

Farm Labor

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Wintery Weather Dominates Survey Week

The number of persons working on farms during the survey week of January 23-29 is estimated at 3,810,000 -- the smallest work force on record for January. This is a decline of 10 percent from the December 1965 survey week and is 6 percent lower than the comparable January total a year earlier. Farm operators and other family members working on home farms during the week of January 23-29 totaled 3,134,000 persons -- 6 percent fewer than in the comparable survey week of January 1965. The number of hired farm workers, at 676,000 persons, was 12 percent lower than in the December 1965 survey week and 6 percent under a year earlier.

Mid-winter weather set the work pace on farms across the Nation during the survey week; temperatures much below normal prevailed in all areas east of the Rockies. Freezing temperatures reached south into all areas except the extreme southern tips of Florida and Texas. Snow cover also moved south, covering most of Arkansas and the northern portions of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. With few exceptions, farm workers were primarily concerned with the care of livestock and poultry and other routine chores. Because of the extremely cold weather, livestock feeding rates were higher. However, feed supplies were considered generally adequate.

Decreases in the numbers of farm workers, both family and hired, are closely associated with continued annual declines in the number of farms and the trend toward more mechanization of farming operations. During the period 1959 to 1965 the number of farms declined about 18 percent. The number of farms that will be operated in 1966 is expected to be about 3.3 million, a further decrease of about 3 percent.

Hours Worked During Survey Week Reflect Mid-Winter Conditions

The average number of hours worked per person by all farm workers on reporting farms during the January survey week was practically unchanged from a month earlier. All family workers averaged a work week of 32.7 hours -- down slightly from the December 1965 survey week of 34.3 hours.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Statistical Reporting Service
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Crop Reporting Board
Washington, D. C.

Hired farm workers averaged 34.0 hours of farm work during the January survey week. This was an increase of 3.8 hours over a month earlier, but practically unchanged from the January 1965 survey week. Much of the increase over a month earlier can be attributed to increased harvesting activity in Florida and California. Workers in Florida were busy harvesting the citrus, sugarcane, and vegetable crops. California workers were pruning and spraying deciduous trees and vines, and harvesting many of the fruit crops. Cotton picking also made good progress during the week.

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Farm employment and indexes, January 1966, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1960-64 ^{1/}	: Annual : average : 1965	: January : average : 1960-64 ^{1/}	: January : 24-30, : 1965	: January : 23-29, : 1966
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,662	5,609	4,766	4,043	3,810
Family labor	4,862	4,125	3,885	3,322	3,134
Hired labor	1,800	1,484	881	721	676
INDEXES ^{2/}					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	49	41	49	42	39
Family labor	48	41	48	41	39
Hired labor	53	44	53	43	41
(1957-59=100)					
Total	89	75	90	76	72
Family labor	88	75	89	76	72
Hired labor	92	76	92	75	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.

Workers on Farms, January 1966 1/
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January Average 1960-64			January 1965 Week of 24-30			January 1966 Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	24	18	6	20	16	4	21	17	4
N. H.	9	7	2	8	6	2	8	6	2
Vt.	23	18	5	21	17	4	19	16	3
Mass.	22	16	6	20	15	5	19	14	5
R. I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	1
Conn.	17	13	4	15	11	4	13	10	3
N. Eng.	98	74	24	87	67	20	82	64	18
N. Y.	120	91	29	95	74	21	91	72	19
N. J.	29	20	9	23	15	8	21	15	6
Pa.	136	117	19	111	96	15	98	87	11
M. Atl.	285	228	57	229	185	44	210	174	36
Ohio	165	152	13	147	137	10	132	124	8
Ind.	163	154	9	134	127	7	129	123	6
Ill.	172	145	27	142	123	19	136	119	17
Mich.	162	139	23	132	115	17	128	113	15
Wis.	230	214	16	204	191	13	194	182	12
E. N. Cent.	892	804	88	759	693	66	719	661	58
Minn.	192	180	12	171	161	10	164	155	9
Iowa	208	192	16	178	168	10	176	164	12
Mo.	202	188	14	181	170	11	165	156	9
N. Dak.	53	47	6	44	39	5	42	38	4
S. Dak.	65	61	4	54	51	3	54	50	4
Nebr.	118	110	8	97	92	5	96	91	5
Kans.	118	111	7	102	95	7	95	89	6
W. N. Cent.	956	889	67	827	776	51	792	743	49
Del.	8	6	2	5	4	1	5	4	1
Md.	37	28	9	30	23	7	29	22	7
Va.	128	105	23	102	86	16	95	79	16
W. Va.	46	40	6	35	30	5	33	29	4
N. C.	225	198	27	201	175	26	175	154	21
S. C.	104	81	23	68	55	13	74	58	16
Ga.	99	79	20	93	75	18	83	69	14
Fla.	131	39	92	150	42	108	137	32	105
S. Atl.	778	576	202	684	490	194	631	447	184
Ky.	171	154	17	148	133	15	147	132	15
Tenn.	154	135	19	139	125	14	124	112	12
Ala.	81	66	15	78	65	13	63	54	9
Miss.	121	101	20	101	82	19	91	75	16
E. S. Cent.	527	456	71	466	405	61	425	373	52
Ark.	112	91	21	83	70	13	75	65	10
La.	90	72	18	79	62	17	66	53	13
Okla.	118	110	8	98	91	7	103	97	6
Texas	268	200	68	211	162	49	181	149	32
W. S. Cent.	588	473	115	471	385	86	425	364	61
Mont.	35	30	5	31	27	4	30	26	4
Idaho	40	34	6	36	32	4	36	31	5
Wyo.	12	10	2	11	9	2	10	8	2
Colo.	40	34	6	31	27	4	30	27	3
N. Mex.	25	17	8	19	14	5	17	12	5
Ariz.	40	9	31	35	7	28	35	7	28
Utah	21	17	4	17	14	3	14	12	2
Nev.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Mount.	216	153	63	183	132	51	175	125	50
Wash.	70	57	13	58	47	11	59	47	12
Oreg.	62	53	9	57	47	10	51	43	8
Calif.	294	122	172	222	95	127	241	93	148
Pac.	426	232	194	337	189	148	351	183	168
U. S.	4766	3885	881	4043	3322	721	3810	3134	676

