

# Farm Labor

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

## Smallest August Work Force - Trend Toward Fewer Workers Continues

The farm working force during the week of August 22-28 was generally adequate, as mostly favorable weather for field work prevailed. The number of farm workers during the survey week totaled 6,644,000, a new low for an August survey week. This was 2 percent lower than July and 7 percent below August a year ago. August farm family workers totaled 4,591,000, up 3 percent from July but 6 percent below August 1964. An estimated 2,053,000 hired workers were employed on farms during the August survey week, 12 percent fewer than in July and 9 percent lower than in late August 1964. The January-August averages for 48 States as shown on page 5 are lower than last year by the following percentages: all workers, 9 percent; family workers, 10 percent; and hired workers, 8 percent.

## Hours Worked by Hired Workers Above Last Month

Data on average hours worked per person at farm work on reporters' farms for the week of August 22-28 indicate that work pressure had eased slightly for family workers but had increased for hired workers. Farm operators of the 22,800 farms reporting hours worked averaged 46.4 hours during the week, compared with 49.1 hours the previous month.

Family farm workers other than operators averaged 34.0 hours during the week, down slightly from July. For the summary on hours worked, as well as for number of family workers, the reports represent only persons working 15 hours or more without being paid cash wages.

Hired workers averaged a work week of 34.1 hours per person compared with 31.1 hours the previous month. Hours worked during the survey week by all farm workers reported, family and hired, averaged 39.3 hours as compared with 39.0 hours in the July survey week.

## Hand Pickers Start the Cotton Picking Season

Hand pickers still get the season rolling in many sections, even though the major part of the total cotton crop is harvested by machines. During the third week in August the first bales of cotton were ginned in a few southern counties of South Carolina. Some boll rot occurred in spite of bottom defoliation. In southern Alabama counties, hand picking was underway; however,

frequent showers slowed cotton opening. Weevil infestation was high and farmers were still poisoning in an attempt to protect late cotton. In Mississippi, hot days hastened maturity and cotton was opening rapidly. Hand pickers were doing some harvesting but picking was not general. Machines will not be brought into general use until late September or early October. In Arkansas, bolls were opening rapidly and hand picking started during the last week of August. No machine harvest has been reported. Hand picking in Louisiana started about a month ago in the southern counties and was underway in most other areas by the last of August. A few bales of cotton had been harvested from advanced fields in southwest Oklahoma by September 1, but most of the crop was much less advanced and continued to set bolls. Harvest continued to move northward in Texas as early fields opened. The first bales had been ginned in several High Plains counties. Active harvest had reached the Central Blacklands, and salvage operations were active in the Lower Valley and along the Coast. Cotton in Arizona was opening at an increasing rate as the month came to a close. Rust caused considerable concern as damage increased in the southeastern section of the State. In California, cotton was opening in the Riverside and Imperial counties. A few bales had been ginned.

#### Tobacco Harvest Ahead of Previous Year

During August the Virginia Flue-cured tobacco crop ripened rapidly, and growers rushed harvest operations. By the end of the month about half of the crop had been harvested. Harvest of other types was well underway, and good yields were expected for all types. The North Carolina Flue-cured crop was over 80 percent harvested. The tobacco marketing season in Georgia came to a close with growers receiving record high prices. Yields were good also. Hot dry weather in Kentucky caused the crop in some areas to yellow and fire up at the bottom. In a few cases growers began cutting before the tobacco was ripe. This tends to reduce both weight and quality. Cutting was very rapid during the last week of August and nearly half the crop was harvested by September 1. About half of the Tennessee Burley crop was harvested as well as 40 percent of the dark-fired and 35 percent of the dark air-cured crop.

#### Work Advances in Harvesting Fruit Crops

During August workers made considerable progress in harvesting the country's fruit crops. Peach harvest was nearing completion in New Jersey while apples were still moving in volume. Fruit size and coloration were not as good as usual. Harvesting of apples and peaches was active throughout the month in Pennsylvania and both crops were showing excellent quality. Picking of Virginia Red Delicious apples was beginning in the southern areas. Peach harvest was near completion with some reduction in volume in the northern counties because of dry weather. Picking of Colorado Elberta peaches had started on the western slope. Hail caused some damage to the peach crop in the Palisade area the last of August. Picking of Bartlett pears was underway in Washington and in Oregon's Rogue River and Hood River Valleys. Washington's Delicious apples were maturing well, and picking will commence about the first of September. Except for a few places, raspberry harvest was over by midmonth while blueberry picking continued in full swing throughout August with yields good. Hired workers were busy in California's large orchard and vineyard acreages, which were providing an increasing volume of fruits and nuts. Picking of nectarines, Freestone peaches, Bartlett pears, and plums for fresh use continued active during the month.

