

# Farm Labor

DEC 13 1963

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## NOVEMBER FARM EMPLOYMENT DOWN 7 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

The number of farm workers during the week of November 17-23 totaled 5.6 million - 7 percent less than a year earlier and the smallest of record for this period. The family work force, consisting of farm operators and other family workers, was down 8 percent to 4.3 million. Hired farm employment during the week totaled 1.3 million - 5 percent below last year.

The decline in this month's working force is attributed mainly to an earlier than usual completion of fall harvest in most areas. Contributing factors were long periods of open weather, early crop maturity, and fast drying of crops to desirable storage levels. More machine power to use the good harvest conditions also has undoubtedly been a factor in 1963 harvest success. Larger or more versatile tractors, combines, pickers, diggers, balers, and machines of every type made shorter work of harvesting the large or record production of crops in many leading production areas of the nation.

Total farm employment ranged from slightly to moderately below November 1962 in all geographic regions except the South Atlantic, which equalled last year's level. Percentage decreases by regions were as follows: New England, 2; Middle Atlantic, 9; East North Central, 9; West North Central, 10; East South Central, 4; West South Central, 7; Mountain, 7; and Pacific, showing the greatest decline at 16.

Family workers made up about 77 percent of the total working force, the same as last year. The number of family workers, however, was down in all regions, with the Pacific States, down 12 percent, showing the greatest decrease. Percentage decreases in other regions were: Middle Atlantic, 8; East North Central, 8; West North Central, 9; South Atlantic, 10; East South Central, 8; and Mountain, 7.

The number of hired farm workers was up 31 percent in the South Atlantic States and 13 percent in the East South Central States. However, these increases were more than offset by declines in other regions, resulting in an overall 5 percent decline in the number of hired workers. Regional decreases, in percent, were: New England, 3; Middle Atlantic, 11; East North Central, 14; West North Central, 20; West South Central, 20; Mountain, 7; and Pacific, 19.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

Total farm employment for the 11 survey periods of January through November 1963 averaged 6,681,000 farm workers, compared with 6,858,000 for the same period in 1962. This decrease of 3 percent reflects declines in both the number of family and hired workers. Family workers averaged 4,811,000 and hired workers, 1,870,000 for the 11 survey periods in 1963, down 3 and 2 percent, respectively, from the corresponding 1962 averages.

Fall Harvest Active in Most Regions as End of this Year's Crop Season Draws Near

Weather during November was generally favorable for harvesting this year's bumper crops. Most of the 1963 record corn crop had been harvested except in a few localities. Cotton harvest was nearing completion in the Southeastern States with a little scrapping being done in a few areas. Texas was behind schedule in harvesting its cotton crop because of unusually late killing frost which delayed defoliation for full scale stripper harvest. In Kentucky and Tennessee, Burley tobacco stripping was still active but many growers had completed stripping. In Tennessee eighty percent of the crop had been stripped.

Sugarcane harvest was showing good progress in Louisiana and Florida. In Louisiana heavy winds and rains on November 9 and 10 downed much of the unharvested sugarcane, making it necessary to cut a large portion of the cane by hand. The necessity for hand cutting and wet fields have slowed harvest, which is now about two-thirds complete.

In Florida citrus harvest was increasing in volume. Picking of oranges rose sharply as more concentrate plants were opened. Harvest of grapefruit, oranges, and lemons was active in Arizona. In California navel orange harvest was well underway in the central districts, and lemon picking was progressing near Santa Barbara and San Bernardino. Harvest of deciduous fruits was generally successfully completed during earlier months.

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

	: Annual : average : 1957-61 1/	: Annual : average : 1961	: Annual : average : 1962	: November : average : 1957-61 1/	: Nov. : 18-24 : 1962	: Nov. : 17-23 : 1963
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total .....	7,284	6,919	6,700	6,632	6,069	5,607
Family labor .....	5,353	5,029	4,873	5,024	4,606	4,292
Hired labor .....	1,931	1,890	1,827	1,608	1,463	1,315
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total .....	54	51	49	53	48	45
Family labor .....	53	49	48	52	47	44
Hired labor .....	57	56	54	57	52	47
(1957-59=100)						
Total .....	98	93	90	96	88	81
Family labor .....	98	91	88	95	87	81
Hired labor .....	98	96	93	99	90	81

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	: Oct. 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 house .....	.92	.98	1.04	1.07
Per hour without board or room ..	1.01	.89	.95	.99
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100) .....	658	3/602	658	681
(1957-59=100) .....	112	3/104	113	117

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ Correction.

