

USDA NASS Farm Labor Survey

An Overview and Results from the November 23, 2022, Release

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Farm Labor Survey History

- Since 2014, the survey collects data for field workers, livestock workers, and supervisors/managers by occupational groups based on the relevant “detailed occupation” categories of the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ applicable Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.
- Prior to 2014, the survey collected data according to the FLS aggregate categories of field workers, livestock workers, supervisors/managers, and other workers.
- Annual average livestock worker base wage rates were published beginning in November 2019.
- Base wage rate and gross hours were published beginning in November 2019. Base wage rates and base hours were published in February 2021, which was the delayed November 2020 release. The uses for these base data were limited, so data collection was discontinued after April 2021.

Farm Labor Survey Overview

2022 Labor Survey	
Reference Periods	January 9-15, April 10-16, July 10-16 and October 9-15, 2022
Sample Size	~17,000
Collection Methods	Mail, Telephone, Internet
Primary Data Items	Number of hired workers, gross hours worked and wage rates
Revision Policy	Farm labor statistics are subject to revision semi-annually and annually and must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate.

Methodology Highlights

- Starting in 2020, model-based estimates of hired workers, average hours worked, average wage rates, and the associated sub-items were produced from the current survey to establish more precise estimates.
- The sample size level is optimized to account for declining response rates.
- There were no program or content changes in 2022.

Farm Labor Survey Uses

- The employment and wage estimates published in the *Farm Labor* report are used by federal, state, and local government agencies; educational institutions; farm organizations; and private sector employers of farm labor. Some examples:
- **U.S. Department of Labor** – The annual weighted average hourly wage rate for field and livestock workers combined is currently used as the Adverse Effect Wage Rate in administration of the H-2A Program. The H-2A Program is the provision under the Immigration Reform and Control Act that allows admission of temporary non-immigrant alien farm workers to perform farm labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature.
- **USDA** – The wage rate data are used to compute a wage rate index, a component of the Parity Index used to compute parity prices of agricultural products. Parity prices are computed as a provision of the Agricultural Adjustment Act as amended.
- **BEA** – The BEA uses NASS labor data in various estimates, such as the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs) calculations of real farm value added from farm employment, GDP-by-state on farm output estimates, as supplements to farm wages employment, and more.

H-2A and Contract Workers

- The “Includes” on page 4 defines any **directly hired** and paid workers, so H-2A workers are potentially included for the Farm Labor Survey.
- Since contract workers are not **directly hired or paid by the farm operation**, they are excluded.

Section 1 - PAID WORKERS for APRIL

1. Did this operation have anyone on the payroll to do agricultural work the week of April 9th through the 15th?

[**Only report** workers directly hired and paid by the farm operation. **Include** part-time workers, paid family members, and hired managers. **Include** all hired workers regardless of method of pay. **Exclude** contract and custom workers, retail workers and “value-added” workers (exclude retail sales workers, for example)].

- 1 **Yes** - [Enter 1 and continue.]
- 2 **Don't Know** - [Enter 2, then go to **Section 2**.]
- 3 **No** - [Enter 3 then go to **Section 2**.]

CODE	
599	4
600	

2. For the paid workers, record the number of workers, hours worked, and the gross wages paid the week of April 9th through the 15th.

- **Record each worker **only once**.
- **Separate the workers by the main type of work they were hired to do based on the groups outlined on page 5.
- **Report only one week of wages for the reference week.

