

# Farm Labor

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## HARD WINTER REDUCES FARM EMPLOYMENT

Deep winter brought farm work to a slow pace in January.

Throughout the nation, on farms with livestock and poultry, animal feeding and care came first, outranking other work around the farmstead. Little fieldwork was possible in Northern States. Cold weather damage to some vegetables and citrus also curtailed work in some southern areas. The results of these wintry influences held the number of persons working on farms the survey week of January 21-27 to a total of 4,665,000 persons. This number is 4 percent below that of the comparable week last year and is a record low for any month. The total of farm family workers estimated for the survey week was 3,854,000, 4 percent under January 1961. Hired farm employment totaled 811,000 workers, a reduction of 6 percent from a year earlier, reflecting the low ebb of crop work in most sections. The number of both family workers and hired workers is well below that for any other month in the series of estimates.

Chores and maintenance work on many farms at this season can be done by the farm operator without hired help, or without other family members assisting as much as 15 hours per week, the minimum necessary for inclusion in the number of farm family workers.

During the January survey week farm family workers accounted for 83 percent of total farm workers, near the usual percentage for the season. In later months as crop work becomes active and large operational units of vegetables, fruits, and cotton require hired workers, the relative importance of family workers decreases, declining to about two-thirds of the total in late July and August.

### Livestock Care Heavy in January

The rugged winter weather in many North Central sections increased livestock care and made heavy demands on forage, which became more costly to replace as supplies decreased. Some corn picking machinery was operated in Nebraska on frozen ground, but snow or wet soils prevented much progress in finishing the corn harvest in Missouri.

In South Eastern States the weather in January was wet and cold, discouraging field work. Virginia growers of flue-cured tobacco have made little progress in preparing plant beds, but in South Carolina tobacco beds are mostly planted. A few Georgia pecans were harvested, bringing the harvest almost to completion by the end of January. Georgia peach trees got plenty of chilling hours, an aid to later bloom. Florida fruit surveys in January showed that late December freezes had caused a loss of from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 million boxes of citrus fruit, mostly Valencia oranges, with income loss to workers as well as growers.

In South Central States, farm work in January was slowed by heavy precipitation. Part of it, as one Alabama observer said, "was in a rare form called snow." However, late in the month, planting of the potato crop was started in Baldwin County, Alabama. A record-breaking freeze in early January destroyed all Louisiana citrus fruit on the trees. Harvesting of tung nuts made only limited progress; about one-fourth of the crop remains unharvested. Scraping and mulching of strawberry beds is behind schedule. Texas got a "Norther" which swept clear to the Lower Valley and from January 9 through 12 practically wiped out the remaining Texas citrus crop, defoliating trees and causing damage not yet fully appraised. Large numbers of seasonal workers on hand for harvest had their work frozen away from them; some required public assistance for food and shelter. Potential harvests of South Texas winter vegetables were sharply reduced.

Much of the Far West had rather heavy precipitation. Arizona cotton harvest was about finished in late January, with much of the gleaning operations being done by machine. Washington and Oregon orchardists did some tree pruning. Cold weather increased work during early lambing and caused some losses. California's Central Valley was dominated for several days by dense fog which slowed transportation of farm products and labor. Cotton picking was halted by cold and snow but can be completed quickly with the return of warm open weather also needed to aid harvest of citrus, avocados, and vegetables.

Farm employment and indexes, January 1962, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1961	: Annual : average : 1960	: Annual : average : 1956-60 1/2	: January : average : 1956-60 1/2	: January : 22-28 : 1961	: January : 21-27 : 1962
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT</b>						
(Thousands)						
Total .....	6,990	7,118	7,485	5,319	4,865	4,665
Family labor ..	5,104	5,249	5,572	4,424	4,006	3,854
Hired labor ...	1,886	1,869	1,913	895	859	811
<b>INDEXES 2/</b>						
(1910-14=100)						
Total .....	52	52	55	57	52	50
Family labor ..	50	52	55	56	51	49
Hired labor ...	55	55	56	60	58	54
(1957-59=100)						
Total .....	94	94	99	103	94	90
Family labor ...	91	95	100	102	93	89
Hired labor ...	96	96	98	105	101	94

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, January 1, 1962, United States

