

Farm Labor

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NOVEMBER CONTINUED EXCELLENT FARM WORK PROGRESS EMPLOYMENT LEVEL 4 PERCENT UNDER LAST YEAR

Weather aided farmers to continue in November the previous good rates of progress in harvesting 1962 crops. For most crops and in most localities the crop harvest rush is successfully over. It was completed with the smallest working force of record.

In the farm labor survey week of November 18-24--Thanksgiving Week-- there were 6,033,000 persons working on the Nation's farms. This was 4 percent lower than in the corresponding week in 1961 which was the former low mark in total farm workers for November. Fewer workers were employed than a year earlier in every geographic region except West North Central where a slight increase occurred. Both family and hired workers showed the same relative decrease in numbers of approximately 4 percent from last year. Family workers totaled 4,648,000 and hired workers, 1,385,000. In terms of numbers, family workers thus made up about 77 percent of the entire working force, which is about usual for the month. Hired workers this year, as usual, made up the largest part of the total in summer months, reaching more than one third in July.

For the 11 monthly survey weeks January-November 1962 for which estimates have been made, the total number of persons working on farms averages 6,910,000, or almost 4 percent less than in the corresponding periods in 1961. The number of family workers decreased about 4 percent and hired workers decreased 3 percent. Compared with averages for the 5 preceding years 1956-60, the total number of workers this year was down 10 percent, family workers down 12 percent, and hired workers down 5 percent. The rapid decrease in the number of the smaller farms during recent years has reduced the number of farm family workers more than hired workers. This has occurred despite the continued advance toward perfection of machines for replacing hired labor in a long array of tasks. Numerical estimates comparing 1962 averages for this year with 1961 and the previous 5 years are shown by States on page 6.

Thanksgiving: Timely Reminder of Harvest Success

This year many farm families could find time to enjoy Thanksgiving with major harvests completed, or nearly so, with agreeable Holiday weather. Fall seeded grains generally have made excellent progress. Reporters in North Central States say it is hard to remember a November when so much fall plowing could be done. After corn-picking was finished and combining of soybeans or sorghum grain completed, tractors roared ahead getting the jump on next spring's plowing.

There were, however, some instances of delay. Rain, snow, and wet fields delayed completion of harvest of dry field beans, grain corn, and buckwheat in New York, and fields in parts of Pennsylvania and Ohio were too soft to permit finishing harvest of corn and soybeans. Texas November rainfall was above normal and by the end of the month the State's cotton harvest was about 3 weeks behind last year's progress. Western Oregon farmers continued repairing damage from a ravaging October storm.

Livestock Continue Farm Production as Crop Season Ends

November was another fine month for livestock in many sections. Comments generally emphasize the benefits farm animals were deriving from grazing on good pasturage during mild, open weather or feeding under ideal conditions on the gleanings from grain or other fields recently harvested. Wheat pasturage in the Great Plains has been plentiful, in addition to the broad fields of sorghum grain or corn available for clean-up grazing. Thus on many farms, livestock continued the big job of converting forage and feed grains into premium foods. A generation ago, horses and mules turned much of this supply into draft power but with the substitution of tractors other livestock replaced the vanishing farm draft horse. From a peak of 21,431,000 head of farm horses and mules in 1915 the number declined steadily to about 3 million head in 1960, when the estimates were discontinued. The favorable November conditions for livestock made farm work easier during the month. In some areas the job of marketing livestock may be delayed to take advantage of easy gains.

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

	: Annual:	Annual:	Annual :	November :	Nov. :	Nov.
	: average:	average:	average :	average :	19-25 :	18-24
	: 1961 :	1960 :	1956-60 1/ :	1959-60 1/ :	1961 :	1962
FARM EMPLOYMENT						
(Thousands)						
Total	6,990	7,118	7,485	6,724	6,310	6,033
Family labor	5,104	5,249	5,572	5,240	4,861	4,648
Hired labor	1,886	1,869	1,913	1,484	1,449	1,385
INDEXES 2/						
(1910-14=100)						
Total	52	52	55	55	52	50
Family labor	50	52	55	55	51	49
Hired labor	55	55	56	57	55	53
(1957-59=100)						
Total	94	95	99	100	94	89
Family labor	91	94	100	100	93	89
Hired labor	96	96	98	99	97	92

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, October 1, 1962, United States

	: Annual :	October :	Oct. 1, :	Oct. 1,
	: average :	average :	1961 :	1962
	: 1961 :	1956-60 :	:	:
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 0.834	\$ 0.783	\$ 0.843	\$ 0.868
Per month with house	\$195.00	\$174.00	\$189.00	\$198.00
Per month with board and room	151.00	138.00	148.00	155.00
Per week with board and room	35.75	34.00	35.75	37.25
Per week without board and room ...	46.50	41.75	44.00	46.00
Per day with house	5.30	5.00	5.50	5.70
Per day with board and room	6.50	5.90	6.30	6.50
Per day without board or room	6.60	6.50	7.00	7.20
Per hour with house90	.95	1.03	1.04
Per hour without board or room99	.87	.93	.95
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	642	585	635	658
(1957-59=100)	110	101	109	113

