

# Farm Labor

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## Worker Numbers at New Low for July Crop Work Progress Good

The number of persons working on the Nation's farms in the survey week of July 19-25, at 7,516,000, marked a new low for July. Although this represents a slight advance from a month earlier the size of the active working force was 5 percent under July 1963 and 10 percent under the 1958-62 average for the month. Family workers totaled 4,969,000 -- 3 percent less than in July 1963 and 11 percent under the 5-year July average. For the July survey period, the number of hired workers, at 2,547,000, was down 8 percent from last year and 9 percent under the 5-year average for the month.

Farm work activity was somewhat restricted during late July by a variety of conditions, especially in wide areas of the South. Heavy and continued rains in South Atlantic states kept fields soaked and "out of bounds" for many workers. Tobacco harvest was behind normal in the Carolinas and Georgia because of wet conditions and delayed maturity in some fields. In much of Texas and Oklahoma as well as other West South Central areas July weather was hot and dry over a long period, and fewer workers were needed for weed fighting in cotton fields. The harvest of cotton this year is later than usual in South Texas. Warm, dry weather aided early progress in haying and small grain harvest in many North Central sections and reduced work demands in the July survey week.

### Acreage Slightly Larger This Year; Farmed by 5 Percent Fewer Workers

The estimates of worker numbers for the first 7 months of 1964, shown on page 6, average about 5 percent under the comparable 1963 period. This estimate to a large degree averages out variations caused by effects of weather in specific survey weeks and points to the trend for the entire year. The 7-month average for family workers is 4 percent below last year and for hired workers is down nearly 8 percent. Among the continuing factors influencing worker numbers are reduction in farm numbers and use of labor-saving machines and farm practices. In addition, changes in crop acreage and yield from last year vary in sectional importance. Although the total of 307 million acres planted for harvest this year was slightly less than last year, July 1 prospects pointed to slightly larger harvested acreage. Sugar beets and sugarcane, substantial labor users, have larger acreages this year. Cotton acreage decreased only slightly, but labor use per acre continues to decline. Tobacco acreage, with

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heavy labor demands per acre, decreased 8.5 percent to the smallest acreage in over half a century. High tobacco yield per acre last year pushed production to a new record total. Hay tonnage close to last year's large total is being produced, much of it already harvested and stored. Late hay and pastures suffered in July in large West Central areas.

Vegetable crops had July prospects of slightly less tonnage than last year with small reductions in fresh vegetables, processing vegetables, and potatoes. Fruit harvest may turn out to be a bigger job for hired workers than usual. Large crops of apples, peaches, and grapes are expected despite the very small early peach crop in Southeastern States. Deciduous fruit and nut crops in Pacific Coast States are above average, and most eastern and central fruit sections expect larger crops than usual. Harvest of a record crop of sour cherries was continuing at the month's end.

Grain Harvests Reach Far North  
Fruit Harvests Widen

During July the harvest of wheat, barley, and oats made fast progress in most central and northern States, pushed by long stretches of hot, dry weather. Oat harvest in Wisconsin lagged somewhat behind last year's pace at less than one-fourth completed at the end of the month, but was mainly completed in most other North Central States. Grain harvest was well along in North Atlantic States. Although maturity was delayed in Idaho by cool weather, wheat harvest started in Montana and in Washington's Columbia Basin.

Fruit harvests made good progress in many central and northern States. The sour cherry harvest was active in lower Michigan and Door County Wisconsin. The combination of cherry and blueberry harvests in Michigan required large numbers of seasonal workers.

In western Oregon, the strawberry season reached an early peak and was finishing toward the month's end, but some fields were still being gleaned by "u-pickers" harvesting their own purchases.