	: Annual : average : 1961	: January : average : 1956-60	: January 1, : 1961	: January 1, : 1962
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>				
Composite rate per hour 1/ .....	\$ 0.834	\$ 0.818	\$ 0.909	\$ 0.932
Per month with house .....	\$195.00	\$174.00	\$197.00	\$200.00
Per month with board and room .....	151.00	139.00	155.00	158.00
Per week with board and room .....	35.75	32.50	34.75	35.75
Per week without board or room .....	46.50	42.00	46.75	47.75
Per day with house .....	5.30	4.95	5.40	5.60
Per day with board and room .....	6.50	5.80	6.40	6.40
Per day without board or room .....	6.60	6.00	6.60	6.70
Per hour with house .....	.90	.74	.83	.85
Per hour without board or room .....	.99	.98	1.08	1.11
<b>INDEXES 2/</b>				
(1910-14=100) .....	642	577	635	652
(1957-59=100) .....	110	99	109	112

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, January 1962

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January average 1956-60 1/			January 1961 Week of 22 - 28			January 1962 Week of 21 - 27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	New England	120	86	34	102	77	25	99	72
New York	137	104	33	126	95	31	124	93	31
New Jersey	35	26	9	30	22	8	31	24	7
Pennsylvania	167	142	25	144	124	20	136	116	20
Middle Atlantic	339	272	67	300	241	59	291	233	58
Ohio	197	181	16	179	166	13	166	153	13
Indiana	182	172	10	163	155	8	167	158	9
Illinois	193	163	30	181	151	30	174	144	30
Michigan	180	157	23	166	142	24	161	140	21
Wisconsin	257	239	18	234	219	15	233	215	18
East North Central	1,009	912	97	923	833	90	901	810	91
Minnesota	212	197	15	191	180	11	191	177	14
Iowa	219	203	16	213	198	15	212	195	17
Missouri	219	205	14	210	195	15	199	184	15
North Dakota	65	57	8	56	49	7	54	48	6
South Dakota	73	68	5	66	62	4	67	62	5
Nebraska	123	115	8	122	113	9	119	111	8
Kansas	125	118	7	115	107	8	111	103	8
West North Central	1,036	963	73	973	904	69	953	880	73
Delaware-Maryland	48	35	13	46	35	11	42	31	11
Virginia	157	130	27	138	115	23	141	121	20
West Virginia	55	48	7	50	43	7	47	41	6
North Carolina	255	226	29	206	184	22	222	194	28
South Carolina	123	95	28	111	86	25	102	82	20
Georgia	122	100	22	106	87	19	94	75	19
Florida	99	47	52	103	40	63	96	40	56
South Atlantic	859	681	178	760	590	170	744	584	160
Kentucky	180	166	14	161	149	12	165	151	14
Tennessee	168	150	18	159	141	18	137	122	15
Alabama	91	79	12	79	66	13	73	62	11
Mississippi	144	126	18	127	109	18	111	96	15
East South Central	583	521	62	526	465	61	486	431	55
Arkansas	135	113	22	114	92	22	102	83	19
Louisiana	107	84	23	95	75	20	88	69	19
Oklahoma	143	135	8	129	121	8	130	122	8
Texas	311	241	70	278	206	72	252	188	64
West South Central	696	573	123	616	494	122	572	462	110
Montana	37	33	4	33	30	3	32	29	3
Idaho	40	35	5	39	35	4	39	35	4
Colorado	41	37	4	39	34	5	38	34	4
New Mexico-Arizona	71	28	43	71	25	46	62	25	37
Wyoming-Utah-Nevada	39	31	8	37	30	7	36	29	7
Mountain	228	164	64	219	154	65	207	152	55
Washington	78	67	11	74	62	12	66	55	11
Oregon	61	54	7	61	54	7	61	54	7
California	310	131	179	311	132	179	285	121	164
Pacific	449	252	197	446	248	198	412	230	182
UNITED STATES	5,319	4,424	895	4,865	4,006	859	4,665	3,854	811

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 1961,  
November and December 1961

