

NOV 2 1961

Farm Labor

Release:
November 9, 1961
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

OPEN OCTOBER WEATHER AIDS FARM WORK FORCE
COTTON HARVEST RATES UNDER 1960

D
-25
3

Dry weather during October over most of the Nation helped the progress of fall harvest. The active work force estimated for the survey week of October 22-28 totaled 8.1 million workers. This number represents a decrease of 2 percent below the October 1960 level to a record low for October, despite the sustaining influence of open weather. The total of farm family workers reached 5.7 million - 4 percent under a year earlier and also a record low for the date. The number of hired workers reached 2.4 million - 2 percent more than a year earlier.

The dry open weather in cotton States helped speed cotton harvest after the slow start, and aided employment of hand pickers despite large gains in machine picking. The rate of picking and ginning during October reached a near record in speed and efficiency. Cotton gins worked in vain to keep up with the October flood of seed cotton. Based on Bureau of the Census ginning reports, on October 1 this year the percent of the crop ginned was lowest ever - a very slow start. At the end of the month ginnings had passed the 1960 mark for the date. Texas, with the largest total, was about even with last year on October 1 but by November 1 had ginned 14 percent more than last year. Good weather and more machines speeded cotton from fields to gins.

The decrease in farm workers between September and October survey weeks this year was about 8 percent, compared with the 5-year average of 9 percent. The average number of workers in the 10 monthly survey weeks, January-October this year, was about 2 percent under the 1960 level. The decrease in family workers of 3 percent outweighed an increase of 1 percent in the hired worker estimates.

Rates for Hand Harvesting Cotton Down Slightly

Wage rates for hand harvesting cotton about November 1 averaged \$2.65 per 100 pounds of seed cotton as compared with \$2.70 a year earlier. The 1961 average is 5 percent less than the \$2.80 reported in 1959 and 13 percent below the all-time record reported in 1952. Wider use of machines this year doubtless has lessened requirements for harvest workers and reduced upward pressure of wage rates in some areas. State averages in the table on page 7 show that,

compared with a year ago, most changes were slight. Small increases over 1960 were reported in California, Oklahoma, and the Carolinas; rates were unchanged in Virginia, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arizona, and were lower in Missouri, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas.

October Progress Indicates Harvest Success

Cotton harvest was not the only activity that gained momentum from the open and comfortable weather during October. Potato harvest was completed in northern New England and apple and cranberry harvests were largely finished, although this work had been delayed by slow coloring. Harvest of New York dry beans was about finished.

The apple harvest in Eastern States moved forward rapidly but in Virginia and some other important areas a larger percentage than usual was still on trees by November 1, owing to slow maturity and late start of picking. Peanut digging was about done in the Virginia-North Carolina area, and threshing well started. Peanut combining in the Georgia-Alabama commercial sections occurred early. The dry weather throughout the South generally delayed seeding and growth of winter grains and pasture crops. In Kentucky and Tennessee, especially, the weather was too dry to condition tobacco for stripping. The rate of harvest of the Florida citrus crops increased normally. Pecan harvest advanced throughout the South.

Harvest of the record-large soybean crop was rapid in most leading areas and was either completed or fast approaching completion by the end of October. About 15 percent of the Iowa crop was still out.

The giant job of corn harvest made good progress in the South but has been slow in North Central States. Less than a third of Iowa corn had been picked by the end of October, and important sections of Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas are behind the usual stage in harvest of corn for grain. Seeding of winter wheat in Kansas and Oklahoma was about finished. Harvest of grain sorghum was 80 percent finished in Texas, about 50 percent in Oklahoma, and only one-third completed in Kansas.

Rain and snow delayed harvest of sugar beets in some sections of Montana and Wyoming in late October and slowed digging of Idaho potatoes. Colorado sugar beet digging was about 90 percent finished and dry bean harvest completed. Livestock movement from high ranges was active and marketings made some progress throughout the range area. Weather favored most harvest activities in Pacific Coast States for their great variety of field, fruit, and vegetable crops.

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

	: Annual : average : 1960	: Annual : average : 1959	: Annual : average : 1955-59	: October : average : 1955-59 1/	: October : average : 1955-59 1/	: October : 23-29 : 1960	: October : 22-28 : 1961
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)							
Total.....	7,118	7,384	7,734	8,911	8,283	8,072	
Family labor...	5,249	5,459	5,791	6,507	5,965	5,707	
Hired labor....	1,869	1,925	1,943	2,404	2,318	2,365	
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)							
Total.....	52	54	57	57	53	51	
Family labor...	52	54	57	56	51	49	
Hired labor....	55	57	57	58	55	57	

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.

