

Farm Labor

Release
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WINTER WITHDRAWS; SUNSHINE AND SPRING ARRIVE; FARM WORKING FORCE SPRINGS INTO ACTION

The total number of workers on the Nation's farms during the survey week of April 18-24 was 5,535,000, up 18 percent from a month earlier, but 9 percent below the same period in 1964. Family workers totaled 4,208,000 and hired workers, 1,327,000, up 14 and 37 percent, respectively, from a month earlier, but down 10 and 6 percent, respectively, from April 1964.

Longer Work Day on Farms

The summary of hours worked on reporting farms on page 6 reflects increased activity as farmers took advantage of more favorable weather to catch up on delayed field work. Farm operators averaged 47.9 hours worked for the week of April 18-24--an increase of 9.2 hours per operator over last month. Other family members averaged 31.6 hours for the week, while hired workers averaged 36.2 hours. The average for all workers on reporting farms during the survey week was 40.7 hours, a gain of 13 percent over the March survey week.

Farm Work Picks Up Momentum as Warm Spring Weather Arrives

For the country as a whole, farm activity "burst into bloom" as April brought mild spring weather to most of the Nation. In several North Central States, however, tornadoes and a flooding Mississippi, accompanied by heavy rains in many areas, hampered and delayed spring planting and other regular farm work.

Farmers in the Pacific Coast States were very active during the survey week, except in western Washington where heavy rains curtailed field work. Strawberries and caneberries were being cultivated in Washington and Oregon. Where winter freeze damage was severe, a considerable acreage of strawberries was being plowed under. Harvesting of field rhubarb was active and asparagus cutting was increasing. In California, as the weather warmed up, demand was strong for citrus workers and was increasing for asparagus cutters and strawberry pickers. Sugar beet harvest was underway in the Imperial Valley. Cotton, corn, and milo plantings were active and alfalfa and small grains were being cut and baled for hay.

In the Rocky Mountain States seeding of small grains was just getting underway in some areas but was well along in others. In Montana, only 1 percent of the grain had been seeded by the end of the survey week, whereas at this time last year 32 percent was in the ground. Planting of sugar beets was active in both Montana and Idaho, and potato planting was moving along in Idaho. Farmers in

Arizona and New Mexico were busy cutting alfalfa and planting cotton and corn. Citrus harvest was active in Arizona.

Progress of work in the South Central States revealed additional evidence of favorable spring weather. Cotton planting was active and well along, ranging from 30 to 60 percent complete in several States. There was active seed bed preparation throughout this region and corn and sorghum planting was gaining momentum. Rice planting was 50 percent complete in Louisiana and 70 percent complete in Texas. Vegetable harvest was active in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Strawberry harvest and cultivation of sugarcane were well underway in Louisiana.

After an extended delay owing to cool weather and wet soils in several areas, farmers in the North Central States made some progress in spring planting during the survey week. Seedbed preparation and seeding of small grains were generally active throughout the North Central region. Calves with scours were requiring extra care and attention in South Dakota and Nebraska.

New England farmers were preparing seedbeds and planting early vegetable crops. In New York farmers were planting potatoes and onions and boiling the last of the maple sap for the season. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania farmers were spraying fruit orchards, harvesting asparagus and spinach, and planting early vegetables.

In the South Atlantic States, weather was generally very favorable for spring planting, and farmers in this region took full advantage of it. Farmers in the Carolinas and Georgia spent a busy week transplanting tobacco and planting cotton, corn, and peanuts. Virginia farmers were preparing soil for row crops and in the eastern area corn planting was active. Land preparation for corn was moving ahead rapidly in Maryland and Delaware, and seeding of spring grains was well advanced. Vegetable planting was active.

Farm employment and indexes, April 1965, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1959-63 ^{1/}	Annual average 1964	April average 1959-63 ^{1/}	April 19-21, 1964	April 18-24, 1965
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,907	6,110	6,784	6,096	5,535
Family labor	5,040	4,506	5,186	4,677	4,208
Hired labor	1,867	1,604	1,598	1,419	1,327
INDEXES ^{2/}					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	51	45	51	46	42
Family labor	50	44	50	45	40
Hired labor	55	47	56	50	46
(1957-59=100)					
Total	91	81	93	84	76
Family labor	91	82	92	83	75
Hired labor	95	82	97	86	80

