

Farm Labor

Release
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FARM EMPLOYMENT UP AS SPRING WORK GAINS MOMENTUM

Farm employment during the survey week of April 19-25 was up 15 percent from a month earlier but was about 5 percent below the same period in 1963. The number of farm workers during the 1964 survey period totaled 6,098,000, of which 4,680,000 were family workers and 1,418,000 were hired workers. The number of family workers rose 11 percent above the previous month but dropped 4 percent below last year's level. The number of hired farm workers increased about 32 percent over March, but was down 8 percent from a year earlier. Total farm employment during April increased from March a little more than in recent years, mainly because of unusually cold weather accompanied by snow and rains during March which caused many farmers to get behind in their work.

Spring Planting Advancing Although Rains and Wet Soils Delay Work in Many Sections

Spring planting was lagging in many areas by late April, particularly in the Southeast where rains and wet ground delayed normal farm activity. This was in sharp contrast to a year earlier when weather was generally favorable for field work. Nevertheless, in several States planting equaled or exceeded normal progress. The following comments regarding farm activity and the proportion of a crop planted relate to the survey week of April 19-25.

Small Grains

Seeding of oats was 95 percent complete in Iowa and nearing completion in Illinois. However, work was 11 days behind in Ohio and two weeks behind normal in Indiana. In Ohio half the oat acreage was seeded and in Indiana seeding was 60 percent complete. In Michigan seeding of spring-grains was over one-half finished and was moving along in Minnesota and Wisconsin. However, rains during April limited field work in many areas of these States. Oat and spring barley plantings were 99 percent complete in Kansas. In the South, much of the acreage was heading out and some early seeded fields in Virginia were being cut for silage.

Farmers in Louisiana moved ahead in planting their 1964 rice crop. Seeding of the intended acreage was 35 percent complete. In Arkansas a few fields were water seeded. Planting has progressed rapidly in Texas but was considerably behind last spring. The seeded acreage had reached 53 percent of the intended acreage compared to 71 percent a year earlier. Aerial seeding of rice was very active in California.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Statistical Reporting Service

La 1 (5-64)

Crop Reporting Board

Washington, D. C.

Corn and Soybeans

Farmers in the western Corn Belt made considerable progress in plowing and preparing land for corn and soybeans. However, rains and wet soils in the eastern Corn Belt have delayed field work and on many farms in this area operations are running well behind last season. In Missouri planting was later than usual but was underway, with 11 percent of the corn acreage planted. Iowa farmers made considerable progress in preparing fields for planting corn and soybeans, with plowing 75 percent completed. Illinois and Indiana had only one or two days favorable for field work during the survey week. Plowing for corn and soybeans was 70 percent complete in Illinois, nearly average, but only 30 percent done in Indiana where it is usually 55 percent complete by this date. Corn planting was active in Kansas where 16 percent of the State's acreage had been planted. Good progress was made in Oklahoma and Texas. Planting was 80 percent complete in Texas - much of the acreage was up to stand and cultivation was increasing.

In the South, corn planting was active except where rains and wet soils stopped field work. Planting was two-fifths completed in Louisiana and one-fourth completed in Mississippi. Farmers made good progress in Alabama until heavy rains late in the week again delayed planting - over one-third of the State's corn acreage had been seeded. Nearly two-thirds of Georgia's corn acreage had been planted and some early fields were under cultivation in south Georgia. Planting was active in the Carolinas with over 6 fields out of 10 planted in South Carolina.

Cotton

Progress was good in planting the 1964 cotton crop from Texas to California, but rains and wet ground continued to delay and limit activity from Louisiana eastward. Cotton planting was active in the southern Low Plains and eastern areas of Texas. About 38 percent of the intended acreage had been planted by April 25, compared to 45 percent last year. In Arizona cotton planting was 90 percent complete and late planting was progressing rapidly. New Mexico farmers had most of their cotton in the ground. Cotton planting was past the peak in southern New Mexico and continuing at a fast rate in the northern part of the State. Planting continued in California and some early cotton was being cultivated and replanted.

Cotton planting in southern Oklahoma made good progress, but in Arkansas, was restricted to the better-drained land. Planting activity picked up in Louisiana--about 20 percent of the intended acreage had been seeded. Rains during the latter part of the survey week halted activity in Mississippi and Alabama where acreage was about 15 percent planted in Mississippi and 33 percent planted in Alabama. Georgia farmers were a little past the halfway mark and some early planted fields were being cultivated. Planting was active in South Carolina and was underway in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Tobacco

Transplanting of tobacco was nearly complete in Georgia. South Carolina tobacco farmers were making good progress in transplanting, but work was lagging behind last year. About 55 percent of the crop had been set compared to 78 percent a year earlier. Tobacco transplanting was also active in North Carolina. In Virginia tobacco growers were preparing land for transplanting and were caring for plant beds.