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

	: Annual : average : 1958-62 1/	: Annual : average : 1962	: Annual : average : 1963	: July : average : 1958-62 1/	: July : 21-27, : 1963	: July : 19-25, : 1964
FARM EMPLOYMENT	:	:	:	:	:	:
(Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	7,104	6,700	6,518	8,389	7,879	7,516
Family labor .....	5,197	4,873	4,738	5,585	5,111	4,969
Hired labor .....	1,907	1,827	1,780	2,804	2,768	2,547
INDEXES 2/	:	:	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	52	49	48	53	50	47
Family labor .....	51	48	47	51	47	45
Hired labor .....	56	54	52	56	55	51
(1957-59=100)	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	94	90	86	95	89	85
Family labor .....	94	88	86	94	86	83
Hired labor .....	97	93	91	97	95	88

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, July 1, 1964, United States

	: Annual : average : 1963	: July : average : 1958-62	: July 1, : 1963	: July 1, : 1964
FARM WAGE RATES	:	:	:	:
Composite rate per hour 1/ .....	\$ 0.880	\$ 0.802	\$ 0.872	\$ 0.897
Per month with house .....	206	198	215	222
Per month with board and room .....	159	147	159	163
Per week with board and room .....	37.50	36.50	39.00	40.25
Per week without board and room ...	48.50	47.00	51.00	52.75
Per day with house .....	5.70	5.20	5.70	5.80
Per day with board and room .....	6.90	6.80	7.40	7.60
Per day without board or room .....	7.10	6.40	7.00	7.20
Per hour with house .....	.94	.92	.98	1.02
Per hour without board or room .....	1.05	1.01	1.09	1.13
INDEXES 2/	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100) .....	677	625	681	701
(1957-59=100) .....	116	107	117	121

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, July 1964 1/  
(Thousands of persons)

State and Region	July Average			July 1963			July 1964		
	1958-62			Week of 21-27			Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	44	25	19	39	23	16	36	22	14
N. H.	16	11	5	12	8	4	12	8	4
Vt.	33	24	9	25	18	7	25	19	6
Mass.	48	28	20	40	20	20	39	19	20
R. I.	6	4	2	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	35	19	16	34	17	17	35	16	19
N. Eng.	182	111	71	154	89	65	150	86	64
N. Y.	199	116	83	174	107	67	162	101	61
N. J.	59	28	31	60	25	35	59	24	35
Pa.	230	183	47	194	156	38	190	154	36
M. Atl.	488	327	161	428	288	140	411	279	132
Ohio	269	217	52	248	200	48	237	191	46
Ind.	247	211	36	228	186	42	217	182	35
Ill.	286	218	68	275	206	69	261	194	67
Mich.	276	205	71	255	182	73	266	186	80
Wisc.	329	292	37	289	251	38	273	241	32
E. N. Cent.	1407	1143	264	1295	1025	270	1254	994	260
Minn.	371	284	87	361	271	90	366	279	87
Iowa	358	276	82	374	274	100	364	275	89
Mo.	313	260	53	284	233	51	301	241	60
N. Dak.	134	90	44	124	86	38	122	83	39
S. Dak.	112	89	23	105	83	22	104	83	21
Nebr.	197	153	44	193	147	46	185	142	43
Kans.	203	150	53	193	136	57	191	137	54
W. N. Cent.	1688	1302	386	1634	1230	404	1633	1240	393
Del.	16	8	8	16	7	9	15	8	7
Md.	75	45	30	70	45	25	66	42	24
Va.	241	134	107	218	118	100	186	109	77
W. Va.	81	67	14	65	53	12	59	49	10
N. C.	726	401	325	678	350	328	608	335	273
S. C.	266	150	116	238	135	103	230	134	96
Ga.	171	117	54	168	110	58	167	110	57
Fla.	94	43	51	90	39	51	92	37	55
S. Atl.	1670	965	705	1543	857	686	1423	824	599
Ky.	265	184	81	246	163	83	243	174	69
Tenn.	243	170	73	243	165	78	223	154	69
Ala.	111	89	22	109	84	25	102	85	17
Miss.	211	174	37	181	136	45	192	132	60
E. S. Cent.	830	617	213	779	548	231	760	545	215
Ark.	214	104	110	217	100	117	195	87	108
La.	145	77	68	141	70	71	130	68	62
Okla.	167	115	52	152	113	39	131	104	27
Texas	500	283	217	512	287	225	415	240	175
W. S. Cent.	1026	579	447	1022	570	452	871	499	372
Mont.	64	39	25	65	37	28	63	38	25
Idaho	96	57	39	96	56	40	96	56	40
Wyo.	26	15	11	26	15	11	24	13	11
Colo.	86	55	31	77	49	28	73	49	24
N. Mex.	45	23	22	41	21	20	35	20	15
Ariz.	39	11	28	34	9	25	33	8	25
Utah	44	29	15	40	25	15	40	25	15
Nev.	7	4	3	6	4	2	8	5	3
Mount.	407	233	174	385	216	169	372	214	158
Wash.	167	95	72	156	89	67	167	94	73
Oreg.	133	72	61	130	74	56	135	71	64
Calif.	391	141	250	353	125	228	340	123	217
Pac.	691	308	383	639	288	351	642	288	354
U. S.	8389	5585	2804	7879	5111	2768	7516	4969	2547

