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Farm Labor

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DRY OCTOBER RESULTS FALL HARVEST WORK
ACTIVE WORKING FORCE TOTALS 7.6 MILLION

Release:
November 12, 1963
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

Large 1963 crops made fast progress toward protective storage or use in October during one of the driest months on record. Successive weeks of open weather speeded maturity of late crops and helped farmers get them out of the fields fast and early. By the survey week of October 20-26, many farmers were well toward the end of major harvests.

The number of persons working on farms in late October reached 7,569,000. This was the smallest of record for the month, although only slightly below October 1962. Farm operators and family members numbered 5,382,000. This was almost as many as a year earlier, but the lowest on record for the period by a small margin.

The number of hired workers employed on farms in the survey week of October 20-26 totaled 2,187,000 persons. This was 1 percent less than in October 1962, and lowest of record for October by the same amount. The decrease in number of workers--both family and hired--in relation to the corresponding period last year was slightly less in October than in previous months during the year. Harvest season is "payoff" time for the entire season on many a farm, and there was no let-up in work pressure, even though harvests of cotton, soybeans, fruit, and some other crops were well along in many areas at the beginning of October.

Drought throughout the eastern half of the nation deferred many seedings of fall and winter grain crops and forage and cover crops, and forced water hauling on some farms as stock ponds dried and wells failed. When "old-timers" in many eastern sections called it the longest dry stretch ever, there were weather reports to back them up. However, even though rains would have been welcome, the unusually dry season did help with harvest of the generally large crops ready for storage.

No Advance in Cotton Hand-Harvest Rates

Wage rates paid for hand harvest of the 1963 cotton crop, as reported November 1, averaged \$2.70 per 100 pounds of seed cotton. This average rate, the same as last year's, has been equalled or exceeded in 9 of the previous 18 years, as shown in the table on page 7. State averages show only small changes from last year, with rates varying from \$2.45 per 100 pounds in Texas to \$3.40 in Arizona. Moderate increases in Arizona and New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Statistical Reporting Service
La 1 (11-63)

Crop Reporting Board
Washington, D. C.

over last year reflect increases in production of long-staple cotton. Hand harvest rates as reported include boll snapping on the basis of equivalent seed cotton.

The 1963 cotton crop bulked even larger as October harvest progressed. The November 1 estimate moved up 3 percent to 15,322,000 bales. About two-thirds of the crop had been ginned by November 1, more than the usual percentage. The yield per acre of 516 pounds of lint makes the 1963 crop the first to pass the bale-to-the-acre mark. Good weather for picking this bumper crop helped workers' earnings even though average picking rates failed to increase with general farm wages. The composite farm wage rate on October 1, 1963, was nearly 4 percent above a year earlier. Machines are picking a larger part of the cotton crop this year than ever before, making significant gains in every major cotton area. Good weather for machine operation and continuing advances in machine adaptation and operating methods have reduced competition for services of hand pickers.

Harvest Speed Shown in October Farm Work

In many sections of the Nation, October 1963 gave farmers an opportunity to demonstrate new high rates of speed in completing harvests. This year's corn crop is an outstanding example. It is a giant crop, the first to top 4 billion bushels, with a new record average yield per acre. During October, harvest of corn for grain in the main Corn Belt areas moved from just starting to well past the peak of harvest. In Illinois, corn was 85 percent picked by the end of October. About one-fourth of the entire Illinois crop was picked in a single 7-day period toward the end of the month. Corn picking in other States made correspondingly swift progress. One problem in picker operations was to avoid the excessive dryness to minimize field loss. Corn harvest throughout most areas outside the main Corn Belt also moved much ahead of normal stage.

Soybean harvest was about completed in principal areas in October, except for late plantings and an occasional weedy field where combining was postponed, awaiting a weed-killing frost. Sorghum grain harvest reached over 90 percent completion in Texas, over 85 percent in Kansas, and 70 percent in Oklahoma. Rice harvest was virtually completed early in the month in Texas and Louisiana. The Louisiana sugarcane harvest started in mid-October and was about one-fourth completed in the month.

