

Selected Piece Rates. A limited amount of piece rate data was obtained from the survey. In the citrus industry, the average piece rate for harvesting/picking a box of fruit was estimated to be 67 cents per box in the 1986-87 season, increasing to 70 cents per box for the 1987-88 season. These estimates include the harvesting of oranges, grapefruit, and specialty citrus fruit (Table 16).

The piece rate for harvesting pecans was estimated to be 16 cents per pound for the 1986-87 season, increasing one cent per pound to 17 cents for the 1987-88 season (Table 16).

The piece rate for planting strawberries was estimated to be \$7.08 per 1,000 plants in the 1986-87 season, increasing to \$7.13 for the 1987-88 season. The piece rate for harvesting strawberries was estimated to be \$1.23 per flat in the 1986-87 season compared with a slight increase to \$1.24 per flat for the 1987-88 season (Table 16).

Table 16. Average Piece Rates for Selected Hand Skills, Selected Fruit and Nut Commodities, 1986-87 and 1987-88 Seasons

Activity/Commodity	Unit of Measure	1986-87	1987-88
		-----Dollars-----	
Harvesting Citrus	box	0.67	0.70
Harvesting Pecans	lb.	0.16	0.17
Planting Strawberries	1,000 plants	7.08	7.13
Harvesting Strawberries	flat	1.23	1.24

Tractor Drivers and Other Machine Skills. A limited amount of data was obtained from respondents in fruit and nut industries regarding the wage rates paid to both seasonal and permanent tractor drivers, as well as workers performing other machine skills.

For the 1986-87 season, seasonal tractor drivers received an average wage rate of \$4.27 in both the orange and grapefruit industries, with an hourly rate of \$4.36 for tractor drivers in the strawberry industry. Seasonal workers for other machine skills in various fruit and nut industries received approximately 30 cents per hour more than tractor drivers for the 1986-87 season (Table 17).