

Farm Labor

Release
June 10, 1965
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

Farm Work Force Increases Seasonally

Generally favorable weather during May, enabling farmers across the country to get on with spring planting and other outdoor field work, resulted in an 11-percent increase in the total number of farm workers over April. During the May 23-29 survey week, an estimated 6,118,000 farm workers were employed on farms in the United States. Although this is an increase over April, it is 9 percent below May 1964. Of the total work force, 4,466,000 were farm family workers, 6 percent above April, but 9 percent below May a year ago. An estimated 1,652,000 hired workers were on farms during the May survey week, one-fourth above April, but 8 percent below May 1964.

Scattered rainfall throughout most of the United States restricted field work only slightly during the survey week. However, heavy rains and wet fields in West South Central States and cool weather in the Mountain States limited outdoor work and contributed to lower use of farm labor in these States.

Work Week Lengthens

The length of the farm work week, as indicated by reporting farmers, increased slightly for the nation as a whole from a month earlier in spite of the scattered showers during the last week of May. It was shortened in the South Central States, where outdoor activities were restricted by rain and wet field conditions.

Spring Planting Near Completion

In the North Central States, planting and cultivating were the major farm activities. Weather during the month was mostly favorable for farm work, and planting of spring field crops was almost completed. With early fields up to a stand, cultivating and spraying for weed control were major activities towards the end of the month. Mowing of the first hay crop was started in most States. Sugar beet planting was well advanced except in parts of Minnesota and in North Dakota; blocking and thinning had begun in early fields. Potato planting progressed well in these States.

In North East and Middle Atlantic States, scattered showers occurred during May but the area was still generally very dry. Potato planting in Maine was about on schedule. Planting of spring field crops was almost finished by the end of the month, while harvesting of early vegetables and planting of mid-season vegetables had progressed well. Strawberry harvest was getting underway.

In the South Atlantic States dry conditions still prevailed, especially in Florida where citrus groves were heavily irrigated. Peach harvest had begun in South Carolina and Georgia. Field work increased as corn, peanut, and cotton planting neared completion. Tobacco transplanting was well along in North Carolina and Virginia, shade tobacco harvest became active toward the end of the month in Florida, and light tobacco harvest was started in Georgia. Soybean planting progressed well, and harvest of small grains started in many areas.

In the East South Central States, transplanting of tobacco and planting of corn and soybeans were major farm activities of the month. Harvest of first cutting hay was underway and many farmers were cultivating early planted row crops. Potato harvest made good progress. In West South Central States heavy showers and wet fields restricted field work for a large part of the month, particularly in Texas. As the weather permitted, farmers made progress with planting of cotton, corn, and other spring row crops. Wheat harvesting was started in Oklahoma, and Texas, but progress in Texas was slowed by showers. Early planted fields of cotton and sorghum that were up to a stand were being cultivated.

In the Mountain States spring planting of oats, barley, corn, potatoes, and sugar beets made only fair progress because of cool weather. Early sugar beet fields were being blocked and thinned. Harvest of first cutting hay had begun, as had potato harvest in southern areas.

The Pacific Coast States enjoyed weather favorable for farm work during May. Farmers were putting the finishing touches on spring planting by the end of the month. Fruit growers were thinning and spraying tree fruits. Early in the month, growers were firing smudge pots in their orchards to ward off damage from below-freezing temperatures during the night. Farmers were planting spring crops and putting up the first cutting of hay in Washington and Oregon; second and third cuttings of hay were underway in California. In Oregon and Washington, asparagus harvest was active, and strawberry harvest was beginning. In California, growers were chipping cotton and thinning sugar beets and tomatoes. Harvesting of Valencia oranges, asparagus, lettuce, and strawberries was active in California.