Sugar beet harvest was well along in most leading producing areas, even though held at a controlled pace because warm weather prevented excessive stock-piling of beets.

Fruit harvest was nearly completed in most leading areas by November 1. Only late varieties remained in the irrigated apple-producing valleys of Washington and Oregon. Few California grapes remained for fresh use at the end of the month, but the harvest for wine crushing was just passing its peak.

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

	: Annual : : average : : 1957-61 1/:	Annual: average: 1961 :	Annual: average: 1962 :	October : average : 1957-61 1/:	Oct. : 21-27 : 1962 :	Oct. : 20-26 : 1963 :
FARM EMPLOYMENT						
(Thousands)						
Total	7,284	6,919	6,700	8,447	7,598	7,569
Family labor	5,353	5,029	4,873	6,032	5,395	5,382
Hired labor	1,931	1,890	1,827	2,415	2,203	2,187
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	54	51	49	54	48	48
Family labor	53	49	48	52	47	47
Hired labor	57	56	54	57	52	51
(1957-59=100)						
Total	98	93	90	97	87	87
Family labor	98	91	88	97	86	86
Hired labor	98	96	93	98	89	89

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, October 1, 1963, United States

	: Annual : : average : : 1962 :	October : average : 1957-61 :	October : 1, 1962 :	Oct. 1, 1963 :
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 0.856	\$ 0.804	\$ 0.868	\$ 0.898
Per month with house	200	180	198	204
Per month with board and room	155	142	155	159
Per week with board and room	37.00	34.75	37.25	38.25
Per week without board or room	47.75	42.50	46.00	47.75
Per day with house	5.60	5.20	5.70	5.80
Per day with board and room	6.70	6.10	6.50	6.80
Per day without board or room	6.90	6.70	7.20	7.50
Per hour with house92	.98	1.04	1.07
Per hour without board or room	1.01	.89	.95	.99
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)	658	619	658	681
(1957-59=100)	112	106	113	117

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, October 1963
(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	October Average			October 1962			October 1963		
	1957-61 1/			Week of 21-27			Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	45	23	22	29	19	10	30	20	10
N. H.	14	10	4	11	7	4	10	7	3
Vt.	29	21	8	23	18	5	23	18	5
Mass.	40	23	17	37	21	16	29	18	11
R. I.	6	3	3	4	3	1	2	1	1
Conn.	29	18	11	25	15	10	20	14	6
N. Eng.	163	98	65	129	83	46	114	78	36
N. Y.	182	117	65	161	107	54	151	103	48
N. J.	51	27	24	40	25	15	35	21	14
Pa.	209	168	41	177	145	32	165	135	30
M. Atl.	442	312	130	378	277	101	351	259	92
Ohio	269	227	42	236	200	36	241	200	41
Ind.	224	189	35	206	174	32	219	174	45
Ill.	271	219	52	264	208	56	272	216	56
Mich.	219	172	47	198	156	42	202	158	44
Wis.	276	242	34	249	216	33	246	215	31
E. N. Cent.	1259	1049	210	1153	954	199	1180	963	217
Minn.	261	230	31	243	216	27	256	230	26
Iowa	314	276	38	298	259	39	320	278	42
Mo.	323	259	64	302	245	57	311	253	58
N. Dak.	94	74	20	86	67	19	81	67	14
S. Dak.	98	86	12	91	80	11	91	80	11
Nebr.	161	139	22	162	139	23	157	135	22
Kans.	174	153	21	166	144	22	151	135	16
W. N. Cent.	1425	1217	208	1348	1150	198	1367	1178	189
Del.	13	8	5	12	7	5	11	7	4
Md.	60	40	20	57	40	17	54	39	15
Va.	205	153	52	182	138	44	207	152	55
W. Va.	76	65	11	67	57	10	61	52	9
N. C.	463	369	94	400	322	78	439	335	104
S. C.	220	160	60	205	153	52	181	131	50
Ga.	254	188	66	204	150	54	206	156	50
Fla.	121	51	70	118	48	70	113	49	64
S. Atl.	1412	1034	378	1245	915	330	1272	921	351
Ky.	318	263	55	279	226	53	300	246	54
Tenn.	415	320	95	353	275	78	360	264	96
Ala.	293	218	75	233	171	62	252	181	71
Miss.	404	265	139	334	212	122	308	194	114
E. S. Cent.	1430	1066	364	1199	884	315	1220	885	335
Ark.	304	172	132	259	133	126	255	132	123
La.	222	123	99	193	98	95	198	101	97
Okla.	195	143	52	173	126	47	163	125	38
Tex.	536	283	253	530	260	270	459	232	227
W. S. Cent.	1257	721	536	1155	617	538	1075	590	485
Mont.	53	40	13	49	39	10	50	39	11
Idaho	77	54	23	73	53	20	80	57	23
Wyo.	22	15	7	20	13	7	21	14	7
Colo.	83	55	28	81	53	28	77	49	28
N. Mex.	59	30	29	59	28	31	56	26	30
Ariz.	65	11	54	44	11	33	42	9	33
Utah	41	27	14	35	26	9	33	24	9
Nev.	6	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	3
Mount.	406	235	171	367	226	141	365	221	144
Wash.	109	72	37	100	69	31	104	71	33
Oreg.	85	66	19	95	71	24	87	64	23
Calif.	459	162	297	429	149	280	434	152	282
Pac.	653	300	353	624	289	335	625	287	338
U. S.	8447	6032	2415	7598	5395	2203	7569	5382	2187