^{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, 1965, United States

	Annual average 1964	April average 1959-63	April 1, 1964	April 1, 1965
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour ^{1/}	\$ 0.904	\$ 0.761	\$ 0.827	\$ 0.860
Per month with house	212	189	206	215
Per month with board and room ...	162	147	158	164
Per week with board and room	38.50	35.30	38.00	38.75
Per week without board and room :	49.50	46.20	49.25	50.75
Per day with house	5.90	5.30	5.90	6.00
Per day with board and room	7.10	6.00	6.50	6.70
Per day without board or room ...:	7.30	6.50	7.10	7.30
Per hour with house97	.79	.86	.93
Per hour without board or room ..:	1.08	1.05	1.14	1.18
INDEXES ^{2/}				
(1910-14=100)	695	653	703	731
(1957-59=100)	120	112	121	126

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

^{2/} Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, April 1965
(Thousands of persons)

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of April 18-24, 1965				
	Farm Operator	Other Family members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	52.5	28.3	46.5	37.3	42.7
N. H.	62.1	30.2	55.2	36.9	47.1
Vt.	66.6	45.8	60.3	47.8	55.3
Mass.	64.5	32.8	54.0	39.2	47.6
R. I.	63.2	31.0	54.3	48.6	51.1
Conn.	56.7	31.8	49.9	43.7	47.0
N. Eng.	59.8	33.8	52.6	41.5	48.0
N. Y.	57.9	33.7	50.6	43.9	48.4
N. J.	47.3	32.5	42.5	42.9	42.7
Pa.	54.2	32.2	46.7	33.3	43.6
M. Atl.	55.2	32.8	48.0	40.5	45.3
Ohio	47.4	33.1	43.4	32.7	41.1
Ind.	43.8	32.5	41.2	31.8	39.0
Ill.	46.6	34.8	44.1	34.3	42.1
Mich.	50.1	33.1	45.2	33.8	42.5
Wis.	61.1	29.3	48.0	41.7	46.9
E. N. Cent.	49.7	32.6	44.4	34.8	42.7
Minn.	52.5	31.2	45.2	34.6	43.5
Iowa	58.5	31.6	50.1	33.3	46.4
Mo.	48.8	32.3	44.6	31.9	42.1
N. Dak.	52.6	38.5	48.1	38.5	46.4
S. Dak.	57.6	32.8	49.6	38.1	47.6
Nebr.	54.9	31.6	47.7	36.4	46.0
Kans.	51.5	32.6	46.6	33.1	43.8
W. N. Cent.	53.5	32.3	47.1	34.8	44.7
Del.	50.2	33.9	45.3	24.8	37.3
Md.	48.4	30.4	41.6	26.7	39.9
Va.	41.2	32.8	39.2	32.5	36.5
W. Va.	34.6	25.8	32.7	24.8	30.7
N. C.	39.2	30.5	36.9	25.9	31.7
S. C.	40.6	29.0	37.2	25.1	29.9
Ga.	41.6	30.3	38.7	34.3	36.6
Fla.	39.3	25.9	34.3	33.2	33.7
S. Atl.	40.3	30.0	37.4	30.2	33.7
Ky.	40.9	29.8	38.3	30.0	35.1
Tenn.	39.3	29.4	36.9	27.0	33.7
Ala.	35.9	29.2	34.5	29.2	32.4
Miss.	45.1	28.1	41.3	40.5	40.8
E. S. Cent.	40.3	29.2	37.8	33.0	35.7
Ark.	42.3	32.9	40.0	39.5	39.8
La.	37.8	29.9	35.8	32.4	34.5
Okla.	41.9	28.9	38.8	28.9	36.3
Tex.	2/56.1	33.6	50.2	33.8	42.4
W. S. Cent.	2/48.0	32.0	43.9	35.0	39.5
Mont.	49.7	36.3	45.7	46.8	46.0
Idaho	54.5	30.1	46.6	33.2	43.1
Wyo.	56.4	34.4	50.0	43.6	47.6
Colo.	52.7	31.6	46.0	43.2	45.2
N. Mex.	48.6	34.8	45.8	42.0	44.0
Ariz.	50.0	33.7	46.1	51.2	49.0
Utah	49.1	26.7	40.6	29.2	37.9
Nev.	46.7	33.2	42.9	50.6	46.4
Mount.	51.8	32.3	45.7	43.4	44.7
Wash.	47.2	31.7	43.4	35.7	40.3
Oreg.	43.6	33.0	40.9	38.3	40.2
Calif.	50.3	35.8	47.1	46.4	46.6
Pac.	47.9	34.0	44.6	43.9	44.1
U. S.	2/47.9	31.6	43.2	36.2	40.7

^{1/} Includes as "other family" only those farm household members working 15 hours or more per week without receiving cash wages.
^{2/} Hours worked per week for farm operators, week of March 21-27, 1965 should be corrected on page 5 of Farm Labor report of April 9, 1965 as follows: Texas, 44.8 hours; W.S.C. region, 37.7 hours; U. S., 38.7 hours.



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