-----oOo-----

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

	: Annual : average : 1960	: October : average : 1955-59	: October : 1960	: October 1, : 1961
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/.....	\$ 0.818	\$ 0.759	\$ 0.820	\$ 0.843
Per month with house.....	\$192.00	\$168.00	\$186.00	\$189.00
Per month with board and room....	149.00	133.00	147.00	148.00
Per week with board and room.....	35.50	33.00	35.50	35.75
Per week without board or room....	45.75	40.50	43.75	44.00
Per day with house.....	5.30	4.80	5.30	5.50
Per day with board and room.....	6.50	5.70	6.20	6.30
Per day without board or room....	6.60	6.30	6.90	7.00
Per hour with house.....	.88	.93	1.00	1.03
Per hour without board or room....	.97	.84	.90	.93
INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Farm Wage rates.....	629	566	613	635
(Adjusted for seasonal variation)				
Prices received by farmers 2/.....	238	239	237	242

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.

2/ Index for 15th of previous month.

Workers on Farms, October 1961

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	October average			October 1961			October 1961		
	1955-59 1/			Week of 23-29			Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England.....	199	109	84	161	89	72	157	88	69
New York	197	127	70	171	111	60	170	110	60
New Jersey	58	32	26	52	29	23	47	27	20
Pennsylvania	226	180	46	199	162	37	194	157	37
Middle Atlantic	481	339	142	422	302	120	411	294	117
Ohio	297	252	45	277	235	42	257	217	40
Indiana	243	205	38	222	188	34	208	176	32
Illinois	292	237	55	268	217	51	264	215	49
Michigan	231	183	48	214	164	50	213	165	48
Wisconsin	294	257	37	271	239	32	251	220	31
East North Central	1,357	1,134	223	1,252	1,043	209	1,193	993	200
Minnesota	272	239	33	251	221	30	241	213	28
Iowa	317	279	38	309	273	36	312	274	38
Missouri	340	274	66	316	257	59	307	250	57
North Dakota	100	78	22	90	67	23	84	68	16
South Dakota	102	90	12	99	87	12	91	80	11
Nebraska	163	142	21	164	142	22	160	136	24
Kansas	179	161	18	163	146	17	163	144	19
West North Central	1,473	1,263	210	1,392	1,193	199	1,358	1,165	193
Delaware-Maryland	76	50	26	75	49	26	69	47	22
Virginia	224	171	53	217	162	55	213	163	50
West Virginia	83	71	12	75	64	11	73	62	11
North Carolina	485	409	76	470	387	83	425	343	82
South Carolina	236	174	62	225	164	61	211	147	64
Georgia	277	206	71	247	181	66	233	168	65
Florida	104	55	49	99	49	50	104	47	57
South Atlantic	1,485	1,136	349	1,408	1,056	352	1,328	977	351
Kentucky	332	277	55	309	253	56	299	248	51
Tennessee	420	340	80	424	324	100	396	307	89
Alabama	313	239	74	298	220	78	265	195	70
Mississippi	452	336	116	375	261	114	377	249	128
East South Central	1,517	1,192	325	1,406	1,058	348	1,337	999	338
Arkansas	322	194	128	299	165	134	295	155	140
Louisiana	231	131	100	232	138	94	201	106	95
Oklahoma	215	154	61	186	133	53	194	137	57
Texas	547	300	247	493	261	232	574	272	302
West South Central	1,315	779	536	1,210	697	513	1,264	670	594
Montana	54	42	12	49	39	10	47	38	9
Idaho	76	55	21	78	53	25	74	53	21
Colorado	86	58	28	74	52	22	86	53	33
N.Mex.-Ariz.	134	44	90	120	40	80	121	39	82
Wyo.-Utah-Mev.	73	48	25	70	44	26	62	43	19
Mountain	423	247	176	391	228	163	390	226	164
Washington	110	76	34	99	70	29	93	65	28
Oregon	90	68	22	80	64	16	86	68	18
California	467	164	303	462	165	297	455	162	293
Pacific	667	308	359	641	299	342	634	295	339
UNITED STATES	8,911	6,507	2,404	8,283	5,965	2,318	8,072	5,707	2,365

