

Farm Labor

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AUGUST FARM WORKERS EQUAL 1960 TOTALS HIRED WORKER TOTAL ABOVE YEAR EARLIER

The number of workers on the Nation's farms during the August 1961 survey week totaled 8.3 million, equalling a year earlier. Farm family workers totaled about 5.5 million --2 percent fewer than in the comparable week of 1960. The number of hired farm workers at 2.8 million was 4 percent above that estimated for a year earlier. The total of all workers was 1 percent less than in the very active July survey week. The work force for the 8 survey weeks, January-August, averaged 1 percent under 1960.

Regional Changes Feature High Activity in South Central States

Regional comparisons show 11 percent more total workers in the West South Central region than a year earlier and increases of 2 percent in the East South Central and 1 percent in the Pacific region. Decreases by regions were: Mountain and South Atlantic, 6 percent; Middle Atlantic, 3 percent; New England, 2 percent; and East and West North Central, 1-percent. Family workers were less numerous than in August 1960 except for small increases in New England and West South Central regions and the same number in the Pacific region. Comparisons for hired workers with a year earlier show larger changes than in the family work force. Increases were: West South Central, 23 percent; East South Central, 12 percent; East North Central, 3 percent; and Pacific, 1 percent. Decreases were shown in New England, Middle Atlantic, West North Central, South Atlantic, and Mountain regions. All West South Central States showed important increases in hired workers with Texas leading.

Despite the lateness of the cotton season in many areas across the South, the favorable work week in the South Central region spurred farm work on different field, vegetable and fruit crops, and with adequate soil moisture prompted field preparation and seeding of winter wheat. By the month's end the Texas Lower Valley cotton harvest was about complete and moving ahead rapidly northward through the State. Sorghum grain combining was progressing swiftly as was peanut harvest. Wheat seeding was active in both Texas and Oklahoma. Rice harvest was about one-fourth completed in Texas and Louisiana.

September 1 Farm Workday Length Shows Little Change

The length of farm workday for farm operators about September 1 as reported by crop reporters averaged 9.8 hours, the same as reported on the date in both 1960 and 1959. State averages ranged from 8.0 hours for Florida to 11.5 hours in dairyland State Wisconsin. Hired farm workers worked an average of 9.0 hours in a workday, according to these reporters, compared with 8.9 hours on this date last year and in 1959. The longest workday was reported for North Dakota at 10.1 hours and shortest for West Virginia at 7.8 hours. Inspection of the State averages on page 7, show that averages for hired workers vary less than for operators.

Back to School Wave Changes Farm Family Work

During the August survey week, many farm boys (and some girls) of school age still were available to tackle some farm jobs. Despite the effects of machinery and job specialization in farming, the school call still has important effect on the work routine of the farm-centered family. After school begins fewer youth put in the minimum of 15 hours per week on farm work. This is the minimum which must be exceeded by family members other than the operator before they are counted in the farm work force. Even below this level some dependable youngsters crowd in some morning and evening chores. The move to get ready for school also affected families of some hired workers who ended their migratory work with seasonal crops and made ready to return to home communities for school enrollment.

Late Summer Harvests Make Orderly Advance

By late August each section of the Nation showed crop harvests making an orderly advance. In California, harvest passed the peak for some earlier fruits such as nectarines, peaches, and plums for fresh shipment. However, picking midseason clingstone peaches continued heavy, prune harvest was increasing, and the harvest of raisin and wine grapes mounted in the huge vineyard area of the central San Joaquin Valley. Canning tomato harvest was active as was sugar beet harvest in all fall areas. Oregon Bartlett pear harvest passed the peak and vegetable harvests were active. School-age youth helped greatly in Oregon snap bean and berry harvests. In Washington's Yakima Valley, cutting of mint was active, also harvest of Bartlett pears and potatoes. Fall seeding of winter grains started in eastern Washington.

Farm work in the Northern Plains and northern Mountain States is well advanced as crops matured rapidly in hot, dry weather. North Dakota wheat, oats, and barley harvests were nearly finished in August. Flax harvest was about 40 percent completed.

