

Bureau of Labor Statistics Data - Agricultural Wages 2024 Annual Averages for Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming

RightRisk has compiled the latest statewide agricultural wage indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), focusing on private ownership only (NAICS 11). These figures reflect average annual pay for covered workers and exclude proprietors and other non-covered categories as defined by QCEW methodology.



Key findings

Nebraska posted the highest 2024 average annual wage for the overall agriculture sector (NAICS 11) at \$51,883, followed by Colorado at \$49,299 and Wyoming at \$44,637. These topline measures provide a benchmark for budgeting, recruiting, and compensation reviews across the region.

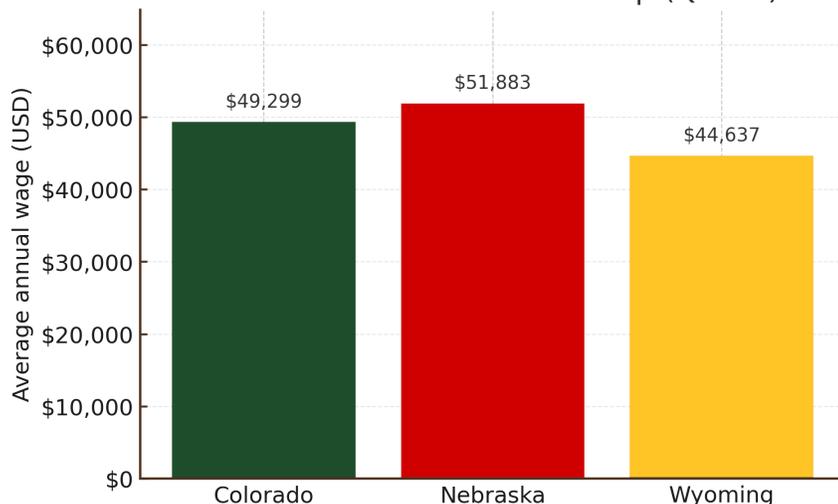
By major subsector, the three states show distinct profiles

The newly released 2024 annual averages for the “Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting” provide a comprehensive, year-end look at the industry’s economic landscape.

- Crop production (NAICS 111): Nebraska leads with an average annual wage of \$49,203. Colorado follows at \$45,412. Wyoming’s statewide crop total is suppressed at the two-digit level, but available Wyoming crop subsectors (for example, oilseed and grain) generally track below Nebraska and Colorado statewide averages, with \$35,854 reported for oilseed and grain farming.

- Animal production and aquaculture (NAICS 112): Colorado reports the highest statewide average at \$53,795, with Nebraska close behind at \$51,541 and Wyoming at \$45,351. Within this subsector, Nebraska’s cattle feedlots stand out at \$57,324, Colorado’s dairy sector averages \$55,154, and Wyoming’s hog operations report \$55,631, underscoring notable wage peaks within each state’s animal industry mix

Statewide Agricultural Wages, 2024
NAICS 11 • Private Ownership (QCEW)



Source: BLS QCEW, 2024 (private ownership, NAICS 11)

- Support activities for agriculture and forestry (NAICS 115): Nebraska again sets the regional high at \$59,129, Wyoming follows at \$55,336, and Colorado averages \$48,646. Nebraska's premium is driven by especially strong post-harvest crop activities (\$71,684) and farm management services (\$79,218). Wyoming's farm management services also command comparatively high pay (\$68,696). Colorado shows strength in soil preparation and planting (\$59,874) even as its overall support-activities average runs lower than its neighbors.

What this means for employers and workforce planners

These 2024 figures represent a consistent, multi-year increase. Since 2021, the average agricultural wage has risen from \$45,019 in Nebraska, \$43,665 in Colorado, and \$39,623 in Wyoming. This steady rise in labor costs remains a critical data point for producers managing their budgets and strategic planning.

- Nebraska's consistently higher statewide averages—overall (NAICS 11), crops, and support activities—suggest a tighter wage environment for many ag roles relative to Colorado and Wyoming, especially in post-harvest operations and farm management services.
- Colorado's wage leadership in animal production reflects strong cattle and dairy markets statewide, with dairy pay levels that are competitive across the region.
- Wyoming's overall averages are lower at the sector level, but selected niches—most notably hogs—price labor on par with the region's top subsectors, pointing to targeted wage pressure despite the smaller employment base.

About the data

QCEW statistics are compiled from employer UI reports and represent total compensation paid during each period; coverage and inclusions/exclusions are determined by state and federal rules. Data exclude proprietors, unpaid family members, and certain farm and domestic workers, among others. Users should consider these parameters when comparing wages across industries and geographies.

For additional context, including county-level details and methodology notes, see the prior RightRisk Ag Labor Update and related resources. More information and links to the BLS data series are available on the RightRisk website and at BLS.gov.

For more information:

For more information or other reports on agricultural labor statistics available from RightRisk, see: <https://rightrisk.org/news.shtml> > Ag Labor Updates.

For more information on wages across the U.S. economy or to access the complete set of labor statistics available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, see: <https://www.bls.gov>.