

## United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Southern Region News Release Farm Labor



Cooperating with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and South Carolina Department of Agriculture Southern Regional Field Office · 355 East Hancock Avenue, Suite 100 · Athens, GA 30601 · (706) 713-5400 www.nass.usda.gov

November 22, 2019 Media Contact: Jacqueline Moore

There were 26,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Southeast Region (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina) during the reference week of October 6-12, 2019, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.31 per hour. The number of hours worked averaged 40.3 for hired workers during the reference week, up 5 percent from the reference week in October 2018.

In Florida, workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 31,000 for the October 6-12, 2019 reference week. They were paid an average wage rate of \$13.27 and worked an average of 41.6 hours during the October 2019 reference week.

During the reference week of July 7-13, 2019, there were 27,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Southeast Region. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.06 per hour during the July 2019 reference week. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 39.8 hours in July 2018.

There were 28,000 workers hired directly by farms in Florida during the July 2019 reference week. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.13 per hour, up 5 percent from July 2018. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 for hired workers during the reference week.

## Hired Workers and Wage Rates — Florida, Southeast, and United States: 2018 and 2019

	Florida			Southeast <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	October 2018	July 2019	October 2019	October 2018	July 2019	October 2019	October 2018	July 2019	October 2019
Hired workers on farms 1,000 workers	31	28	31	27	27	26	784	802	809
Hours worked by hired workers hrs/wk	41.0	41.0	41.6	38.5	40.4	40.3	41.5	41.7	42.5
Field\$/hr	11.60	12.00	11.95	11.92	11.43	11.68	13.74	14.19	14.38
Livestock\$/hr	11.60	12.25	11.95	10.82	11.75	11.75	13.38	13.79	13.77
Field & Livestock\$/hr	11.60	12.05	11.95	11.60	11.50	11.70	13.64	14.08	14.21
All hired workers\$/hr	12.63	13.13	13.27	12.48	12.06	12.31	14.47	14.91	15.02

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Southeast Region includes Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina.

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

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - Farm Labor, November 2019

