



Farm Labor

Southern Plains Regional Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-626-3142 · www.nass.usda.gov

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 April 2024 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of April. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the January and April 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 April 2024 Farm Labor Survey.

Southern Plains Highlights: There were 46,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of January 7-13, 2024, down 8 percent from the January 2023 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 55,000 for the week of April 7-13, 2024, down 8 percent from the April 2023 reference week.

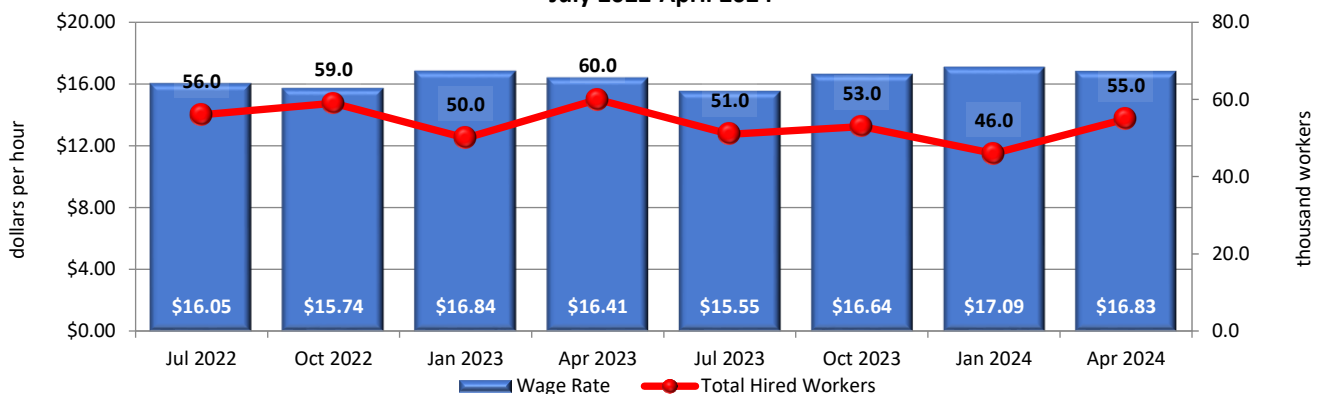
Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2024 reference week averaged \$17.09 per hour, up 1 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2024 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$16.83, 3 percent above the April 2023 wage but down 2 percent from January 2024.

U.S. Highlights: There were 496,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 7-13, 2024, down 3 percent from the January 2023 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 618,000 for the reference week of April 7-13, 2024, down 5 percent from the April 2023 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$19.49 per hour during the January 2024 reference week, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 38.7 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from January 2023.

During the April 2024 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$18.98 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 for hired workers during the reference week, unchanged from April 2023.

Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate
July 2022-April 2024



Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma and Texas)
[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Farm employment	January 8-14, 2023	April 9-15, 2023	July 9-15, 2023	October 8-14, 2023	January 7-13, 2024	April 7-13, 2024
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	44	55	42	44	42	50
149 days or less	6	5	9	9	4	5
Total	50	60	51	53	46	55
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	38.8	41.9	39.4	38.7	39.2	41.5
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	15.91	15.57	14.75	15.96	16.29	16.11
Field	17.04	15.45	15.59	15.12	17.00	16.11
Livestock	14.91	15.69	13.98	16.61	15.65	16.11
All hired workers	16.84	16.41	15.55	16.64	17.09	16.83

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	January 8-14, 2023	April 9-15, 2023	July 9-15, 2023	October 8-14, 2023	January 7-13, 2024	April 7-13, 2024
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	452	551	591	597	447	538
149 days or less	59	100	190	179	49	80
Total	511	651	781	776	496	618
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	38.9	40.6	41.2	41.7	38.7	40.6
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	17.26	16.99	17.76	17.95	18.10	17.98
Field	17.67	17.26	18.08	18.24	18.51	18.25
Livestock	16.71	16.48	16.95	17.19	17.52	17.43
All hired workers	18.55	18.08	18.61	18.81	19.49	18.98

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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