

# Farm Labor

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AUG 16 1963  
JULY WORKERS NEAR 8 MILLION  
SLIGHTLY OVER LAST YEAR

In the late July survey week 7,965,000 persons were working on farms, slightly more than the record low for the comparable period reported for last year, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The working forces for each survey week, area by area, are influenced by crop timing and the progress of work earlier in the season. These events appeared to hold last year's July force below the normal level for the period. It also appears that conditions favored increased activity during the July 1963 survey week.

## More Hired Workers than a year ago; Fewer Family Workers

The number of hired workers during the July period, at 2,804,000, was 4 percent over July 1962. The State and regional comparisons on page 4 of this report show increases over last year for each geographic region except the Mid-Atlantic and Pacific. The largest increases in hired workers were shown by the South Central Regions. Hot, dry weather speeded maturity of Texas cotton and other crops and promoted early harvest. Crop and work timing also appeared to account for much of the change shown in the East South Central region and in North Central regions, which showed sizeable increases in the number of hired workers. The average number of hired workers, January through July 1963, for the Nation was 2 percent less than in the same period in 1962.

Family workers totalled 5,161,000, or about 1 percent less than a year earlier. Area comparisons for the number of family workers employed without receiving cash wages show consistent reductions from last year and earlier periods. The national January through July average for the number of family workers was 2 percent under last year and 11 percent less than the average for these months.

## July Good Vacation Month but Much Work Done

Many farm families had some good vacation snapshots to show after July excursions. Some may have featured a city sky-line; others a string of fish from a lake or mountain stream. However, back on the farm there were many important phases of farm work active in different areas in late July.

In New York, combining of the oats crop and potato harvesting was starting on Long Island. Picking of peaches and pears was underway in the Hudson Valley and near Lake Ontario where picking of sour cherries was at the most active stage. New Jersey peach marketing was at heavy volume. The Blueberry harvest had passed its peak, although continuing. Tomato canning plants were opening, and growers were readying for deliveries. The Pennsylvania wheat harvest was more than three-fourths completed, and oats harvest was active. Picking of sour cherries was finishing, and harvests were starting for apples and peaches.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Statistical Reporting Service  
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Crop Reporting Board  
Washington, D. C.

Below normal rainfall in many sections of the Northeast forced some dairymen to feed hay and green-chop to replace short pasturage, and to hope for rains to boost pasture growth and tonnage of later hay cuttings.

In the North Central States, where corn is the leading crop, generous July rains helped turn fertility and sun-power into the Nation's largest feed crop. "The corn is as high as an elephant's eye" described many a field in late July. Illinois corn in late July averaged more than six feet tall, with 90 percent tasseled, compared with about 70 percent for the same date last year. In Iowa, as in many sections of other Corn-belt States, good July rains helped make both tall corn and big yield prospects. Activity on crop and livestock farms while the corn fields were working included haying and baling unusually large quantities of oat straw of excellent color and quality, mowing weeds, and other summertime chores, keeping dairy production up, and care and feeding of other livestock. In Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and the Dakotas the small grain harvest was active and moved ahead under generally favorable conditions, with much to be done in northern areas.

In Michigan, July rains delayed grain harvest, and at the end of July wheat was less than half combined, compared with 85 percent last year, and oats 15 percent, compared with 30 last year. The Michigan tart cherry harvest was near completion in the southwestern and south-central parts of the State but continued in the northwest. Hot, dry weather dominated important parts of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, causing most damage to pasture growth and hay tonnage. Prairie hay harvest was in progress in most areas where grown.

States grouped in the South Atlantic region reported farm work progress much varied by weather effects. Florida, Georgia, and much of South Carolina had work delayed by periods of heavy rains in July which, however, aided the growth of corn, cotton, and peanuts and helped pastures and forage for late cuttings. In North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware dry weather reduced crop growth but spurred the use of irrigation on tobacco. Harvesting of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina continued at a rapid pace but was slower than usual in Virginia. Early-set fields were being topped in West Virginia.

In Kentucky, tobacco grew rapidly and about half of the excellent crop was in bloom stage or had been topped. Heavy rains in Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi boosted crop growth during July. During the survey week fighting weeds and insect pests was important.