Workers on Farms, November 1963  
(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	November Average			November 1962			November 1963		
	1957-61 1/			Week of 18-24			Week of 17-23		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	20	11	25	18	7	27	17	10
N. H.	11	8	3	9	6	3	9	6	3
Vt.	27	20	7	22	17	5	25	18	7
Mass.	32	20	12	28	17	11	23	16	7
R. I.	6	3	3	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	22	16	6	20	14	6	19	14	5
N. Eng.	129	87	42	108	75	33	106	73	33
N. Y.	152	109	43	138	100	38	125	93	32
N. J.	38	24	14	32	20	12	27	18	9
Pa.	173	143	30	144	120	24	135	112	23
M. Atl.	363	276	87	314	240	74	287	223	64
Ohio	242	212	30	220	192	28	200	176	24
Ind.	203	181	22	194	174	20	169	153	16
Ill.	218	176	42	251	206	45	221	185	36
Mich.	186	154	32	174	145	29	169	144	25
Wis.	268	245	23	237	216	21	233	211	22
E. N. Cent.	1117	968	149	1076	933	143	992	869	123
Minn.	218	200	18	209	191	18	203	187	16
Iowa	276	245	31	278	245	33	248	222	26
Mo.	255	230	25	236	212	24	202	185	17
N. Dak.	71	60	11	65	56	9	58	50	8
S. Dak.	80	72	8	77	69	8	67	61	6
Nebr.	141	126	15	132	117	15	121	110	11
Kans.	143	130	13	129	118	11	114	104	10
W. N. Cent.	1184	1063	121	1126	1008	118	1013	919	94
Del.	11	7	4	10	6	4	10	6	4
Md.	51	36	15	48	36	12	46	34	12
Va.	180	138	42	163	125	38	156	118	38
W. Va.	67	57	10	59	50	9	50	43	7
N. C.	357	280	77	320	250	70	318	236	82
S. C.	162	112	50	144	99	45	117	86	31
Ga.	185	127	58	151	102	49	146	98	48
Fla.	128	46	82	121	41	80	127	42	85
S. Atl.	1141	803	338	1016	709	307	970	663	307
Ky.	253	208	45	251	206	45	244	201	43
Tenn.	304	247	57	257	212	45	262	215	47
Ala.	174	135	39	141	104	37	135	98	37
Miss.	245	187	58	235	180	55	186	138	48
E. S. Cent.	976	777	199	884	702	182	827	652	175
Ark.	208	131	77	173	107	66	151	98	53
La.	135	97	38	115	83	32	128	87	41
Okla.	150	122	28	132	108	24	128	109	19
Tex.	418	253	165	379	220	159	316	207	109
W. S. Cent.	911	603	308	799	518	281	723	501	222
Mont.	43	34	9	40	33	7	39	32	7
Idaho	51	39	12	53	40	13	51	38	13
Wyo.	16	11	5	15	10	5	14	9	5
Colo.	58	45	13	54	40	14	50	40	10
N. Mex.	44	22	22	39	22	17	36	17	19
Ariz.	64	10	54	47	10	37	45	8	37
Utah	28	23	5	27	22	5	25	20	5
Nev.	5	3	2	4	2	2	4	2	2
Mount.	309	187	122	279	179	100	264	166	98
Wash.	82	65	17	80	57	23	74	56	18
Oreg.	73	61	12	72	60	12	67	54	13
Calif.	347	134	213	315	125	190	284	116	168
Pac.	502	260	242	467	242	225	425	226	199
U. S.	6632	5024	1608	6069	4606	1463	5607	4292	1315

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,  
September and October 1963 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual Average			September 1963			October 1963		
	1962			Week of 22-28			Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	19	12	61	21	40	30	20	10
N. H.	10	7	3	13	8	5	10	7	3
Vt.	24	19	5	25	19	6	23	18	5
Mass.	32	20	12	35	20	15	29	18	11
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
Conn.	25	16	9	22	14	8	20	14	6
N. Eng.	126	84	42	159	84	75	114	78	36
N. Y.	153	101	52	176	109	67	151	103	48
N. J.	41	23	18	48	25	23	35	21	14
Pa.	171	141	30	188	149	39	165	135	30
M. Atl.	365	265	100	412	283	129	351	259	92
Ohio	226	192	34	230	175	55	241	200	41
Ind.	206	181	25	206	166	40	219	174	45
Ill.	241	191	50	258	203	55	272	216	56
Mich.	206	166	40	218	167	51	202	158	44
Wis.	266	238	28	272	229	43	246	215	31
E. N. Cent.	1145	968	177	1184	940	244	1180	963	217
Minn.	261	221	40	265	225	40	256	230	26
Iowa	288	246	42	308	259	49	320	278	42
Mo.	266	227	39	345	274	71	311	253	58
N. Dak.	88	69	19	101	77	24	81	67	14
S. Dak.	88	77	11	92	79	13	91	80	11
Nebr.	153	130	23	150	123	27	157	135	22
Kans.	152	128	24	171	145	26	151	135	16
W. N. Cent.	1296	1098	198	1432	1182	250	1367	1178	189
Del.	12	7	5	13	7	6	11	7	4
Md.	56	38	18	60	43	17	54	39	15
Va.	177	127	50	216	144	72	207	152	55
W. Va.	64	53	11	71	59	12	61	52	9
N. C.	397	295	102	555	409	146	439	335	104
S. C.	178	117	61	222	147	75	181	131	50
Ga.	160	115	45	252	168	84	206	156	50
Fla.	122	44	78	117	59	58	113	49	64
S. Atl.	1166	796	370	1506	1036	470	1272	921	351
Ky.	232	182	50	316	222	94	300	246	54
Tenn.	229	178	51	346	241	105	360	264	96
Ala.	138	103	35	224	162	62	252	181	71
Miss.	225	160	65	350	201	149	308	194	114
E. S. Cent.	824	623	201	1236	826	410	1220	885	335
Ark.	195	110	85	287	143	144	255	132	123
La.	144	87	57	245	129	116	198	101	97
Okla.	149	119	30	170	127	43	163	125	38
Tex.	415	243	172	512	254	258	459	232	227
W. S. Cent.	903	559	344	1214	653	561	1075	590	485
Mont.	48	36	12	56	41	15	50	39	11
Idaho	67	48	19	83	56	27	80	57	23
Wyo.	19	13	6	22	15	7	21	14	7
Colo.	67	48	19	80	49	31	77	49	28
N. Mex.	36	21	15	42	22	20	56	26	30
Ariz.	40	10	30	39	9	30	42	9	33
Utah	33	24	9	43	29	14	33	24	9
Nev.	5	3	2	7	4	3	6	3	3
Mount.	315	203	112	372	225	147	365	221	144
Wash.	111	74	37	111	74	37	104	71	33
Oreg.	97	67	30	92	61	31	87	64	23
Calif.	352	136	216	472	162	310	434	152	282
Pac.	560	277	283	675	297	378	625	287	338
U. S.	6700	4873	1827	8190	5526	2664	7569	5382	2187