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,
August and September 1963 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual Average			August 1963			September 1963		
	1962			Week of 13-24			Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	19	12	36	20	16	61	21	40
N. H.	10	7	3	13	9	4	13	8	5
Vt.	24	19	5	23	18	5	25	19	6
Mass.	32	20	12	40	20	20	35	20	15
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	16	9	31	16	15	22	14	8
N. Eng.	126	84	42	146	85	61	159	84	75
N. Y.	153	101	52	178	104	74	176	109	67
N. J.	41	23	18	57	24	33	48	25	23
Pa.	171	141	30	196	154	42	188	149	39
M. Atl.	365	265	100	431	282	149	412	283	129
Ohio	226	192	34	235	180	55	230	175	55
Ind.	206	181	25	199	167	32	206	166	40
Ill.	241	191	50	231	183	48	258	203	55
Mich.	206	166	40	261	185	76	218	167	51
Wis.	266	238	28	301	260	41	272	229	43
E. N. Cent.	1145	968	177	1227	975	252	1184	940	244
Minn.	261	221	40	305	242	63	265	225	40
Iowa	288	246	42	330	264	66	308	259	49
Mo.	266	227	39	294	239	55	345	274	71
N. Dak.	88	69	19	121	86	35	101	77	24
S. Dak.	88	77	11	102	81	21	92	79	13
Nebr.	153	130	23	163	129	34	150	123	27
Kans.	152	128	24	163	127	36	171	145	26
W. N. Cent.	1296	1098	198	1478	1168	310	1432	1182	250
Del.	12	7	5	15	8	7	13	7	6
Md.	56	38	18	67	43	24	60	43	17
Va.	177	127	50	196	122	74	216	144	72
W. Va.	64	53	11	65	54	11	71	59	12
N. C.	397	295	102	666	416	250	555	409	146
S. C.	178	117	61	225	137	88	222	147	75
Ga.	160	115	45	200	136	64	252	168	84
Fla.	122	44	78	94	41	53	117	59	58
S. Atl.	1166	796	370	1528	957	571	1506	1036	470
Ky.	232	182	50	285	190	95	316	222	94
Tenn.	229	178	51	248	168	80	346	241	105
Ala.	138	103	35	113	84	29	224	162	62
Miss.	225	160	65	216	155	61	350	201	149
E. S. Cent.	824	623	201	662	597	265	1236	826	410
Ark.	195	110	85	222	98	124	287	143	144
La.	144	87	57	179	83	96	245	129	116
Okla.	149	119	30	149	106	43	170	127	43
Tex.	415	243	172	449	242	207	512	254	258
W. S. Cent.	903	559	344	999	529	470	1214	653	561
Mont.	48	36	12	57	38	19	56	41	15
Idaho	67	48	19	87	54	33	83	56	27
Wyo.	19	13	6	23	15	8	22	15	7
Colo.	67	48	19	74	49	25	80	49	31
N. Mex.	36	21	15	37	21	16	42	22	20
Ariz.	40	10	30	33	9	24	39	9	30
Utah	33	24	9	38	26	12	43	29	14
Nev.	5	3	2	6	4	2	7	4	3
Mount.	315	203	112	355	216	139	372	225	147
Wash.	111	74	37	135	79	56	111	74	37
Oreg.	97	67	30	116	63	53	92	61	31
Calif.	352	136	216	364	139	225	472	162	310
Pac.	560	277	283	615	281	334	675	297	378
U. S.	6700	4873	1827	7641	5090	2551	8190	5526	2664