In North Central States, harvest of wheat, barley, and oats was largely completed in August but at later dates than usual. Haying continued. Potato digging started in the Red River Valley in both Minnesota and North Dakota. Harvest of sweet corn and tomatoes for canning was active. Much fall plowing has been done. Corn and soybeans grew well and matured at a moderate pace favorable for good yields, if favored by a late fall.

Atlantic States had excessive rain during late August which slowed the progress of early cotton harvest. Tobacco crops have made a fine showing with harvest and marketing well advanced, requiring much labor in all leading areas. Potato harvest lagged in most areas to prevent further flooding of dull markets; underemployment of some labor crews was reported

Continued on page 8--

Farm Employment and Indexes, August 1961, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual	: Annual	: Annual	: August	: August	: August
	: average	: average	: average	: average	: 21-27,	: 20-26,
	: 1960	: 1959	: 1955-59	1/: 1955-59	1/: 1960	: 1961
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total	7,118	7,384	7,734	9,251	8,344	8,317
Family labor...	5,249	5,459	5,791	6,311	5,694	5,557
Hired labor ...	1,869	1,925	1,943	2,940	2,650	2,760
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	52	54	57	57	51	51
Family labor...	52	54	57	57	51	50
Hired labor ...	55	57	57	57	51	53

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.
 2/ Monthly indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, July 1, 1961, United States

	: Annual	: July	: July 1,	: July 1,
	: average	: average	: 1960	: 1961
	: 1960	: 1955-59		
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 0.818	\$ 0.721	\$ 0.812	\$ 0.825
Per month with house	\$192.00	\$177.00	\$200.00	\$203.00
Per month with board and room ...	149.00	133.00	149.00	151.00
Per week with board and room	35.50	33.50	36.75	36.75
Per week without board or room...	45.75	42.50	47.50	48.25
Per day with house	5.30	4.55	5.30	5.30
Per day with board and room...	6.50	6.30	6.90	7.00
Per day without board or room....	6.60	5.70	6.50	6.50
Per hour with house88	.85	.92	.94
Per hour without board or room...	.97	.93	1.02	1.04
INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Farm wage rates	629	556	631	648
(Adjusted for seasonal variation)				
Prices received by farmers 2/....	238	239	236	234

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
 2/ Index for 15th of previous month.

Workers on Farms, August 1961

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	August Average			August 1960			August 1961		
	1955-59 1/			Week of 21-27			Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family:	Hired	Total	Family:	Hired	Total	Family:	Hired
New England	207	115	92	186	102	84	183	108	75
New York	241	129	112	217	118	99	206	117	89
New Jersey	68	35	33	59	33	26	61	32	29
Pennsylvania	275	211	64	240	190	50	232	182	50
Middle Atlantic	584	375	209	516	341	175	499	331	168
Ohio	291	226	65	262	206	56	261	205	56
Indiana	259	216	43	233	195	38	219	184	35
Illinois	271	207	64	245	190	55	241	186	55
Michigan	295	217	78	272	197	75	275	196	79
Wisconsin	369	318	51	324	285	39	320	275	45
East North Central...	1,485	1,184	301	1,336	1,073	263	1,316	1,046	270
Minnesota	350	278	72	321	259	62	319	254	65
Iowa	341	276	65	326	269	57	325	265	60
Missouri	368	287	81	333	265	68	334	267	67
North Dakota	150	102	48	136	95	41	125	90	35
South Dakota	125	98	27	115	93	22	109	89	20
Nebraska	180	147	33	178	143	35	183	147	36
Kansas	203	157	46	193	146	47	188	140	48
West North Central...	1,717	1,345	372	1,602	1,270	332	1,583	1,252	331
Delaware-Maryland...	97	56	41	92	51	41	90	54	36
Virginia	256	168	88	244	165	79	236	157	79
West Virginia	94	79	15	85	71	14	81	65	16
North Carolina	722	506	216	664	457	207	623	414	209
South Carolina	288	196	92	254	164	90	242	151	91
Georgia	244	176	68	207	150	57	185	135	50
Florida	92	53	39	82	43	39	81	42	39
South Atlantic	1,793	1,234	559	1,628	1,101	527	1,538	1,018	520
Kentucky	307	226	81	258	192	66	259	199	60
Tennessee	274	201	73	235	176	59	243	177	66
Alabama	159	124	35	128	99	29	142	104	38
Mississippi	354	278	76	272	209	63	271	192	79
East South Central...	1,094	829	265	893	676	217	915	672	243
Arkansas	275	139	136	232	119	113	240	114	126
Louisiana	191	98	93	155	90	65	198	100	98
Oklahoma	189	131	58	173	115	58	175	113	62
Texas	544	291	253	526	268	258	592	268	324
West South Central...	1,199	659	540	1,086	592	494	1,205	595	610
Montana	63	43	20	56	41	15	51	39	12
Idaho	96	58	38	88	56	32	87	59	28
Colorado	93	63	30	87	60	27	84	54	30
N.Mex.-Ariz.	122	37	85	104	34	70	87	32	55
Wyo.-Utah-Nev. ...	82	53	29	68	45	23	70	48	22
Mountain	456	254	202	403	236	167	379	232	147
Washington	161	90	71	141	86	55	151	86	65
Oregon	118	68	50	106	65	41	111	64	47
California	437	158	279	447	152	295	437	153	284
Pacific	716	316	400	694	303	391	699	303	396
UNITED STATES	9,251	6,311	2,940	8,344	5,694	2,650	8,317	5,557	2,760

