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Farm Labor

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FARM WORK PROGRESS GOOD AUGUST WORKER FORCE SMALLEST OF RECORD

Most farmers reported their work in reasonably good order in late August as the crop season moved ahead. The number of persons doing farm work in the survey week of August 18-24, a force of 7,641,000 workers, was 4 percent under a year earlier and lowest of record for this time of year. The good status of work in previous months and unhurried maturing of cotton and of some fruit and vegetable crops may have contributed to the decrease in worker numbers as compared with previous years.

Farm families supplied 5,090,000 workers for tasks during the survey week on the Nation's more than 3.5 million farms. This was almost 6 percent less than the comparable 1962 August total, and a new low for the period. Decreases from a year earlier were shown in all geographic regions. Fairs and farm shows were in season, and farm youth again took their place in these events. Getting ready for school took precedence among things to be done.

Hired farm workers employed in the August survey week totaled 2,551,000 persons--2 percent under a year earlier. This also was a new low for August. Reductions from a year earlier were relatively largest in Pacific Coast States, but these were in large part offset by the larger forces elsewhere, especially in leading tobacco areas of South Atlantic and East South Central States. Tobacco harvest and marketing has been slower than last year in these areas, with more labor required in the August period than in 1962.

Record Cotton Per Acre Yields Aid Harvest Efficiency

The Department's cotton estimate as of September 1 was 14,310,000 bales--up 2 percent from a month earlier, but 4 percent less than in 1962. Improved prospects during August in Mississippi and Texas helped in more than offsetting drought damage in some other States. The prospective yield average is a record high of 482 pounds per acre. Harvest to September 1 has been slower than last year. The Bureau of the Census reports 11 percent less cotton ginned this year to September 1 than the almost 1.5 million bales ginned by September 1, 1962.

Harvest Scenes Shift to Later Phases

In late August many farmers were busy with harvest activities; others were already working fields or seeding fall crops for next year.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

Pacific Coast fruit producers continued the harvest of their specialties that will add color to the Nation's food markets. In California the picking of free-stone peaches, nectarines, and plums shifted to later varieties. Harvest of clingstone peaches progressed, and Bartlett pears were moving from later-maturing districts in the State. Fig harvest increased near Fresno, the principal growing area. In the extensive vineyards of the Central Valley, Thompson Seedless grapes were being picked. Mild weather and cool temperatures slowed maturity generally, but large volume harvest of grapes for raisins and of prunes and almonds were expected early in September. In Oregon, blackberry picking was starting. Harvest of Bartlett pears was well underway in the Hood River and Medford areas. Mint harvest continued, and harvesting of hops started. In Washington, the harvest of bushberry crops continued and increased in volume. In tree fruit areas, the pear harvest was a principal activity. The harvest of small grains in the far Northwest made excellent progress during August, and was virtually completed by the end of the month.

In the Mountain State areas, ranchers were working to complete harvest of hay and small grains. Montana winter wheat was nearly all harvested by late August--well ahead of last year--and harvest of other small grains was well along. Wyoming ranchers were completing harvest of an adequate supply of hay for winter feeding. In Idaho the harvest of dry peas and seed crops was nearing completion in early localities, but it was in beginning stages at high elevations. Harvest of potatoes and onions made good progress. In Colorado's San Luis Valley, some earlier fields of potatoes were dug, and lettuce harvest continued. Harvest of onions, cantaloupes, and watermelons continued in the Arkansas Valley, and peaches were being picked in the Grand Junction area. In Arizona and New Mexico, cotton harvest was started on a limited scale. Planting of cabbage and other vegetables continued in irrigated valleys, and the Arizona lemon harvest made a slow start.