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  
May and June 1964 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and Region	Annual Average 1963			May 1964			June 1964		
	1963			Week of 24-30			Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	32	20	12	34	22	12	36	22	14
N. H.	10	7	3	11	8	3	12	8	4
Vt.	24	18	6	24	18	6	25	19	6
Mass.	30	18	12	32	20	12	34	20	14
R. I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Conn.	22	14	8	23	14	9	27	15	12
N. Eng.	121	79	42	126	83	43	137	86	51
N. Y.	143	96	47	127	84	43	162	98	64
N. J.	39	21	18	44	20	24	50	21	29
Pa.	162	134	28	161	135	26	187	152	35
M. Atl.	344	251	93	332	239	93	399	271	128
Ohio	217	183	34	221	192	29	241	194	47
Ind.	199	173	26	215	191	24	236	202	34
Ill.	235	187	48	266	216	50	277	210	67
Mich.	206	165	41	223	186	37	247	183	64
Wis.	258	230	28	266	241	25	278	243	35
E. N. Cent.	1115	938	177	1191	1026	165	1279	1032	247
Minn.	256	220	36	281	245	36	323	251	72
Iowa	283	243	40	299	268	31	335	268	67
Mo.	256	220	36	261	225	36	295	242	53
N. Dak.	83	67	16	91	74	17	88	70	18
S. Dak.	87	76	11	89	81	8	97	82	15
Nebr.	144	122	22	147	125	22	169	133	36
Kans.	149	126	23	155	130	25	194	139	55
W. N. Cent.	1258	1074	184	1323	1148	175	1501	1185	316
Del.	12	7	5	12	7	5	14	8	6
Md.	54	37	17	56	37	19	61	40	21
Va.	170	119	51	177	133	44	193	114	79
W. Va.	57	47	10	63	48	15	68	50	18
N. C.	407	291	116	388	291	97	479	298	181
S. C.	162	108	54	149	98	51	185	118	67
Ga.	170	124	46	157	106	51	177	117	60
Fla.	121	44	77	124	40	84	96	40	56
S. Atl.	1153	777	376	1126	760	366	1273	785	488
Ky.	238	185	53	241	183	58	272	187	85
Tenn.	235	178	57	230	171	59	267	181	86
Ala.	136	103	33	167	127	40	126	97	29
Miss.	211	146	65	258	174	84	239	165	74
E. S. Cent.	820	612	208	896	655	241	904	630	274
Ark.	190	106	84	203	105	98	207	103	104
La.	141	82	59	137	78	58	138	75	63
Okla.	144	118	26	138	115	23	161	128	33
Texas	389	241	148	371	225	146	458	260	198
W. S. Cent.	864	547	317	849	523	326	964	566	398
Mont.	48	36	12	51	36	15	53	35	18
Idaho	67	47	20	69	47	22	90	54	36
Wyo.	19	13	6	22	14	8	22	13	9
Colo.	62	45	17	60	49	11	73	49	24
N. Mex.	34	20	14	33	18	15	34	19	15
Ariz.	39	9	30	42	8	34	41	8	33
Utah	31	22	9	37	23	14	40	24	16
Nev.	5	3	2	6	4	2	7	4	3
Mount.	305	195	110	320	199	121	360	206	154
Wash.	111	72	39	114	78	36	166	95	71
Oreg.	93	64	29	100	70	30	133	77	56
Calif.	334	129	205	332	134	198	335	126	209
Pac.	538	265	273	546	282	264	634	298	336
U. S.	6518	4738	1780	6709	4915	1794	7451	5059	2392

