



Farm Labor

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Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Texas Department of Agriculture

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This report contains the results from the October 2023 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of October. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the July and October 2023 reference weeks. Estimates for the Southern Plains region were made possible by data provided by respondents in Oklahoma and Texas. Our thanks to all who responded to the October 2023 Farm Labor Survey.

Southern Plains Highlights: There were 51,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2023, down 9 percent from the July 2022 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 53,000 for the week of October 8-14, 2023, down 10 percent from the October 2022 reference week.

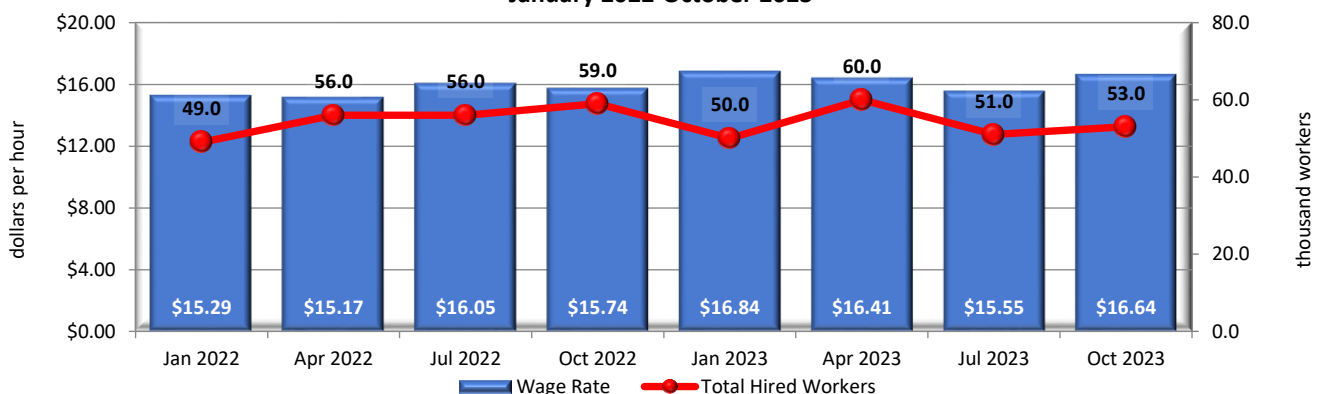
Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2023 reference week averaged \$15.55 per hour, down 3 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2023 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$16.64, 6 percent above the October 2022 wage and up 7 percent from July 2023.

U.S. Highlights: There were 781,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2023, down 2 percent from the July 2022 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 776,000 for the reference week of October 8-14, 2023, down 1 percent from the October 2022 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$18.61 per hour during the July 2023 reference week, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.2 for hired workers during the reference week, up slightly from July 2022.

During the October 2023 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$18.81 per hour, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.7 for hired workers during the reference week, down slightly from October 2022.

Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate
January 2022-October 2023



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

Farm employment	July 10-16, 2022	October 9-15, 2022	January 8-14, 2023	April 9-15, 2023	July 9-15, 2023	October 8-14, 2023
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	45	45	44	55	42	44
149 days or less	11	14	6	5	9	9
Total	56	59	50	60	51	53
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	40.5	41.2	38.8	41.9	39.4	38.7
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	15.37	15.10	15.91	15.57	14.75	15.96
Field	14.55	14.24	17.04	15.45	15.59	15.12
Livestock	16.23	15.98	14.91	15.69	13.98	16.61
All hired workers	16.05	15.74	16.84	16.41	15.55	16.64

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

Hired Workers and Wage Rates, United States
[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Farm employment	July 10-16, 2022	October 9-15, 2022	January 8-14, 2023	April 9-15, 2023	July 9-15, 2023	October 8-14, 2023
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	591	593	452	551	591	597
149 days or less	206	192	59	100	190	179
Total	797	785	511	651	781	776
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	41.1	41.8	38.9	40.6	41.2	41.7
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	16.76	16.90	17.26	16.99	17.76	17.95
Field	16.80	17.04	17.67	17.26	18.08	18.24
Livestock	16.65	16.52	16.71	16.48	16.95	17.19
All hired workers	17.63	17.72	18.55	18.08	18.61	18.81

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

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