

Farm Labor

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FARM WORK PROGRESS EXCELLENT WORKING FORCE SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR

Cold snaps and some wet weather in May slowed farm work and crop progress from the fast pace set in the early planting of spring crops over large parts of the Nation. But the early fast planting start and long stretches of dry weather favorable for field work through April and May put farm work generally ahead of the average stage for the end of May. Some hard May frosts in the eastern half of the Nation reduced fruit prospects and caused some replantings of other crops.

Working Force Smallest of Record for May

The number of persons working on farms during the May survey week (May 19-25) was the smallest for the month since 1940, the first date that monthly estimates are available. The estimated total of 7,030,000 persons for the 48 States shown in the accompanying tables is 4 percent less than the previous record low estimated for May 1962. Farm operators and other family members working on farms made up a total of 5,155,000 persons; this was 3 percent under the total for May 1962 and lowest of record for the May survey period.

The number of hired workers during the May survey week across the Nation totaled 1,875,000. This also was a record low for the period and 6 percent under the May survey period in 1962.

Part of the reduction in worker numbers in the May survey period this year doubtless can be attributed to the long favorable periods for field work that had forestalled need for an intense surge of planting activity. Also, the week brought cold and rainy weather to many areas, reducing the extent of field work. Wheat harvest in the southern Great Plains was slowed to wait for drying of fields, and planting and replanting of corn

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and soybeans in many North Central sections proceeded under less pressure than would quickly develop with warmer weather to be expected in the coming week.

States Show Greatly Different Farm Work Story

"It's a big country," and in late May the differences in important farm work were making a varying story from State to State and in special areas within States. In Aroostook County, Maine, potato planting raced ahead toward completion by early June. New York fruit and grapes in some sections were hit hard by a May 24 freeze, but potato plantings were well along. Frost slowed growth and movement of New Jersey vegetables and may have reduced the expected harvest of blueberries. Pennsylvania field work was slowed, but most corn had been planted and tobacco setting was making a slow start.

The cold wave of May 22-24 dominated the entire North-Central region, but farmers continued planting with hope and confidence. Wisconsin observers, as elsewhere, saw many a farmer riding a planter in winter jacket and ear-flap cap. The result was that corn planting was rolling along well toward completion, earlier than usual in most States. Soybean planting was less advanced than corn but further along than usual. Three-fourths of Minnesota peas for processing had been planted, and 60 percent of the sweet corn. Tonnages of early hay crops in most North Central States were reduced by cold or dry weather.

In South Atlantic States work was well along, and rains helped prospects for later harvests of spring-planted crops. Tobacco setting in the Carolinas was well along. Most peanuts in the Virginia-Carolina commercial area had been planted. Harvest of peaches was starting in southern and central Georgia. Harvest of Florida citrus and vegetable crops declined sharply. In the Florida-Georgia shade-grown tobacco area first priming of leaves in harvest was about to start.

In Kentucky and Tennessee, tobacco setting was general and haying was in progress. Tennessee and Alabama cotton acreage was about all planted and over 80 percent up to a stand.

Rains during the survey week in West South Central States retarded the combining of the ripening 1963 wheat crop but helped growth of corn, cotton, and rice, all mainly planted and becoming ready for cultivation or further work. Louisiana sugarcane was being given the "lay_by" cultivation. Only about 5 percent of Texas wheat acreage had been combined by the end of the survey week, but rapid progress was expected as fields dried.

In the Mountain States areas where sugar beets are important, thinning and blocking of the crop made good progress. Calving and lambing were nearly complete and most sheep shearing done. Arizona vegetable harvests made good progress.