Peanuts

Farmers in the Southeast were planting peanuts where conditions were favorable. Alabama and Georgia farmers have planted about one-third of their 1964 acreage. Planting was moving along well until rains stopped operations in most areas. Planting was active in lower South Carolina and a few acres were planted in Virginia. In Texas, 21 percent of the peanut acreage had been planted compared to 16 percent at this time a year earlier.

Fruits and Vegetables

Harvest of Valencia oranges was in full swing in Florida. In California harvest of Valencias was increasing and the Navel orange harvest was in the cleanup stage. Lemon harvest was heavy. Cherry harvest was underway, but no volume is expected for some time. Louisiana strawberry harvest was reaching its peak. Strawberry harvest also was active in Florida, Alabama, and Arkansas.

Vegetable harvest was light to moderate in California and harvest of tomatoes, potatoes, and watermelons was increasing in Florida.

Farm employment and indexes, April 1964, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1958-62 1/	: Annual : average : 1962	: Annual : average : 1963	: April : average : 1958-62 1/	: April : 21-27 : 1963	: April : 19-25 : 1964
FARM EMPLOYMENT						
(Thousands)						
Total	7,104	6,700	6,518	6,954	6,395	6,098
Family labor	5,197	4,873	4,738	5,335	4,853	4,680
Hired labor	1,907	1,827	1,780	1,619	1,542	1,418
INDEXES 2/						
(1910-14=100)						
Total	52	49	48	53	48	46
Family labor	51	48	47	51	47	45
Hired labor	56	54	52	57	54	50
(1957-59=100)						
Total	94	90	86	95	88	84
Family labor	94	88	86	94	86	83
Hired labor	97	93	91	98	94	86

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

2/ Monthly indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, April 1, 1964, United States

	: Annual : average : 1963	: April : average : 1958-62	: April : 1, 1963	: April 1, : 1964
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 0.880	\$ 0.732	\$ 0.799	\$ 0.827
Per month with house	206	182	199	206
Per month with board and room	159	143	154	158
Per week with board and room	37.50	34.50	36.50	38.00
Per week without board and room ...	48.50	45.00	47.25	49.25
Per day with house	5.70	5.10	5.60	5.90
Per day with board and room	6.90	5.90	6.30	6.50
Per day without board or room	7.10	6.30	6.80	7.10
Per hour with house94	.76	.84	.86
Per hour without board or room	1.05	1.01	1.11	1.14
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	677	630	683	703
(1957-59=100)	116	108	117	121

