

FACTS AND FIGURES

Farmworker Wages and Working Conditions

TOMATO PICKERS' WAGES IN FLORIDA:

* Tomato pickers' piece-rates were stagnant at 40 cents from 1980 thru 1996 and remain below 50 cents per 32 pound bucket today. (Department of Labor)

* Farmworker median income: \$5,000 - \$7,500 per year (NAWS 1998')

* Farmworker household income: \$7,500 - \$10,000 per year (NAWS 1998')

FARMWORKERS RECEIVE NO:

- Overtime pay
- Health insurance
- Sick leave
- Paid Holidays or Vacation
- Pension
- Right to organize and join unions

EXCERPTS: US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REPORT TO CONGRESS (1/01):

- "The NAWS paints a very grim picture of the conditions under which farm workers live and work. Low wages, sub-poverty annual earnings, significant periods of un- and underemployment, and low utilization of safety net programs all add up to a labor force in significant economic distress."
- "Production of fruits and vegetables has increased and global demand for American produce continues to grow, but agricultural worker earnings and working conditions are either stagnant or in decline."
- "Farm workers not only lost ground relative to other workers in the private sector, they lost ground absolutely."
- "[E]xclusions from legal protections have a negative impact on farm workers and contribute to the factors that discourage farmworkers from staying in the industry or others from seeking work in agriculture."

* National Agricultural Workers Survey of 1998.

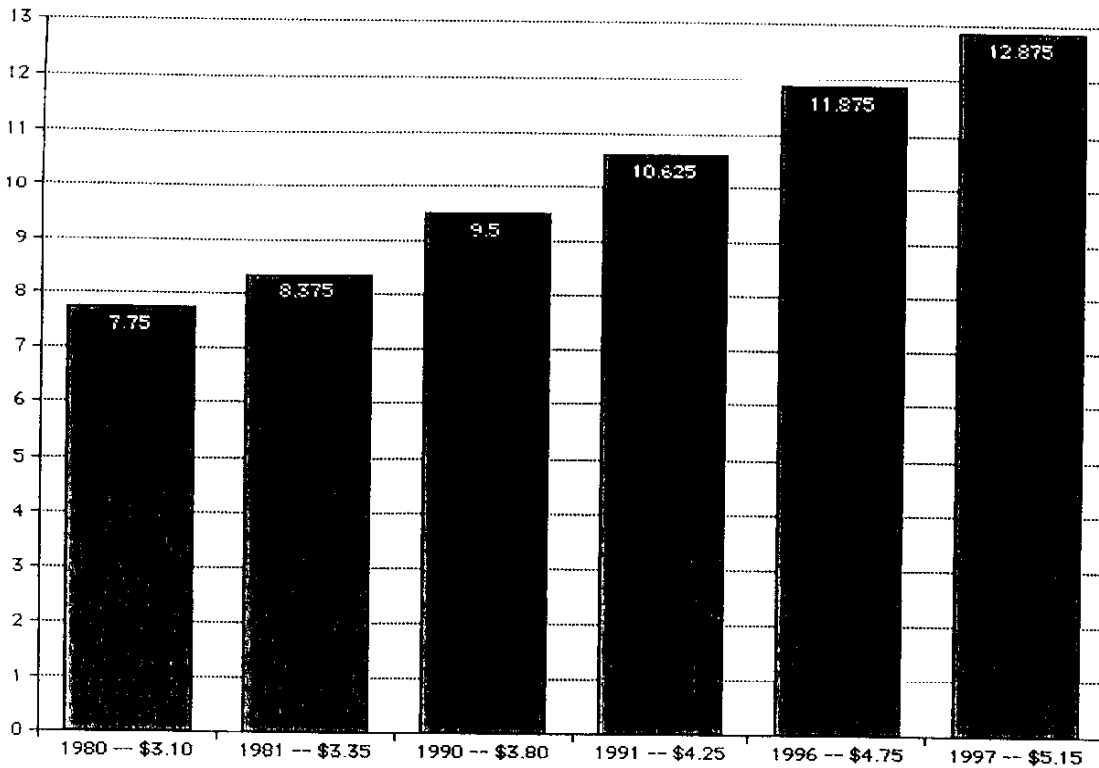
U.S. Department of Labor Data Showing Stagnant Piece Rates since 1980