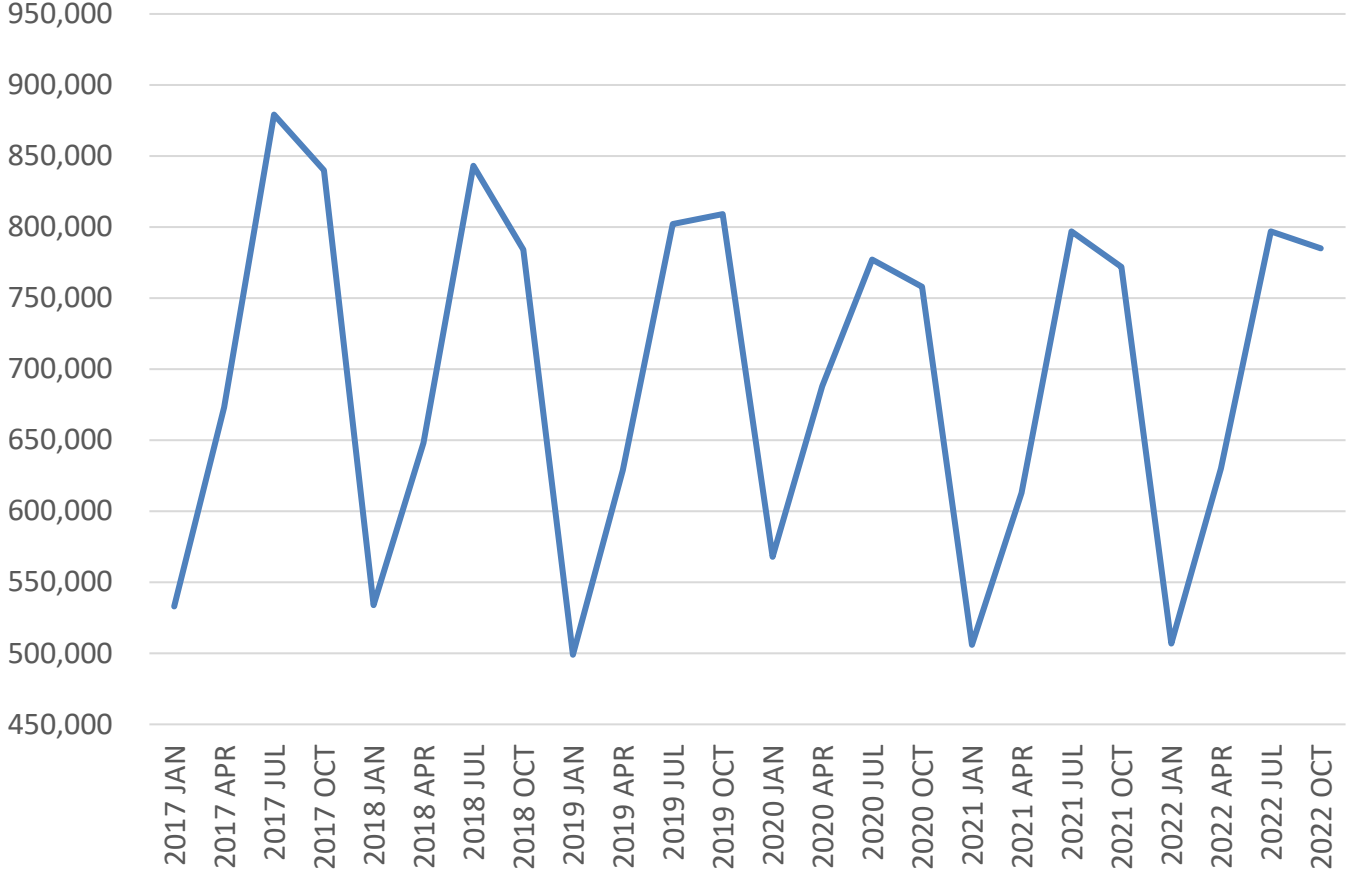
Number of Workers, U.S.

Hired Workers, Gross Hours Worked by Hired Workers, and Gross Wage Rates – United States