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Farm Employment and Indexes, May 1963, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1957-61 <u>1/</u> :	: Annual: : average: : 1961 :	: Annual: : average: : 1962 :	: May : average : 1957-61 <u>1/</u> :	: May : 20-26 : 1962 :	: May : 19-25 : 1963 :
FARM EMPLOYMENT						
(Thousands)						
Total	7,284	6,919	6,700	7,890	7,332	7,030
Family labor	5,353	5,029	4,873	5,839	5,339	5,155
Hired labor	1,931	1,890	1,827	2,051	1,993	1,875
INDEXES <u>2/</u>						
(1910-14=100)						
Total	54	51	49	54	50	48
Family labor	53	49	48	53	48	47
Hired labor	57	56	54	57	55	52
(1957-59=100)						
Total	98	93	90	98	91	87
Family labor	98	91	88	98	89	86
Hired labor	98	96	93	99	96	90

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

2/ Monthly indexes are revised indexes adjusted for seasonal variation

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, April 1, 1963, United States

	: Annual : average : 1962 :	: April : average : 1957-61 :	: : April 1, : 1962 :	: : April 1, : 1963 :
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u>	\$ 0.856	\$ 0.705	\$ 0.779	\$ 0.799
Per month with house	200	175	192	199
Per month with board and room	155	139	150	154
Per week with board and room	37.00	34.00	35.75	36.50
Per week without board and room	47.75	43.75	47.50	47.25
Per day with house	5.60	4.90	5.50	5.60
Per day with board and room	6.70	5.70	6.20	6.30
Per day without board or room	6.90	6.10	6.70	6.80
Per hour with house	.92	.73	.81	.84
Per hour without board or room	1.01	.98	1.07	1.11
INDEXES <u>2/</u>				
(1910-14=100)	658	609	666	683
(1957-59=100)	112	105	115	117

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, May 1963

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	May Average			May 1962			May 1963		
	1957-61 1/			Week of 20-26			Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	41	23	18	32	20	12	31	19	12
N. H.	14	10	4	12	8	4	11	7	4
Vt.	32	23	9	25	20	5	26	20	6
Mass.	43	27	16	34	23	11	35	22	13
R. I.	4	3	1	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	27	18	9	25	16	9	26	16	10
N. Eng.	161	104	57	132	90	42	132	86	46
N. Y.	165	108	57	149	98	51	140	92	48
N. J.	51	27	24	48	24	24	46	21	25
Pa.	206	168	38	179	147	32	165	136	29
M. Atl.	422	303	119	376	269	107	351	249	102
Ohio	270	228	42	245	210	35	224	190	34
Ind.	260	229	31	242	215	27	228	203	25
Ill.	284	230	54	288	224	64	282	221	61
Mich.	254	215	39	235	194	41	232	196	36
Wis.	315	287	28	287	261	26	276	250	26
E. N. Cent.	1383	1187	194	1297	1104	193	1242	1060	182
Minn.	312	271	41	286	249	37	288	255	33
Iowa	326	291	35	318	279	39	315	280	35
Mo.	280	242	38	275	233	42	259	223	36
N. Dak.	104	83	21	92	74	18	91	74	17
S. Dak.	99	90	9	88	81	7	91	83	8
Nebr.	177	151	26	174	145	29	158	132	26
Kans.	175	149	26	166	138	28	156	133	23
W. N. Cent.	1473	1277	196	1399	1199	200	1358	1180	178
Del.	13	8	5	15	9	6	14	8	6
Md.	68	42	26	63	42	21	60	39	21
Va.	227	172	55	208	160	48	178	137	41
W. Va.	85	66	19	74	57	17	63	51	12
N. Car.	440	351	89	410	326	84	393	305	88
S. Car.	216	143	73	194	120	74	182	117	65
Ga.	213	154	59	173	120	53	157	100	57
Fla.	136	55	81	134	49	85	128	44	84
S. Atl.	1398	991	407	1271	883	388	1175	801	374
Ky.	227	183	44	237	182	55	229	180	49
Tenn.	256	199	57	231	178	53	234	176	58
Ala.	200	149	51	174	120	54	171	131	40
Miss.	323	233	90	282	188	94	275	177	98
E. S. Cent.	1006	764	242	924	668	256	909	664	245
Ark.	247	137	110	238	128	110	230	116	114
La.	153	91	62	142	83	59	147	84	63
Okla.	172	141	31	158	130	28	164	132	32
Tex.	483	291	192	465	265	200	415	270	145
W. S. Cent.	1055	660	395	1003	606	397	956	602	354
Mont.	56	40	16	51	37	14	51	37	14
Idaho	73	50	23	70	50	20	71	48	23
Wyo.	24	16	8	22	15	7	22	15	7
Colo.	68	53	15	68	51	17	64	51	13
N. Mex.	42	24	18	34	21	13	28	19	9
Ariz.	46	9	37	42	9	33	41	8	33
Utah	39	26	13	36	25	11	37	24	13
Nev.	6	4	2	6	4	2	7	4	3
Mount.	354	222	132	329	212	117	321	206	115
Wash.	144	93	51	126	86	40	129	89	40
Oreg.	114	79	35	109	77	32	111	76	35
Calif.	380	157	223	366	145	221	346	142	204
Pac.	638	329	309	601	308	293	586	307	279
U. S.	7890	5839	2051	7332	5339	1993	7030	5155	1875