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,
August and September 1961

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average			August 1961			September 1961		
	1960			Week of 20 - 26			Week of 17 - 23		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	150	91	59	183	108	75	179	94	85
New York	163	107	56	206	117	89	195	123	72
New Jersey	47	28	19	61	32	29	53	31	22
Pennsylvania	194	159	35	232	182	50	211	165	46
Middle Atlantic	404	294	110	499	331	168	459	319	140
Ohio	250	214	36	261	205	56	266	200	66
Indiana	219	192	27	219	184	35	226	175	51
Illinois	249	201	48	241	186	55	257	204	53
Michigan	220	178	42	275	196	79	230	177	53
Wisconsin	282	253	29	320	275	45	291	242	49
East North Central ...	1,220	1,038	182	1,316	1,046	270	1,270	998	272
Minnesota	266	228	38	319	254	65	279	236	43
Iowa	289	252	37	325	265	60	314	272	42
Missouri	276	237	39	334	267	67	346	281	65
North Dakota	92	71	21	125	90	35	107	84	23
South Dakota	92	81	11	109	89	20	104	88	16
Nebraska	160	135	25	183	147	36	174	144	30
Kansas	159	134	25	188	140	48	173	149	24
West North Central ...	1,334	1,138	196	1,583	1,252	331	1,497	1,254	243
Delaware-Maryland...	70	45	25	90	54	36	78	52	26
Virginia	203	149	54	236	157	79	245	172	73
West Virginia	73	60	13	81	65	16	82	69	13
North Carolina	416	317	99	623	414	209	538	422	116
South Carolina	195	133	62	242	151	91	249	178	71
Georgia	185	135	50	185	135	50	262	181	81
Florida	98	46	52	81	42	39	105	55	50
South Atlantic.....	1,240	885	355	1,538	1,018	520	1,559	1,129	430
Kentucky	235	188	47	259	199	60	321	237	84
Tennessee	246	195	51	243	177	66	318	233	85
Alabama	149	116	33	142	104	38	220	159	61
Mississippi	252	195	57	271	192	79	453	278	175
East South Central ...	882	694	188	915	672	243	1,312	907	405
Arkansas	212	126	86	240	114	126	304	146	158
Louisiana	153	95	58	198	100	98	276	142	134
Oklahoma	165	131	34	175	113	62	190	134	56
Texas	442	261	181	592	268	324	643	305	338
West South Central ...	972	613	359	1,205	595	610	1,413	727	686
Montana	49	37	12	51	39	12	53	42	11
Idaho	67	47	20	87	59	28	88	57	31
Colorado	69	51	18	84	54	30	91	51	40
N.Mex.-Ariz.	90	32	58	87	32	55	96	37	59
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	59	41	18	70	48	22	76	52	24
Mountain	334	208	126	379	232	147	404	239	165
Washington	113	76	37	151	86	65	115	77	38
Oregon	92	66	26	111	64	47	97	67	30
California	377	146	231	437	153	284	491	158	333
Pacific	582	288	294	699	303	396	703	302	401
UNITED STATES	7,118	5,249	1,869	8,317	5,557	2,760	8,796	5,969	2,827

Workers on farms: Average January through October 1961 ^{1/}

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January through October average 1955-59			1960			1961		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	New England	181	111	70	157	94	63	149	91
New York	189	121	68	169	109	60	165	106	59
New Jersey.....	55	32	23	49	29	20	47	29	18
Pennsylvania	229	184	45	201	164	37	192	157	35
Middle Atlantic	473	337	136	419	302	117	404	292	112
Ohio	277	234	43	256	217	39	247	208	39
Indiana	249	218	31	224	195	29	217	189	28
Illinois	277	221	56	251	200	51	250	198	52
Michigan	246	201	45	227	182	45	225	180	45
Wisconsin	319	284	35	288	258	30	280	249	31
East North Central.....	1,368	1,158	210	1,246	1,052	194	1,219	1,024	195
Minnesota	307	260	47	279	236	43	275	234	41
Iowa	309	266	43	297	257	40	297	257	40
Missouri	308	259	49	282	240	42	278	237	41
North Dakota	108	84	24	97	74	23	93	74	19
South Dakota	104	90	14	96	84	12	92	80	12
Nebraska	166	142	24	165	139	26	164	136	28
Kansas	178	151	27	166	138	28	161	134	27
West North Central.....	1,480	1,252	228	1,382	1,168	214	1,360	1,152	208
Del-Md.	78	50	28	73	46	27	70	46	24
Virginia	224	163	61	211	151	60	213	153	60
West Virginia	82	68	14	74	61	13	71	57	14
North Carolina	488	372	116	441	329	112	440	322	118
South Carolina	229	156	73	206	137	69	201	128	73
Georgia	220	163	57	191	140	51	183	132	51
Florida	109	56	53	99	47	52	105	47	58
South Atlantic	1,430	1,028	402	1,295	911	384	1,283	885	398
Kentucky.....	257	206	51	238	187	51	239	189	50
Tennessee	264	209	55	246	192	54	238	186	52
Alabama	175	138	37	152	117	35	143	109	34
Mississippi	320	254	66	264	201	63	258	189	69
East South Central.....	1,016	807	209	900	697	203	878	673	205
Arkansas	253	156	97	221	128	93	214	121	93
Louisiana	174	105	69	162	98	64	163	92	71
Oklahoma	196	156	40	172	134	38	174	134	40
Texas	478	300	178	462	269	193	467	259	208
West South Central ...	1,101	717	384	1,017	629	388	1,018	606	412
Montana	56	41	15	52	38	14	50	38	12
Idaho	73	50	23	70	49	21	72	50	22
Colorado	76	57	19	72	53	19	72	51	21
N. Mex.-Ariz.	97	36	61	88	33	55	82	31	51
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	68	47	21	62	42	20	61	42	19
Mountain	370	231	139	344	215	129	337	212	125
Washington	128	85	43	122	80	42	121	78	43
Oregon	104	70	34	97	67	30	99	68	31
California	383	150	233	383	148	235	382	144	238
Pacific	615	305	310	602	295	307	602	290	312
UNITED STATES	8,034	5,946	2,088	7,362	5,363	1,999	7,250	5,225	2,025