In West South Central States crop progress has been early. Harvest was starting in Louisiana on rice, cotton, corn, and sweetpotatoes. In Oklahoma, cutting of third crop alfalfa passed the 80 percent mark and early broomcorn harvest was nearly complete. Texas cotton harvest reached 6 percent complete about a week ahead of last year, pushed by a dry spring and summer. By the end of July about 41 percent of the crop in the Lower Valley had been picked while in the Coastal Bend country over half was picked, compared with only 16 percent last year. Sorghum grain also matured rapidly in many sections of Texas and about a fourth of the crop had been combined--well ahead of last year. Corn picking was active and about a tenth of the rice crop had been delivered to driers by the end of July.

In Montana, progress of winter wheat combining during July passed 15 percent completion, well ahead of last year. Half of the State's wild hay crop had been harvested. Harvest of second cutting alfalfa started in Idaho and irrigation and weeding of row crops was active. Digging of early potatoes was starting in Northern Colorado and active in the Arkansas Valley. Vegetable harvests were active in the San Luis Valley. Fields were being readied for planting winter wheat in New Mexico. In Arizona, harvests of cantaloupes, watermelons, and grapes were virtually completed during July, as was harvest of safflower. Utah harvest of winter wheat was still in progress and spring wheat harvest was beginning.

July weather in Pacific Coast States continued generally cool, and crop maturity and harvest activities were somewhat slowed as a result. During late July the picking of blueberries and early blackberries was reaching a peak in Western Washington. In Central Washington picking of apricots was underway, and vegetable harvests continued. Harvest of the slow-ripening small grain crops was starting. In Eastern Oregon the green pea harvest neared completion. Sour cherry and caneberry harvests were nearly complete, but cool, wet weather slowed grain harvest. California harvests included the usual extensive list of field, vegetable, and fruit and nut crops, although on a slightly tardy schedule.

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

	: Annual : average : 1962	: Annual: : average: : 1961	: Annual : : average : : 1957-61 1/	: July : average : 1957-61 1/	: July: : 22-28: : 1962:	: July: : 21-27 : 1963
FARM EMPLOYMENT	:	:	:	:	:	:
(Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	6,700	6,919	7,284	8,605	7,925	7,965
Family labor .....	4,873	5,029	5,353	5,748	5,221	5,161
Hired labor .....	1,827	1,890	1,931	2,857	2,704	2,804
INDEXES <u>2/</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	49	51	54	54	50	50
Family labor .....	48	49	53	52	48	47
Hired Labor .....	54	56	57	57	54	56
(1957-59=100)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	90	93	98	97	90	90
Family labor .....	88	91	98	97	88	87
Hired labor .....	93	96	98	98	93	97

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, July 1, 1963 United States

	: Annual : average : 1962	: July : average : 1957-61	: July 1, : 1962	: July 1, : 1963
FARM WAGE RATES	:	:	:	:
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u> .....	\$ 0.856	\$ 0.789	\$ 0.848	\$ 0.872
Per month with house .....	200	191	208	215
Per month with board and room .....	155	143	156	159
Per week with board and room .....	37.00	35.50	39.00	39.00
Per week without board and room ..	47.75	45.50	50.00	51.00
Per day with house .....	5.60	4.95	5.50	5.70
Per day with board and room .....	6.70	6.60	7.20	7.40
Per day without board or room .....	6.90	6.20	6.90	7.00
Per hour with house .....	.92	.90	.95	.98
Per hour without board or room ...	1.01	.99	1.06	1.09
INDEXES <u>2/</u>	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100) .....	658	603	662	681
(1957-59=100) .....	112	104	114	117