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

	: Annual : average : 1959-63 <u>1/</u>	: Annual : average : 1964	: August : average : 1959-63 <u>1/</u>	: August : 23-29, : 1964	: August : 22-28, : 1965
FARM EMPLOYMENT	:	:	:	:	:
(Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	6,907	6,110	8,179	7,174	6,644
Family labor .....	5,040	4,506	5,519	4,906	4,591
Hired labor .....	1,867	1,604	2,660	2,268	2,053
INDEXES <u>2/</u>	:	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	51	45	51	45	41
Family labor .....	50	44	49	44	41
Hired labor .....	55	47	55	46	42
(1957-59=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	91	81	92	81	75
Family labor .....	91	82	91	81	76
Hired labor .....	95	82	95	81	73

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.

-----o0o-----

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

	: Annual : average : 1964	: July : average : 1959-63	: July 1, : 1964	: July 1, : 1965
FARM WAGE RATES	:	:	:	:
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
INDEXES <u>2/</u>	:	:	:	:
(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, August 1965  
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	August Average 1959-63 1/			August 1964 Week of 23-29			August 1965 Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	37	22	15	38	22	16	34	21	13
N.H.	13	9	4	11	7	4	11	8	3
Vt.	27	20	7	24	19	5	23	18	5
Mass.	43	23	20	36	19	17	35	17	18
R.I.	6	4	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	33	19	14	33	17	16	30	14	16
N.Eng.	159	97	62	145	86	59	136	80	56
N.Y.	201	113	88	156	98	58	145	87	58
N.J.	61	27	34	50	20	30	49	19	30
Pa.	227	178	49	183	149	34	167	136	31
M.Atl.	489	318	171	389	267	122	361	242	119
Ohio	249	194	55	213	171	42	194	159	35
Ind.	221	186	35	185	160	25	181	157	24
Ill.	246	193	53	239	194	45	218	175	43
Mich.	267	195	72	218	164	54	201	147	54
Wis.	320	277	43	274	239	35	267	232	35
E.N.Cent.	1303	1045	258	1129	928	201	1061	870	191
Minn.	317	254	63	284	236	48	281	227	54
Iowa	328	267	61	298	247	51	284	234	50
Mo.	326	258	68	288	243	45	269	221	48
N.Dak.	130	92	38	114	83	31	120	82	38
S.Dak.	113	90	23	95	80	15	92	75	17
Nebr.	176	140	36	155	128	27	152	125	27
Kans.	186	141	45	166	131	35	157	124	33
W.N.Cent.	1576	1242	334	1400	1148	252	1355	1088	267
Del.	17	9	8	14	8	6	15	8	7
Md.	73	45	28	66	42	24	63	40	23
Va.	218	137	81	198	126	72	179	116	63
W.Va.	79	65	14	61	52	9	55	47	8
N.C.	651	434	217	620	362	258	533	333	200
S.C.	243	155	88	187	128	59	156	100	56
Ga.	213	154	59	191	133	58	180	127	53
Fla.	95	43	52	85	38	47	80	34	46
S.Atl.	1589	1042	547	1422	889	533	1261	805	456
Ky.	277	198	79	276	190	86	264	186	78
Tenn.	254	178	76	232	176	56	205	154	51
Ala.	134	101	33	110	85	25	110	89	21
Miss.	254	187	67	211	155	56	178	131	47
E.S.Cent.	919	664	255	829	606	223	757	560	197
Ark.	236	112	124	184	90	94	168	89	79
La.	178	91	87	171	81	90	152	72	80
Okla.	162	111	51	116	92	24	123	94	29
Texas	498	266	232	426	236	190	367	230	137
W.S.Cent.	1074	580	494	897	499	398	810	485	325
Mont.	59	40	19	56	39	17	57	39	18
Idaho	89	57	32	90	55	35	88	56	32
Wyo.	23	16	7	23	14	9	20	12	8
Colo.	84	57	27	72	53	19	66	47	19
N.Mex.	39	22	17	33	17	16	31	18	13
Ariz.	39	10	29	32	8	24	31	8	23
Utah	40	27	13	40	26	14	33	23	10
Nev.	7	4	3	7	3	4	6	3	3
Mount.	380	233	147	353	215	138	332	206	126
Wash.	146	85	61	134	77	57	114	70	44
Oreg.	124	65	59	126	66	60	121	61	60
Calif.	420	148	272	350	125	225	336	124	212
Pac.	690	298	392	610	268	342	571	255	316
U.S.	8179	5519	2660	7174	4906	2268	6644	4591	2053