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

Average rates for hand harvesting 100 pounds of seed cotton, 1943-1961 1/

State	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Missouri	2.00	2.40	2.05	2.80	3.10	3.75	2.95	3.00	3.10	3.85	3.25	3.45	3.40	3.30	3.00	3.15	3.35	3.10	3.00
Virginia	1.80	1.95	2.20	2.70	2.75	2.85	2.55	2.90	3.05	3.20	3.00	2.90	2.90	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.95	3.00	3.00
North Carolina	1.75	2.10	2.30	2.85	2.95	3.10	2.70	2.85	3.25	3.50	3.35	3.15	3.25	3.40	3.15	3.20	3.40	3.35	3.40
South Carolina	1.25	1.45	1.75	2.25	2.25	2.50	2.25	2.35	2.85	3.00	2.75	2.45	2.50	2.60	2.45	2.45	2.70	2.70	2.75
Georgia	1.30	1.50	1.70	2.30	2.35	2.45	2.20	2.45	3.00	3.05	2.90	2.65	2.75	2.80	2.65	2.65	2.85	2.95	2.80
Florida	1.45	1.75	1.75	2.30	2.30	2.45	2.20	2.45	3.30	3.15	3.05	3.05	3.25	3.15	2.90	2.95	3.05	3.20	3.10
Tennessee	1.80	1.95	1.95	2.50	2.60	2.95	2.75	2.70	2.80	3.15	2.75	2.75	2.95	2.75	2.80	2.75	3.15	2.95	2.90
Alabama	1.40	1.60	1.70	2.40	2.25	2.50	2.10	2.30	2.65	2.70	2.65	2.40	2.60	2.60	2.55	2.50	2.75	2.70	2.60
Mississippi	1.70	2.10	1.95	2.30	2.60	3.25	2.15	2.75	2.80	2.95	2.80	2.55	2.70	2.55	2.50	2.50	2.75	2.60	2.55
Arkansas	1.70	2.05	2.00	2.60	2.80	3.25	2.60	2.85	2.90	3.20	2.90	2.95	3.00	2.85	2.80	2.85	3.10	2.85	2.80
Louisiana	1.50	1.80	1.80	2.10	2.40	2.80	2.50	2.60	3.05	2.95	2.75	2.50	2.65	2.65	2.60	2.50	2.65	2.60	2.60
Oklahoma	1.80	1.95	1.90	2.60	2.60	2.65	2.35	2.65	2.90	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.80	2.55	2.50	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.70
Texas	1.70	1.95	1.95	2.50	2.75	2.65	2.65	2.45	3.00	2.90	2.65	2.55	2.55	2.35	2.35	2.45	2.45	2.40	2.35
New Mexico	2.00	2.10	1.95	2.60	2.60	2.50	2.10	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.35	2.35	2.30	2.30	2.35	2.25	2.35	2.35
Arizona	2.70	2.25	2.30	2.60	2.60	3.00	2.85	3.10	3.10	3.35	3.00	3.10	3.25	3.10	3.15	3.25	3.25	3.30	3.30
California	2.10	2.25	2.25	2.90	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.45	3.70	3.60	3.00	3.00	3.15	3.20	3.20	3.25	3.20	3.15	3.20
UNITED STATES	1.66	1.92	1.93	2.50	2.65	2.90	2.55	2.65	3.00	3.05	2.80	2.70	2.75	2.65	2.60	2.65	2.80	2.70	2.65

1/ Reported as of November 1. Includes boll snapping, on basis of equivalent seed cotton.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**N.Y. STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
ALBERT R. MANN LIBRARY
ACQUISITIONS DIV.
1-16-58
ML-PL ITHACA, N.Y.**

IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Comments.....	1-2
Farm employment and indexes October 22-28 1961, United States	3
Farm wage rates and indexes October 1, 1961, United States	3
Workers on farms October 1961	4
Workers on farms: Comparative estimates, annual averages 1960, August and September 1961	5
Workers on farms: Average January through October 1961	6
Average rates for hand harvesting 100 pounds seed cotton, 1943-61	7