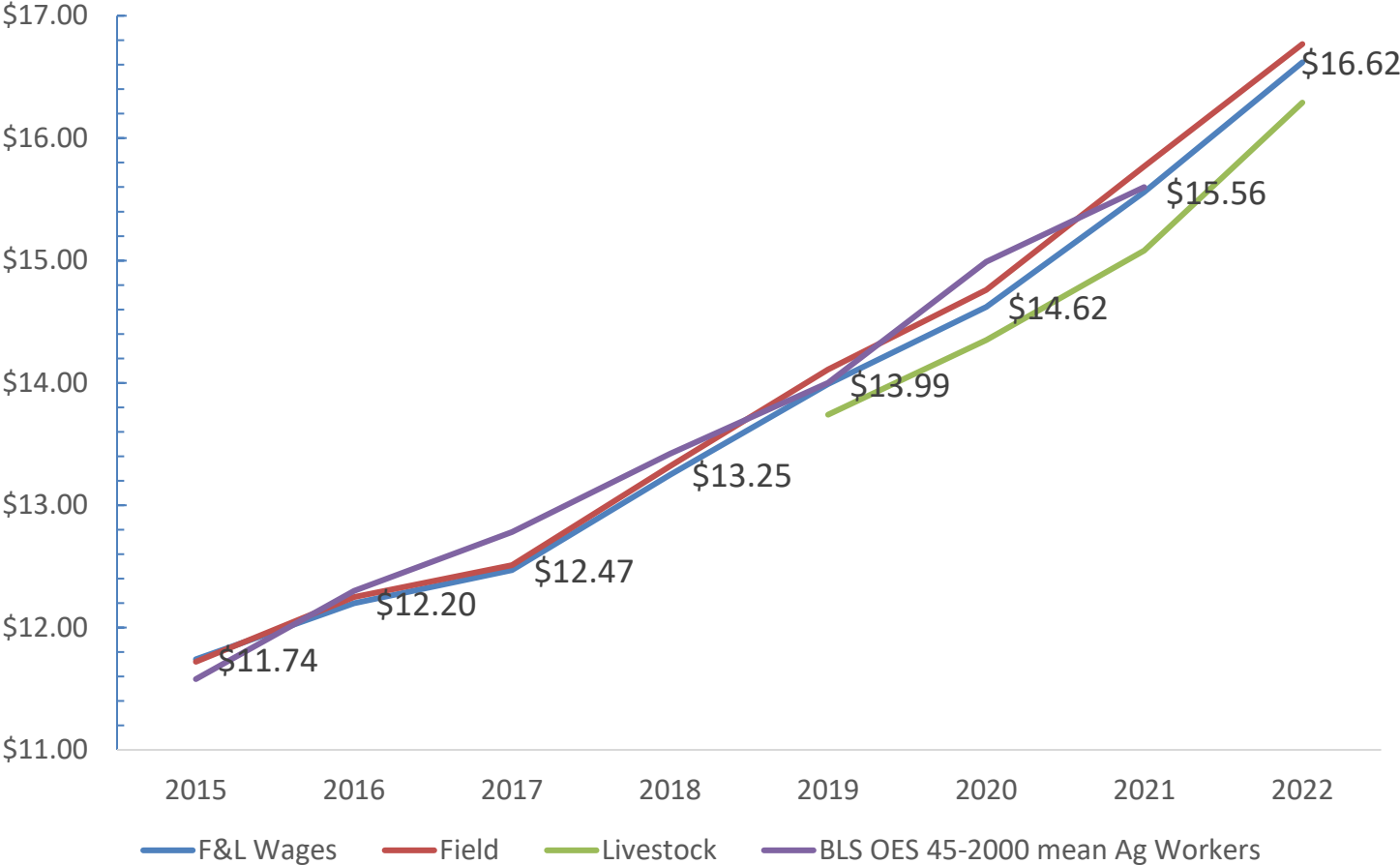
[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

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 per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Gross hours worked by hired workers ...	41.0	42.0	39.3	39.7	41.1	41.8

Number of Hired Workers



Annual Combined Field & Livestock Wage Rates, U.S.



Annual Combined Field & Livestock Wage Rates, U.S.

Year	Annual Wage Rate \$/Hour	Percent of Previous Year
2017	12.47	102%
2018	13.25	106%
2019	13.99	106%
2020	14.62	105%
2021	15.56	106%
2022	16.62	107%

