

# Farm Labor

Release  
December 10, 1964  
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## Harvesting Completed on Most Farms Worker Totals at New Low for Thanksgiving Week

The generally dry, open weather that had persisted so long over much of the nation continued during the first half of November. Harvests of late crops moved at a rapid rate and by Thanksgiving week were over or nearly over for major field crops on many farms.

The number of persons working on farms during the survey week of November 22-28, at 5,213,000, was 7 percent less than in November 1963 and a new low for this time of year. Of this total, family members working on home farms totaled 4,053,000, 6 percent less than the previous year. Even with this reduction to a new low for November there was still time for Thanksgiving visiting. By that time winter weather was bringing some snow or rain to parts of the midwest, adding much-needed moisture to dry soils.

The number of hired workers (1,160,000 persons) also was at a new low for the period, a decrease of 11 percent from the November 1963 total. The sharp reduction in hired workers may be attributed mainly to the long stretches of open weather and increased effectiveness of machine use. However, the survey week last year was almost a week earlier, as noted in the tables, and the added days of good weather this year helped clean up field work on many farms. The reduction in numbers continues the downward trend of previous months. The January-November averages for 48 States as shown on page 6 are lower than for 1963 by the following percentages: All workers, 6 percent; family workers, 5 percent; and hired workers, 10 percent.

## Machines Hurry Harvesting Progress on Cotton, Corn, and Beans.

This year's cotton harvest lagged well behind last year's progress through September and October because of erratic weather conditions over much of the cotton belt during the growing season. In November, the tempo of harvest quickened with most work, including "scrapping", being done by machines. Across the High Plains of Texas bolls opened after a hard freeze, and machine stripping took over the big harvest job. In Arizona, wet fields slowed picking. The December 8 Cotton Production Report estimates the crop at 15,356,000 bales, slightly above 1963 and the largest since 1953, with record high U.S. per acre yield. Highly effective cultural practices including better insect and weed control are credited with yield advances despite some unfavorable weather. Less labor was used and more machines and chemicals, according to growers' reports. Ginning reports of the Bureau of the Census indicate that about 81 percent of the crop was ginned by December 1. This is still a bit behind the 84 percent last year and the 5-year average of 86.5 percent.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Statistical Reporting Service  
La. 1 (12-64)

Crop Reporting Board  
Washington, D. C.

Harvesting of the corn and soybean crops, almost completely mechanized, moved to near completion in most States during open November weather.

Tobacco Marketing, Sugarcane Harvest Active

Damp weather in late November in important burley tobacco areas in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana aided farm activity in stripping and preparing tobacco for auctions which opened November 30. By this date most of the burley had been stripped. Weather after Thanksgiving was bringing rain and snow to many other sections of dry North Central and Eastern States but not enough to dispel drought worries on many dairy farms where a scarcity of forage or stock water was causing increased outlays for feed and livestock care. The Northeastern part of the Nation was going into the winter definitely "on the dry side".

Louisiana sugarcane harvest made good progress during the month, considering the October mangling dealt the crop by Hurricane Hilda. Added hand labor helped bring harvest to about 60 percent completion by December 1. Tung-nut harvest also was active in this State. Sugarcane grinding was well under way in Florida from that State's enlarged acreage, employing several thousand workers. Florida movement of both citrus and vegetables was somewhat lower during the farm labor survey week than in the previous week as a result of weather influences.

Harvest of California fruit and vegetable crops during the survey week included increased citrus harvest in the Central Valley, avocados in South Central areas, and dates in the Coachella Valley. Pruning operations were starting in main deciduous fruit areas. Celery harvest in the Salinas-Watsonville area was at a peak and carrots moved at normal volume.

