



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Iowa Ag News – Labor



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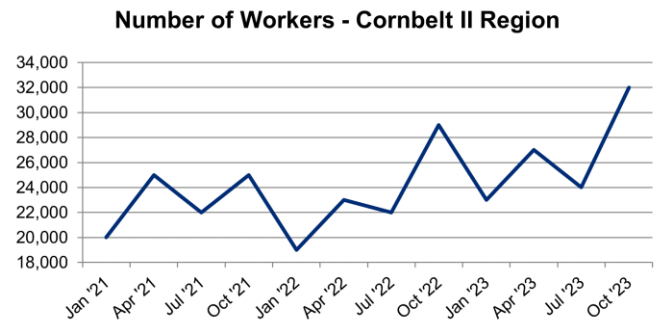
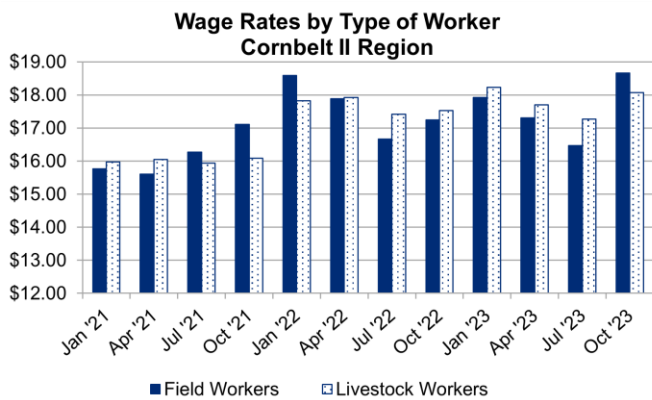
Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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There were 24,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of July 9-15, 2023, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Farm Labor* report. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$17.85 per hour, 25 cents below July 2022. The number of hours worked averaged 40.1 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 39.3 hours in July 2022.

During the reference week of October 8-14, 2023, there were 32,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$19.05 per hour during the October 2023 reference week, 86 cents above October 2022. The number of hours worked averaged 42.2 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 40.6 hours in October 2022.



Hired Workers, Hours Worked and Wage Rates – Cornbelt II Region and United States: 2022-2023

[Cornbelt II Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Cornbelt II Region			United States		
	October 2022	July 2023	October 2023	October 2022	July 2023	October 2023
Hired workers on farms 1,000 workers	29	24	32	785	781	776
Hours worked by hired workers hours per week	40.6	40.1	42.2	41.8	41.2	41.7
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined dollars per hour	17.34	16.84	18.47	16.90	17.76	17.95
Field dollars per hour	17.25	16.47	18.66	17.04	18.08	18.24
Livestock dollars per hour	17.53	17.27	18.07	16.52	16.95	17.19
All hired workers dollars per hour	18.19	17.85	19.05	17.72	18.61	18.81

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

UNITED STATES LABOR

There were 776,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 2023, down 1 percent from the October 2022 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 781,000 during the week of July 9-15, 2023, down 2 percent from the July 2022 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average gross wage of \$18.81 per hour during the October 2023 reference week, up 6 percent from the October 2022 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$18.24 per hour, up 7 percent. Livestock workers earned \$17.19 per hour, up 4 percent. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at \$17.95 per hour, was up 6 percent from the 2022 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.7 hours during the October 2023 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the October 2022 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average gross wage of \$18.61 per hour during the July 2023 reference week, up 6 percent from the July 2022 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$18.08 per hour, up 8 percent, while livestock workers earned \$16.95 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at \$17.76 per hour, was up 6 percent from the July 2022 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.2 hours during the July 2023 reference week, up slightly from the hours worked during the July 2022 reference week.

The 2023 all hired worker annual average gross wage rate was \$18.53 per hour, up 6 percent from the 2022 annual average gross wage rate. The 2023 field worker annual average gross wage rate was \$17.88 per hour, up 7 percent from the 2022 annual average. The 2023 livestock worker annual average gross wage rate was \$16.85 per hour. The 2023 annual average combined gross wage for field and livestock workers was \$17.55, up 6 percent from the 2022 annual average of \$16.62 per hour.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.