Region and State	(Thousands of persons)								
	Annual average			November 1961			December 1961		
	1961			Week of 19-25			Week of 24-30		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England .....	143	88	55	116	77	39	102	72	30
New York .....	160	105	55	143	104	39	129	92	37
New Jersey .....	44	27	17	36	24	12	28	20	8
Pennsylvania .....	185	152	33	156	131	25	142	121	21
Middle Atlantic .....	389	284	105	335	259	76	299	233	66
Ohio .....	242	206	36	237	208	29	192	180	12
Indiana .....	213	187	26	203	180	23	181	167	14
Illinois .....	246	197	49	257	213	44	199	170	29
Michigan .....	217	175	42	187	156	31	172	149	23
Wisconsin .....	273	244	29	247	227	20	231	214	17
East North Central ...	1,191	1,009	182	1,131	984	147	975	880	95
Minnesota .....	262	225	37	205	188	17	180	168	12
Iowa .....	289	252	37	270	242	28	221	208	13
Missouri .....	269	232	37	241	220	21	215	200	15
North Dakota .....	87	70	17	66	56	10	58	51	7
South Dakota .....	89	78	11	75	68	7	67	62	5
Nebraska .....	157	132	25	132	119	13	122	112	10
Kansas .....	154	130	24	125	114	11	112	103	9
West North Central ...	1,307	1,119	188	1,114	1,007	107	975	904	71
Delaware-Maryland ..	68	45	23	60	42	18	46	34	12
Virginia .....	203	149	54	173	144	29	138	117	21
West Virginia .....	69	56	13	63	53	10	59	51	8
North Carolina .....	413	309	104	305	268	37	249	224	25
South Carolina .....	190	124	66	150	109	41	115	96	19
Georgia .....	175	127	48	177	123	54	103	84	19
Florida .....	104	46	58	97	42	55	93	35	58
South Atlantic .....	1,222	856	366	1,025	781	244	803	641	162
Kentucky .....	236	190	46	251	216	35	191	178	13
Tennessee .....	236	188	48	281	239	42	176	158	18
Alabama .....	142	109	33	168	129	39	95	82	13
Mississippi .....	246	182	64	245	189	56	135	110	25
East South Central ...	860	669	191	945	773	172	597	528	69
Arkansas .....	203	118	85	184	114	70	110	90	20
Louisiana .....	156	92	64	134	97	37	94	76	18
Oklahoma .....	165	129	36	130	109	21	118	108	10
Texas .....	444	250	194	375	217	158	290	201	89
West South Central ...	968	589	379	823	537	286	612	475	137
Montana .....	48	37	11	40	32	8	34	30	4
Idaho .....	68	48	20	53	40	13	43	37	6
Colorado .....	68	49	19	55	42	13	41	36	5
New Mexico-Arizona .	85	31	54	102	31	71	90	30	60
Wyoming-Utah-Nevada	57	40	17	45	34	11	39	32	7
Mountain .....	326	205	121	295	179	116	247	165	82
Washington .....	111	74	37	73	60	13	67	57	10
Oregon .....	95	68	27	76	66	10	68	60	8
California .....	378	143	235	377	138	239	326	127	199
Pacific .....	584	285	299	526	264	262	461	244	217
UNITED STATES .....	6,990	5,104	1,886	6,310	4,861	1,449	5,071	4,142	929

Farm Wage Rates, January 1, April 1, July 1, Selected Years  
composite rates per hour 1/