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, July 1963  
(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	July Average 1957-61 1/			July 1962 Week of 22-28			July 1963 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	48	25	23	37	23	14	38	22	16
N. H.	17	12	5	13	9	4	13	9	4
Vt.	35	25	10	27	21	6	28	21	7
Mass.	49	29	20	45	25	20	40	20	20
R. I.	7	5	2	4	3	1	4	3	1
Conn.	35	20	15	36	18	18	36	18	18
N. Eng.	191	116	75	162	99	63	159	93	66
N. Y.	207	119	88	178	107	71	171	107	64
N. J.	61	30	31	59	26	33	60	25	35
Pa.	241	190	51	197	163	34	194	156	38
M. Atl.	509	339	170	434	296	138	425	288	137
Ohio	277	224	53	254	204	50	248	200	48
Ind.	257	219	38	226	192	34	228	186	42
Ill.	297	225	72	271	208	63	275	206	69
Mich.	287	213	74	257	187	70	255	182	73
Wis.	339	301	38	303	270	33	298	263	35
E. N. Cent.	1457	1182	275	1311	1061	250	1304	1037	267
Minn.	377	290	87	368	271	97	362	272	90
Iowa	360	279	81	361	271	90	377	276	101
Mo.	323	266	57	303	248	55	284	233	51
N. Dak.	138	93	45	127	84	43	124	86	38
S. Dak.	114	91	23	107	85	22	105	83	22
Nebr.	201	155	46	194	153	41	193	147	46
Kans.	210	154	56	189	141	48	193	136	57
W. N. Cent.	1723	1328	395	1649	1253	396	1638	1233	405
Del.	15	7	8	16	8	8	15	7	8
Md.	77	47	30	74	44	30	70	45	25
Va.	243	139	104	229	122	107	218	118	100
W. Va.	83	68	15	74	61	13	65	53	12
N. C.	741	412	329	693	379	314	678	350	328
S. C.	285	163	122	235	132	103	242	137	105
Ga.	175	119	56	165	115	50	178	120	58
Fla.	95	45	50	91	39	52	91	40	51
S. Atl.	1714	1000	714	1577	900	677	1557	870	687
Ky.	269	188	81	254	173	81	246	163	83
Tenn.	252	177	75	217	152	65	243	165	78
Ala.	111	89	22	114	90	24	109	88	25
Miss.	223	188	35	188	145	43	190	145	45
E. S. Cent.	855	642	213	773	560	213	788	557	231
Ark.	224	113	111	195	89	106	217	100	117
La.	148	78	70	134	71	63	141	70	71
Okla.	172	120	52	149	104	45	152	113	39
Texas	503	285	218	490	265	225	554	287	267
W. S. Cent.	1047	596	451	968	529	439	1064	570	494
Mont.	66	39	27	61	37	24	65	37	28
Idaho	94	56	38	94	57	37	95	55	40
Wyo.	26	15	11	25	14	11	26	15	11
Colo.	86	56	30	86	52	34	75	49	26
N. Mex.	48	24	24	39	22	17	41	21	20
Ariz.	40	11	29	35	10	25	34	9	25
Utah	46	30	16	40	27	13	40	25	15
Nev.	7	4	3	6	4	2	6	4	2
Mount.	413	235	178	386	223	163	382	215	167
Wash.	167	94	73	163	96	67	155	89	66
Oreg.	133	73	60	132	70	62	130	74	56
Calif.	396	143	253	370	134	236	363	135	228
Pac.	696	310	386	665	300	365	648	298	350
U.S.	8605	5748	2857	7925	5221	2704	7965	5161	2804