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Workers on farms: Comparative estimates, annual average 1960,
June and July 1961

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average			June 1961			July 1961		
	1960			Week of 18-24			Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	150	91	59	161	95	66	179	103	76
New York	163	107	56	183	111	72	195	113	82
New Jersey	47	28	19	57	34	23	58	31	27
Pennsylvania	194	159	35	220	175	45	220	176	44
Middle Atlantic	404	294	110	460	320	140	473	320	153
Ohio	250	214	36	275	223	52	271	221	50
Indiana	219	192	27	267	229	38	242	209	33
Illinois	249	201	48	317	228	89	279	213	66
Michigan	220	178	42	265	199	66	269	204	65
Wisconsin	282	253	29	300	263	37	309	275	34
East North Central...	1,220	1,038	182	1,424	1,142	282	1,370	1,122	248
Minnesota	266	228	38	352	270	82	357	278	79
Iowa	289	252	37	361	280	81	348	274	74
Missouri	276	237	39	310	245	65	299	254	45
North Dakota	92	71	21	101	79	22	125	89	36
South Dakota	92	81	11	108	87	21	108	85	23
Nebraska	160	135	25	194	146	48	204	157	47
Kansas	159	134	25	204	146	58	191	143	48
West North Central...	1,334	1,138	196	1,630	1,253	377	1,632	1,280	352
Delaware-Maryland...	70	45	25	78	48	30	89	49	40
Virginia	203	149	54	241	143	98	275	156	119
West Virginia	73	60	13	84	62	22	79	64	15
North Carolina	416	317	99	543	354	189	767	414	353
South Carolina	195	133	62	275	140	135	276	155	121
Georgia	185	135	50	196	134	62	177	117	60
Florida	98	46	52	77	41	36	79	41	38
South Atlantic	1,240	885	355	1,494	922	572	1,742	996	746
Kentucky	235	188	47	287	196	91	270	189	81
Tennessee	246	195	51	265	196	69	241	175	66
Alabama	149	116	33	135	102	33	115	93	22
Mississippi	252	195	57	244	198	46	223	191	32
East South Central...	882	694	188	931	692	239	849	648	201
Arkansas	212	126	86	222	130	92	209	105	104
Louisiana	153	95	58	160	86	74	147	81	66
Oklahoma	165	131	34	196	141	55	172	110	62
Texas	442	261	181	494	259	235	538	259	279
West South Central...	972	613	359	1,072	616	456	1,066	555	511
Montana	49	37	12	61	38	23	61	39	22
Idaho	67	47	20	95	54	41	98	59	39
Colorado	69	51	18	84	53	31	86	53	33
N.Mex.-Ariz.	90	32	58	82	31	51	85	33	52
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	59	41	18	77	46	31	73	47	26
Mountain	334	208	126	399	222	177	403	231	172
Washington	113	76	37	182	100	82	177	93	84
Oregon	92	66	26	138	81	57	138	74	64
California	377	146	231	433	142	291	406	137	269
Pacific	582	288	294	753	323	430	721	304	417
UNITED STATES	7,118	5,249	1,869	8,324	5,585	2,739	8,435	5,559	2,876