State and region	JANUARY 1				APRIL 1				JULY 1			
	1950	1955	1960	1961	1950	1955	1960	1961	1950	1955	1960	1961
	Dollars				Dollars				Dollars			
Maine	.603	.796	.961	.975	.579	.748	.890	.900	.602	.810	.929	.944
N. H.	.686	.882	1.03	1.06	.643	.813	.966	.979	.684	.874	1.01	1.02
Vt.	.646	.802	.957	.959	.593	.764	.911	.892	.660	.810	.971	.970
Mass.	.697	.928	1.10	1.13	.649	.873	1.01	1.04	.686	.938	1.05	1.07
R. I.	.701	.918	1.11	1.14	.655	.868	1.02	1.04	.697	.928	1.06	1.08
Conn.	.712	.922	1.12	1.16	.663	.877	1.06	1.02	.720	.933	1.10	1.11
N. Eng.	.666	.861	1.03	1.05	.623	.809	.963	.969	.661	.863	.999	1.01
N. Y.	.618	.790	.902	.902	.554	.703	.812	.804	.716	.864	.966	.983
N. J.	.636	.848	.924	.947	.562	.741	.821	.836	.710	.892	1.01	1.00
Pa.	.526	.688	.830	.844	.483	.609	.735	.739	.601	.768	.893	.902
M. Atl.	.577	.752	.883	.889	.521	.668	.791	.786	.666	.825	.950	.961
Ohio	.504	.669	.767	.813	.448	.595	.685	.681	.591	.756	.838	.849
Ind.	.528	.664	.792	.805	.456	.592	.681	.675	.594	.749	.826	.837
Ill.	.617	.774	.886	.909	.517	.662	.754	.763	.654	.825	.897	.912
Mich.	.553	.742	.854	.871	.473	.646	.721	.727	.619	.805	.864	.867
Wis.	.573	.709	.851	.870	.492	.613	.722	.729	.617	.770	.879	.899
E. N. Cent.	.557	.708	.837	.862	.480	.621	.718	.724	.615	.781	.863	.877
Minn.	.604	.734	.885	.895	.551	.667	.772	.794	.740	.873	.970	.984
Iowa	.685	.823	.938	.961	.597	.732	.830	.831	.816	.937	1.02	1.03
Mo.	.481	.634	.746	.741	.416	.554	.646	.660	.564	.714	.822	.842
N. Dak.	.586	.663	.785	.800	.545	.650	.742	.769	.742	.877	.947	.926
S. Dak.	.670	.741	.828	.849	.574	.679	.740	.761	.767	.851	.922	.925
Nebr.	.673	.793	.914	.955	.592	.712	.811	.835	.767	.894	.981	1.01
Kans.	.642	.778	.886	.904	.547	.673	.763	.788	.759	.872	.988	1.00
W. N. Cent.	.610	.735	.854	.866	.532	.666	.750	.776	.729	.859	.959	.969
Del.	.620	.800	1.01	1.04	.530	.696	.838	.866	.591	.777	.916	.933
Md.	.645	.823	.982	.998	.537	.703	.838	.830	.595	.751	.870	.876
Va.	.512	.620	.726	.751	.433	.534	.621	.643	.478	.579	.682	.692
W. Va.	.488	.593	.687	.703	.404	.488	.578	.591	.431	.540	.635	.649
N. C.	.477	.574	.657	.677	.401	.487	.561	.575	.433	.529	.602	.612
S. C.	.358	.424	.479	.496	.296	.363	.416	.422	.318	.405	.434	.441
Ga.	.400	.472	.567	.581	.338	.417	.492	.506	.340	.426	.522	.529
Fla.	.517	.645	.760	.747	.436	.554	.632	.680	.464	.575	.668	.672
S. Atl.	.472	.578	.683	.693	.399	.505	.569	.593	.414	.512	.597	.594
Ky.	.450	.547	.639	.647	.354	.431	.509	.512	.388	.463	.548	.548
Tenn.	.390	.465	.567	.579	.309	.376	.453	.466	.317	.392	.468	.475
Ala.	.387	.467	.549	.571	.320	.384	.447	.461	.310	.379	.452	.454
Miss.	.402	.453	.514	.527	.311	.363	.426	.432	.306	.370	.417	.414
E. S. Cent.	.407	.482	.563	.574	.321	.384	.457	.463	.337	.402	.484	.488
Ark.	.470	.551	.676	.687	.385	.481	.602	.602	.381	.486	.596	.608
Ia.	.425	.546	.617	.621	.358	.444	.530	.544	.354	.446	.526	.552
Okla.	.620	.733	.879	.925	.524	.641	.776	.798	.589	.696	.854	.865
Tex.	.551	.682	.800	.791	.483	.576	.667	.675	.507	.609	.696	.695
W. S. Cent.	.522	.633	.753	.760	.434	.523	.626	.636	.471	.570	.668	.675
Mont.	.689	.819	.932	.942	.652	.771	.884	.894	.669	.801	.892	.910
Idaho	.729	.915	1.04	1.05	.693	.819	.939	.971	.704	.847	.947	.974
Wyo.	.726	.848	.950	.950	.634	.766	.865	.894	.628	.777	.846	.864
Colo.	.629	.765	.926	.942	.583	.707	.847	.853	.591	.719	.876	.878
N. Mex.	.558	.652	.755	.773	.484	.577	.663	.703	.455	.599	.671	.700
Ariz.	.687	.847	.984	.960	.580	.721	.860	.857	.562	.736	.859	.857
Utah.	.730	.945	1.10	1.10	.645	.826	.937	.957	.663	.848	.948	.958
Nev.	.720	.879	1.02	1.03	.644	.752	.911	.913	.656	.783	.916	.930
Mountain	.657	.822	.942	.934	.612	.738	.847	.864	.612	.753	.875	.889
Wash.	.964	1.12	1.25	1.25	.923	1.11	1.21	1.22	.900	1.10	1.21	1.25
Oreg.	.894	1.05	1.15	1.18	.883	1.05	1.15	1.17	.906	1.05	1.16	1.17
Calif.	.893	1.02	1.22	1.29	.848	1.03	1.18	1.22	.855	1.03	1.18	1.22
Pacific	.901	1.07	1.22	1.28	.858	1.04	1.18	1.22	.872	1.05	1.18	1.22
U. S.	.587	.724	.896	.909	.474	.590	.751	.757	.558	.669	.812	.825

1/ Weighted average of rates, cash only.

