired			Number of hours worked (hours per week)
	Number of workers (1,000)	Expected to be employed		
		150 days or more (1,000)	149 days or less (1,000)	
Northeast I				
Northeast II				
Appalachian I				
Appalachian II				
Southeast				
Florida				
Lake				
Corbelt I				
Corbelt II				
Delta				
Northern Plains				
Southern Plains				
Mountain I				
Mountain II				
Mountain III				
Pacific				
California				
Hawaii				
United States				

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: April 10-16, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska. The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I				
Northeast II				
Appalachian I				
Appalachian II				
Southeast				
Florida				
Lake				
Cornbelt I				
Cornbelt II				
Delta				
Northern Plains				
Southern Plains				
Mountain I				
Mountain II				
Mountain III				
Pacific				
California				
Hawaii				
United States				

¹ Region map on page 23.

Number of Workers and Hours Worked – Regions and United States: January 9-15, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Hired				Number of hours worked (hours per week)
	Number of workers (1,000)	Expected to be employed (1,000)			
		150 days or more	149 days or less		
Northeast I	28	25	3	41.1	
Northeast II	26	23	3	38.0	
Appalachian I	18	15	3	35.4	
Appalachian II	18	13	5	36.7	
Southeast	25	18	7	37.5	
Florida	45	38	7	36.9	
Lake	45	37	8	36.0	
Corbelt I	26	22	4	37.5	
Corbelt II	17	14	3	36.3	
Delta	24	19	5	35.1	
Northern Plains	36	32	4	37.2	
Southern Plains	50	42	8	40.5	
Mountain I	20	17	3	41.0	
Mountain II	15	14	1	40.2	
Mountain III	18	16	2	46.8	
Pacific	52	43	9	36.0	
California	133	112	21	42.4	
Hawaii	7	6	1	37.4	
United States	603	506	97	39.0	

¹ Region map on page 23.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker – Regions and United States: January 9-15, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Region ¹	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field and livestock combined	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast I	10.75	10.28	10.45	11.25
Northeast II	12.08	10.37	11.35	12.60
Appalachian I	9.81	9.58	9.70	10.80
Appalachian II	8.71	9.25	9.00	9.90
Southeast	9.26	11.16	9.75	10.50
Florida	9.45	10.05	9.55	10.70
Lake	11.76	10.45	10.90	11.85
Cornbelt I	11.67	11.72	11.70	13.00
Cornbelt II	11.29	10.86	11.00	11.40
Delta	9.71	9.27	9.50	10.20
Northern Plains	12.42	11.69	12.00	12.60
Southern Plains	9.34	9.91	9.70	10.30
Mountain I	10.79	10.81	10.80	11.45
Mountain II	10.89	10.56	10.70	12.00
Mountain III	9.77	9.85	9.80	10.60
Pacific	10.72	11.53	10.90	11.80
California	9.98	10.75	10.14	11.12
Hawaii	11.35	13.25	11.48	13.51
United States	10.26	10.52	10.37	11.30

¹ Region map on page 23.

Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Regions and 48 States: April 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	13.70	10.61	10.05	10.55
Appalachian	9.38	9.19	9.18	9.24
Southeast	10.71	10.10	10.43	10.22
Lake	14.17	11.21	11.62	11.66
Cornbelt	12.10	11.25	11.89	12.00
Delta	9.45	9.34	10.19	9.62
Northern Plains	13.25	10.19	10.68	11.90
Southern Plains	10.06	8.81	10.44	9.55
Mountain	10.32	9.17	10.11	9.78
Pacific	10.72	10.55	12.20	10.89
48 States	11.40	10.16	10.95	10.62

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.

Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Cornbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.

Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.

48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Regions and 48 States: January 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	14.94	11.00	10.18	10.72
Appalachian	9.52	8.86	9.52	9.37
Southeast	11.43	9.96	11.21	10.19
Lake	16.88	12.44	11.45	11.95
Cornbelt	12.28	11.21	11.42	11.96
Delta	9.34	9.54	10.12	9.74
Northern Plains	13.49	9.28	11.08	12.15
Southern Plains	11.00	9.23	10.65	9.95
Mountain	10.35	9.34	9.95	9.88
Pacific	10.92	10.10	12.30	10.56
48 States	11.64	10.02	10.97	10.58

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.

Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Cornbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.

Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.

48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Regions and 48 States: April 10-16, 2011

[The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast				
Appalachian				
Southeast				
Lake				
Cornbelt				
Delta				
Northern Plains				
Southern Plains				
Mountain				
Pacific				
48 States				

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.

Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Cornbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.

Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.

48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

Combined Field and Livestock Worker Wage Rates by Type of Farm – Regions and 48 States: January 9-15, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Field crops	Other crops	Livestock and poultry	All farms
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	9.73	10.92	11.71	10.85
Appalachian	8.28	10.02	9.47	9.32
Southeast	8.38	9.54	10.25	9.62
Lake	12.23	11.07	10.68	10.90
Cornbelt	11.39	11.38	11.62	11.39
Delta	9.55	9.82	9.62	9.50
Northern Plains	13.30	11.19	(D)	12.00
Southern Plains	9.81	9.09	10.12	9.70
Mountain	11.32	9.99	10.41	10.40
Pacific	11.35	10.03	10.93	10.26
48 States	10.43	10.03	10.80	10.35

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.

Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Cornbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.

Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.

48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm – Regions and 48 States: April 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	13.70	7.76	11.36	9.84	11.03	12.04	11.41
Appalachian	8.43	9.25	9.07	9.49	9.92	11.00	9.89
Southeast	10.94	8.38	12.23	16.08	9.29	11.00	11.00
Lake	9.21	14.34	12.28	12.83	11.59	12.79	12.55
Cormbelt	14.03	10.37	12.28	11.10	11.35	13.47	12.43
Delta	10.56	9.39	9.74	10.52	10.80	10.22	10.27
Northern Plains	9.66	9.35	10.15	13.55	13.38	13.52	12.83
Southern Plains	10.89	11.56	10.94	9.45	9.84	9.13	10.05
Mountain	7.04	10.07	11.02	10.76	11.04	11.08	10.66
Pacific	12.93	12.63	11.38	11.21	12.36	11.72	11.77
48 States	9.50	10.37	11.29	11.56	11.33	11.63	11.37

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.
 Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
 Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.
 Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.
 Cormbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.
 Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.
 Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.
 Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.
 Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.
 Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.
 48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm – Regions and 48 States: January 8-14, 2012

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	14.67	7.60	11.46	10.31	11.91	12.31	11.76
Appalachian	9.06	9.26	10.86	9.19	10.22	11.20	10.18
Southeast	10.56	6.63	13.29	17.02	9.60	11.24	11.14
Lake	7.67	16.47	12.71	13.60	12.38	13.43	13.12
Cormbelt	14.09	10.05	10.07	11.34	11.59	13.51	12.51
Delta	10.45	9.41	9.93	11.50	10.66	11.33	10.67
Northern Plains	8.36	10.15	11.06	13.93	13.48	13.46	13.05
Southern Plains	10.89	12.60	12.01	10.75	11.27	9.71	10.75
Mountain	6.70	9.98	12.49	11.20	11.60	11.25	10.81
Pacific	10.28	11.43	10.78	11.20	12.26	11.57	11.49
48 States	9.30	10.48	11.59	11.98	11.50	11.78	11.48

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.
 Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
 Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.
 Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.
 Cormbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.
 Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.
 Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.
 Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.
 Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.
 Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.
 48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm – Regions and 48 States: April 10-16, 2011

[The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast							
Appalachian							
Southeast							
Lake							
Cornbelt							
Delta							
Northern Plains							
Southern Plains							
Mountain							
Pacific							
48 States							

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.

Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Cornbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.

Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.