Average Number of Persons Working on Farms,
January through August 1961 ^{1/}

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January through August			January through August			January through August		
	Average 1955-59			1960			1961		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	176	111	65	151	93	58	145	91	54
New York	184	119	65	164	106	58	161	104	57
New Jersey	52	31	21	47	29	18	46	28	18
Pennsylvania	226	183	43	199	164	35	189	156	33
Middle Atlantic	462	333	129	410	299	111	396	288	108
Ohio	272	232	40	252	215	37	244	208	36
Indiana	249	221	28	224	198	26	216	192	24
Illinois	273	218	55	248	198	50	248	196	52
Michigan	247	203	44	228	185	43	226	182	44
Wisconsin	321	289	32	288	260	28	281	253	28
East North Central...	1,362	1,163	199	1,240	1,056	184	1,215	1,031	184
Minnesota	311	263	48	281	237	44	279	236	43
Iowa	306	263	43	295	254	41	293	253	40
Missouri	293	250	43	266	232	34	266	230	36
North Dakota	106	83	23	96	74	22	92	73	19
South Dakota	103	89	14	94	82	12	92	80	12
Nebraska	165	141	24	164	137	27	162	134	28
Kansas	176	148	28	164	135	29	159	131	28
West North Central...	1,460	1,237	223	1,360	1,151	209	1,343	1,137	206
Delaware-Maryland...	77	49	28	71	45	26	69	45	24
Virginia	221	160	61	207	148	59	209	149	60
West Virginia	81	66	15	73	59	14	70	56	14
North Carolina	473	352	121	423	307	116	430	306	124
South Carolina	218	144	74	191	121	70	194	120	74
Georgia	200	149	51	173	127	46	166	121	45
Florida	109	55	54	99	46	53	105	46	59
South Atlantic	1,379	975	404	1,237	853	384	1,243	843	400
Kentucky	242	193	49	222	174	48	221	175	46
Tennessee	232	185	47	209	167	42	209	166	43
Alabama	141	115	26	119	96	23	118	92	26
Mississippi	275	226	49	222	178	44	219	170	49
East South Central...	890	719	171	772	615	157	767	603	164
Arkansas	231	145	86	201	120	81	192	113	79
Louisiana	154	95	59	140	86	54	145	85	60
Oklahoma	191	156	35	166	134	32	169	133	36
Texas	450	296	154	435	264	171	431	251	180
West South Central...	1,026	692	334	942	604	338	937	582	355
Montana	55	40	15	51	37	14	49	37	12
Idaho	71	49	22	68	48	20	70	49	21
Colorado	72	56	16	70	53	17	68	51	17
N.Mex.-Ariz.	88	34	54	81	31	50	76	30	46
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	64	45	19	59	40	19	59	40	19
Mountain	350	224	126	329	209	120	322	207	115
Washington	131	87	44	124	80	44	125	79	46
Oregon	104	70	34	100	68	32	101	69	32
California	359	145	214	361	144	217	360	141	219
Pacific	594	302	292	585	292	293	586	289	297
UNITED STATES	7,699	5,756	1,943	7,026	5,172	1,854	6,954	5,071	1,883

^{1/} Average of number during survey week of each month.

