

# Farm Labor

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## Smallest July Work Force Makes Good Progress

The farm working force in late July was generally adequate to meet needs although ranked the smallest in numbers in over half a century of record. The total number of workers in the survey week July 18-24 of 6,804,000 was 9 percent smaller than a year earlier and slightly smaller than the previous month.

The number of hired farm workers in the July survey week total 2,338,000. This represented an increase of 4 percent over the previous month, but was 8 percent under July of last year. Fewer hired workers were employed on farms than a year earlier in every geographic region except the South Atlantic. The relatively tight supply of labor for certain seasonal jobs on vegetables and fruits, a persisting shortage of dependable and qualified regular workers on general crop and livestock farms, and rising wage rates reportedly are among the factors that are tending to restrict numbers and increase the dependence on the available help.

July farm family workers totaled 4,466,000, about 10 percent less than a year earlier. Crop and livestock work on family operated farms, so important among the nearly 3.5 million farms in operation in the Nation, was being carried on with fewer numbers of family workers than ever at this season. This low level was reported in all regional groups of States.

The weather during the first three weeks in July varied greatly in different parts of the country with possible effects on worker needs. Most of the Northeast continued to be dominated by a drought of long standing that threatened to dry up important city water sources in heavily populated areas in addition to reducing crop growth. At the same time much cool and rainy weather in the northern and central plains and in parts of the Mountain region slowed harvest of the grain crops. Although haying was made more difficult, livestock "lived high" on the lush grazing. Wet weather also predominated in important parts of the Southeast.

The significant decreases in worker numbers in July reported in most States, although representing a specified week with unique characteristics, appear consistent with the pattern formed by previous months. As shown in the table on page 4 which gives State comparisons for the year to date, total farm worker numbers for January-July this year averaged 5,479,000

persons as compared with 6,046,000 for the same months last year, a reduction of 9 percent. In the reports for these first seven months of 1965 the number of family farm workers averaged 10 percent less than last year and hired farm workers 8 percent less.

#### Hours Worked Edge Below June Survey Week

Data on average hours worked per person at farm work on reporters' farms for the week of July 18-24 as shown on page 6 indicate that work pressure had eased slightly as compared with June. Farm operators of the more than 23,000 farms reporting hours worked averaged 49.1 hours during the week, compared with 52.6 hours about a month earlier. The steady labor required in dairying doubtless is reflected in the high averages for farm operators in New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and some other States, including parts of New England. Grain harvest also helped to raise averages to more than 60 hours for reporting farms in the northern Great Plains.

Family farm workers other than operators averaged 34.9 hours during the July survey week, also below last month. For the summary on hours worked, as well as for number of workers, the reports represent only persons working 15 hours or more without being paid cash wages. When a slack time permits, vacations and extra time for recreation can take precedence for this part of the family work force. Farm wives regularly contribute significantly to farm work on many farms with more than 15 hours per week. This, of course, is in addition to the usual role of making life more enjoyable for the rest of the family by the cooking and homemaking that goes uncounted as farm work.

Hired workers averaged a work week of only 31.1 hours per person on reporting farms during the July survey week or over 2 hours less than in the survey week for June. Workers included for California, Arizona, North Dakota, and Montana averaged well over 40 hours per week.

Average hours for the survey week for all farm workers reported, family and hired, decreased to 39.0 hours as compared with 41.3 hours in the June week.

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

	: Annual : average : 1959-63 <u>1/</u>	: Annual : average : 1964	: July : average : 1957-63 <u>1/</u>	: July : 19-25, : 1964	: July : 18-24, : 1965
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT</b>					
(Thousands)					
Total .....	6,907	6,110	8,200	7,500	6,804
Family labor .....	5,040	4,506	5,425	4,958	4,466
Hired labor .....	1,867	1,604	2,775	2,542	2,338
<b>INDEXES <u>2/</u></b>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total .....	51	45	51	47	43
Family labor .....	50	44	49	45	41
Hired labor .....	55	47	55	50	46
(1957-59=100)					
Total .....	<u>3/92</u>	<u>3/82</u>	93	85	77
Family labor .....	91	82	91	83	75
Hired labor .....	95	82	95	88	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.