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 August 1965 <sup>1/</sup>

State and division	(Thousands of persons)								
	January through Aug. Ave. 1959-63			January through Aug. 1964			January through Aug. 1965		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	21	10	30	20	10	28	20	8
N. H.	12	9	3	10	7	3	9	7	2
Vt.	26	20	6	23	18	5	22	17	5
Mass.	36	22	14	29	18	11	27	16	11
R. I.	4	3	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Conn.	26	16	10	23	14	9	23	13	10
N. Eng.	135	91	44	117	78	39	112	75	37
N. Y.	159	103	56	131	88	43	119	81	38
N. J.	44	24	20	40	20	20	36	17	19
Pa.	188	155	33	158	133	25	141	119	22
M. Atl.	391	282	109	329	241	88	296	217	79
Ohio	235	199	36	207	178	29	187	163	24
Ind.	218	193	25	192	172	20	170	151	19
Ill.	245	193	52	224	180	44	201	164	37
Mich.	225	181	44	205	164	41	178	144	34
Wis.	283	255	28	254	228	26	237	214	23
E. N. Cent.	1206	1021	185	1082	922	160	973	836	137
Minn.	280	236	44	262	224	38	241	204	37
Iowa	295	252	43	273	235	38	254	218	36
Mo.	263	227	36	249	216	33	225	196	29
N. Dak.	93	73	20	83	67	16	79	62	17
S. Dak.	92	80	12	84	74	10	76	67	9
Nebr.	159	133	26	143	121	22	132	112	20
Kans.	162	134	28	152	126	26	140	116	24
W. N. Cent.	1344	1135	209	1246	1063	183	1147	975	172
Del.	12	7	5	10	6	4	10	6	4
Md.	58	38	20	51	35	16	49	34	15
Va.	187	131	56	164	117	47	149	104	45
W. Va.	68	55	13	54	44	10	50	41	9
N. C.	426	304	122	386	267	119	355	240	115
S. C.	186	118	68	150	100	50	125	80	45
Ga.	167	121	46	144	101	43	133	96	37
Fla.	124	46	78	117	42	75	125	41	84
S. Atl.	1228	820	408	1076	712	364	996	642	354
Ky.	225	175	50	224	172	52	200	156	44
Tenn.	217	166	51	205	158	47	183	143	40
Ala.	125	96	29	112	88	24	107	88	19
Miss.	209	156	53	191	138	53	168	117	51
E. S. Cent.	776	593	183	732	556	176	658	504	154
Ark.	193	111	82	168	96	72	152	83	69
La.	139	84	55	125	73	52	112	66	46
Okla.	153	124	29	132	113	19	121	101	20
Texas	405	253	152	359	230	129	295	191	104
W. S. Cent.	890	572	318	784	512	272	680	441	239
Mont.	51	37	14	48	35	13	46	34	12
Idaho	69	48	21	67	47	20	65	45	20
Wyo.	20	14	6	20	13	7	18	11	7
Colo.	64	47	17	58	44	14	51	38	13
N. Mex.	34	20	14	30	18	12	26	16	10
Ariz.	42	10	32	37	8	29	35	8	27
Utah	34	24	10	30	21	9	28	19	9
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	319	203	116	295	189	106	274	174	100
Wash.	125	80	45	116	75	41	103	67	36
Oreg.	103	68	35	103	65	38	94	60	34
Calif.	350	138	212	307	123	184	292	114	178
Pac.	578	286	292	526	263	263	489	241	248
U. S.	6867	5003	1864	6187	4536	1651	5625	4105	1520