48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

All Hired Worker Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm – Regions and 48 States: January 9-15, 2011

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Region ¹	Gross value sales-\$1,000						All farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Northeast	(D)	11.00	10.32	9.58	11.18	12.22	11.87
Appalachian	10.23	(D)	9.14	10.53	10.67	11.47	10.34
Southeast	9.83	7.61	10.09	10.26	11.55	10.75	10.63
Lake	12.61	7.42	7.49	11.14	10.59	12.65	11.85
Cornbelt	9.93	9.08	9.22	11.33	10.48	13.83	12.38
Delta	7.18	(D)	10.01	9.67	11.45	10.77	10.20
Northern Plains	12.09	10.24	(D)	10.90	14.53	12.38	12.60
Southern Plains	9.85	9.96	9.91	10.85	9.37	10.78	10.30
Mountain	11.16	9.32	11.97	10.34	13.37	11.32	11.28
Pacific	11.12	12.29	11.33	11.61	11.08	11.20	11.24
48 States	10.34	9.68	10.27	10.81	11.53	11.61	11.26

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Regions consist of the following States:

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.

Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.

Cornbelt: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio.

Delta: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.

Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas.

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington.

48 States: All States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

Field and Livestock Workers by Type of Farm

[Excluding Alaska and Hawaii. Excludes agricultural service workers]

Type of farm	January 9-15, 2011	April 10-16, 2011 ¹	July 10-16, 2011	October 9-15, 2011	January 8-14, 2012	April 8-14, 2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Field crops	11		13	16	13	14
Other crops	47		58	56	53	58
Livestock, dairy, and poultry	42		29	28	34	28

¹ The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

[Excluding Alaska and Hawaii. Excludes agricultural service workers]

Gross value of sales	January 9-15, 2011	April 10-16, 2011 ¹	July 10-16, 2011	October 9-15, 2011	January 8-14, 2012	April 8-14, 2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Less than \$50,000	9		12	8	9	10
\$50,000-\$99,999	4		5	5	5	5
\$100,000-\$249,999	9		10	9	8	8
\$250,000-\$499,999	10		10	11	8	9
\$500,000-\$999,999	14		13	13	14	13
\$1,000,000 and over	54		50	54	56	55

¹ The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

Hired Workers by Number of Workers on Farm

[Excluding Alaska. Excludes agricultural service workers]

Gross value of sales	January 9-15, 2011	April 10-16, 2011 ¹	July 10-16, 2011	October 9-15, 2011	January 8-14, 2012	April 8-14, 2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Employed on farms hiring						
1 worker	11		9	8	11	9
2 workers	8		9	9	10	10
3-6 workers	19		19	16	19	20
7-10 workers	8		8	9	8	8
11-20 workers	11		11	13	9	8
21-50 workers	14		14	15	14	13
51 or more workers	29		30	30	29	32

¹ The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

Farm Labor Regions



USDA/NASS

Region

States

Northeast I	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.
Northeast II	Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.
Appalachian I	North Carolina, Virginia.
Appalachian II	Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia.
Southeast	Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina.
Lake	Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin.
Cornbelt I	Illinois, Indiana, Ohio.
Cornbelt II	Iowa, Missouri.
Delta	Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.
Northern Plains	Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.
Southern Plains	Oklahoma, Texas.
Mountain I	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming.
Mountain II	Colorado, Nevada, Utah.
Mountain III	Arizona, New Mexico.
Pacific	Oregon, Washington.

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.

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.

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 and the value of products produced under contract. When commodities are placed under CCC loan, they are considered as sold.

Survey Methodology

Survey Procedures: These January and April data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the last two weeks of April 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.

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 is normally less than 20 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error less than 1.0 percent for both January and April 2012. The relative sampling error was also less than 1.0 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate is normally less than 5 percent at the regional levels. Relative sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm is normally less than 20 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 statistics are subject to revision semi-annually and annually. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. Worker numbers and wage rates for January 2011 and October 2011 were subject to revision with this report.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Environmental and Demographics Section of the Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

Dale P. Hawks, Head, Environmental and Demographics Section.....	(202) 720-0684
Liana Cuffman – Livestock Chemical Usage, Postharvest Chemical Usage.....	(202) 690-0392
Doug Farmer – Fruit Chemical Usage, Vegetable Chemical Usage.....	(202) 720-7492
Erik Gerlach – Field Crops Chemical Usage	(202) 720-5581
Kathy King – Census of Agriculture.....	(202) 720-7644
Theresa Varner – Farm Labor	(202) 690-2284

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the "Follow NASS" box under "Receive reports by Email," click on "National" or "State" to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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