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 1964 1/  
(Thousands of persons)

State and Region	January through July			January through July			January through July		
	Ave. 1958-62			1963			1964		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	33	21	12	30	20	10	29	20	9
N. H.	12	9	3	10	7	3	12	9	3
Vt.	29	22	7	24	18	6	21	16	5
Mass.	37	24	13	30	19	11	29	18	11
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
Conn.	26	17	9	24	15	9	21	13	8
N. Eng.	141	96	45	121	81	40	114	77	37
N. Y.	159	105	54	139	94	45	128	87	41
N. J.	43	25	18	40	21	19	38	20	18
Pa.	192	159	33	162	135	27	155	131	24
M. Atl.	394	289	105	341	250	91	321	238	83
Ohio	240	206	34	217	185	32	206	179	27
Ind.	224	200	24	204	181	23	194	174	20
Ill.	249	197	52	237	186	51	222	178	44
Mich.	223	184	39	209	169	40	204	165	39
Wisc.	289	262	27	260	233	27	249	225	24
E. N. Cent.	1225	1049	176	1127	954	173	1075	921	154
Minn.	280	239	41	266	226	40	260	223	37
Iowa	293	253	40	284	243	41	271	235	36
Mo.	260	227	33	245	213	32	243	212	31
N. Dak.	91	72	19	83	67	16	79	65	14
S. Dak.	92	81	11	86	76	10	83	74	9
Nebr.	159	134	25	146	124	22	141	120	21
Kans.	162	136	26	152	127	25	150	125	25
W. N. Cent.	1337	1142	195	1262	1076	186	1227	1054	173
Del.	12	7	5	12	7	5	10	6	4
Md.	56	37	19	54	37	17	49	34	15
Va.	189	135	54	169	118	51	158	115	43
W. Va.	70	56	14	57	46	11	55	44	11
N. C.	399	292	107	383	270	113	353	254	99
S. C.	186	117	69	158	103	55	143	95	48
Ga.	168	123	45	146	105	41	138	97	41
Fla.	130	49	81	126	44	82	124	42	82
S. Atl.	1210	816	394	1105	730	375	1030	687	343
Ky.	220	175	45	214	166	48	216	169	47
Tenn.	215	167	48	206	157	49	200	155	45
Ala.	127	99	28	116	90	26	111	89	22
Miss.	211	162	49	194	140	54	188	135	53
E. S. Cent.	773	603	170	730	553	177	715	548	167
Ark.	193	116	77	181	102	79	165	96	69
La.	137	86	51	126	77	49	118	72	46
Okla.	156	129	27	143	120	23	135	116	19
Texas	396	256	140	380	250	130	349	229	120
W. S. Cent.	882	587	295	830	549	281	767	513	254
Mont.	51	37	14	49	36	13	47	35	12
Idaho	67	46	21	65	46	19	65	46	19
Wyo.	21	14	7	19	13	6	18	12	6
Colo.	63	47	16	60	45	15	55	43	12
N. Mex.	35	21	14	30	19	11	29	18	11
Ariz.	43	10	33	39	9	30	38	8	30
Utah	32	24	8	30	21	9	29	20	9
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	317	202	115	297	192	105	286	185	101
Wash.	123	80	43	117	76	41	113	74	39
Oreg.	101	69	32	98	66	32	98	66	32
Calif.	345	140	205	319	129	190	300	122	178
Pac.	569	289	280	534	271	263	511	262	249
U. S.	6848	5073	1775	6347	4656	1691	6046	4485	1561

1/ Average number during survey week of each month.

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