

## EARNINGS AND HOURS OF AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL WORKERS ENGLAND & WALES (SEPTEMBER 2006)

Farming Statistics at DEFRA collect information on the earnings and hours of agricultural and horticultural workers by quarterly surveys every year. The latest results released in November 2006 for England & Wales contain annual estimates of the 12 months ending September 2006; this includes the four most recent quarterly surveys.

### Method

A sample of holdings is surveyed and information collected for workers aged 20 years and over. The number of workers in the sample for each type of worker is published along with a 95% confidence interval for the main results. For example, the national average weekly earnings for male full-time workers were £340.60 with a confidence interval of  $\pm$  £22.05, so we can be 95% confident that the population average for all such workers in England and Wales lies within £318.55 - £362.65.

### Definitions:

- Average Weekly Earnings include cash earnings, contributions to council tax, holiday pay, sick pay, bonuses and an appropriate value of payments in kind.
- Average Weekly Hours Worked includes all hours worked, paid holidays and paid sick leave. Unpaid leave is not included.
- Annual data are derived using survey data for the current and previous 3 quarters. The data have been weighted to remove any bias due to sampling or response rates. Seasonal weights have been applied for casual workers to account for the increased number of workers during the harvest period.

### Results – 2006

**Table 1 Average earnings and hours by type of worker in England & Wales for the 12 months ending September 2006**

Type of worker	Full Time		Part Time		Casual	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Average weekly earnings	£340.60 +/- £22.05	£267.27 +/- £28.52	£143.04 +/- £19.98	£120.70 +/- £17.71	£174.90 +/- £29.60	£128.12 +/- £21.52
Average weekly hours worked	46.1 +/- 2.4	42.1 +/- 3.9	21.5 +/- 2.7	19.6 +/- 2.4	27.4 +/- 4.5	21.8 +/- 3.5
Average earnings/hour	£7.39 +/- £0.21	£6.34 +/- £0.27	£6.64 +/- £0.30	£6.17 +/- £0.38	£6.39 +/- £0.29	£5.87 +/- £0.18
Number of workers in the sample	248	78	116	81	160	127

Source: Statistical Notice, DEFRA, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Male agricultural workers tend to earn more than their female counterparts, particularly in the full time sector, with a statistically significant pay gap in the average weekly earnings and in the average hourly earnings. Furthermore, male workers would appear to work longer hours than female workers, but any perceived differences bear no statistical significance.

## Trends

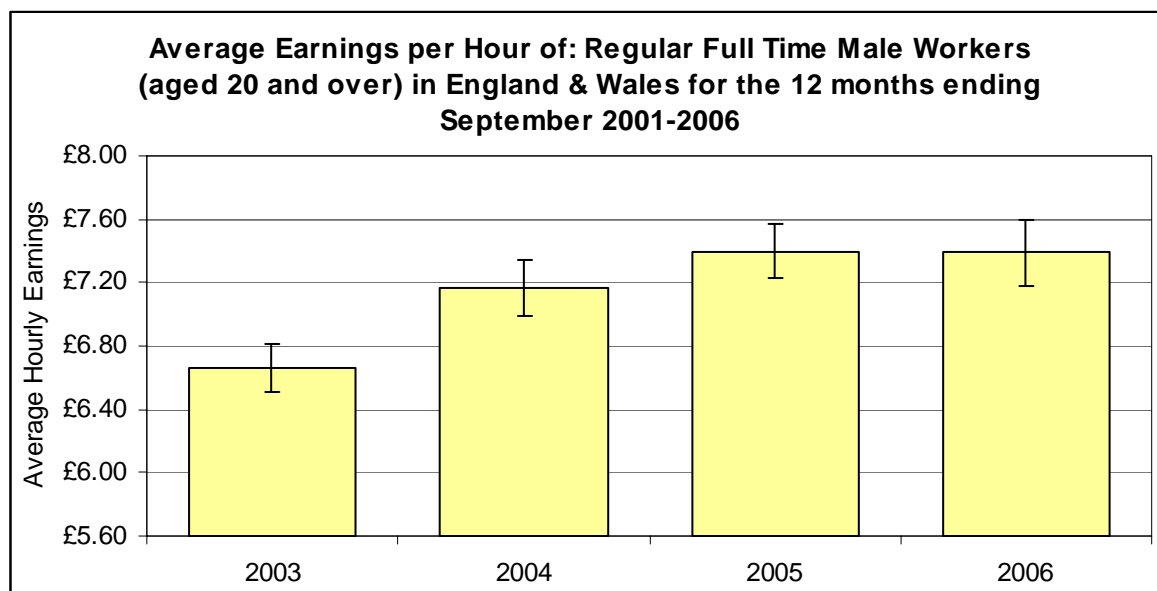
Analysis of trends for the average hourly and weekly earnings for the 12 months ending in September from 2003 to 2006 for full-time male workers are shown in Table 2 and the two charts below. Comparisons made between the figures from different years should be treated with caution, as the perceived changes in the average values may not be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

Comparisons made between data from 2006 with the previous year yield no statistically significant changes in earnings or the number of hours worked. Significant changes in the data are, however, evident if comparisons are made over longer time scales with an increase in the average hourly earnings between 2003 and 2006 and in the average weekly earnings between 2003 and 2005.

**Table 2 Average earnings and hours of regular full time male workers (aged 20 and over) in England & Wales for the 12 months ending September 2001-2006**

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Average weekly earnings	£312.25 +/- £13.38	£331.26 +/- £12.46	£357.64 +/- £13.62	£340.60 +/- £22.05
Average weekly hours worked	46.9 +/- 1.5	46.2 +/- 1.2	48.4 +/- 1.4	46.1 +/- 2.4
Average earnings/hour	£6.66 +/- £0.15	£7.16 +/- £0.17	£7.40 +/- £0.17	£7.39 +/- £0.21
Number of workers in the sample	349	311	299	248

Source: Statistical Notice from DEFRA 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006.



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