

Signed in Washington, DC.

Portia Wu,

Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Labor Certification Process for the Temporary Employment of Aliens in Agriculture in the United States: 2017 Adverse Effect Wage Rates

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor (Department) is issuing this notice to announce the 2017 Adverse Effect Wage Rates (AEWRs) for the employment of temporary or seasonal nonimmigrant foreign workers (H-2A workers) to perform agricultural labor or services.

AEWRs are the minimum wage rates the Department has determined must be offered and paid by employers to H-2A workers and workers in corresponding employment for a particular occupation and area so that the wages of similarly employed U.S. workers will not be adversely affected. In this notice, the Department announces the annual update of the AEWRs.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This notice is effective December 23, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William W. Thompson, II, Acting Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Foreign Labor Certification, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room PPII-12-200, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: 202-513-7350 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As a condition precedent to receiving an H-2A visa, employers must first obtain a labor certification from the Department of Labor. The labor certification provides that: (1) There are not sufficient U.S. workers who are able, willing, and qualified and who will be available at the time and place needed to perform the labor or services involved in the petition; and (2) the employment of the foreign worker(s) in such labor or services will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the U.S. similarly employed. 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a), 1184(c)(1),

and 1188(a); 8 CFR 214.2(h)(5); 20 CFR 655.100.

Adverse Effect Wage Rates for 2017

The Department's H-2A regulations at 20 CFR 655.120(l) provide that employers must pay their H-2A workers and workers in corresponding employment at least the highest of: (i) The AEWR; (ii) the prevailing hourly wage rate; (iii) the prevailing piece rate; (iv) the agreed-upon collective bargaining wage rate, if applicable; or (v) the Federal or State minimum wage rate, in effect at the time the work is performed.

Except as otherwise provided in 20 CFR part 655, subpart B, the region-wide AEWR for all agricultural employment (except those occupations characterized by other than a reasonably regular workday or workweek as described in 20 CFR 655.102) for which temporary H-2A certification is being sought is equal to the annual weighted average hourly wage rate for field and livestock workers (combined) in the State or region as published annually by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 20 CFR 655.120(c) requires that the Administrator of the Office of Foreign Labor Certification publish the USDA field and livestock worker (combined) wage data as AEWRs in a **Federal Register** notice. Accordingly, the 2017 AEWRs to be paid for agricultural work performed by H-2A and U.S. workers on or after the effective date of this notice are set forth in the table below:

TABLE—2017 ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATES

State	2017 AEWRs
Alabama	\$10.62
Arizona	10.95
Arkansas	10.38
California	12.57
Colorado	11.00
Connecticut	12.38
Delaware	12.19
Florida	11.12
Georgia	10.62
Hawaii	13.14
Idaho	11.66
Illinois	13.01
Indiana	13.01
Iowa	13.12
Kansas	13.79
Kentucky	10.92
Louisiana	10.38
Maine	12.38
Maryland	12.19
Massachusetts	12.38
Michigan	12.75
Minnesota	12.75
Mississippi	10.38
Missouri	13.12
Montana	11.66

TABLE—2017 ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATES—Continued

State	2017 AEWRs
Nebraska	13.79
Nevada	11.00
New Hampshire	12.38
New Jersey	12.19
New Mexico	10.95
New York	12.38
North Carolina	11.27
North Dakota	13.79
Ohio	13.01
Oklahoma	11.59
Oregon	13.38
Pennsylvania	12.19
Rhode Island	12.38
South Carolina	10.62
South Dakota	13.79
Tennessee	10.92
Texas	11.59
Utah	11.00
Vermont	12.38
Virginia	11.27
Washington	13.38
West Virginia	10.92
Wisconsin	12.75
Wyoming	11.66

Pursuant to the H-2A regulations at 20 CFR 655.173, the Department will publish a separate **Federal Register** notice in early 2017 to announce (1) the allowable charges for 2017 that employers seeking H-2A workers may charge their workers for providing them three meals a day; and (2) the maximum travel subsistence reimbursement which a worker with receipts may claim in 2017.

Signed in Washington, DC

Portia Wu,

Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Workforce Innovation Fund Grants Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning a proposed extension for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, "Workforce Innovation Fund Grants Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements." This comment request is part of continuing Departmental