Wage Rates, U.S., \$ / Hour

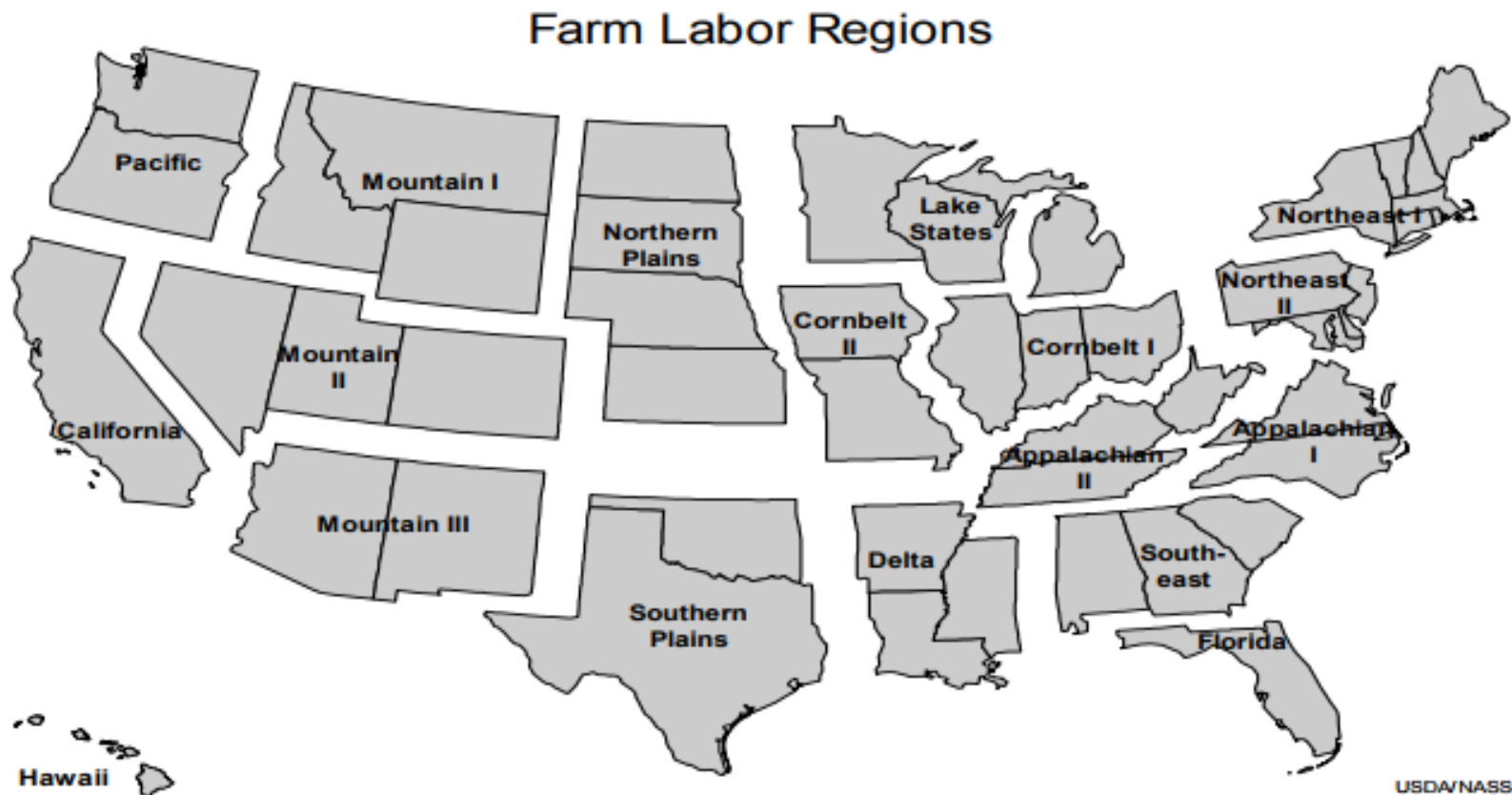
Hired Workers, Gross Hours Worked by Hired Workers, and Gross Wage Rates – United States