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 1962
March and April 1963 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual Average 1962			March 1963			April 1963		
	1962			Week of 24-30			Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	19	12	26	18	8	28	19	9
N. H.	10	7	3	9	7	2	10	7	3
Vt.	24	19	5	25	19	6	28	22	6
Mass.	32	20	12	28	19	9	33	23	10
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	16	9	22	16	6	22	16	6
N. Eng.	126	84	42	113	81	32	124	89	35
N. Y.	153	101	52	122	88	34	133	90	43
N. J.	41	23	18	29	20	9	36	19	17
Pa.	171	141	30	150	131	19	157	133	24
M. Atl.	365	265	100	301	239	62	326	242	84
Ohio	226	192	34	205	181	24	228	196	32
Ind.	206	181	25	183	171	12	215	191	24
Ill.	241	191	50	206	166	40	249	198	51
Mich.	206	166	40	180	159	21	206	175	31
Wis.	266	238	28	247	224	23	268	242	26
E. N. Cent.	1145	968	177	1021	901	120	1166	1002	164
Minn.	261	221	40	215	196	19	275	249	26
Iowa	288	246	42	255	236	19	278	256	22
Mo.	266	227	39	225	205	20	240	216	24
N. Dak.	88	69	19	74	67	7	87	74	13
S. Dak.	88	77	11	85	79	6	89	82	7
Nebr.	153	130	23	121	108	13	147	127	20
Kans.	152	128	24	141	127	14	146	130	16
W. N. Cent.	1296	1098	198	1116	1018	98	1262	1134	128
Del.	12	7	5	9	6	3	12	7	5
Md.	56	38	18	48	35	13	56	42	14
Va.	177	127	50	150	115	35	169	132	37
W. Va.	64	53	11	50	41	9	59	47	12
N. C.	397	295	102	295	242	53	342	273	69
S. C.	178	117	61	127	88	39	153	102	51
Ga.	160	115	45	129	95	34	141	101	40
Fla.	122	44	78	157	52	105	147	52	95
S. Atl.	1166	796	370	965	674	291	1079	756	323
Ky.	232	182	50	196	161	35	220	179	41
Tenn.	229	178	51	188	150	38	208	162	46
Ala.	138	103	35	97	78	19	136	98	38
Miss.	225	160	65	183	140	43	233	162	71
E. S. Cent.	824	623	201	664	529	135	797	601	196
Ark.	195	110	85	168	107	61	192	104	88
La.	144	87	57	122	77	45	134	82	52
Okla.	149	119	30	134	119	15	141	121	20
Tex.	415	243	172	326	240	86	388	248	140
W. S. Cent.	903	559	344	750	543	207	855	555	300
Mont.	48	36	12	44	36	8	54	42	12
Idaho	67	48	19	52	42	10	65	50	15
Wyo.	19	13	6	16	12	4	20	14	6
Colo.	67	48	19	50	42	8	58	48	10
N. Mex.	36	21	15	30	20	10	29	20	9
Ariz.	40	10	30	39	9	30	41	10	31
Utah	33	24	9	24	19	5	26	20	6
Nev.	5	3	2	4	3	1	6	3	3
Mount.	315	203	112	259	183	76	299	207	92
Wash.	111	74	37	98	69	29	111	77	34
Oreg.	97	67	30	85	66	19	89	66	23
Calif.	352	136	216	291	128	163	290	131	159
Pac.	560	277	283	474	263	211	490	274	216
U. S.	6700	4873	1827	5663	4431	1232	6398	4860	1538