Texas farm work featured the highly varied progress of the cotton harvest on the State's nearly six million acres of this crop. By the end of August over one-fourth of the State's large crop was opened and ready for picking; about one-fifth was already out of the fields. In the Lower Valley, harvest was pushed to completion before the August 31 final plowup date, but in the High Plains, harvest was only well started. The State's corn harvest, hurried by dry weather, was nearly two-thirds completed by late August. Rice harvest moved swiftly to past the half-way mark. In the Nation's principal goat area, the Edwards Plateau, shearing neared completion. Oklahoma cotton harvest was starting in the southern part of the State, and other work included field preparation for seeding fall grains and the corn and sorghum harvest. Combining of Louisiana rice made excellent progress, and harvest of cotton and sweet potatoes continued. Progress of cotton harvest in Arkansas was held back by dry weather, but limited hand picking had started. Preparations were being made for rice combining.

In South Central States, cotton and tobacco harvests were important. Mississippi cotton opened somewhat later than last year, but harvest had begun in all areas. In Alabama, light machine-picking was underway in Southern counties and first bales were reported in a number of northern counties. Harvesting of peanuts was increasing. By August 24 about 12 percent of the expected production had been dug. In Kentucky and Tennessee, growers continued topping, suckering, and spraying tobacco. By August 24th nearly half of the Tennessee Burley and a fourth of the dark-fired tobacco had been cut and barned. In Kentucky, only about 15 percent of Burley crop had been cut compared with 30 percent last year. Harvesting late crop hays and cutting silage corn were active on many farms throughout the South Central area.

(Continued on page 7)

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

	: Annual : average : 1957-61 1/	: Annual: : average : 1961	: Annual: : average : 1962	: August : average : 1957-61 1/	: Aug. : 19-25 : 1962	: Aug. : 18-24 : 1963
FARM EMPLOYMENT						
(Thousands)						
Total	7,284	6,919	6,700	8,675	7,993	7,641
Family labor	5,353	5,029	4,873	5,881	5,383	5,090
Hired labor	1,931	1,890	1,827	2,794	2,610	2,551
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	54	51	49	54	50	48
Family labor	53	49	48	53	48	46
Hired labor	57	56	54	57	54	52
(1957-59=100)						
Total	98	93	90	98	90	86
Family labor	98	91	88	97	89	84
Hired labor	98	96	93	99	93	91

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 1/	\$ 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 house92	.90	.95	.98
Per hour without board or room	1.01	.99	1.06	1.09
INDEXES 2/				
(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, August 1963
(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	August Average			August 1962			August 1963		
	1957-61 1/			Week of 19-25			Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	47	24	23	35	21	14	36	20	16
N. H.	16	11	5	13	8	5	13	9	4
Vt.	31	22	9	23	18	5	23	18	5
Mass.	48	27	21	40	20	20	40	20	20
R. I.	7	5	2	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	33	19	14	34	20	14	31	16	15
N. Eng.	182	108	74	149	90	59	146	85	61
N. Y.	225	121	104	188	106	82	178	104	74
N. J.	66	31	35	60	27	33	57	24	33
Pa.	253	195	58	208	167	41	196	154	42
M. Atl.	544	347	197	456	300	156	431	282	149
Ohio	267	207	60	238	189	49	235	180	55
Ind.	239	200	39	213	182	31	199	167	32
Ill.	261	201	60	242	189	53	231	183	48
Mich.	282	204	78	245	187	58	261	185	76
Wis.	345	298	47	310	270	40	301	260	41
E. N. Cent.	1394	1110	284	1248	1017	231	1227	975	252
Minn.	331	265	66	315	251	64	305	242	63
Iowa	333	272	61	320	260	60	330	264	66
Mo.	350	273	77	321	251	70	294	239	55
N. Dak.	138	96	42	132	93	39	121	86	35
S. Dak.	118	93	25	116	90	26	102	81	21
Nebr.	178	143	35	173	138	35	163	129	34
Kans.	198	150	48	184	139	45	163	127	36
W. N. Cent.	1646	1292	354	1561	1222	339	1478	1168	310
Del.	17	9	8	18	9	9	15	8	7
Md.	78	46	32	74	46	28	67	43	24
Va.	234	151	83	219	137	82	196	122	74
W. Va.	85	71	14	76	62	14	65	54	11
N. C.	669	458	211	629	422	207	666	416	250
S. C.	266	174	92	228	145	83	225	137	88
Ga.	218	157	61	189	132	57	200	136	64
Fla.	101	49	52	93	43	50	94	41	53
S. Atl.	1668	1115	553	1526	996	530	1528	957	571
Ky.	285	210	75	284	191	93	285	190	95
Tenn.	270	191	79	242	172	70	248	168	80
Ala.	148	115	33	131	98	33	113	84	29
Miss.	298	223	75	261	198	63	216	155	61
E. S. Cent.	1001	739	262	918	659	259	862	597	265
Ark.	255	126	129	228	106	122	222	98	124
La.	183	95	88	173	88	85	179	83	96
Okla.	172	120	52	156	103	53	149	106	43
Tex.	518	280	238	495	265	230	449	242	207
W. S. Cent.	1128	621	507	1052	562	490	999	529	470
Mont.	60	41	19	63	41	22	57	38	19
Idaho	92	57	35	91	58	33	87	54	33
Wyo.	25	17	8	22	15	7	23	15	8
Colo.	89	60	29	92	64	28	74	49	25
N. Mex.	43	23	20	37	23	14	37	21	16
Ariz.	44	11	33	35	9	26	33	9	24
Utah	42	28	14	41	28	13	38	26	12
Nev.	7	4	3	7	4	3	6	4	2
Mount.	402	241	161	388	242	146	355	216	139
Wash.	151	86	65	153	89	64	135	79	56
Oreg.	118	66	52	132	68	64	116	63	53
Calif.	441	156	285	410	138	272	364	139	225
Pac.	710	308	402	695	295	400	615	281	334
U.S.	8675	5881	2794	7993	5383	2610	7641	5090	2551

