



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 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.

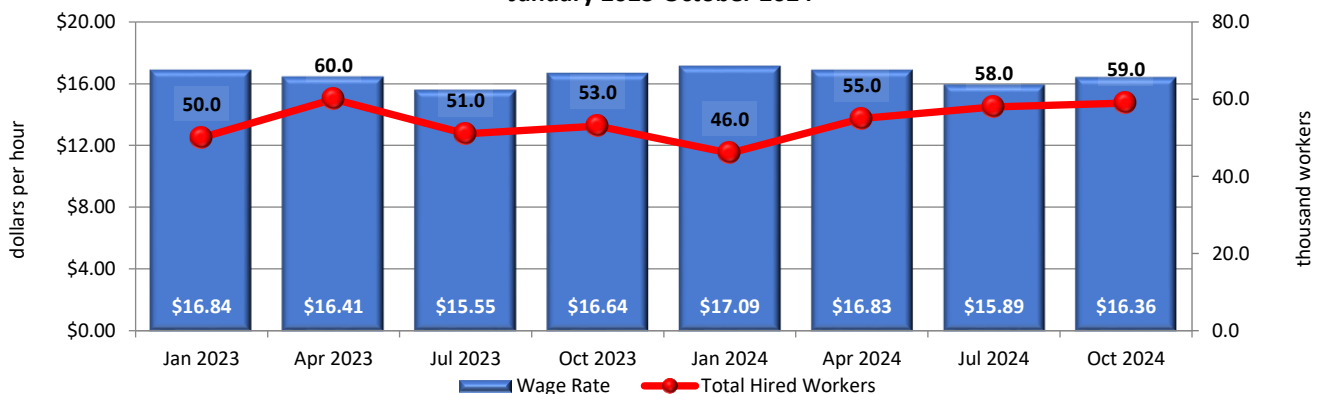
Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2024 reference week averaged \$15.89 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2024 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$16.36, 2 percent below the October 2023 wage but up 3 percent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

Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate
January 2023-October 2024



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 ¹						
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

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 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	591	597	447	538	618	600
149 days or less	190	179	49	80	190	197
Total	781	776	496	618	808	797
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	41.2	41.7	38.7	40.6	40.6	41.4
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	17.76	17.95	18.10	17.98	18.08	18.27
Field	18.08	18.24	18.51	18.25	18.36	18.57
Livestock	16.95	17.19	17.52	17.43	17.36	17.51
All hired workers	18.61	18.81	19.49	18.98	18.95	19.11

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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