FARM LABOR, December 1964

Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA

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

	: Annual : average : 1958-62 <u>1/</u>	: Annual : average : 1962	: Annual : average : 1963	: Nov. : average : 1958-62 <u>1/</u>	: Nov. : 17-23, : 1963	: Nov. : 22-28, : 1964
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT</b>						
(Thousands)						
Total .....	7,104	6,700	6,518	6,505	5,608	5,213
Family labor .....	5,197	4,873	4,738	4,919	4,300	4,053
Hired labor .....	1,907	1,827	1,780	1,586	1,308	1,160
<b>INDEXES <u>2/</u></b>						
(1910-14=100)						
Total .....	52	49	48	52	45	42
Family labor .....	51	48	47	51	44	42
Hired labor .....	56	54	52	56	47	41
(1957-59=100)						
Total .....	94	90	86	94	81	75
Family labor .....	94	88	86	93	81	77
Hired labor .....	97	93	91	98	81	71

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, October 1, 1964, United States

	: Annual : average : 1963	: October : average : 1958-62	: October 1, : 1963	: October 1, : 1964
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>				
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u> .....	\$ 0.880	\$ 0.826	\$ 0.898	\$ 0.915
Per month with house .....	206	186	204	206
Per month with board and room ...	159	146	159	161
Per week with board and room .....	37.50	35.50	38.25	38.00
Per week without board and room ..	48.50	43.50	47.75	47.25
Per day with house .....	5.70	5.40	5.80	6.00
Per day with board and room .....	6.90	6.20	6.80	6.90
Per day without board or room ...	7.10	6.90	7.50	7.60
Per hour with house .....	.94	1.00	1.07	1.09
Per hour without board or room ..	1.05	.91	.99	1.01
<b>INDEXES <u>2/</u></b>				
(1910-14=100) .....	677	620	681	694
(1957-59=100) .....	116	107	117	119

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, November 1964 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and Region :	November average			November 1963			November 1964		
	1958-62			Week of 17-23			Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	29	20	9	26	20	6	25	20	5
N. H.	10	7	3	10	7	3	9	7	2
Vt.	25	19	6	22	17	5	21	17	4
Mass.	30	18	12	24	17	7	22	16	6
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	21	15	6	19	14	5	17	13	4
N. Eng.	119	82	37	104	77	27	97	75	22
N. Y.	148	106	42	125	93	32	113	84	29
N. J.	36	22	14	27	18	9	24	15	9
Pa.	167	138	29	135	112	23	128	110	18
M. Atl.	351	266	85	287	223	64	265	209	56
Ohio	235	205	30	200	176	24	191	170	21
Ind.	198	177	21	169	153	16	157	140	17
Ill.	248	205	43	221	185	36	198	173	25
Mich.	184	153	31	169	144	25	148	127	21
Wisc.	259	237	22	233	211	22	220	201	19
E. N. Cent.	1124	977	147	992	869	123	914	811	103
Minn.	214	196	18	202	186	16	192	179	13
Iowa	276	245	31	247	221	26	236	212	24
Mo.	250	224	26	202	185	17	212	198	14
N. Dak.	69	59	10	58	50	8	52	46	6
S. Dak.	79	71	8	71	65	6	63	58	5
Nebr.	140	125	15	121	110	11	110	100	10
Kans.	140	128	12	114	104	10	114	106	8
W. N. Cent.	1168	1048	120	1015	921	94	979	899	80
Del.	11	7	4	10	6	4	8	5	3
Md.	49	35	14	46	34	12	42	31	11
Va.	174	133	41	149	111	38	155	117	38
W. Va.	64	54	10	50	43	7	46	40	6
N. C.	346	269	77	318	236	82	257	200	57
S. C.	157	107	50	116	85	31	106	79	27
Ga.	178	121	57	159	111	48	137	95	42
Fla.	126	45	81	125	41	84	121	41	80
S. Atl.	1105	771	334	973	667	306	872	608	264
Ky.	254	209	45	244	201	43	232	192	40
Tenn.	293	238	55	262	215	47	249	210	39
Ala.	167	127	40	140	103	37	127	98	29
Miss.	242	180	62	186	138	48	158	122	36
E. S. Cent.	956	754	202	832	657	175	766	622	144
Ark.	200	125	75	151	98	53	127	85	42
La.	134	95	39	124	83	41	107	75	32
Okla.	145	118	27	128	109	19	112	98	14
Texas	414	246	168	316	207	109	321	198	123
W. S. Cent.	893	584	309	719	497	222	667	456	211
Mont.	41	33	8	39	32	7	39	32	7
Idaho	51	39	12	51	38	13	50	40	10
Wyo.	16	11	5	14	9	5	15	9	6
Colo.	57	44	13	50	40	10	40	32	8
N. Mex.	44	22	22	36	17	19	33	17	16
Ariz.	58	10	48	45	8	37	46	9	37
Utah	28	23	5	25	20	5	23	19	4
Nev.	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2
Mount.	299	184	115	264	166	98	250	160	90
Wash.	82	63	19	74	56	18	76	58	18
Oreg.	72	60	12	67	54	13	64	52	12
Calif.	336	130	206	281	113	168	263	103	160
Pac.	490	253	237	422	223	199	403	213	190
U. S.	6505	4919	1586	5608	4300	1308	5213	4053	1160