3/ Revised.

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, July 1, 1965, United States

	: Annual : average : 1964	: July : average : 1959-63	: July 1, : 1964	: July 1, : 1965
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>				
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u> .....	\$ 0.904	\$ 0.831	\$ 0.897	\$ 0.929
Per month with house .....	212	204	222	232
Per month with board and room ...	162	152	163	171
Per week with board and room ....	38.50	37.50	40.25	42.50
Per week without board and room :	49.50	48.75	52.75	55.00
Per day with house .....	5.90	5.40	5.80	6.10
Per day with board and room .....	7.10	7.00	7.60	7.90
Per day without board or room ...	7.30	6.70	7.20	7.50
Per hour with house .....	.97	.94	1.02	1.07
Per hour without board or room ..	1.08	1.04	1.13	1.17
<b>INDEXES <u>2/</u></b>				
(1910-14=100) .....	695	648	701	726
(1957-59=100) .....	119	111	121	125

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, July 1965 <sup>1/</sup>

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	July Average 1959-63			July 1964 Week of 19-25			July 1965 Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	38	24	14	36	22	14	33	22	11
N. H.	14	10	4	12	8	4	11	8	3
Vt.	29	22	7	25	19	6	23	18	5
Mass.	47	26	21	38	19	19	36	17	19
R. I.	6	4	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	36	18	18	35	16	19	34	14	20
N. Eng.	170	104	66	149	86	63	140	81	59
N. Y.	189	112	77	162	101	61	145	90	55
N. J.	59	27	32	59	24	35	54	19	35
Pa.	218	174	44	190	154	36	160	131	29
M. Atl.	466	313	153	411	279	132	359	240	119
Ohio	261	210	51	237	191	46	212	174	38
Ind.	241	204	37	217	182	35	186	158	28
Ill.	279	212	67	261	194	67	235	182	53
Mich.	267	197	70	266	186	80	219	160	59
Wis.	314	278	36	276	241	35	263	232	31
E. N. Cent.	1362	1101	261	1257	994	263	1115	906	209
Minn.	368	279	89	363	277	86	319	240	79
Iowa	361	274	87	362	273	89	319	244	75
Mo.	301	251	50	301	241	60	257	213	44
N. Dak.	131	89	42	122	83	39	113	79	34
S. Dak.	109	87	22	104	83	21	91	74	17
Nebr.	198	154	44	185	142	43	173	131	42
Kans.	197	145	52	191	137	54	179	128	51
W. N. Cent.	1665	1279	386	1628	1236	392	1451	1109	342
Del.	15	7	8	15	8	7	15	8	7
Md.	74	45	29	66	42	24	64	41	23
Va.	233	129	104	186	109	77	193	105	88
W. Va.	77	63	14	59	49	10	55	46	9
N. C.	715	388	327	608	335	273	607	294	313
S. C.	253	144	109	230	134	96	182	101	81
Ga.	170	115	55	165	108	57	158	106	52
Fla.	92	41	51	83	37	46	84	35	49
S. Atl.	1629	932	697	1412	822	590	1358	736	622
Ky.	261	180	81	243	174	69	221	160	61
Tenn.	239	167	72	223	154	69	199	140	59
Ala.	111	87	24	100	80	20	103	83	20
Miss.	198	159	39	192	132	60	169	117	52
E. S. Cent.	809	593	216	758	540	218	692	500	192
Ark.	208	100	108	195	87	108	183	78	105
La.	143	76	67	130	68	62	118	59	59
Okla.	160	112	48	131	104	27	131	94	37
Texas	507	283	224	415	240	175	336	197	139
W. S. Cent.	1018	571	447	871	499	372	768	428	340
Mont.	63	38	25	63	38	25	58	36	22
Idaho	95	57	38	96	56	40	91	54	37
Wyo.	26	15	11	24	13	11	24	13	11
Colo.	85	54	31	73	49	24	70	46	24
N. Mex.	42	22	20	35	20	15	32	18	14
Ariz.	37	10	27	33	8	25	33	8	25
Utah	43	28	15	40	25	15	37	23	14
Nev.	6	4	2	8	5	3	6	3	3
Mount.	397	228	169	372	214	158	351	201	150
Wash.	165	94	71	167	94	73	126	84	42
Oreg.	134	73	61	135	71	64	117	64	53
Calif.	385	137	248	340	123	217	327	117	210
Pac.	684	304	380	642	288	354	570	265	305
U. S.	8200	5425	2775	7500	4958	2542	6804	4466	2338

