

# Frontiers in farm labor research

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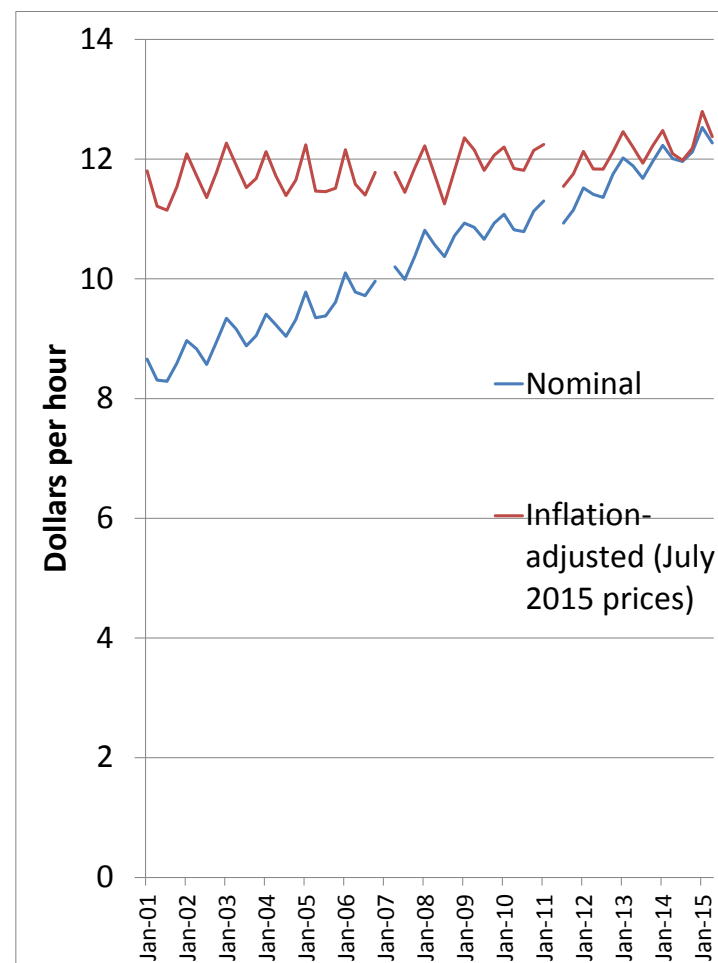
# More complete analysis of U.S. farm labor wage data

Analysis of wage data has focused primarily on national means

Wage differences within the occupation of hired farmworker are worthy of further exploration:

- Regional differences (Hertz and Zahniser, 2012)
- Analysis of extreme values (relevant to issue of “just food”)

The “Ginsu” challenge (1978) of small subsamples: “slices so thin your in-laws will never come back”



Sources: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), *Farm Labor*; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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# Data on the farm labor market in Mexico

- Indispensable to understanding:
  - Questions of justice and fairness in the Mexican labor market:
    - *Los Angeles Times* (2015) documents use of coercive labor-retention techniques by some Mexican employers
    - Environmental assessments revealing lack of adequate restroom facilities at certain produce farms and packing facilities in the State of Puebla (Gerrity, 2015)
  - Importance of Mexican labor to U.S. produce imports from Mexico: Mexico accounts for about 14 percent of U.S. availability of fresh or frozen produce
  - Linkages between the Mexican labor market and the U.S. market for hired farm labor: Taylor, Charlton, Yúnez-Nauade (2012) connect “The End of Farm Labor Abundance” in the United States to socioeconomic developments in Mexico
- Few descriptive overviews of the Mexican market for hired farm labor:
  - Zahniser and Treviño (2001) compare the U.S. and Mexican farm labor markets
- Possible explanations:
  - Government data on this topic are limited or have not been fully utilized
  - Academic efforts to collect such data are limited (Mexico National Rural Household Survey [EHRUM], conducted by Yúnez-Nauade and Taylor, is a notable exception)



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