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

	: Annual : average : 1959-63 <u>1/</u>	: Annual: : average: : 1964	: May : average : 1959-63 <u>1/</u>	: May : 24-30, : 1964	: May : 23-29, : 1965
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,907	6,110	7,470	6,704	6,118
Family labor	5,040	4,506	5,486	4,911	4,466
Hired labor	1,867	1,604	1,984	1,793	1,652
INDEXES <u>2/</u>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	51	45	51	46	42
Family labor	50	44	50	45	40
Hired labor	55	47	55	50	46
(1957-59=100)					
Total	91	81	93	83	76
Family labor	91	82	92	82	75
Hired labor	95	82	96	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 <u>1/</u>	\$ 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 <u>2/</u>				
(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, May 1965
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	May average 1959-63 1/			May 1964 Week of 24-30			May 1965 Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	33	21	12	34	22	12	32	21	11
N. H.	12	9	3	11	8	3	11	8	3
Vt.	27	20	7	24	18	6	22	17	5
Mass.	37	24	13	32	20	12	30	18	12
R. I.	4	3	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	16	9	22	14	8	21	13	8
M. Atl.	138	93	45	125	83	42	119	79	40
N. Y.	154	101	53	127	84	43	119	80	39
N. J.	47	24	23	44	20	24	40	18	22
Pa.	187	154	33	161	135	26	142	120	22
M. Atl.	388	279	109	332	239	93	301	218	83
Ohio	254	216	38	221	192	29	200	174	26
Ind.	248	219	29	215	191	24	188	165	23
Ill.	283	224	59	266	216	50	239	192	47
Mich.	245	205	40	223	186	37	199	168	31
Wis.	294	268	26	266	241	25	253	231	22
E. N. Cent.	1324	1132	192	1191	1026	165	1079	930	149
Minn.	298	260	38	280	244	36	248	219	29
Iowa	321	285	36	298	267	31	268	236	32
Mo.	272	235	37	261	225	36	251	210	41
N. Dak.	98	79	19	91	74	17	84	68	16
S. Dak.	93	85	8	89	81	8	80	72	8
Nebr.	174	146	28	147	125	22	135	117	18
Kans.	167	141	26	155	130	25	147	123	24
W. N. Cent.	1423	1231	192	1321	1146	175	1213	1045	168
Del.	14	8	6	12	7	5	12	7	5
Md.	64	41	23	56	37	19	55	37	13
Va.	209	160	49	177	133	44	162	120	42
W. Va.	77	60	17	63	48	15	61	48	13
N. C.	418	331	87	388	291	97	336	256	80
S. C.	200	130	70	149	98	51	141	86	55
Ga.	189	132	57	155	105	50	141	100	41
Fla.	129	49	80	119	40	79	135	38	97
S. Atl.	1300	911	389	119	759	360	1043	692	351
Ky.	225	179	46	241	183	58	220	170	50
Tenn.	242	186	56	230	171	59	208	156	52
Ala.	184	134	50	169	128	41	160	134	26
Miss.	294	191	103	258	174	84	239	150	89
E. S. Cent.	945	690	255	898	656	242	827	610	217
Ark.	235	126	109	203	105	98	187	91	96
La.	147	87	60	137	78	59	117	68	49
Okla.	163	134	29	138	115	23	133	114	19
Tex.	451	272	179	371	225	146	296	191	105
W. S. Cent.	998	679	377	849	523	326	733	464	269
Mont.	53	38	15	51	36	15	45	34	11
Idaho	72	50	22	69	47	22	70	48	22
Wyo.	22	15	7	22	14	8	20	12	8
Colo.	67	52	15	65	49	16	54	41	13
N. Mex.	37	22	15	33	18	15	27	14	13
Ariz.	45	9	36	42	8	34	38	7	31
Utah	37	25	12	37	23	14	35	21	14
Nev.	6	4	2	6	4	2	6	3	3
Mount.	339	215	124	325	199	126	295	180	115
Wash.	135	89	46	114	78	36	111	72	39
Oreg.	109	76	33	98	68	30	95	64	31
Calif.	373	151	222	332	134	198	302	112	190
Pac.	617	316	301	544	280	264	508	248	260
U. S.	7470	5486	1984	6704	4911	1793	6118	4466	1652

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 May 1965 ^{1/}
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through May : Ave. 1959-63			January through May : 1964			January through May : 1965		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	27	19	8	26	19	7	24	18	6
N. H.	10	8	2	9	7	2	9	7	2
Vt.	26	20	6	22	17	5	22	17	5
Mass.	31	21	10	24	17	7	23	16	7
R. I.	4	3	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Conn.	21	15	6	18	13	5	17	12	5
N. Eng.	119	86	33	101	74	27	98	72	26
N. Y.	139	97	42	114	82	32	103	76	27
N. J.	36	23	13	31	18	13	28	16	12
Pa.	157	142	25	142	122	20	127	110	17
M. Atl.	342	262	80	287	222	65	258	202	56
Ohio	220	195	25	194	174	20	176	159	17
Ind.	204	186	18	180	166	14	158	145	13
Ill.	225	182	43	203	168	35	180	152	28
Mich.	199	171	28	183	157	26	159	137	22
Wis.	266	244	22	240	220	20	223	205	18
E. N. Cent.	1114	978	136	1000	885	115	896	798	98
Minn.	240	217	23	225	205	20	202	185	17
Iowa	261	239	22	239	220	19	220	202	18
Mo.	236	213	23	221	201	20	205	185	20
N. Dak.	77	66	11	68	60	8	61	53	8
S. Dak.	83	76	7	76	70	6	68	63	5
Nebr.	142	125	17	126	112	14	113	102	11
Kans.	143	128	15	132	119	13	120	108	12
W. N. Cent.	1182	1064	118	1087	987	100	989	898	91
Del.	11	7	4	8	5	3	8	5	3
Md.	50	35	15	43	32	11	41	30	11
Va.	164	130	34	146	117	29	126	101	25
W. Va.	61	50	11	50	41	9	46	38	8
N. C.	306	255	51	277	228	49	251	205	46
S. C.	147	101	46	118	83	35	100	69	31
Ga.	151	113	38	124	90	34	114	86	28
Fla.	141	48	93	135	44	91	147	45	102
S. Atl.	1031	739	292	901	640	261	833	579	254
Ky.	198	168	30	201	166	35	174	146	28
Tenn.	193	157	36	183	150	33	167	138	29
Ala.	122	94	28	112	89	23	105	87	18
Miss.	199	145	54	175	129	46	154	109	45
E. S. Cent.	712	564	148	671	534	137	600	480	120
Ark.	174	110	64	151	97	54	134	81	53
La.	127	84	43	111	71	40	100	66	34
Okla.	142	125	17	131	117	14	114	101	13
Texas	351	240	111	315	221	94	257	178	79
W. S. Cent.	794	559	235	708	506	202	605	426	179
Mont.	45	36	9	42	34	8	40	33	7
Idaho	56	43	13	53	42	11	51	40	11
Wyo.	17	13	4	17	12	5	15	10	5
Colo.	52	43	9	49	40	9	41	34	7
N. Mex.	30	19	11	27	18	9	23	14	9
Ariz.	43	10	33	39	8	31	36	7	29
Utah	28	21	7	24	18	6	23	17	6
Nev.	4	3	1	4	3	1	5	3	2
Mount.	275	188	87	255	175	80	234	158	76
Wash.	101	72	29	92	66	26	86	59	27
Oreg.	84	65	19	82	62	20	76	58	18
Calif.	321	137	184	286	122	164	267	109	158
Pac.	506	274	232	460	250	210	429	226	203
U. S.	6075	4714	1361	5470	4273	1197	4942	3839	1103