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  
September and October 1964 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and Region	Annual Average 1963			September 1964 Week of 20-26			October 1964 Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	32	20	12	60	22	38	28	21	7
N. H.	10	7	3	11	7	4	9	7	2
Vt.	24	18	6	25	19	6	22	18	4
Mass.	30	18	12	33	18	15	27	17	10
R. I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	22	14	8	23	16	7	21	14	7
N. Eng.	121	79	42	155	84	71	110	79	31
N. Y.	143	96	47	164	101	63	137	93	44
N. J.	39	21	18	43	21	22	37	22	15
Pa.	162	134	28	169	138	31	154	128	26
M. Atl.	344	251	93	376	260	116	328	243	85
Ohio	217	183	34	208	166	42	223	188	35
Ind.	199	173	26	183	157	26	193	161	32
Ill.	235	187	48	223	180	43	235	190	45
Mich.	206	165	41	191	150	41	184	142	42
Wis.	258	230	28	261	224	37	242	213	29
E. N. Cent.	1115	938	177	1066	877	189	1077	894	183
Minn.	256	220	36	257	222	35	254	229	25
Iowa	283	243	40	274	238	36	296	255	41
Mo.	256	220	36	306	252	54	283	233	50
N. Dak.	83	67	16	93	76	17	76	62	14
S. Dak.	87	76	11	89	78	11	85	76	9
Nebr.	144	122	22	136	116	20	145	127	18
Kans.	149	126	23	164	140	24	140	125	15
W. N. Cent.	1258	1074	184	1319	1122	197	1279	1107	172
Del.	12	7	5	13	7	6	12	7	5
Md.	54	37	17	55	39	16	49	36	13
Va.	170	119	51	186	127	59	187	134	53
W. Va.	57	47	10	59	49	10	56	49	7
N. C.	407	291	116	458	343	115	397	300	97
S. C.	162	108	54	182	123	59	162	116	46
Ga.	170	124	46	228	163	65	223	160	63
Fla.	121	44	77	107	55	52	113	47	66
S. Atl.	1153	777	376	1288	906	382	1199	849	350
Ky.	238	185	53	262	209	53	274	226	48
Tenn.	235	178	57	300	231	69	354	274	80
Ala.	136	103	33	205	152	53	230	170	60
Miss.	211	146	65	317	197	120	297	197	100
E. S. Cent.	820	612	208	1084	789	295	1155	867	288
Ark.	190	106	84	206	112	94	227	119	108
La.	141	82	59	225	120	105	189	96	93
Okla.	144	118	26	126	102	24	145	114	31
Texas	389	241	148	391	215	176	438	226	212
W. S. Cent.	864	547	317	948	549	399	999	555	444
Mont.	48	36	12	52	39	13	44	36	8
Idaho	67	47	20	82	56	26	80	58	22
Wyo.	19	13	6	23	14	9	19	12	7
Colo.	62	45	17	70	46	24	67	48	19
N. Mex.	34	20	14	36	21	15	48	23	25
Ariz.	39	9	30	37	9	28	42	9	33
Utah	31	22	9	41	28	13	33	24	9
Nev.	5	3	2	7	3	4	6	3	3
Mount.	305	195	110	348	216	132	339	213	126
Wash.	111	72	39	111	72	39	108	65	43
Oreg.	93	64	29	98	66	32	88	62	26
Calif.	334	129	205	418	136	282	367	129	238
Pac.	538	265	273	627	274	353	563	256	307
U. S.	6518	4738	1780	7211	5077	2134	7049	5063	1986