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, November 1962

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	November average			November 1961			November 1962		
	1956-60 1/			Week of 19-25			Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	142	92	50	116	77	39	108	74	34
New York	155	111	44	143	104	39	138	100	38
New Jersey	42	28	14	36	24	12	32	22	10
Pennsylvania	175	146	29	156	131	25	144	120	24
Middle Atlantic	372	285	87	335	259	76	314	242	72
Ohio	254	224	30	237	208	29	230	202	28
Indiana	214	192	22	203	180	23	194	174	20
Illinois	268	227	41	257	213	44	251	206	45
Michigan	197	166	31	187	156	31	174	145	29
Wisconsin	277	253	24	247	227	20	237	216	21
East North Central	1,210	1,062	148	1,131	984	147	1,086	943	143
Minnesota	223	205	18	205	188	17	209	191	18
Iowa	277	247	30	270	242	28	278	245	33
Missouri	258	234	24	241	220	21	236	212	24
North Dakota	74	62	12	66	56	10	65	56	9
South Dakota	82	73	9	75	68	7	77	69	8
Nebraska	137	121	16	132	119	13	132	117	15
Kansas	138	127	11	125	114	11	129	118	11
West North Central	1,189	1,069	120	1,114	1,007	107	1,126	1,008	118
Delaware	11	7	4	12	7	5	10	6	4
Maryland	54	38	16	48	35	13	48	36	12
Virginia	187	155	32	173	144	29	166	138	28
West Virginia	73	62	11	63	53	10	59	50	9
North Carolina	352	307	45	305	268	37	298	263	35
South Carolina	164	123	41	150	109	41	137	99	38
Georgia	191	131	60	177	123	54	151	102	49
Florida	95	47	48	97	42	55	101	41	60
South Atlantic	1,127	870	257	1,025	781	244	970	735	235
Kentucky	242	212	30	251	216	35	240	206	34
Tennessee	288	243	45	281	239	42	249	212	37
Alabama	173	138	35	168	129	39	133	104	29
Mississippi	249	205	44	245	189	56	239	184	55
East South Central	952	798	154	945	773	172	861	706	155
Arkansas	208	137	71	184	114	70	173	107	66
Louisiana	132	96	36	134	97	37	115	83	32
Oklahoma	145	124	21	130	109	21	127	108	19
Texas	404	243	161	375	217	158	365	206	159
West South Central	889	600	289	823	537	286	780	504	276
Montana	43	35	8	40	32	8	40	33	7
Idaho	51	39	12	53	40	13	53	40	13
Colorado	58	45	13	55	42	13	54	40	14
N.Mex.-Ariz.	118	34	84	102	31	71	92	32	60
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	48	36	12	45	34	11	45	34	11
Mountain	318	189	129	295	179	116	284	179	105
Washington	83	68	15	73	60	13	77	57	20
Oregon	75	65	10	76	66	10	77	65	12
California	367	142	225	377	138	239	350	135	215
Pacific	525	275	250	526	264	262	504	257	247
UNITED STATES	6,724	5,240	1,484	6,310	4,861	1,449	6,033	4,648	1,385