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,
June and July 1963 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual Average			June 1963			July 1963		
	1962			Week of 23-29			Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	19	12	38	24	14	38	22	16
N. H.	10	7	3	12	8	4	13	9	4
Vt.	24	19	5	26	20	6	28	21	7
Mass.	32	20	12	39	22	17	40	20	20
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	4	3	1
Conn.	25	16	9	34	17	17	36	18	18
N. Eng.	126	84	42	152	93	59	159	93	66
N. Y.	153	101	52	171	103	68	171	107	64
N. J.	41	23	18	52	23	29	60	25	35
Pa.	171	141	30	200	156	44	194	156	38
M. Atl.	365	265	100	423	282	141	425	288	137
Ohio	226	192	34	260	200	60	248	200	48
Ind.	206	131	25	248	208	40	228	186	42
Ill.	241	191	50	304	219	85	275	206	69
Mich.	206	166	40	270	196	74	255	182	73
Wis.	266	238	28	287	250	37	298	263	35
E. N. Cent.	1145	968	177	1369	1073	296	1304	1037	267
Minn.	261	221	40	346	260	86	362	272	90
Iowa	288	246	42	359	280	79	377	276	101
Mo.	266	227	39	303	238	65	284	233	51
N. Dak.	88	69	19	98	75	23	124	86	38
S. Dak.	88	77	11	101	83	18	105	83	22
Nebr.	153	130	23	169	135	34	193	147	46
Kans.	152	128	24	193	143	50	193	136	57
W. N. Cent.	1296	1098	198	1569	1214	355	1638	1233	405
Del.	12	7	5	16	9	7	15	7	8
Md.	56	38	18	70	41	29	70	45	25
Va.	177	127	50	205	114	91	218	118	100
W. Va.	64	53	11	76	55	21	65	53	12
N. C.	397	295	102	496	312	184	678	350	328
S. C.	178	117	61	212	131	81	242	137	105
Ga.	160	115	45	159	103	56	178	120	58
Fla.	122	44	78	112	43	69	91	40	51
S. Atl.	1166	796	370	1346	808	538	1557	870	687
Ky.	232	182	50	273	182	91	246	163	83
Tenn.	229	178	51	259	184	75	243	165	78
Ala.	138	103	35	126	101	25	109	84	25
Miss.	225	160	65	223	163	60	190	145	45
E. S. Cent.	824	623	201	881	630	251	788	557	231
Ark.	195	110	85	224	116	108	217	100	117
La.	144	87	57	148	82	66	141	70	71
Okla.	149	119	30	159	129	30	152	113	39
Texas	415	243	172	471	298	173	554	287	267
W. S. Cent.	903	559	344	1002	625	377	1064	570	494
Mont.	48	36	12	57	36	21	65	37	28
Idaho	67	48	19	87	52	35	95	55	40
Wyo.	19	13	6	26	15	11	26	15	11
Colo.	67	48	19	85	51	34	75	49	26
N. Mex.	36	21	15	36	21	15	41	21	20
Ariz.	40	10	30	40	9	31	34	9	25
Utah	33	24	9	42	25	17	40	25	15
Nev.	5	3	2	7	4	3	6	4	2
Mount.	315	203	112	380	213	167	382	215	167
Wash.	111	74	37	173	100	73	155	89	66
Oreg.	97	67	30	136	76	60	130	74	56
Calif.	352	136	216	364	135	229	363	135	228
Pac.	560	277	283	673	311	362	648	298	350
U. S.	6700	4873	1827	7795	5245	2546	7965	5161	2804