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 November 1964 <sup>1/</sup>

(Thousands of persons)

State and Region	January through Nov. Ave. 1958-62			January through Nov. 1963			January through Nov. 1964		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Maine	37	22	15	33	21	13	32	20
N. H.	13	9	4	10	7	3	11	8	3
Vt.	28	21	7	25	18	6	22	17	5
Mass.	37	23	14	31	19	12	29	18	11
R. I.	4	3	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Conn.	27	17	10	24	15	9	22	14	8
N. Eng.	146	95	51	125	81	44	119	79	40
N. Y.	169	109	60	146	96	50	134	90	44
N. J.	45	25	20	41	22	19	39	20	19
Pa.	199	162	37	165	136	29	154	130	24
M. Atl.	413	296	117	352	254	98	327	240	87
Ohio	244	206	38	221	184	37	207	177	30
Ind.	222	194	28	202	175	27	189	167	22
Ill.	253	201	52	240	190	50	221	179	42
Mich.	225	181	44	210	167	43	197	158	39
Wisc.	290	259	31	261	232	29	249	223	26
E. N. Cent.	1234	1041	193	1134	948	186	1063	904	159
Minn.	277	236	41	263	224	39	256	221	35
Iowa	298	257	41	288	246	42	273	236	37
Mo.	283	239	44	261	222	39	255	220	35
N. Dak.	96	75	21	85	68	17	80	65	15
S. Dak.	94	82	12	88	77	11	82	73	9
Nebr.	160	135	25	147	124	23	139	119	20
Kans.	164	138	26	152	128	24	148	125	23
W. N. Cent.	1372	1162	210	1284	1089	195	1233	1059	174
Del.	13	8	5	12	7	5	10	6	4
Md.	59	39	20	55	38	17	50	35	15
Va.	195	138	57	175	121	54	168	120	48
W. Va.	72	59	13	59	48	11	55	45	10
N. C.	436	323	113	423	299	124	383	271	112
S. C.	198	130	68	168	111	57	149	101	48
Ga.	188	136	52	176	127	49	159	112	47
Fla.	125	49	76	121	45	76	117	43	74
S. Atl.	1286	882	404	1189	796	393	1091	733	358
Ky.	243	192	51	240	184	56	232	182	50
Tenn.	256	196	60	242	181	61	231	180	51
Ala.	158	120	38	140	105	35	131	102	29
Miss.	257	186	71	219	150	69	209	147	62
E. S. Cent.	914	694	220	841	620	221	803	611	192
Ark.	220	126	94	199	108	91	173	98	75
La.	159	95	64	147	84	63	138	79	59
Okla.	162	128	34	145	118	27	131	111	20
Texas	437	263	174	399	244	155	366	226	140
W. S. Cent.	978	612	366	890	554	336	808	514	294
Mont.	52	38	14	49	36	13	47	35	12
Idaho	71	49	22	69	48	21	68	48	20
Wyo.	21	14	7	20	13	7	19	12	7
Colo.	69	50	19	64	46	18	58	44	14
N. Mex.	40	22	18	35	20	15	33	19	14
Ariz.	46	10	36	38	9	29	38	8	30
Utah	35	25	10	33	23	10	31	22	9
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	339	211	128	313	198	115	299	191	108
Wash.	121	79	42	115	74	41	111	72	39
Oreg.	98	67	31	97	64	33	96	64	32
Calif.	374	144	230	339	130	209	319	123	196
Pac.	593	290	303	551	268	283	526	259	267
U. S.	7275	5283	1992	6679	4808	1871	6269	4590	1679

<sup>1/</sup> Average number during survey week of each month.

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