<sup>1/</sup> 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 1965 1/  
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through July : Ave. 1959-63			January through July : 1964			January through July 1965		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	29	20	9	29	20	9	27	20	7
N. H.	12	9	3	10	7	3	9	7	2
Vt.	26	20	6	23	18	5	22	17	5
Mass.	35	22	13	28	18	10	27	17	10
R. I.	4	3	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	16	9	22	14	8	21	12	9
N. Eng.	131	90	41	114	78	36	109	75	34
N. Y.	152	101	51	128	87	41	114	80	34
N. J.	42	24	18	38	20	18	35	17	18
Pa.	182	151	31	154	130	24	137	116	21
M. Atl.	376	276	100	320	237	83	286	213	73
Ohio	233	200	33	206	179	27	186	163	23
Ind.	218	194	24	194	174	20	168	150	18
Ill.	245	193	52	222	178	44	199	162	37
Mich.	219	179	40	204	165	39	174	143	31
Wis.	277	251	26	250	226	24	234	213	21
E. N. Cent.	1192	1017	175	1076	922	154	961	831	130
Minn.	275	234	41	258	221	37	234	200	34
Iowa	289	249	40	270	234	36	249	215	34
Mo.	255	223	32	244	213	31	219	193	26
N. Dak.	89	71	18	79	65	14	73	59	14
S. Dak.	89	79	10	83	74	9	74	66	8
Nebr.	157	132	25	141	120	21	129	110	19
Kans.	159	133	26	150	125	25	138	115	23
W. N. Cent.	1313	1121	192	1225	1052	173	1116	958	158
Del.	12	7	5	10	6	4	10	6	4
Md.	56	37	19	49	34	15	47	33	14
Va.	183	130	53	159	116	43	144	102	42
W. Va.	67	54	13	54	43	11	49	40	9
N. C.	394	286	108	353	254	99	330	227	103
S. C.	178	113	65	143	95	48	120	77	43
Ga.	160	116	44	137	96	41	125	91	34
Fla.	128	46	82	121	42	79	132	42	90
S. Atl.	1178	789	389	1026	686	340	957	618	339
Ky.	217	172	45	216	169	47	190	151	39
Tenn.	211	164	47	200	155	45	180	142	38
Ala.	124	95	29	113	89	24	107	88	19
Miss.	203	152	51	188	135	53	167	115	52
E. S. Cent.	755	583	172	717	548	169	644	496	148
Ark.	187	111	76	165	96	69	150	83	67
La.	133	83	50	118	71	47	106	65	41
Okla.	151	125	26	135	116	19	121	102	19
Texas	392	252	140	350	230	120	284	185	99
W. S. Cent.	863	571	292	768	513	255	661	435	226
Mont.	49	36	13	47	35	12	44	33	11
Idaho	67	47	20	65	46	19	62	44	18
Wyo.	19	13	6	18	12	6	18	11	7
Colo.	63	47	16	56	43	13	49	37	12
N. Mex.	33	20	13	29	18	11	25	15	10
Ariz.	42	10	32	38	8	30	36	8	28
Utah	32	23	9	29	20	9	28	19	9
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	310	199	111	287	185	102	267	170	97
Wash.	122	79	43	113	74	39	101	67	34
Oreg.	100	68	32	99	65	34	91	60	31
Calif.	340	137	203	301	123	178	286	112	174
Pac.	562	284	278	513	262	251	478	239	239
U. S.	6680	4930	1750	6046	4483	1563	5479	4035	1444