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

Average number of persons working on farms, January through August 1963
by regions and States, with comparisons 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January through Aug. average 1957-61			January through Aug. 1962			January through Aug. 1963		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Maine	37	22	15	30	20	10	31	20
N. H.	14	10	4	11	8	3	10	7	3
Vt.	31	23	8	25	20	5	25	19	6
Mass.	40	25	15	33	21	12	32	20	12
R. I.	5	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	27	18	9	26	16	10	26	16	10
N. Eng.	154	101	53	128	87	41	127	84	43
N. Y.	172	110	62	153	100	53	144	95	49
N. J.	48	28	20	44	24	20	42	22	20
Pa.	207	169	38	175	145	30	166	137	29
M. Atl.	427	307	120	372	269	103	352	254	98
Ohio	250	212	38	229	194	35	218	183	35
Ind.	231	205	26	212	188	24	204	179	25
Ill.	255	202	53	242	189	53	237	186	51
Mich.	235	191	44	215	173	42	215	171	44
Wis.	302	272	30	274	247	27	266	238	28
E. N. Cent.	1273	1082	191	1172	991	181	1140	957	183
Minn.	291	247	44	276	230	46	272	229	43
Iowa	299	257	42	295	249	46	290	246	44
Mo.	276	237	39	261	223	38	252	217	35
N. Dak.	99	77	22	91	71	20	88	70	18
S. Dak.	97	84	13	90	78	12	88	77	11
Nebr.	162	136	26	157	132	25	148	124	24
Kans.	169	140	29	157	130	27	154	127	27
W. N. Cent.	1393	1178	215	1327	1113	214	1292	1090	202
Del.	12	7	5	12	7	5	12	7	5
Md.	61	40	21	57	38	19	55	37	18
Va.	201	142	59	183	127	56	172	119	53
W. Va.	74	60	14	64	52	12	58	47	11
N. C.	443	321	122	412	294	118	418	288	130
S. C.	203	130	73	177	110	67	169	109	60
Ga.	181	133	48	155	111	44	144	100	44
Fla.	124	51	73	125	44	81	125	44	81
S. Atl.	1299	884	415	1185	783	402	1153	751	402
Ky.	231	182	49	223	171	52	223	170	53
Tenn.	228	176	52	204	157	47	210	158	52
Ala.	134	105	29	119	90	29	115	89	26
Miss.	232	181	51	201	149	52	196	143	53
E. S. Cent.	825	644	181	747	567	180	744	560	184
Ark.	205	123	82	188	106	82	186	101	85
La.	144	88	56	136	82	54	133	78	55
Okla.	161	131	30	148	120	28	143	118	25
Texas	418	267	151	403	244	159	394	249	145
W. S. Cent.	928	609	319	875	552	323	856	546	310
Mont.	54	39	15	50	36	14	50	36	14
Idaho	70	48	22	69	48	21	67	46	21
Wyo.	21	14	7	19	13	6	21	14	7
Colo.	66	49	17	66	48	18	61	45	16
N. Mex.	38	22	16	32	20	12	30	19	11
Ariz.	43	10	33	38	9	29	38	9	29
Utah	35	25	10	33	24	9	32	22	10
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	332	210	122	312	201	111	304	194	110
Wash.	129	83	46	121	79	42	118	77	41
Oreg.	103	68	35	103	68	35	101	67	34
Calif.	359	143	216	339	134	205	327	132	195
Pac.	591	294	297	563	281	282	546	276	270
U. S.	7222	5309	1913	6681	4844	1837	6514	4712	1802