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
September and October 1962

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average 1961			September 1962 Week of 23-29			October 1962 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	143	88	55	169	92	77	131	82	49
New York	160	105	55	184	117	67	159	107	52
New Jersey	44	27	17	48	30	18	43	27	16
Pennsylvania	185	152	33	193	152	41	177	145	32
Middle Atlantic	389	284	105	425	299	126	379	279	100
Ohio	242	206	36	251	197	54	243	207	36
Indiana	213	187	26	204	163	41	206	174	32
Illinois	246	197	49	257	203	54	264	208	56
Michigan	217	175	42	211	162	49	198	156	42
Wisconsin	273	244	29	281	237	44	249	216	33
East North Central	1,191	1,009	182	1,204	962	242	1,160	961	199
Minnesota	262	225	37	278	229	49	243	216	27
Iowa	289	252	37	310	260	50	298	259	39
Missouri	269	232	37	343	267	76	302	245	57
North Dakota	87	70	17	119	84	35	86	67	19
South Dakota	89	78	11	101	85	16	91	80	11
Nebraska	157	132	25	167	139	28	162	139	23
Kansas	154	130	24	166	141	25	166	144	22
West North Central	1,307	1,119	188	1,484	1,205	279	1,348	1,150	198
Delaware	12	7	5	15	8	7	12	7	5
Maryland	56	38	18	67	46	21	57	40	17
Virginia	203	149	54	207	151	56	197	153	44
West Virginia	69	56	13	74	65	9	67	57	10
North Carolina	413	309	104	493	398	95	397	322	75
South Carolina	190	124	66	263	189	74	205	153	52
Georgia	175	127	48	230	164	66	204	150	54
Florida	104	46	58	100	50	50	109	48	61
South Atlantic	1,222	856	366	1,449	1,071	378	1,248	930	318
Kentucky	236	190	46	266	204	62	279	226	53
Tennessee	236	188	48	325	242	83	343	275	68
Alabama	142	109	33	234	157	77	233	171	62
Mississippi	246	182	64	452	287	165	350	228	122
East South Central	860	669	191	1,277	890	387	1,205	900	305
Arkansas	203	118	85	297	146	151	259	133	126
Louisiana	156	92	64	248	137	111	193	98	95
Oklahoma	165	129	36	181	126	55	176	126	50
Texas	444	250	194	637	294	343	528	253	275
West South Central	968	589	379	1,363	703	660	1,156	610	546
Montana	48	37	11	60	45	15	48	39	9
Idaho	68	48	20	84	58	26	73	53	20
Colorado	68	49	19	86	56	30	81	53	28
N.Mex.-Ariz.	85	31	54	95	36	59	118	39	79
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	57	40	17	76	51	25	61	42	19
Mountain	326	205	121	401	246	155	381	226	155
Washington	111	74	37	113	77	36	97	69	28
Oregon	95	68	27	103	66	37	95	71	24
California	378	143	235	483	171	312	429	149	280
Pacific	584	285	299	699	314	385	621	289	332
UNITED STATES	6,990	5,104	1,886	8,471	5,782	2,689	7,629	5,427	2,202

Workers on farms: Average January through November 1962 ^{1/}

Region and State	(Thousand of persons)								
	January through Nov.:			January through Nov.:			January through Nov.		
	average 1956-60 :			1 9 6 1 :			1 9 6 2		
	Total:	Family:	Hired:	Total:	Family:	Hired:	Total:	Family:	Hired
New England	170	104	66	147	90	57	138	85	53
New York	179	115	64	163	106	57	154	102	52
New Jersey	52	31	21	46	28	18	42	26	16
Pennsylvania	214	173	41	189	155	34	174	143	31
Middle Atlantic	445	319	126	398	289	109	370	271	99
Ohio	268	227	41	246	208	38	237	201	36
Indiana	237	208	29	215	188	27	209	183	26
Illinois	268	215	53	251	200	51	249	197	52
Michigan	235	191	44	222	178	44	210	168	42
Wisconsin	306	274	32	277	247	30	269	240	29
East North Central	1,314	1,115	199	1,211	1,021	190	1,174	989	185
Minnesota	288	246	42	269	230	39	267	225	42
Iowa	300	259	41	294	255	39	294	250	44
Missouri	295	250	45	275	235	40	270	228	42
North Dakota	102	79	23	90	72	18	90	70	20
South Dakota	99	86	13	92	80	12	90	78	12
Nebraska	161	137	24	160	134	26	157	132	25
Kansas	171	145	26	157	132	25	155	130	25
West North Central	1,416	1,202	214	1,337	1,138	199	1,323	1,113	210
Delaware	12	7	5	13	7	6	12	7	5
Maryland	63	41	22	56	38	18	57	39	18
Virginia	216	158	58	209	152	57	196	143	53
West Virginia	78	64	14	70	57	13	66	54	12
North Carolina	457	348	109	427	316	111	408	303	105
South Carolina	215	146	69	197	127	70	183	120	63
Georgia	207	152	55	182	131	51	167	120	47
Florida	104	53	51	105	47	58	102	45	57
South Atlantic	1,352	969	383	1,259	875	384	1,191	831	360
Kentucky	248	199	49	240	191	49	233	182	51
Tennessee	260	206	54	242	191	51	226	180	46
Alabama	165	130	35	145	111	34	136	103	33
Mississippi	296	233	63	257	189	68	252	188	64
East South Central	969	768	201	884	682	202	847	653	194
Arkansas	237	144	93	211	120	91	205	113	92
Louisiana	164	99	65	160	93	67	152	89	63
Oklahoma	183	146	37	170	132	38	161	126	35
Texas	460	282	178	459	255	204	451	251	200
West South Central	1,044	671	373	1,000	600	400	969	579	390
Montana	54	40	14	49	37	12	49	37	12
Idaho	69	48	21	70	49	21	69	49	20
Colorado	73	55	18	70	50	20	70	51	19
N.Mex.-Ariz.	98	35	63	85	32	53	79	31	48
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	64	44	20	59	41	18	58	40	18
Mountain	358	222	136	333	209	124	325	208	117
Washington	122	82	40	116	76	40	113	76	37
Oregon	99	68	31	97	68	29	99	68	31
California	382	149	233	382	144	238	361	139	222
Pacific	603	299	304	595	288	307	573	283	290
UNITED STATES	7,671	5,669	2,002	7,164	5,192	1,972	6,910	5,012	1,898

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

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