^{1/} Average number during survey week of each month.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of May 23-29, 1965				
	Farm Operator	Other Family members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	55.2	30.9	47.2	40.6	43.9
N. H.	63.6	27.5	54.3	41.4	49.4
Vt.	64.2	45.4	58.8	45.1	53.3
Mass.	67.4	39.2	59.3	43.8	50.6
R. I.	67.9	32.0	56.7	35.6	50.3
Conn.	59.3	32.6	50.5	51.1	50.7
N. Eng.	61.3	35.7	53.6	44.2	49.2
N. Y.	64.7	35.8	55.2	38.7	49.6
N. J.	47.2	24.7	39.6	41.9	40.5
Pa.	57.7	32.1	48.8	33.0	45.0
M. Atl.	59.8	33.1	50.8	38.0	46.2
Ohio	57.3	31.5	49.3	32.7	45.5
Ind.	50.7	36.7	47.1	30.7	42.8
Ill.	59.5	38.1	53.6	39.1	49.9
Mich.	62.3	38.4	54.3	33.2	49.0
Wis.	67.0	29.7	50.6	39.8	48.6
E. N. Cent.	59.3	34.8	51.0	35.6	47.4
Minn.	59.6	35.2	50.8	35.4	48.1
Iowa	62.8	31.1	52.0	34.0	48.0
Mo.	52.5	33.1	47.0	25.2	41.1
N. Dak.	61.5	37.7	52.3	46.7	51.3
S. Dak.	58.3	34.7	50.8	38.3	48.9
Nebr.	55.8	38.7	50.3	34.3	47.7
Kans.	51.7	34.0	46.6	26.9	41.6
W. N. Cent.	57.4	34.2	49.7	32.5	46.1
Del.	55.9	42.3	51.6	40.8	47.1
Md.	53.9	35.2	47.2	38.7	44.0
Va.	47.0	31.8	42.3	28.3	35.8
W. Va.	39.7	24.0	34.9	22.1	31.7
N. C.	42.2	30.4	38.4	24.7	31.7
S. C.	40.8	28.8	36.9	23.0	28.3
Ga.	42.1	31.6	38.8	30.1	34.3
Fla.	40.6	46.2	41.8	39.3	39.9
S. Atl.	43.1	31.6	39.4	30.4	34.1
Ky.	43.4	30.1	39.5	25.7	32.9
Tenn.	41.1	30.3	37.8	24.4	32.4
Ala.	36.8	26.6	33.6	29.2	31.8
Miss.	41.1	28.2	37.1	30.3	32.6
E. S. Cent.	40.9	29.1	37.3	27.7	32.5
Ark.	39.3	35.3	38.3	24.4	29.7
La.	37.2	28.9	35.0	33.7	34.5
Okla.	43.7	27.3	38.6	30.1	36.7
Tex.	53.3	32.9	47.9	35.8	42.5
W. S. Cent.	46.4	31.6	42.4	30.9	36.9
Mont.	53.5	38.0	48.9	44.0	47.7
Idaho	59.5	30.7	48.3	33.2	44.4
Wyo.	61.4	45.3	55.7	49.9	53.7
Colo.	52.6	33.8	46.6	41.3	45.1
N. Mex.	48.2	32.7	44.4	41.9	43.2
Ariz.	49.8	40.1	47.5	52.4	50.8
Utah	55.3	30.1	46.3	38.3	43.7
Nev.	52.2	31.9	46.4	46.8	46.6
Mount.	54.7	34.4	47.9	43.4	46.3
Wash.	49.6	30.9	44.6	38.8	42.2
Oreg.	47.2	30.6	42.5	36.0	40.8
Calif.	52.8	37.9	49.6	45.9	46.6
Pac.	50.6	34.3	46.6	43.7	44.6
U. S.	51.3	32.8	45.4	34.5	41.3

^{1/} Includes as "other family" only those farm household members working 15 hours or more per week without receiving cash wages.



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

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