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

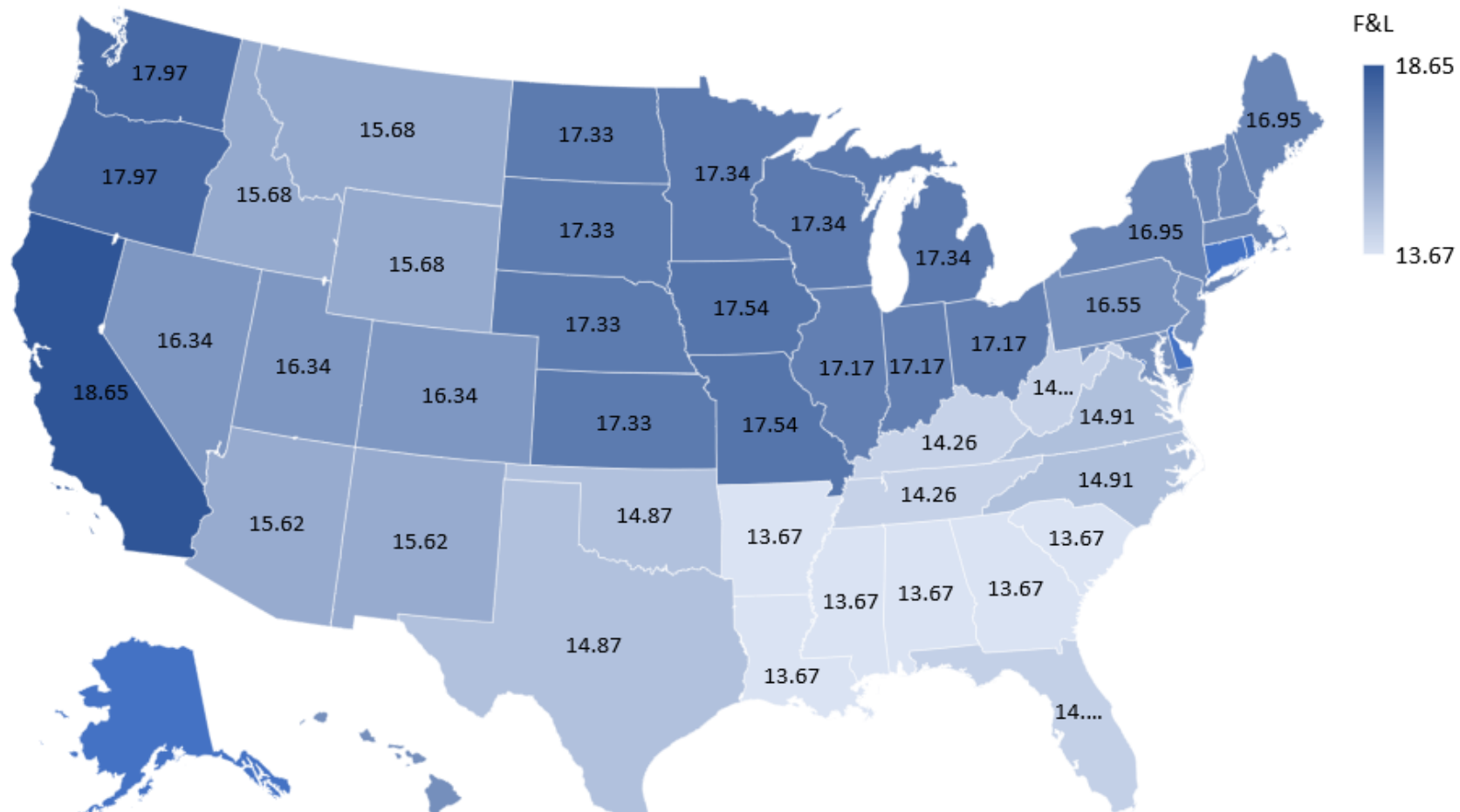
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Gross hours worked by hired workers ...	41.0	42.0	39.3	39.7	41.1	41.8
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Gross wage rates ¹						
Field and livestock combined	15.85	15.92	16.37	16.27	16.76	16.90
Field workers	16.10	16.08	16.54	16.50	16.80	17.04
Livestock workers	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 gross wage rates.

Farm Labor Regions



2022 Annual Average Field and Livestock Wages



Field & Livestock Wage Rates, Regions and U.S., \$ / Hour

Region	2021 Annual Wage Rate \$ / Hour	2022 Annual Wage Rate \$ / Hour	Percent of Previous Year
Northeast I	15.66	16.95	108
Northeast II	15.54	16.55	106
Appalachian I	14.16	14.91	105
Appalachian II	13.89	14.26	103
Southeast	11.99	13.67	114
Florida	12.41	14.33	115
Lake	15.37	17.34	113
Cornbelt I	15.89	17.17	108
Cornbelt II	16.19	17.54	108

Field & Livestock Wage Rates, Regions and U.S., \$ / Hour

Region	2021 Annual Wage Rate \$ / Hour	2022 Annual Wage Rate \$ / Hour	Percent of Previous Year
Delta	12.45	13.67	110
Northern Plains	16.47	17.33	105
Southern Plains	13.88	14.87	107
Mountain I	14.68	15.68	107
Mountain II	15.58	16.34	105
Mountain III	14.79	15.62	106
Pacific	17.41	17.97	103
California	17.51	18.65	107
Hawaii	16.54	17.25	104
United States	15.56	16.62	107