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of January 23-29, 1966				
	Farm Operator	Other Family ^{1/} Members	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	49.0	25.7	43.0	29.0	37.7
N. H.	54.3	32.1	49.0	40.7	46.3
Vt.	59.4	39.2	52.1	45.9	50.4
Mass.	56.6	30.6	48.6	43.5	46.6
R. I.	51.7	44.0	50.8	49.9	50.4
Conn.	50.5	32.4	44.6	45.3	44.8
N. Eng.	53.6	31.8	47.2	41.0	45.0
N. Y.	54.3	31.2	47.6	40.8	45.4
N. J.	42.2	32.5	39.7	40.1	39.8
Pa.	45.7	30.2	41.0	34.9	39.8
M. Atl.	49.0	30.8	43.6	38.9	42.2
Ohio	38.1	29.6	36.0	28.2	34.9
Ind.	32.3	29.0	31.7	31.2	31.6
Ill.	32.1	32.2	32.1	32.0	32.1
Mich.	42.5	32.8	39.9	33.2	38.6
Wis.	55.6	30.2	45.6	37.3	44.3
E. N. Cent.	39.9	30.7	36.9	32.8	37.0
Minn.	41.4	28.7	37.5	32.1	36.9
Iowa	42.3	26.8	38.7	29.5	37.3
Mo.	35.0	29.8	34.0	33.0	33.9
N. Dak.	31.6	27.9	30.6	34.1	31.0
S. Dak.	40.8	28.6	37.7	31.7	37.0
Nebr.	37.5	31.7	36.1	30.2	35.5
Kans.	34.1	29.2	33.2	32.8	33.1
W. N. Cent.	38.2	28.9	35.9	31.7	35.4
Del.	23.1	29.5	24.3	30.8	26.0
Md.	34.8	26.1	32.4	33.4	32.7
Va.	32.3	28.6	31.5	31.3	31.4
W. Va.	30.8	25.7	29.7	25.2	28.9
N. C.	25.4	26.6	25.6	27.3	26.1
S. C.	32.4	22.5	29.6	19.5	24.8
Ga.	30.8	29.5	30.6	26.6	29.0
Fla.	38.9	22.7	36.2	33.0	34.2
S. Atl.	30.0	26.6	29.2	30.4	29.3
Ky.	28.5	23.6	27.5	26.7	27.3
Tenn.	23.4	25.7	23.7	23.3	23.6
Ala.	22.5	27.1	23.2	25.8	23.9
Miss.	27.8	21.8	26.5	25.5	26.0
E. S. Cent.	25.6	24.6	25.3	25.4	25.4
Ark.	25.1	30.0	26.0	25.3	25.9
La.	25.6	25.1	25.5	31.0	27.3
Okla.	32.6	24.6	30.8	26.5	30.3
Texas	27.0	28.9	27.3	29.9	28.0
W. S. Cent.	27.6	27.7	27.5	29.0	28.1
Mont.	33.8	33.0	33.5	39.9	34.7
Idaho	34.5	24.4	31.8	29.3	31.4
Wyo.	41.2	31.6	38.6	39.5	38.8
Colo.	34.2	26.5	32.5	39.0	33.7
N. Mex.	33.0	32.4	32.9	40.7	35.5
Ariz.	41.8	24.7	37.8	36.6	37.1
Utah	32.1	27.0	30.7	28.8	30.4
Nev.	34.7	26.3	32.2	41.1	35.2
Mount.	34.6	28.2	33.0	36.6	34.3
Wash.	31.0	26.3	30.1	32.4	30.8
Oreg.	33.5	30.9	32.9	32.5	32.8
Calif.	40.5	33.3	39.0	41.9	41.1
Pac.	36.2	30.8	35.1	40.8	38.2
U. S.	34.5	28.3	32.7	34.0	33.6

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

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