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 October 1963
by regions and States, with comparisons 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January through Oct. : average 1957-61			January through Oct. : 1 9 6 2			January through Oct. : 1 9 6 3		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	41	23	18	32	20	12	34	20	14
N. H.	14	10	4	11	8	4	10	7	3
Vt.	30	22	8	25	19	5	25	19	6
Mass.	41	25	16	34	21	13	33	20	13
R. I.	5	3	2	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	28	18	10	26	16	10	24	15	9
N. Eng.	159	101	58	132	87	45	129	83	46
N. Y.	177	113	64	157	102	55	148	97	51
N. J.	49	27	22	44	24	20	42	22	20
Pa.	210	170	40	177	146	31	168	138	30
M. Atl.	436	310	126	378	272	106	358	257	101
Ohio	253	212	41	230	194	37	222	184	38
Ind.	232	202	30	211	184	27	205	177	28
Ill.	258	205	53	245	192	53	242	190	52
Mich.	234	189	45	214	171	43	214	170	44
Wis.	300	268	32	272	243	29	265	235	30
E. N. Cent.	1277	1076	201	1172	984	189	1148	956	192
Minn.	289	245	44	273	229	46	270	229	41
Iowa	302	260	42	296	251	45	295	251	44
Mo.	291	245	46	274	230	43	267	226	41
N. Dak.	100	78	22	93	72	21	88	70	18
S. Dak.	99	86	13	91	79	12	89	77	12
Nebr.	163	138	25	159	133	25	149	125	24
Kans.	171	143	28	159	132	27	155	130	25
W. N. Cent.	1415	1195	220	1345	1126	219	1313	1108	205
Del.	13	8	5	13	8	5	12	7	5
Md.	61	40	21	57	38	19	56	38	18
Va.	204	144	60	183	129	54	180	125	55
W. Va.	76	62	14	66	54	12	60	49	11
N. C.	457	339	118	419	307	112	433	304	129
S. C.	211	139	72	188	122	66	175	115	60
Ga.	199	146	53	167	120	47	161	112	49
Fla.	123	52	71	123	45	78	123	46	77
S. Atl.	1344	930	414	1216	823	393	1200	796	404
Ky.	246	194	52	233	180	53	241	183	58
Tenn.	259	198	61	232	177	55	239	177	62
Ala.	163	125	38	142	104	37	139	105	34
Miss.	273	202	71	234	165	70	222	154	68
E. S. Cent.	941	719	222	841	626	215	841	619	222
Ark.	228	134	94	206	112	93	203	109	94
La.	164	97	67	153	90	64	150	85	65
Okla.	168	133	35	153	121	32	148	120	28
Texas	444	272	172	432	249	183	413	248	165
W. S. Cent.	1004	636	368	944	572	372	914	562	352
Mont.	54	39	15	51	38	14	51	37	14
Idaho	72	49	23	71	50	21	70	48	22
Wyo.	22	15	7	20	13	6	21	14	7
Colo.	71	51	20	70	49	20	65	46	19
N. Mex.	41	23	18	36	21	15	34	20	14
Ariz.	47	10	37	39	9	30	38	9	29
Utah	37	26	11	34	25	10	33	23	10
Nev.	6	4	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	350	217	133	326	208	118	317	200	117
Wash.	126	81	45	118	78	41	116	76	40
Oreg.	101	68	33	103	68	34	98	66	32
Calif.	382	148	234	362	139	223	352	137	215
Pac.	609	297	312	583	285	298	566	279	287
U. S.	7535	5481	2054	6937	4983	1955	6786	4860	1926