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 July 18-24, 1965				
	Farm Operator	Other Family <sup>1/</sup> members	All Family <sup>1/</sup>	Hired Workers	All Workers <sup>1/</sup>
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	60.8	40.2	52.8	30.4	42.6
N. H.	65.4	38.9	56.0	39.3	50.3
Vt.	65.3	47.2	58.8	43.3	51.9
Mass.	61.7	34.9	52.9	42.4	48.3
R. I.	59.6	23.8	44.5	46.5	45.4
Conn.	59.0	31.2	49.5	34.8	43.2
N. Eng.	62.2	38.9	53.8	37.6	46.4
N. Y.	64.3	38.3	55.1	41.3	50.0
N. J.	49.4	31.9	43.7	36.5	41.0
Pa.	56.1	34.1	47.8	33.8	43.8
M. Atl.	59.0	35.7	50.5	38.1	45.9
Ohio	52.4	34.3	46.1	26.7	40.8
Ind.	44.1	32.5	41.1	27.6	37.1
Ill.	46.4	38.3	44.4	31.0	41.0
Mich.	57.2	37.4	50.0	30.7	44.1
Wis.	64.1	32.0	49.8	39.0	47.6
E. N. Cent.	52.6	34.9	46.1	30.9	42.5
Minn.	62.9	37.8	52.6	33.2	47.8
Iowa	58.7	34.7	49.9	27.3	43.3
Mo.	46.0	33.4	42.6	23.4	38.1
N. Dak.	63.6	45.2	55.6	46.6	53.6
S. Dak.	61.5	42.8	54.7	37.6	51.0
Nebr.	61.0	42.3	54.0	35.7	49.0
Kans.	56.2	40.8	51.4	34.5	46.5
W. N. Cent.	57.2	37.9	50.2	32.7	45.7
Del.	43.5	36.6	41.0	20.2	34.4
Md.	49.0	33.3	43.1	40.6	42.5
Va.	42.7	35.0	40.3	30.1	35.6
W. Va.	38.5	34.2	37.4	27.9	34.8
N. C.	40.4	31.4	36.8	16.8	23.2
S. C.	37.8	27.2	34.5	16.6	21.8
Ga.	37.4	31.5	35.5	21.0	26.6
Fla.	38.2	34.2	37.2	30.9	32.4
S. Atl.	40.1	32.0	37.2	21.2	27.2
Ky.	39.8	32.7	37.7	26.4	33.2
Tenn.	34.3	32.2	33.7	22.4	29.5
Ala.	31.1	28.5	30.5	22.5	27.1
Miss.	36.6	28.0	34.1	35.0	34.7
E. S. Cent.	35.7	30.7	34.3	27.1	31.6
Ark.	36.7	35.8	36.5	35.0	35.7
La.	31.6	33.7	32.1	27.3	30.3
Okla.	46.5	32.4	42.4	29.7	38.3
Tex.	57.5	37.7	51.2	32.8	40.4
W. S. Cent.	47.6	35.7	43.9	32.2	37.4
Mont.	59.6	46.0	54.4	43.0	50.7
Idaho	61.5	37.6	51.6	37.3	47.1
Wyo.	65.2	45.1	56.8	35.7	47.5
Colo.	58.7	36.2	49.1	37.4	44.9
N. Mex.	49.8	36.3	44.7	36.6	41.0
Ariz.	52.3	40.2	49.1	47.6	48.2
Utah	53.8	34.1	44.9	30.9	40.6
Nev.	52.1	40.6	48.6	36.8	43.2
Mount.	58.2	39.2	50.4	39.1	46.1
Wash.	49.4	35.0	44.9	39.1	42.3
Oreg.	48.9	33.4	43.4	37.5	41.2
Calif.	52.4	37.6	48.0	45.2	45.7
Pac.	50.8	35.9	46.1	43.0	44.0
U. S.	49.1	34.9	44.1	31.1	39.0

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



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