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, April 1964

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	April Average			April 1963			April 1964		
	1958-62 1/			Week of 21-27			Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	30	20	10	28	19	9	28	20	8
N. H.	13	10	3	10	7	3	9	7	2
Vt.	30	23	7	24	18	6	24	18	6
Mass.	38	25	13	30	20	10	28	19	9
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
Conn.	24	18	6	21	14	7	19	13	6
N. Eng.	139	99	40	116	80	36	110	78	32
N. Y.	154	102	52	133	90	43	121	85	36
N. J.	37	24	13	36	19	17	35	19	16
Penn.	190	160	30	157	133	24	147	125	22
M. Atl.	381	286	95	326	242	84	303	229	74
Ohio	253	220	33	228	196	32	220	195	25
Ind.	231	205	26	215	191	24	196	177	19
Ill.	266	213	53	249	198	51	224	184	40
Mich.	215	184	31	206	175	31	198	169	29
Wis.	294	268	26	261	235	26	254	232	22
E. N. Cent.	1259	1090	169	1159	995	164	1092	957	135
Minn.	281	253	28	273	247	26	268	244	24
Iowa	296	271	25	277	255	22	268	246	22
Mo.	263	235	28	240	216	24	249	225	24
N. Dak.	94	79	15	87	74	13	83	73	10
S. Dak.	97	89	8	89	82	7	87	80	7
Nebr.	160	135	25	147	127	20	140	120	20
Kans.	160	142	18	146	130	16	140	127	13
W. N. Cent.	1351	1204	147	1259	1131	128	1235	1115	120
Del.	13	8	5	12	7	5	10	6	4
Md.	59	41	18	56	42	14	48	35	13
Va.	188	147	41	169	132	37	162	128	34
W. Va.	72	57	15	59	47	12	57	45	12
N. C.	354	292	62	342	273	69	296	244	52
S. C.	174	114	60	150	100	50	148	97	51
Ga.	193	146	47	162	122	40	153	110	43
Fla.	153	57	96	147	51	96	139	49	90
S. Atl.	1206	862	344	1097	774	323	1013	714	299
Ky.	218	180	38	220	179	41	218	176	42
Tenn.	220	178	42	208	162	46	196	161	35
Ala.	146	112	34	134	98	36	123	96	27
Miss.	241	176	65	233	162	71	211	145	66
E. S. Cent.	825	646	179	795	601	194	748	578	170
Ark.	220	126	94	192	104	88	170	101	69
La.	155	100	55	134	82	52	128	76	52
Okla.	156	136	20	141	121	20	141	123	18
Texas	398	274	124	388	248	140	359	246	113
W. S. Cent.	929	636	293	855	555	300	798	546	252
Mont.	56	43	13	54	42	12	53	41	12
Idaho	69	52	17	65	50	15	64	49	15
Wyo.	21	15	6	20	14	6	20	13	7
Colo.	59	49	10	58	48	10	55	46	9
N. Mex.	33	21	12	29	20	9	27	18	9
Ariz.	45	11	34	41	10	31	42	9	33
Utah	33	25	8	26	20	6	27	21	6
Nev.	6	4	2	6	3	3	4	3	1
Mount.	322	220	102	299	207	92	292	200	92
Wash.	118	77	41	116	77	39	112	74	38
Oreg.	96	71	25	88	65	23	97	68	29
Calif.	328	144	184	285	126	159	298	121	177
Pac.	542	292	250	489	268	221	507	263	244
U. S.	6954	5335	1619	6395	4853	1542	6098	4680	1418

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 averages 1963
February and March 1964

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual Average			February 1964			March 1964		
	1963			Week of 16-22			Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	32	20	12	23	18	5	25	19	6
N. H.	10	7	3	9	7	2	9	7	2
Vt.	24	18	6	22	17	5	21	17	4
Mass.	30	18	12	21	15	6	24	16	8
R. I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	22	14	8	17	12	5	18	13	5
N. Eng.	121	79	42	94	70	24	99	73	26
N. Y.	143	96	47	106	80	26	112	80	32
N. J.	39	21	18	24	17	7	28	19	9
Pa.	162	134	28	135	119	16	145	126	19
M. Atl.	344	251	93	265	216	49	285	225	60
Ohio	217	183	34	175	163	12	200	178	22
Ind.	199	173	26	157	149	8	179	167	12
Ill.	235	187	48	169	144	25	190	158	32
Mich.	206	165	41	164	143	21	176	154	22
Wis.	258	230	28	222	205	17	237	218	19
E. N. Cent.	1115	938	177	887	804	83	982	875	107
Minn.	256	220	36	189	174	15	203	187	16
Iowa	283	243	40	205	190	15	236	222	14
Mo.	256	220	36	192	180	12	207	191	16
N. Dak.	83	67	16	53	48	5	66	60	6
S. Dak.	87	76	11	64	59	5	77	73	4
Nebr.	144	122	22	112	104	8	117	108	9
Kans.	149	126	23	119	110	9	136	125	11
W. N. Cent.	1258	1074	184	934	865	69	1042	966	76
Del.	12	7	5	6	4	2	7	5	2
Md.	54	37	17	33	26	7	43	33	10
Va.	170	119	51	123	101	22	146	120	26
W. Va.	57	47	10	43	37	6	50	42	8
N. C.	407	291	116	234	203	31	252	215	37
S. C.	162	108	54	96	72	24	109	78	31
Ga.	170	124	46	105	81	24	124	93	31
Fla.	121	44	77	137	41	96	146	49	97
S. Atl.	1153	777	376	777	565	212	877	635	242
Ky.	238	185	53	172	153	19	193	158	35
Tenn.	235	178	57	154	133	21	181	149	32
Ala.	136	103	33	86	70	16	96	80	16
Miss.	211	146	65	129	103	26	172	132	40
E. S. Cent.	820	612	208	541	459	82	642	519	123
Ark.	190	106	84	125	91	34	142	93	49
La.	141	82	59	101	67	34	110	72	38
Okla.	144	118	26	130	120	10	129	117	12
Texas	389	241	148	280	214	66	311	227	84
W. S. Cent.	864	547	317	636	492	144	692	509	183
Mont.	48	36	12	35	30	5	41	35	6
Idaho	67	47	20	44	38	6	49	41	8
Wyo.	19	13	6	15	11	4	16	12	4
Colo.	62	45	17	41	36	5	46	39	7
N. Mex.	34	20	14	23	17	6	28	19	9
Ariz.	39	9	30	33	7	26	37	9	28
Utah	31	22	9	19	15	4	21	17	4
Nev.	5	3	2	3	2	1	4	3	1
Mount.	305	195	110	213	156	57	242	175	67
Wash.	111	72	39	78	60	18	90	67	23
Oreg.	93	64	29	72	58	14	81	64	17
Calif.	334	129	205	253	118	135	272	119	153
Pac.	538	265	273	403	236	167	443	250	193
U. S.	6518	4738	1780	4750	3863	887	5304	4227	1077

