

# Cotton Ginning Charges, Harvesting Practices, and Selected Marketing Costs, 1988/89 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 \$45.14 during the 1988/89 season, compared with \$45.82 per bale last season. Average charges in most States remained around year-earlier levels, with lower charges noted in six States and higher charges in eight States. The largest declines occurred in Oklahoma and Texas where average charges fell \$2.86 and \$2.36 per bale, respectively. North Carolina and South Carolina experienced the largest increases with average charges up by \$1.08 and \$1.03 per bale, respectively.

Lower ginning charges in Oklahoma and Texas during 1988/89 reflected a smaller volume of seed cotton required to yield a 480-pound net-weight bale than the previous season. Most gins in these two States base charges on seed cotton volumes. Average charges per pound of seed cotton processed remained around year-earlier levels.

## Active Gins

There were a total of 1,645 active cotton gins operating during the 1988/89 season, a net decline of only 8 gins from 1987/88. Sharply higher U.S. cotton production the past two seasons has helped stabilize gin numbers in most producing States. The number of gins dropped in only six States, increased in six other States, and remained unchanged in two States. Texas, which accounts for about a third of all U.S. gins, had 543 gins operating during 1988/89, a drop of only 8 gins from the previous season and the smallest decline in over a decade.

Slightly lower gin numbers in combination with larger cotton production resulted in the average volume processed per gin totaling 8,902 bales, an increase of about 5 percent over 1987/88 volume. Gin volumes varied from an average low of 3,093 bales in South Carolina to a high of 18,938 bales in California.

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## Average charges for saw-ginned upland cotton, average charges for s

Item	Unit	U.S.	AL	AZ	AR	CA
Bales ginned 1/ (running bales)	Thou.	14,644	366	808	1,033	2,765
Active gins 2/	No.	1,645	82	89	129	146
Average volume per gin (running bales)	No.	8,902	4,463	9,079	8,008	18,938
Ginning and wrapping charges:						
Total charge per 480-lb. net-weight bale 3/	Dol.	45.14	36.84	41.04	39.31	47.31
Method of harvesting:						
Machine-picked	Pct.	72	100	96	100	100
Machine-stripped	Pct.	28	---	---	---	---
Machine-scrapped	Pct.	4/	4/	4	---	---
Weight of seed cotton per 480-lb. net-weight bale:						
Machine-picked	Lbs.	1,482	5/	1,492	1,450	1,520
Machine-stripped	Lbs.	2,246	---	---	---	---
Machine-scrapped	Lbs.	1,830	---	1,824	---	---
Cotton ginned from:						
Trailers	Pct.	47	83	30	82	26
Modules	Pct.	53	17	70	18	74
Charges for warehousing and related services: 7/						
Charge per bale for receiving	Dol.	2.70	2.97	---	2.91	---
Charge per bale per month for insured storage	Dol.	1.61	1.59	1.94	1.62	1.80
Charge per bale for compressing to universal density	Dol.	7.47	6.50	5.75	7.60	6.25
Charge per bale for outhandling	Dol.	5.37	4.83	4.82	7.40	5.12

--- = Zero.

1/ Based on report of March 1989 by Bureau of the Census, but excludes all American-Pima and upland cotton.  
2/ Based on Bureau of Census information, and includes two active gins in Florida and one in Kansas. but does not reflect any partonage dividends, rebates, transportation to warehouses, industry organization fees, etc.  
3/ Not weighed. 6/ No data available. 7/ Based on published tariffs.

arges for selected marketing services, and related information, by State, 1988/89 season

CA	GA	LA	MS	MO	NM	NC	OK	SC	TN	TX
2,765	369	951	1,773	301	92	131	286	133	584	5,052
146	64	82	210	49	28	37	64	43	76	543
18,938	5,766	11,598	8,443	6,143	3,286	3,541	4,469	3,093	7,684	9,304
47.31	43.06	36.98	38.40	42.17	53.43	46.80	47.74	44.07	35.02	51.45
100	100	100	99	100	82	100	16	100	100	23
---	---	---	---	4/	15	---	84	---	4/	77
---	---	4/	1	---	3	---	4/	4/	4/	4/
1,520	5/	1,401	1,400	1,510	1,484	1,450	1,572	1,487	1,480	1,595
---	---	---	---	1,900	2,283	---	2,012	---	1,925	2,261
---	---	6/	6/	---	2,025	---	6/	---	1,660	6/
26	58	80	70	76	87	100	66	100	92	24
74	42	20	30	24	13	---	34	4/	8	76
---	2.92	3.33	2.81	2.00	1.82	2.63	1.98	2.26	3.01	2.51
1.80	1.54	1.91	1.72	1.58	1.55	1.24	1.38	1.37	1.60	1.39
6.25	---	7.30	7.95	7.70	7.25	---	7.40	---	7.95	8.25
5.12	4.53	7.47	7.45	7.50	4.34	2.04	3.75	3.22	7.63	3.95

and upland cotton ginned on roller gins. Also excluded are 18,000 bales ginned in Florida and Kansas.  
in Kansas. 3/ Includes bagging and ties, drying of seed cotton, lint cleaning, and insurance,  
stry organization dues, or cotton classing fees. 4/ Less than 0.5 percent. 5/ Seed cotton usually

## Method Of Harvesting

The proportion of the 1988 cotton crop harvested by the machine-picking method averaged 72 percent, 1 percentage point above that for the 1987/88 season. Machine-stripping, used mainly in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, accounted for 28 percent of the overall volume harvested. Machine-scraping (gleaning from the ground) accounted for less than 0.5 percent of the volume harvested, slightly less than in the 1987/88 season.

This practice is now used, to a limited extent, in most cotton-producing States, in contrast with earlier years when only a few states reported machine-scraping. The use of modules as a method of temporary field storage of seed cotton continued to increase in most States during 1988/89. Approximately 53 percent of the 1988 crop was ginned from modules, compared with 51 percent in 1987/88, and only 45 percent during the 1986/87 season. Modules are the primary method of seed cotton assembly in Arizona, California, and Texas, and use of this equipment is growing in other States.

### Pounds Of Seed Cotton Required for a 480-Pound Net-Weight Bale

For the 1988/89 season, about 1,482 pounds of seed cotton were required to yield a 480-pound net-weight bale under the machine-picked method of harvest, slightly less than the 1987/88 average of 1,490 pounds.

Improved growing and harvesting conditions in many areas of Texas caused the average volume required under the machine-stripping method to decrease. For 1988/89, an average of 2,246 pounds of seed cotton were needed, compared with 2,392 pounds the previous season. Cotton harvested by machine-scraping required 1,830 pounds of seed cotton for each 480-pound net-weight bale in 1988/89, about 27 pounds less than a year ago.

### Selected Marketing Services

Charges made for the four primary cotton warehousing services changed only slightly during 1988/89. Warehouse receiving charges averaged \$2.70 per bale, 7 cents above the 1987/88 season. Storage charges averaged \$1.61 per bale per month during 1988/89, a decline of 3 cents from a year ago. Charges for compressing cotton to universal density increased 10 cents per bale to average \$7.47 in 1988/89. Warehouse charges for outhandling services at time of shipment to mills or ports averaged \$5.37 per bale for 1988/89, 20 cents above a year earlier.

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