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 November 1963  
by regions and States, with comparisons 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January through Nov. average 1957-61			January through Nov. 1962			January through Nov. 1963		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	40	22	18	32	20	12	33	20	13
N. H.	14	10	4	11	7	4	11	8	3
Vt.	30	22	8	24	19	5	25	19	6
Mass.	41	25	16	34	21	13	32	19	13
R. I.	5	3	2	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	27	18	9	25	16	9	24	15	9
N. Eng.	157	100	57	130	86	44	128	83	45
N. Y.	175	113	62	155	102	53	146	97	49
N. J.	48	27	21	43	24	19	40	21	19
Pa.	206	167	39	175	144	31	165	136	29
M. Atl.	429	307	122	373	270	103	351	254	97
Ohio	253	213	40	230	194	36	219	183	36
Ind.	229	200	29	209	183	26	202	175	27
Ill.	254	202	52	245	193	52	241	190	51
Mich.	230	186	44	210	168	42	210	167	43
Wis.	296	265	31	270	241	29	262	233	29
E.N.Cent.	1262	1066	196	1164	979	185	1134	948	186
Minn.	282	241	41	267	225	42	264	225	39
Iowa	299	258	41	294	250	44	290	248	42
Mo.	288	244	44	270	228	42	261	222	39
N. Dak.	98	77	21	90	70	20	85	68	17
S. Dak.	97	84	13	90	78	12	87	76	11
Nebr.	161	136	25	156	132	24	147	124	23
Kans.	168	142	26	156	131	25	152	128	24
W.N.Cent.	1393	1182	211	1323	1114	209	1286	1091	195
Del.	13	8	5	12	7	5	12	7	5
Md.	61	40	21	56	38	18	55	38	17
Va.	202	144	58	182	129	53	178	124	54
W. Va.	74	61	13	66	54	12	59	48	11
N. C.	448	334	114	410	302	108	423	298	125
S. C.	207	137	70	184	120	64	169	112	57
Ga.	198	144	54	165	118	47	160	111	49
Fla.	123	51	72	123	45	78	123	46	77
S. Atl.	1326	919	407	1198	813	385	1179	784	395
Ky.	247	196	51	235	182	53	241	185	56
Tenn.	263	202	61	234	180	54	241	180	61
Ala.	164	126	38	142	105	37	139	105	34
Miss.	270	200	70	234	166	68	219	152	67
E.S.Cent.	944	724	220	845	633	212	840	622	218
Ark.	226	133	93	203	112	91	199	108	91
La.	161	97	64	150	89	61	148	85	63
Okla.	166	132	34	151	120	31	146	119	27
Texas	442	271	171	427	246	181	403	244	159
W.S.Cent.	995	633	362	931	567	364	896	556	340
Mont.	53	39	14	50	37	13	49	36	13
Idaho	71	49	22	71	50	21	69	48	21
Wyo.	21	14	7	19	13	6	20	13	7
Colo.	70	51	19	68	48	20	64	46	18
N. Mex.	42	23	19	36	21	15	35	20	15
Ariz.	48	10	38	40	10	30	39	9	30
Utah	36	25	11	33	24	9	31	22	9
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	346	214	132	322	206	116	312	197	115
Wash.	124	80	44	115	76	39	112	74	38
Oreg.	98	67	31	100	68	32	96	65	31
Calif.	378	147	231	357	137	220	345	135	210
Pac.	600	294	306	572	281	291	553	274	279
U. S.	7452	5439	2013	6858	4949	1909	6679	4809	1870

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

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