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 April 1964 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	January through April : Ave. 1958-62			January through April : 1963			January through April : 1964		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	28	20	8	26	19	7	25	19	6
N. H.	10	8	2	9	7	2	11	9	2
Vt.	27	21	6	22	17	5	20	15	5
Mass.	32	21	11	25	17	8	23	16	7
R. I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
Conn.	23	17	6	19	14	5	17	12	5
N. Eng.	123	89	34	104	76	28	98	72	26
N. Y.	141	100	41	122	88	34	112	82	30
N. J.	35	24	11	31	20	11	28	18	10
Pa.	171	147	24	144	125	19	136	118	18
M. Atl.	347	271	76	297	233	64	276	218	58
Ohio	218	195	23	195	174	21	187	169	18
Ind.	200	184	16	181	167	14	172	160	12
Ill.	215	176	39	200	163	37	186	156	30
Mich.	192	168	24	176	153	23	172	149	23
Wis.	267	245	22	243	222	21	232	214	18
E. N. Cent.	1092	968	124	995	879	116	949	848	101
Minn.	233	212	21	218	200	18	213	197	16
Iowa	249	230	19	234	216	18	225	209	16
Mo.	231	211	20	218	200	18	211	195	16
N. Dak.	74	64	10	67	59	8	62	56	6
S. Dak.	82	76	6	76	70	6	73	68	5
Nebr.	137	122	15	125	113	12	121	109	12
Kans.	139	127	12	132	120	12	127	117	10
W. N. Cent.	1145	1042	103	1070	978	92	1032	951	81
Del.	10	7	3	9	6	3	7	5	2
Md.	47	34	13	44	33	11	40	30	10
Va.	157	127	30	145	115	30	139	113	26
W. Va.	60	50	10	49	41	8	47	39	8
N. C.	279	238	41	278	230	48	248	212	36
S. C.	139	97	42	120	86	34	111	80	31
Ga.	149	114	35	130	100	30	117	87	30
Fla.	145	50	95	143	45	98	139	45	94
S. Atl.	986	717	269	918	656	262	848	611	237
Ky.	194	168	26	189	161	28	190	161	29
Tenn.	184	153	31	175	143	32	171	145	26
Ala.	110	87	23	101	78	23	96	78	18
Miss.	179	139	40	164	125	39	155	118	37
E. S. Cent.	667	547	120	629	507	122	612	502	110
Ark.	165	112	53	150	96	54	138	95	43
La.	127	87	40	112	76	36	106	70	36
Okla.	140	126	14	130	116	14	129	117	12
Texas	330	237	93	316	224	92	299	219	80
W. S. Cent.	762	562	200	708	512	196	672	501	171
Mont.	44	36	8	42	35	7	41	34	7
Idaho	52	42	10	51	41	10	49	40	9
Wyo.	16	12	4	16	12	4	16	12	4
Colo.	50	42	8	49	41	8	44	38	6
N. Mex.	29	19	10	26	18	8	26	18	8
Ariz.	43	10	33	39	10	29	37	8	29
Utah	26	20	6	23	18	5	21	17	4
Nev.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Mount.	264	184	80	249	177	72	237	169	68
Wash.	94	69	25	87	64	23	87	63	24
Oreg.	79	63	16	78	61	17	77	60	17
Calif.	309	136	173	293	125	168	274	119	155
Pac.	482	268	214	458	250	208	438	242	196
U. S.	5868	4648	1220	5428	4268	1160	5162	4114	1048

1/ Average number during survey week of each month.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

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