



# 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 April 2022 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of April. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the January and April 2022 reference weeks. Estimates for the Southern Plains region were made possible by data provided by respondents in Oklahoma and Texas. Our thanks to all who responded to the April 2022 Farm Labor Survey.

**Southern Plains Highlights:** There were 49,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2022, up 9 percent from the January 2021 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 56,000 for the week of April 10-16, 2022, up 10 percent from the April 2021 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2022 reference week averaged \$15.29 per hour, up 7 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2022 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$15.17, 5 percent above the April 2021 wage but down 1 percent from January 2022.

**U.S. Highlights:** There were 507,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2022, up slightly from the January 2021 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 630,000 for the reference week of April 10-16, 2022, up 3 percent from the April 2021 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$17.63 per hour during the January 2022 reference week, up 9 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 39.3 for hired workers during the reference week, down 2 percent from January 2021.

During the April 2022 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$17.22 per hour, up 8 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 39.7 for hired workers during the reference week, down 3 percent from April 2021.

Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate  
July 2020-April 2022



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

| Farm employment                     | January 10-16,<br>2021 | April 11-17,<br>2021 | July 11-17,<br>2021 | October 10-16,<br>2021 | January 9-15,<br>2022 | April 10-16,<br>2022 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                                     | (1,000)                | (1,000)              | (1,000)             | (1,000)                | (1,000)               | (1,000)              |
| Hired Workers                       |                        |                      |                     |                        |                       |                      |
| 150 days or more .....              | 41                     | 45                   | 35                  | 34                     | 44                    | 46                   |
| 149 days or less .....              | 4                      | 6                    | 8                   | 8                      | 5                     | 10                   |
| Total .....                         | 45                     | 51                   | 43                  | 42                     | 49                    | 56                   |
|                                     | (hours/week)           | (hours/week)         | (hours/week)        | (hours/week)           | (hours/week)          | (hours/week)         |
| Hours worked by hired workers ..... | 40.2                   | 41.8                 | 39.2                | 41.2                   | 39.8                  | 40.8                 |
|                                     | (dollars/hour)         | (dollars/hour)       | (dollars/hour)      | (dollars/hour)         | (dollars/hour)        | (dollars/hour)       |
| Wage rate <sup>1</sup>              |                        |                      |                     |                        |                       |                      |
| Field and livestock combined .....  | 13.70                  | 13.75                | 14.07               | 14.01                  | 14.53                 | 14.39                |
| Field .....                         | 13.35                  | 13.32                | 14.26               | 14.20                  | 14.37                 | 14.20                |
| Livestock .....                     | 13.95                  | 14.07                | 13.86               | 13.82                  | 14.68                 | 14.56                |
| All hired workers .....             | 14.29                  | 14.38                | 14.45               | 14.37                  | 15.29                 | 15.17                |

<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]**

| Farm employment                     | January 10-16,<br>2021 | April 11-17,<br>2021 | July 11-17,<br>2021 | October 10-16,<br>2021 | January 9-15,<br>2022 | April 10-16,<br>2022 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                                     | (1,000)                | (1,000)              | (1,000)             | (1,000)                | (1,000)               | (1,000)              |
| Hired Workers                       |                        |                      |                     |                        |                       |                      |
| 150 days or more .....              | 442                    | 506                  | 575                 | 578                    | 420                   | 518                  |
| 149 days or less .....              | 64                     | 107                  | 222                 | 194                    | 87                    | 112                  |
| Total .....                         | 506                    | 613                  | 797                 | 772                    | 507                   | 630                  |
|                                     | (hours/week)           | (hours/week)         | (hours/week)        | (hours/week)           | (hours/week)          | (hours/week)         |
| Hours worked by hired workers ..... | 40.2                   | 40.9                 | 41.0                | 42.0                   | 39.3                  | 39.7                 |
|                                     | (dollars/hour)         | (dollars/hour)       | (dollars/hour)      | (dollars/hour)         | (dollars/hour)        | (dollars/hour)       |
| Wage rate <sup>1</sup>              |                        |                      |                     |                        |                       |                      |
| Field and livestock combined .....  | 15.08                  | 15.06                | 15.85               | 15.92                  | 16.37                 | 16.27                |
| Field .....                         | 15.23                  | 15.19                | 16.10               | 16.08                  | 16.54                 | 16.50                |
| Livestock .....                     | 14.87                  | 14.81                | 15.19               | 15.45                  | 16.12                 | 15.82                |
| All hired workers .....             | 16.21                  | 15.97                | 16.59               | 16.59                  | 17.63                 | 17.22                |

<sup>1</sup> 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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