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

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of August 22-28, 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	51.4	40.4	47.8	36.3	43.0
N.H.	64.5	50.6	59.9	45.0	55.1
Vt.	64.1	46.4	57.4	50.1	54.7
Mass.	61.9	36.8	53.1	41.0	47.9
R.I.	58.7	30.6	47.4	32.8	40.5
Conn.	58.4	34.3	50.1	50.8	50.4
N.Eng.	58.8	41.0	52.5	43.6	48.8
N.Y.	61.6	38.2	53.8	43.6	50.1
N.J.	51.8	36.7	46.9	27.0	37.7
Pa.	54.5	34.9	47.2	35.2	44.2
M.Atl.	57.2	36.4	49.9	37.2	45.7
Ohio	48.3	31.7	42.9	29.1	39.3
Ind.	40.0	33.4	38.3	31.6	36.7
Ill.	43.9	35.0	41.9	31.0	39.3
Mich.	51.6	38.2	47.4	30.8	42.9
Wis.	63.9	32.9	50.1	38.7	47.7
E.N.Cent.	49.4	34.1	44.0	32.1	41.7
Minn.	59.1	38.4	50.7	38.5	48.2
Iowa	53.0	33.7	46.5	31.0	43.1
Mo.	45.4	32.6	41.7	26.8	38.8
N.Dak.	65.5	40.9	54.1	45.8	51.9
S.Dak.	58.2	39.9	51.6	38.5	49.0
Nebr.	54.3	39.2	48.9	31.2	45.2
Kans.	50.1	38.0	46.5	37.6	44.5
W.N.Cent.	53.5	36.4	47.4	35.2	44.9
Del.	41.2	31.4	37.2	28.3	35.0
Md.	47.9	31.6	41.8	35.9	39.5
Va.	42.4	34.6	39.8	28.9	34.9
W.Va.	37.8	31.3	36.1	26.6	33.7
N.C.	38.8	31.9	35.9	20.2	26.8
S.C.	36.6	28.7	33.9	20.3	25.5
Ga.	36.7	33.2	35.8	28.4	31.9
Fla.	37.0	26.3	34.4	27.7	29.6
S.Atl.	39.0	31.7	36.4	24.2	29.7
Ky.	41.6	32.4	38.6	29.7	34.2
Tenn.	33.7	29.9	32.8	22.2	28.9
Ala.	30.6	26.1	29.4	26.9	28.4
Miss.	35.0	27.9	32.9	39.5	36.9
E.S.Cent.	35.6	29.4	33.8	29.8	32.6
Ark.	32.7	32.9	32.8	32.1	32.5
La.	34.3	31.6	33.5	31.1	32.5
Okla.	45.3	32.6	41.6	30.0	38.4
Texas	46.4	35.2	42.9	34.9	39.3
W.S.Cent.	41.9	33.7	39.4	32.8	36.5
Mont.	56.7	43.2	51.7	43.4	49.2
Idaho	57.3	40.0	50.0	40.3	47.4
Wyo.	58.8	35.5	50.3	30.0	43.3
Colo.	56.9	35.1	48.7	43.4	47.2
N.Mex.	49.0	38.0	45.2	42.8	44.1
Ariz.	48.9	24.1	41.3	41.9	41.7
Utah	47.1	31.8	40.3	33.0	38.1
Nev.	53.7	24.7	40.9	29.9	37.1
Mount.	54.9	37.3	48.1	40.3	45.5
Wash.	46.0	36.4	43.4	40.8	42.2
Oreg.	45.1	33.5	41.1	53.8	45.0
Calif.	52.2	38.1	48.0	46.7	47.0
Pac.	48.8	36.6	45.1	47.2	45.6
U.S.	46.4	34.0	42.1	34.1	39.3

<sup>1/</sup> 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

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

---

IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Comments .....	1 - 2
Farm employment and indexes, United States .....	3
Workers on Farms, August 1965 .....	4
Average number of workers on farms January through August 1965, by States and Division, with comparisons .....	5
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms August 22-28, 1965 by States and Division .....	6

---