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

By late August the tobacco harvest in North Carolina, although well along, was lagging behind the stage reached a year earlier. By August 24 over 60 percent of the flue-cured crop had been harvested as compared with 85 percent at the same time last year. Only about 15 percent of the Burley crop had been harvested. In Virginia, pulling of flue-cured tobacco continued to lag behind recent years but by the end of August was more than one-fourth completed. Burley harvest made slow progress. The continued drought reduced growth of hay crops, and farmers put away all they could cut. Some livestock were marketed to decrease purchase of expensive out-of-State hay. In West Virginia, harvest of the Elberta peach crop reached its peak during the farm labor survey week, and the harvest of late summer apple varieties neared completion. In South Carolina grading and tying of tobacco and tobacco marketing occupied some growers. Cotton picking increased in down-State areas. In Georgia, cutting hay and harvesting of cotton and peanuts were principal farm jobs over most of the State. Florida citrus work was limited to grove care, but in vegetable areas growers were making additional planting of fall vegetables.

In North Central States farmers had favorable weather for field work and generally were well up with seasonal work demands. Harvesting of late cuttings of hay were being completed and latest small grain fields were harvested in Northern sections. In the vast spreads of the cornfields, forage harvesters began their invasion, chopping large tonnages destined for winter feed as silage. About 10 percent of Indiana silos were reported filled by the end of August, a little less than usual. Fall plowing also has started in many farms, and is about up to usual stage. In Michigan, cool weather has delayed fruit maturity in northern counties, but harvests of peaches and pears are progressing. Blueberry harvest was about three-fourths completed in the Benton Harbor area. In Minnesota, two-thirds of State flax acreage had been combined by the end of August, and sweet corn harvesting was about one-half complete in the major producing commercial area. In Iowa, more than 15 percent of the fall plowing had been completed. In Missouri, dry weather hastened cotton maturity in Southeastern "bootheel" counties and picking was started on a limited scale. North Dakota hard wheat was over 90 percent combined by August 27, durum harvest was only slightly less advanced. About a third of the flax had been combined, much ahead of last year's delayed harvest. South Dakota flax crop was approximately 85 percent harvested, also ahead of last year. Many farmers in the Central and Western part of this State already had cut drought-hit corn for silage. Fall plowing in South Dakota is ahead of schedule. In Nebraska, harvesting of third cutting alfalfa hay was completed in many counties and cutting of fourth crops started in irrigated areas. Seeding of winter wheat and rye started on a limited scale in the southern Panhandle southwestern counties. In Kansas, silo filling was active and harvesting of seed from alfalfa and red clover. Fall seeding of new alfalfa fields had started.

In New England, the blueberry harvest reached the last stage by the end of the month. Movement of sweet corn to canneries was at its height. Snap beans were being canned and large crops of peas frozen, somewhat earlier than usual. A good tobacco crop was moving into sheds in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts and Connecticut. In New York, potato digging on Long Island was very active. Picking of snap beans passed the peak stage but continued in most growing areas of the State. Harvest of peaches was active in the Hudson Valley, as was picking of early Macintosh apples. In New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware potato digging increased in volume. In Pennsylvania harvest of apples and peaches continued and in the Lancaster county tobacco area, harvest was started on early planted fields.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES DIVISION
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