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

Average rates for hand harvesting 100 pounds of seed cotton, 1945-63 1/2

State	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Missouri	2.05	2.80	3.10	3.75	2.95	3.00	3.10	3.85	3.25	3.45	3.40	3.30	3.00	3.15	3.35	3.10	3.00	3.10	3.10
Virginia	2.20	2.70	2.75	2.85	2.55	2.90	3.05	3.20	3.00	2.90	2.90	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.95	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
North Carolina	2.30	2.85	2.95	3.10	2.70	2.85	3.35	3.50	3.35	3.15	3.25	3.40	3.15	3.20	3.40	3.35	3.40	3.40	3.35
South Carolina	1.75	2.25	2.25	2.50	2.25	2.35	3.00	2.75	2.45	2.45	2.50	2.60	2.45	2.45	2.70	2.70	2.75	2.75	2.70
Georgia	1.70	2.30	2.35	2.45	2.20	2.45	3.00	3.05	2.90	2.65	2.75	2.80	2.65	2.65	2.85	2.95	2.80	2.80	2.85
Florida	1.75	2.30	2.30	2.45	2.20	2.45	3.30	3.15	3.05	3.05	3.25	3.15	2.90	2.95	3.05	3.20	3.10	3.00	3.10
Tennessee	1.95	2.50	2.60	2.95	2.75	2.70	2.80	3.15	2.75	2.75	2.95	2.75	2.80	2.75	3.15	2.95	2.90	2.90	2.95
Alabama	1.70	2.40	2.25	2.50	2.10	2.30	2.65	2.70	2.65	2.40	2.60	2.60	2.55	2.50	2.75	2.70	2.60	2.65	2.70
Mississippi	1.95	2.30	2.60	3.25	2.15	2.75	2.80	2.95	2.80	2.55	2.70	2.55	2.50	2.50	2.75	2.60	2.55	2.50	2.55
Arkansas	2.00	2.60	2.80	3.25	2.60	2.85	2.90	3.20	2.90	2.95	3.00	2.85	2.80	2.85	3.10	2.85	2.80	2.90	2.80
Louisiana	1.80	2.10	2.40	2.80	2.50	2.60	3.05	2.95	2.75	2.50	2.65	2.65	2.60	2.60	2.65	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
Oklahoma	1.90	2.60	2.60	2.65	2.35	2.65	2.90	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.80	2.55	2.50	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.70	2.80	2.80
Texas	1.95	2.50	2.75	2.65	2.65	2.45	3.00	2.90	2.65	2.55	2.55	2.35	2.35	2.45	2.45	2.40	2.35	2.50	2.45
New Mexico	1.95	2.60	2.60	2.50	2.10	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.35	2.35	2.30	2.30	2.35	2.25	2.35	2.35	2.50	2.70
Arizona	2.30	2.60	2.60	3.00	2.85	3.10	3.10	3.35	3.00	3.10	3.25	3.10	3.15	3.25	3.25	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.40
California	2.25	2.90	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.45	3.70	3.60	3.00	3.00	3.15	3.20	3.20	3.25	3.20	3.15	3.20	3.20	3.20
UNITED STATES	1.93	2.50	2.65	2.90	2.55	2.65	3.00	3.05	2.80	2.70	2.75	2.65	2.60	2.65	2.80	2.70	2.65	2.70	2.70

1/ Reported as of November 1. Includes boll snapping, on basis of equivalent seed cotton.

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