Workers and Wage Rates by SOC Code

Hired Workers by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Title	SOC Code	July 11-17, 2021	October 10-16, 2021	July 10-16, 2022	October 9-15, 2022
		(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Graders and sorters, agricultural products	(45-2041)	9	13	12	13
Agricultural equipment operators	(45-2091)	136	136	126	149
Farmworkers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse	(45-2092)	383	373	381	354
Farmworkers, farm, ranch, and aquacultural animals	(45-2093)	156	150	159	155
Agricultural workers, all other	(45-2099)	11	8	8	9
Packers and packagers, hand	(53-7064)	17	13	19	15
Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers	(11-9013)	25	23	25	24
First-line supervisors of farming, fishing workers	(45-1011)	21	20	23	22

Gross Wage Rates by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Title	SOC Code	July 11-17, 2021	October 10-16, 2021	July 10-16, 2022	October 9-15, 2022
		(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Graders and sorters, agricultural products	(45-2041)	15.80	16.50	15.30	15.95
Agricultural equipment operators	(45-2091)	16.50	17.00	17.45	18.25
Farmworkers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse	(45-2092)	15.85	15.80	16.65	16.70
Farmworkers, farm, ranch, and aquacultural animals	(45-2093)	15.00	15.20	16.30	16.30
Agricultural workers, all other	(45-2099)	16.20	15.90	16.75	16.75
Packers and packagers, hand	(53-7064)	15.75	15.40	16.30	17.55
Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers	(11-9013)	25.00	25.05	27.70	27.90
First-line supervisors of farming, fishing workers	(45-1011)	22.80	22.00	23.15	23.80

Farm Labor Sample Size and Response Rate – Regions and United States: April 11-17, 2021 and April 10-16, 2022

Regions	Sample size		Response rate	
	2021 (number)	2022 (number)	2021 (percent)	2022 (percent)
Northeast I	1,401	927	43.9	38.6
Northeast II	2,262	957	41.1	36.6
Appalachian I	1,292	700	54.2	51.9
Appalachian II	2,457	932	55.1	54.6
Southeast	1,367	777	57.5	54.1
Florida	990	795	50.5	45.3
Lake	1,851	1,005	43.4	39.2
Cornbelt I	3,555	1,277	40.9	43.1
Cornbelt II	2,438	1,523	37.2	42.5
Delta	2,660	1,125	54.1	48.1
Northern Plains	2,337	1,324	43.1	40.6
Southern Plains	3,495	1,438	49.6	49.2
Mountain I	1,622	704	43.7	39.1
Mountain II	1,340	454	51.3	45.6
Mountain III	1,147	439	40.1	32.6
Pacific	2,015	717	34.7	30.0
California ¹	1,066	1,098	43.5	45.3
Hawaii	1,710	575	59.2	48.5
United States	35,005	16,767	46.5	43.9

¹ January-April 2022 sample size remained at approximate January-April 2021 level, due to region-specific sampling constraints.

Farm Labor Sample Size and Response Rate – Regions and United States: October 10-16, 2021 and October 9-15, 2022

Regions	Sample size		Response rate	
	2021 (number)	2022 (number)	2021 (percent)	2022 (percent)
Northeast I	943	921	47.5	52.3
Northeast II	979	944	44.4	42.8
Appalachian I	723	730	53.3	46.2
Appalachian II	977	956	56.8	49.9
Southeast	788	805	60.0	49.7
Florida	807	824	54.0	40.0
Lake	1,013	998	43.6	43.2
Cornbelt I	1,330	1,325	43.2	40.0
Cornbelt II	1,528	1,550	41.9	44.1
Delta	1,136	1,153	57.1	48.7
Northern Plains	1,346	1,340	40.5	40.7
Southern Plains	1,465	1,459	53.7	57.4
Mountain I	715	706	42.9	42.6
Mountain II	462	451	52.4	45.2
Mountain III	407	414	42.5	38.2
Pacific	755	738	34.2	32.5
California ¹	1,136	857	40.8	39.7
Hawaii	583	588	51.5	47.3
United States	17,093	16,759	47.5	45.0

¹ July-October 2021 sample size remained at pre-reduction level due to region-specific sampling constraints.

Methodology and Quality Measures

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Methodology_and_Data_Quality/Farm_Labor/index.php

Coefficient of Variation

Survey	Oct. 10-16, 2021	July 10-16, 2022	Oct. 9-15, 2022
Field & Livestock	0.7	0.5	0.7
Field	0.9	0.6	0.8
Livestock	1.1	0.9	0.9

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