



Farm Labor

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

November 23, 2022

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This report contains the results from the October 2022 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 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 October 2022 Farm Labor Survey.

Southern Plains Highlights: There were 56,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2022, up 30 percent from the July 2021 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 59,000 for the week of October 9-15, 2022, up 40 percent from the October 2021 reference week.

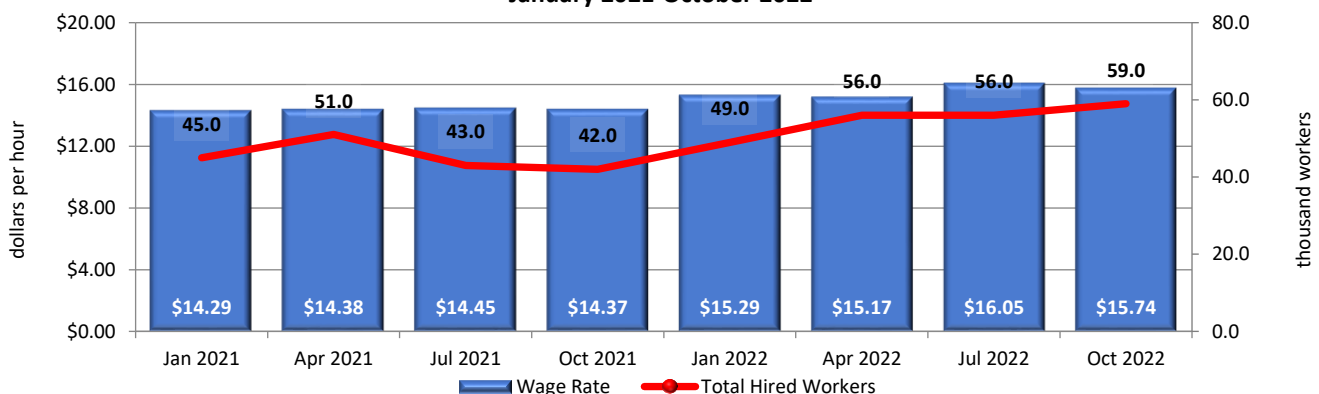
Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2022 reference week averaged \$16.05 per hour, up 11 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2022 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$15.74, 10 percent above the October 2021 wage but down 2 percent from July 2022.

U.S. Highlights: There were 797,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2022, unchanged from the July 2021 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 785,000 for the reference week of October 9-15, 2022, up 2 percent from the October 2021 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$17.63 per hour during the July 2022 reference week, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.1 for hired workers during the reference week, up slightly from July 2021.

During the October 2022 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$17.72 per hour, up 7 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.8 for hired workers during the reference week, down slightly from October 2021.

Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate
January 2021-October 2022



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

Farm employment	July 11-17, 2021	October 10-16, 2021	January 9-15, 2022	April 10-16, 2022	July 10-16, 2022	October 9-15, 2022
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	35	34	44	46	45	45
149 days or less	8	8	5	10	11	14
Total	43	42	49	56	56	59
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	39.2	41.2	39.8	40.8	40.5	41.2
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	14.07	14.01	14.53	14.39	15.37	15.10
Field	14.26	14.20	14.37	14.20	14.55	14.24
Livestock	13.86	13.82	14.68	14.56	16.23	15.98
All hired workers	14.45	14.37	15.29	15.17	16.05	15.74

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 11-17, 2021	October 10-16, 2021	January 9-15, 2022	April 10-16, 2022	July 10-16, 2022	October 9-15, 2022
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	575	578	420	518	591	593
149 days or less	222	194	87	112	206	192
Total	797	772	507	630	797	785
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	41.0	42.0	39.3	39.7	41.1	41.8
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	15.85	15.92	16.37	16.27	16.76	16.90
Field	16.10	16.08	16.54	16.50	16.80	17.04
Livestock	15.19	15.45	16.12	15.82	16.65	16.52
All hired workers	16.59	16.59	17.63	17.22	17.63	17.72

¹ 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/.