

## United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Farm Labor



Southern Plains Regional Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-626-3142 · <u>www.nass.usda.gov</u>
Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Texas Department of Agriculture

November 20, 2024

**Contact: Kelly Jefferson or Carol Pittman** 

This report contains the results from the October 2024 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 2024 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 2024 Farm Labor Survey.

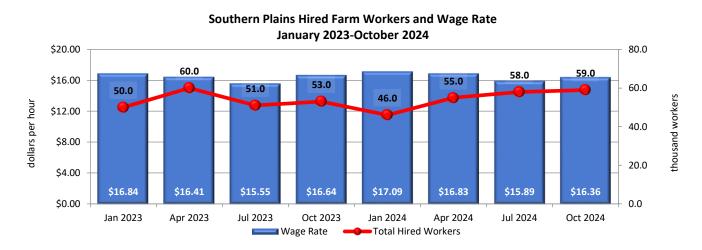
**Southern Plains Highlights:** There were 58,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2024, up 14 percent from the July 2023 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 59,000 for the week of October 6-12, 2024, up 11 percent from the October 2023 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2024 reference week averaged \$15.89 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2024 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$16.36, 2 percent below the October 2023 wage but up 3 percent from July 2024.

**U.S. Highlights:** There were 808,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2024, up 3 percent from the July 2023 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 797,000 for the reference week of October 6-12, 2024, up 3 percent from the October 2023 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$18.95 per hour during the July 2024 reference week, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from July 2023.

During the October 2024 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$19.11 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.4 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from October 2023.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD)or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

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

Farm employment	July 9-15, 2023	October 8-14, 2023	January 7-13, 2024	April 7-13, 2024	July 7-13, 2024	October 6-12, 2024
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	42	44	42	50	48	48
149 days or less	9	9	4	_5	10	11
Total	51	53	46	55	58	59
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	39.4	38.7	39.2	41.5	40.7	42.1
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined	14.75	15.96	16.29	16.11	15.20	15.69
Field	15.59	15.12	17.00	16.11	15.30	15.40
Livestock	13.98	16.61	15.65	16.11	15.09	15.98
All hired workers	15.55	16.64	17.09	16.83	15.89	16.36

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

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

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]										
July 9-15, 2023	October 8-14, 2023	January 7-13, 2024	April 7-13, 2024	July 7-13, 2024	October 6-12, 2024					
(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)					
=0.4					000					
					600					
					197					
781	776	496	618	808	797					
(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)					
41.2	41.7	38.7	40.6	40.6	41.4					
(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)					
17.76	17.95	18.10	17.98	18.08	18.27					
18.08	18.24	18.51	18.25	18.36	18.57					
16.95	17.19	17.52	17.43	17.36	17.51					
18.61	18.81	19.49	18.98	18.95	19.11					
	July 9-15, 2023 (1,000) 591 190 781 (hours/week) 41.2 (dollars/hour) 17.76 18.08 16.95	July 9-15, 2023 October 8-14, 2023 (1,000) (1,000)  591 597 179 781 776  (hours/week) (hours/week) 41.2 41.7  (dollars/hour) (dollars/hour)  17.76 17.95 18.08 18.24 16.95 17.19	July 9-15, 2023         October 8-14, 2023         January 7-13, 2024           (1,000)         (1,000)         (1,000)           591 190 179 49 781         179 496           (hours/week) (hours/week) 41.2         (hours/week) (hours/week) 41.7           (dollars/hour)         (dollars/hour)           17.76 17.95 18.10 18.08 18.24 18.51 16.95 17.19 17.52	July 9-15, 2023         October 8-14, 2023         January 7-13, 2024         April 7-13, 2024           (1,000)         (1,000)         (1,000)         (1,000)           591 190 179 179 49 80 781         179 496 618           (hours/week)         (hours/week)         (hours/week)           41.2 41.7 38.7 40.6           (dollars/hour)         (dollars/hour)         (dollars/hour)           17.76 17.95 18.10 17.98 18.08 18.24 18.51 18.25 16.95 17.19 17.52 17.43	July 9-15, 2023         October 8-14, 2023         January 7-13, 2024         April 7-13, 2024         July 7-13, 2024           (1,000)         (1,000)         (1,000)         (1,000)         (1,000)         (1,000)           591 190 179 49 80 190 781         179 49 80 190 80         190 80         190 80         190 808           (hours/week) (hours/week) 41.2 41.7 38.7 40.6 40.6         (hours/week) 40.6         (hours/week) 40.6         (hours/week) 40.6           (dollars/hour) (dollars/hour) (dollars/hour) (dollars/hour) 17.76 17.95 18.10 17.98 18.25 18.36 18.95 17.19 17.52 17.43 17.36         18.25 18.36 17.36					

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

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