PIECE RATES FOR TOMATO PICKING IN IMMOKALEE

1980 -1995
(5/8 bushel bucket)

| Rate | Date | Source |
|------|----------|--|
| 40¢ | 12/80 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report* |
| 40¢ | 11/15/81 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 11/30/81 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 12/15/81 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 12/31/81 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 1/15/82 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 2/28/82 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 3/15/82 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 12/83 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report* |
| 40¢ | 5/31/87 | Statewide In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 2/15/88 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 5/15/88 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 11/15/88 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 12/15/88 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 12/31/88 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 1/15/89 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 1/31/89 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 2/28/89 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 3/15/89 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 3/31/89 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 4/15/89 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 5/15/89 | South Florida In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 1/15/90 | Immokalee In-Season Farm Labor Report |
| 40¢ | 1995 | U.S.D.O.L. Prevailing Wage Finding for Southern Area |

Number of Buckets a Worker Must Pick to Earn the Minimum Wage

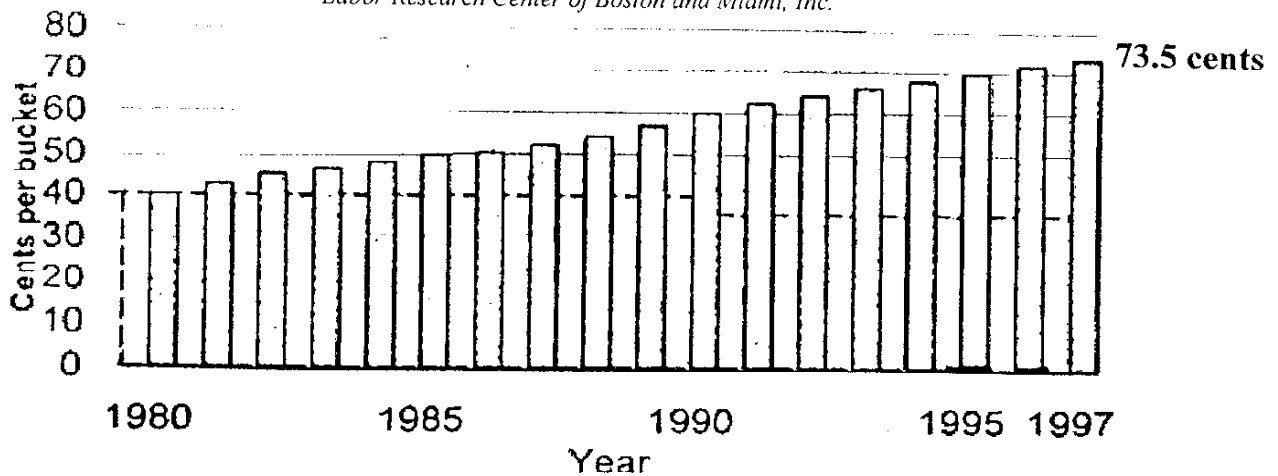




As a result of stagnant piece rates, the amount of work necessary to earn the minimum wage has nearly doubled during the past twenty years.

Bar Graph: Showing that, to keep pace with inflation since 1980, the **PIECE RATE** today would have to be **73.5 cents per bucket**

Erosion of Purchasing Power, 1980-1997

Labor Research Center of Boston and Miami, Inc.



-  Actual Piece Rate
-  Constant Purchasing Power Piece Rate

Stagnant piece rates have caused farmworkers' wages to lose nearly half of their real value, or purchasing power, over the past two decades. **It would be necessary to raise the piece rate to 73.5 cents today in order to restore it to its real value at 40 cents in 1980.**