Farm Wage Rates, October 1 and Annual Averages, Selected years  
composite rates per hour 1/

State and region	OCTOBER 1				ANNUAL AVERAGES			
	1950	1955	1960	1961	1950	1955	1960	1961
	Dollars				Dollars			
Maine	.672	.866	.968	1.00	.633	.829	.945	.969
New Hampshire	.733	.874	.992	1.02	.693	.867	1.00	1.02
Vermont	.691	.800	.960	.989	.655	.797	.952	.963
Massachusetts	.727	.950	1.06	1.11	.697	.932	1.06	1.08
Rhode Island	.742	.950	1.06	1.11	.712	.932	1.07	1.10
Connecticut	.746	.956	1.12	1.15	.721	.935	1.11	1.13
New England	.705	.885	1.01	1.04	.673	.863	1.00	1.02
New York	.692	.801	.908	.929	.670	.801	.905	.959
New Jersey	.653	.836	.922	.952	.659	.842	.938	.952
Pennsylvania	.581	.725	.846	.837	.566	.714	.839	.840
Middle Atlantic	.635	.775	.891	.903	.622	.770	.890	.900
Ohio	.648	.794	.881	.872	.584	.736	.822	.825
Indiana	.656	.795	.861	.877	.587	.734	.811	.823
Illinois	.696	.845	.927	.935	.632	.791	.877	.889
Michigan	.668	.835	.890	.916	.606	.782	.851	.867
Wisconsin	.663	.793	.903	.912	.607	.737	.852	.866
East North Central	.663	.808	.893	.901	.602	.754	.845	.857
Minnesota	.708	.788	.872	.888	.694	.808	.905	.919
Iowa	.740	.829	.913	.930	.748	.863	.954	.967
Missouri	.510	.646	.743	.755	.515	.659	.754	.771
North Dakota	.784	.777	.866	.849	.718	.789	.874	.860
South Dakota	.732	.783	.836	.851	.718	.792	.856	.880
Nebraska	.708	.801	.902	.920	.710	.824	.925	.960
Kansas	.693	.782	.883	.903	.698	.815	.917	.933
West North Central	.641	.750	.838	.858	.659	.784	.879	.894
Delaware	.615	.809	.944	.930	.597	.782	.929	.939
Maryland	.646	.800	.924	.926	.609	.771	.900	.901
Virginia	.512	.604	.718	.739	.487	.587	.691	.707
West Virginia	.469	.566	.648	.653	.449	.545	.636	.647
North Carolina	.460	.549	.623	.653	.443	.535	.610	.626
South Carolina	.355	.410	.456	.480	.331	.403	.443	.456
Georgia	.413	.482	.551	.560	.376	.454	.535	.545
Florida	.485	.600	.698	.724	.467	.582	.684	.709
South Atlantic	.451	.537	.631	.646	.431	.527	.615	.624
Kentucky	.557	.634	.773	.828	.445	.522	.633	.654
Tennessee	.423	.488	.594	.619	.371	.439	.536	.550
Alabama	.421	.506	.569	.577	.377	.457	.525	.530
Mississippi	.410	.489	.501	.509	.374	.435	.472	.479
East South Central	.432	.510	.586	.609	.387	.457	.535	.548
Arkansas	.467	.559	.714	.719	.427	.520	.652	.666
Louisiana	.464	.566	.618	.641	.412	.506	.573	.597
Oklahoma	.671	.803	.946	.997	.622	.738	.891	.916
Texas	.598	.714	.758	.793	.554	.660	.729	.746
West South Central	.565	.674	.743	.762	.514	.613	.701	.716
Montana	.844	.906	.978	.991	.731	.829	.918	.934
Idaho	.826	.956	1.05	1.07	.758	.892	.995	1.02
Wyoming	.772	.888	.973	.991	.694	.817	.898	.923
Colorado	.696	.819	.956	.985	.647	.771	.912	.932
New Mexico	.573	.676	.741	.761	.531	.645	.716	.747
Arizona	.637	.806	.895	.912	.629	.792	.903	.907
Utah	.776	.935	1.03	1.06	.714	.891	.991	1.01
Nevada	.770	.874	1.05	1.03	.696	.821	.980	.982
Mountain	.714	.831	.940	.965	.653	.792	.904	.921
Washington	.970	1.16	1.26	1.29	.933	1.12	1.23	1.26
Oregon	.968	1.07	1.18	1.21	.925	1.06	1.16	1.19
California	.906	1.06	1.22	1.27	.884	1.05	1.21	1.25
Pacific	.917	1.07	1.22	1.26	.895	1.06	1.21	1.25
UNITED STATES	.590	.701	.820	.843	.561	.675	.818	.834

1/ Weighted average of rates, cash only.

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