Length of farm workday for operators and hired workers,
September 1, 1959, 1960, and 1961

State and division	Operators			Hired workers		
	Sept. 1, 1959	Sept. 1, 1960	Sept. 1, 1961	Sept. 1, 1959	Sept. 1, 1960	Sept. 1, 1961
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	9.7	10.2	10.5	8.3	8.3	8.2
New Hampshire	10.4	10.9	10.7	8.8	8.7	8.6
Vermont	11.1	11.2	10.7	9.2	9.3	9.0
Massachusetts	10.4	10.7	10.5	8.4	8.2	8.7
Rhode Island	9.8	10.6	10.2	8.8	8.9	8.6
Connecticut	10.5	10.7	10.4	9.0	8.8	9.1
New England	10.4	10.7	10.5	8.6	8.5	8.6
New York	10.7	10.9	10.7	9.3	9.0	9.0
New Jersey	10.1	10.3	9.9	8.4	8.8	8.5
Pennsylvania	10.8	10.8	10.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
Middle Atlantic	10.7	10.8	10.7	9.0	8.9	8.9
Ohio	9.8	9.9	9.7	8.2	8.2	8.1
Indiana	9.4	9.3	9.2	8.6	8.4	8.8
Illinois	9.5	9.6	9.6	8.9	8.7	8.8
Michigan	10.4	10.3	10.3	8.7	8.6	8.7
Wisconsin	11.6	11.5	11.5	9.7	9.6	9.7
East North Central	10.1	10.1	10.0	8.8	8.7	8.8
Minnesota	10.8	11.1	11.1	9.1	9.1	9.3
Iowa	10.2	10.1	10.2	9.0	9.3	8.8
Missouri	9.6	9.4	9.3	8.6	8.6	8.6
North Dakota	11.4	11.4	11.0	10.2	10.5	10.1
South Dakota	10.3	10.6	10.6	9.6	9.6	9.7
Nebraska	10.4	10.3	10.3	9.1	9.4	9.2
Kansas	10.1	10.2	10.3	9.2	9.3	9.2
West North Central	10.3	10.3	10.2	9.2	9.3	9.2
Delaware	9.0	9.8	9.1	8.0	9.0	9.8
Maryland	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.1	8.7	9.0
Virginia	9.8	9.7	9.8	8.8	8.9	8.8
West Virginia	9.3	9.2	9.2	8.1	7.9	7.8
North Carolina	9.7	9.3	9.4	8.5	8.4	8.8
South Carolina	9.6	9.6	9.6	8.8	8.7	8.9
Georgia	9.6	9.3	9.1	8.9	8.9	8.7
Florida	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.2
South Atlantic	9.5	9.3	9.3	8.6	8.6	8.8
Kentucky	9.6	9.7	9.5	8.9	8.8	8.6
Tennessee	9.9	9.7	9.7	8.9	8.9	8.8
Alabama	9.1	8.6	8.7	8.9	8.7	8.5
Mississippi	8.6	9.0	9.2	8.5	8.8	9.2
East South Central	9.3	9.3	9.3	8.8	8.8	8.8
Arkansas	8.9	9.0	9.1	8.9	8.8	9.0
Louisiana	8.9	8.3	9.0	8.5	8.2	9.3
Oklahoma	9.5	9.5	9.7	8.9	9.2	9.2
Texas	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.2	9.5
West South Central	9.4	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.0	9.3
Montana	10.3	10.0	9.9	9.4	9.6	9.5
Idaho	10.6	10.5	10.7	9.0	8.9	9.1
Wyoming	10.9	9.9	10.3	9.2	9.0	9.1
Colorado	10.7	10.7	10.8	9.2	9.4	9.6
New Mexico	10.0	10.4	10.1	9.2	9.5	8.7
Arizona	9.9	10.2	10.0	9.5	9.2	9.4
Utah	9.8	9.6	9.6	7.9	8.2	8.0
Nevada	9.6	8.8	9.0	8.6	8.2	8.4
Mountain	10.4	10.2	10.3	9.1	9.1	9.2
Washington	9.6	9.3	9.4	8.8	8.8	8.6
Oregon	9.6	9.5	9.4	8.6	8.6	8.5
California	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.2	9.1	9.4
Pacific	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.1	9.0	9.2
UNITED STATES	9.8	9.8	9.8	8.9	8.9	9.0

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as a result. New York snap bean harvest was active with labor requirements further reduced by use of picking machines. Fruit crops matured slowly in Mid-Atlantic and New England areas but early varieties were being harvested.