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

Workers on farms: Average January through May 1963 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January through May Ave. 1957-61			January through May 1962			January through May 1963		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	32	21	11	26	18	8	26	18	8
N. H.	12	9	3	9	7	2	10	7	3
Vt.	30	22	8	25	20	5	24	19	5
Mass.	35	23	12	28	20	8	28	19	9
R. I.	5	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	23	17	6	21	15	6	21	15	6
N. Eng.	137	95	42	112	82	30	112	80	32
N. Y.	150	105	45	136	96	40	126	89	37
N. J.	39	25	14	35	22	13	33	20	13
Pa.	185	156	29	158	134	24	148	127	21
M. Atl.	374	286	88	329	252	77	307	236	71
Ohio	234	207	27	213	190	23	201	177	24
Ind.	216	197	19	202	184	18	190	174	16
Ill.	233	191	42	224	179	45	217	175	42
Mich.	208	181	27	194	166	28	188	162	26
Wis.	283	259	24	257	235	22	249	227	22
E. N. Cent.	1174	1035	139	1090	954	136	1045	915	130
Minn.	252	227	25	233	210	23	233	212	21
Iowa	266	244	22	261	237	24	251	230	21
Mo.	245	221	24	234	210	24	226	204	22
N. Dak.	82	70	12	73	63	10	72	62	10
S. Dak.	87	80	7	79	73	6	79	73	6
Nebr.	146	129	17	140	123	17	132	117	15
Kans.	148	133	15	139	124	15	136	122	14
W. N. Cent.	1226	1104	122	1159	1040	119	1129	1020	109
Del.	10	7	3	11	7	4	9	6	3
Md.	52	36	16	48	34	14	47	34	13
Va.	178	141	37	158	126	32	152	119	33
W. Va.	67	55	12	59	48	11	52	43	9
N. C.	321	270	51	293	243	50	302	246	56
S. C.	158	110	48	139	93	46	134	93	41
Ga.	168	128	40	142	104	38	123	88	35
Fla.	139	53	86	143	46	97	140	46	94
S. Atl.	1093	800	293	993	701	292	959	675	284
Ky.	203	173	30	196	164	32	196	164	32
Tenn.	203	167	36	182	148	34	188	150	38
Ala.	133	104	29	115	86	29	113	88	25
Miss.	215	165	50	188	137	51	187	136	51
E. S. Cent.	754	609	145	681	535	146	684	538	146
Ark.	184	121	63	170	105	65	166	100	66
La.	133	88	45	125	83	42	119	78	41
Okla.	149	132	17	141	124	17	136	119	17
Tex.	366	256	110	349	231	118	336	233	103
W. S. Cent.	832	597	235	785	543	242	757	530	227
Mont.	48	38	10	43	35	8	44	35	9
Idaho	56	43	13	56	44	12	54	42	12
Wyo.	18	13	5	16	12	4	17	12	5
Colo.	54	45	9	53	43	10	52	43	9
N. Mex.	32	20	12	28	18	10	27	19	8
Ariz.	44	10	34	39	9	30	39	9	30
Utah	29	22	7	27	21	6	25	19	6
Nev.	4	3	1	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	285	194	91	267	185	82	263	182	81
Wash.	104	75	29	95	68	27	95	69	26
Oreg.	86	66	20	87	67	20	85	64	21
Calif.	327	142	185	310	132	178	305	130	175
Pac.	517	283	234	492	267	225	485	263	222
U. S.	6392	5003	1389	5906	4559	1349	5741	4439	1302

1/ Average of number during survey week of each month.

Pacific Coast States showed an amazing range of farm work. In eastern parts of Washington and Oregon, farmers were spraying weeds and planting some spring crops, thinning sugar beets, and making some hay. In Western parts of these States warmer weather aided catching up with planting and early crop cultivation. California field crop work featured the early barley harvest which continued in the desert Imperial Valley and started in the southern part of the great Central Valley. Harvest of over-wintered sugar beets and hay crops continued. Harvest of grapes, plums, and apricots was starting in early areas of the State while potato digging in Kern County increased. The Valencia orange harvest ended in the eastern San Joaquin Valley and increased in Southern California.

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