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  
May and June 1963 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual Average			May 1963			June 1963		
	1962			Week of 19-25			Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	19	12	31	19	12	38	24	14
N. H.	10	7	3	11	7	4	12	8	4
Vt.	24	19	5	26	20	6	26	20	6
Mass.	32	20	12	35	22	13	39	22	17
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	16	9	26	16	10	34	17	17
N. Eng.	126	84	42	132	85	46	152	93	59
N. Y.	153	101	52	140	92	48	171	103	68
N. J.	41	23	18	46	21	25	52	23	29
Pa.	171	141	30	165	136	29	200	156	44
M. Atl.	365	265	100	351	249	102	423	282	141
Ohio	226	192	34	224	190	34	260	200	60
Ind.	206	181	25	228	203	25	248	208	40
Ill.	241	191	50	282	221	61	304	219	85
Mich.	206	166	40	232	196	36	270	196	74
Wis.	266	238	28	276	250	26	287	250	37
E. N. Cent.	1145	968	177	1242	1060	182	1369	1073	296
Minn.	261	221	40	288	255	33	346	260	86
Iowa	288	246	42	315	280	35	359	280	79
Mo.	266	227	39	259	223	36	303	238	65
N. Dak.	88	69	19	91	74	17	98	75	23
S. Dak.	88	77	11	91	83	8	101	83	18
Nebr.	153	130	23	158	132	26	169	135	34
Kans.	152	128	24	156	133	23	193	143	50
W. N. Cent.	1296	1098	198	1358	1180	178	1569	1214	355
Del.	12	7	5	14	8	6	16	9	7
Md.	56	38	18	60	39	21	70	41	29
Va.	177	127	50	178	137	41	205	114	91
W. Va.	64	53	11	63	51	12	76	55	21
N. C.	397	295	102	393	305	88	496	312	184
S. C.	178	117	61	182	117	65	212	131	81
Ga.	160	115	45	157	100	57	159	103	56
Fla.	122	44	78	128	44	84	112	43	69
S. Atl.	1166	796	370	1175	801	374	1346	808	538
Ky.	232	182	50	229	180	49	273	182	91
Tenn.	229	178	51	234	176	58	259	184	75
Ala.	138	103	35	171	131	40	126	101	25
Miss.	225	160	65	275	177	98	223	163	60
E. S. Cent.	824	623	201	909	664	245	881	630	251
Ark.	195	110	85	230	116	114	224	116	108
La.	144	87	57	147	84	63	148	82	66
Okla.	149	119	30	164	132	32	159	129	30
Texas	415	243	172	415	270	145	471	298	173
W. S. Cent.	903	559	344	956	602	354	1002	625	377
Mont.	48	36	12	51	37	14	57	36	21
Idaho	67	48	19	71	48	23	87	52	35
Wyo.	19	13	6	22	15	7	26	15	11
Colo.	67	48	19	64	51	13	85	51	34
N. Mex.	36	21	15	28	19	9	36	21	15
Ariz.	40	10	30	41	8	33	40	9	31
Utah	33	24	9	37	24	13	42	25	17
Nev.	5	3	2	7	4	3	7	4	3
Mount.	315	203	112	321	206	115	380	213	167
Wash.	111	74	37	129	89	40	173	100	73
Oreg.	97	67	30	111	76	35	136	76	60
Calif.	352	136	216	346	142	204	364	135	229
Pac.	560	277	283	586	307	279	673	311	362
U. S.	6700	4873	1827	7030	5155	1875	7795	5245	2546

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 July 1963 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January through July			January through July			January through July		
	Ave. 1957-61			1962			1963		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	36	22	14	28	19	9	30	20	10
N. H.	13	10	3	11	8	3	10	7	3
Vt.	31	23	8	25	20	5	26	20	6
Mass.	38	24	14	32	21	11	31	20	11
R. I.	5	3	2	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	27	18	9	24	15	9	24	15	9
N. Eng.	150	100	50	124	86	38	125	84	41
N. Y.	164	108	56	148	99	49	138	93	45
N. J.	45	27	18	41	23	18	40	21	19
Pa.	201	166	35	171	143	28	163	136	27
M. Atl.	410	301	109	360	265	95	341	250	91
Ohio	247	212	35	226	194	32	216	184	32
Ind.	231	206	25	212	189	23	204	181	23
Ill.	255	203	52	242	189	53	238	186	52
Mich.	229	190	39	212	172	40	209	169	40
Wis.	295	268	27	269	243	26	261	235	26
E. N. Cent.	1257	1079	178	1161	987	174	1128	955	173
Minn.	285	244	41	271	227	44	267	227	40
Iowa	293	254	39	290	247	43	285	244	41
Mo.	266	232	34	253	220	33	245	213	32
N. Dak.	94	75	19	85	68	17	83	67	16
S. Dak.	94	83	11	87	77	10	86	76	10
Nebr.	160	135	25	155	131	24	146	124	22
Kans.	165	139	26	153	128	25	152	127	25
W. N. Cent.	1357	1162	195	1294	1098	196	1264	1078	186
Del.	12	7	5	12	7	5	12	7	5
Md.	59	39	20	55	37	18	54	37	17
Va.	196	141	55	178	126	52	168	118	50
W. Va.	73	59	14	63	51	12	57	46	11
N. C.	410	301	109	380	275	105	383	270	113
S. C.	195	124	71	169	105	64	161	105	56
Ga.	176	130	46	150	108	42	135	94	41
Fla.	127	51	76	130	44	86	130	45	85
S. Atl.	1248	852	396	1137	753	384	1100	722	378
Ky.	223	178	45	215	169	46	215	167	48
Tenn.	222	174	48	198	154	44	206	157	49
Ala.	132	103	29	117	89	28	114	89	25
Miss.	222	175	47	192	142	50	192	141	51
E. S. Cent.	799	630	169	722	554	168	727	554	173
Ark.	199	123	76	182	106	76	181	102	79
La.	138	87	51	131	82	49	126	77	49
Okla.	159	132	27	147	122	25	143	120	23
Texas	403	265	138	390	241	149	386	250	136
W. S. Cent.	899	607	292	850	551	299	836	549	287
Mont.	52	38	14	49	36	13	50	36	14
Idaho	67	47	20	61	47	19	64	45	19
Wyo.	21	14	7	19	13	6	19	13	6
Colo.	64	48	16	62	45	17	60	45	15
N. Mex.	36	21	15	31	19	12	30	19	11
Ariz.	43	10	33	38	9	29	38	9	29
Utah	34	24	10	31	23	8	30	21	9
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	322	205	117	301	195	106	296	191	105
Wash.	125	82	43	116	77	39	116	77	39
Oreg.	102	69	33	99	68	31	98	67	31
Calif.	347	141	206	329	133	196	321	131	190
Pac.	574	292	282	544	278	266	535	275	260
U. S.	7016	5228	1788	6493	4767	1726	6352	4658	1694

