

Cotton Ginning Charges, Harvesting Practices, and Selected Marketing Costs, 1986/87 Season

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GINNING CHARGES

The average charge for saw-ginning and wrapping a 480-pound net-weight bale of upland cotton in the United States was \$44.91 during the 1986/87 season, compared with \$44.86 per bale during 1985/86. Average charges in most States remained around year-earlier levels, with lower charges noted in nine States and higher average charges in five States. The largest decline occurred in Tennessee and Arkansas where average charges fell \$4.09 and \$1.75 per bale, respectively. Texas and Missouri had the largest increases with charges up \$2.74 and \$2.37 per bale, respectively.

In Texas, ginning charges averaged \$52.92 per bale--the highest of any State during 1986/87, primarily reflecting the sharply larger volume of seed cotton required to yield a 480-pound net-weight bale. Charges were the lowest in Tennessee, averaging \$34.69 per bale.

ACTIVE GINS

There were a total of 1,662 active cotton gins operating during the 1986/87 season, a decline of 110 gins from 1985/86. Gin numbers dropped in each State, except Missouri and North Carolina where numbers remained the same as a year earlier. The largest drop was in Texas where the number of gins fell to 545 in 1986/87 from 601 last year. Sharply lower U.S. cotton production in 1986/87 was primarily responsible for the large drop in beltwide gin numbers.

Despite fewer gins operating during 1986/87, the smaller crop resulted in an average volume processed per gin of only 5,545 bales, a 23-percent decline from last season. Gin volumes varied from an average low of 1,687 bales in South Carolina to a high of 15,068 in California.

METHOD OF HARVESTING

The proportion of the 1986 cotton crop harvested by the machine-picking method averaged 79 percent, 2 percentage points above that for the 1985/86 season. Machine-stripping, used mainly in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, accounted for 20 percent of the overall volume harvested. Machine-scrapping (gleaning from the ground) accounted for the remaining 1 percent of the volume harvested, the same percentage as last year. Machine-scrapping is now practiced to some extent in most cotton-producing States in contrast to 5 years earlier when only a few States reported machine-scrapping.

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Average charges for saw-ginned upland cotton, average
and related information, by State

Item	Unit	U.S.	AL	AZ	AR	CA
Bales ginned <u>1/</u> (running bales)	Thou.	9,216	315	632	592	2,200
Active gins <u>2/</u>	No.	1,662	82	85	129	146
Average volume per gin (running bales)	No.	5,545	3,841	7,435	4,589	15,068
Ginning and wrapping charges:						
Total charge per 480-lb. net- weight bale <u>3/</u>	Dol.	44.91	37.04	40.33	37.19	48.62
Method of harvesting:						
Machine-picked	Pct.	79	100	93	100	99
Machine-stripped	Pct.	20	---	3	---	<u>4/</u>
Machine-scraped	Pct.	1	<u>4/</u>	4	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>
Weight of seed cotton per 480-lb. net-weight bale:						
Machine-picked	Lbs.	1,487	<u>5/</u>	1,480	1,467	1,509
Machine-stripped	Lbs.	2,460	---	<u>6/</u>	---	<u>6/</u>
Machine-scraped	Lbs.	1,861	---	1,829	2,100	<u>6/</u>
Cotton ginned from:						
Trailers	Pct.	55	88	35	90	39
Modules	Pct.	45	12	65	10	61
Charges for warehousing and related services: <u>7/</u>						
Charge per bale for receiving	Dol.	2.40	2.94	<u>8/</u>	2.36	<u>8/</u>
Charge per bale per month for insured storage	Dol.	1.62	1.56	2.02	1.60	1.80
Charge per bale for compressing to universal density	Dol.	7.18	6.50	5.75	7.55	6.21
Charge per bale for outhandling	Dol.	5.21	4.30	4.46	7.20	5.11

--- = 0. 1/ Based on report of March 1987 by Bureau of the Census, but excluding excluded are 21,000 bales ginned in FL and KS. 2/ Based on Bureau of the Census lint cleaning, and insurance, but does not reflect any patronage dividends, rebates classing fees. 4/ Less than 0.5 percent. 5/ Seed cotton usually not weighed. 6/ charges not available.

Charges for selected marketing services,
State, 1986/87 season

GA	LA	MS	MO	NM	NC	OK	SC	TN	TX
184	669	1,153	193	54	106	195	81	390	2,452
57	86	223	50	30	36	69	48	73	545
3,228	7,779	5,170	3,860	1,800	2,944	2,826	1,687	5,342	4,499
42.41	37.20	37.16	39.76	52.80	45.83	50.35	42.81	34.69	52.92
100	97	99	100	80	100	19	100	96	31
---	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	---	18	---	81	---	3	69
<u>4/</u>	3	1	---	2	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	---	1	<u>4/</u>
<u>5/</u>	1,395	1,480	1,514	1,527	<u>5/</u>	1,650	1,433	1,453	1,560
---	<u>6/</u>	<u>6/</u>	---	2,125	---	2,144	---	1,837	2,498
---	<u>6/</u>	1,700	---	2,000	1,700	<u>6/</u>	---	1,600	2,174
77	96	86	100	87	100	67	100	100	26
23	4	14	---	13	---	33	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>	74
2.62	3.19	2.46	1.50	1.55	2.25	1.85	2.07	1.35	2.39
1.46	1.86	1.61	1.50	1.56	1.29	1.43	1.30	1.50	1.37
---	7.11	7.65	7.67	7.20	---	7.42	---	7.45	8.10
4.30	7.20	6.95	7.21	4.42	2.66	4.03	2.83	6.81	3.73

g all American-Pima and upland cotton ginned on roller gins. Also
information. 3/ Includes bagging and ties, drying of seed cotton,
es, transportation to warehouses, industry organization dues, or cotton
6/ No data available. 7/ Based on published tariffs. 8/ Separate

The use of modules as a method of temporary field storage of seed cotton increased in most cotton-producing States during 1986/87. Approximately 45 percent of the crop was ginned from modules this season, compared with 39 percent in 1985/86. Modules are the primary method of seed cotton assembly in Arizona, California, and Texas, and use of this equipment is growing in other States such as Alabama, Georgia, and Oklahoma.

POUNDS OF SEED COTTON REQUIRED FOR A 480-POUND NET-WEIGHT BALE

For the 1986/87 season, about 1,487 pounds of seed cotton were required to yield a 480-pound net-weight bale under the machine-picked method, 28 pounds less than the 1985/86 average.

But, adverse growing and harvesting conditions in many areas of Texas caused the average volume of seed cotton required for a 480-pound bale under the machine-stripping method of harvest to increase. For 1986/87, an average of 2,460 pounds of seed cotton were needed, compared with about 2,136 pounds last season. Cotton harvested by machine-scraping required 1,861 pounds of seed cotton for each 480-pound net-weight bale in 1986/87, about 233 pounds less than a year ago.

SELECTED MARKETING SERVICES

After ginning, most cotton bales are moved directly to local warehouses for storage and other services necessary for marketing. For the 1986/87 season, charges for the four primary cotton warehousing functions changed only slightly over 1985/86 charges.

Warehouse receiving charges averaged \$2.40 per bale during the 1986/87 season, 4 cents below a year ago. Storage charges averaged \$1.62 per bale per month during 1986/87, compared with \$1.58 in 1985/86. Charges for compressing bales to universal density increased 37 cents per bale to an average of \$7.18 in 1986/87. Warehouse charges for outhandling services at time of shipment to mills or ports averaged \$5.21 per bale for 1986/87, 20 cents above a year earlier.

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