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

B A S I S O F E S T I M A T E SFarm Employment

Farm employment estimates of the Statistical Reporting Service include all persons considered working on farms during specified periods, as follows:

(1) Farm family workers

- (a) Farm operators who do any farm work or chores on or for their farms during the designated survey week.
- (b) Other members of the farm operator's family or household who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the survey week without receiving cash wages, not counting housework. In sharecropper areas, croppers and members of their families are considered family workers when working their own crops, but as hired workers if earning cash wages during the survey week.

(2) Hired farm workers

Persons doing farm work for pay during the survey week. Members of the operator's family receiving cash wages for work on their farms are classed as hired workers.

Farm Wage Rates

Farm wage rates, published quarterly by the Statistical Reporting Service, are based on farmers' reports of average farm wage rates paid in their localities. Rates for different wage arrangements are reported. Composite rates per hour are derived by computing a weighted average of all rates. Piece rates for farm work are not reported because of the great diversity of kinds of rates involved. In conversion to composite hourly rates, however, weights for rates per hour without board or room, are increased to allow for piece rate work. This assumes that piece rates and hourly rates are approximately equivalent. Wage rates relate to cash wages only, exclusive of value of any perquisites furnished such as house, room, or meals.

Source of Data

A Nationwide sample of about 26,000 reports from farm operators representing many localities in each State provides monthly reports on farm employment on these farms and quarterly reports on farm wages. Data from Censuses of Agriculture and Population and enumerative sample surveys are important in determining the overall levels of employment estimates. Annual and seasonal changes involve estimates of changes in the number of farms and other factors determining farm work requirements.

The SRS farm employment estimates differ from those in the Monthly Report on the Labor Force (MRLF), published by the Department of Labor, owing to differences in definition, method, and survey timing. The MRLF data come from interviews in about 35,000 households, both nonfarm and farm, in a sampling pattern designed for National estimates of the labor force. All persons 14 years old or over in the civilian non-institutional population are considered. This report excludes from farm totals all children below 14 years of age and persons who do some farm work but mostly nonfarm. Included as farm workers by MRLF but not by SRS are some persons on farms such as typists, bookkeepers, and certain agricultural processors, and also farm operators doing no work during the survey period but who have no other job.

The SRS basic data come from the farm operator on the monthly general farm report for his farm and locality (a mailed questionnaire). He reports the number of persons working on his farm during the survey week regardless of age or other employment. Census of Agriculture and other bench mark data used by SRS involve duplication of workers who are counted on more than one farm. The MRLF report covers the week ending nearest the 15th; the SRS report, the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month. Both surveys are subject to sampling variation.

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