

# Farm Labor

Release  
June 10, 1966  
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

## FARM WORK FORCE INCREASES SEASONALLY

Generally favorable weather during the last half of May enabled farmers to make good progress in spring planting and other field work, and resulted in a 12 percent increase in the total number of farm workers over April. During the May 22-28 survey week, farm employment totaled 5,750,000 persons, of which 4,269,000 were family workers and 1,481,000 were hired workers. The number of family workers rose 6 percent above the April survey week but was 5 percent below May 1965. The number of hired workers increased 30 percent over April, but was down 10 percent from a year earlier.

### Work Week Lengthens

The length of the farm work week, as indicated by reporting farmers, advanced seasonally from a month earlier, reflecting the increased tempo of farm activity. Farm operators averaged 50.0 hours worked for the week of May 22-28 - an increase of 4.7 hours per operator over a month earlier. Other family members averaged 32.7 hours for the week, up 1.8 hours, while hired workers averaged 35.8 hours, 0.3 hours more than a month earlier. The average for all workers on reporting farms during the May survey week was 41.8 hours, a gain of 2.3 hours or 6 percent from April.

### Spring Work Progressing Rapidly

Dry, sunny weather prevailed in most parts of the Nation during the survey week, enabling farmers to make good progress in spring work. Exceptions were in several Southeastern States, where heavy rain and wet soil kept farmers out of fields, and in some northern Mountain States, where dry, windy weather curtailed activities somewhat.

In the North Central States, weather conditions during the last half of May were generally favorable for field work, but progress in corn and soybean planting continued to lag behind normal, reflecting unfavorable weather earlier in the month. A start was made in cutting the first crop of hay, and spraying for weed and insect control was another common activity. Planting of sugar beets and potatoes was moving along rapidly in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota, and sugar beets were being thinned and blocked in Nebraska.

Farm activities proceeded at a stepped-up pace during the survey week in North East and Middle Atlantic States. Planting of the Maine potato crop was ahead of schedule, and vegetable planting in central and western New York was active.

Strawberry harvest was beginning in New Jersey; it is later than normal throughout the area because of frosts earlier in the season.

Rain and wet soil slowed activities in many South Atlantic States. In Georgia, continued heavy rainfall severely limited field work. Cotton planting was somewhat behind schedule in the Southeast, but was about 90 percent complete by the end of the survey week. Peach harvest activity increased in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. Tobacco transplanting was active, although behind schedule in most areas; shade tobacco harvest was underway in Florida. Melon and sweet corn harvest was increasing in Florida.

In East South Central States, planting of corn and soybeans and transplanting of tobacco were major farm activities. Progress of field work was slower than usual in Kentucky and Tennessee, as wet weather earlier in May caused delays. Marketing of potatoes from Baldwin, Mobile, and Escambia counties in Alabama was underway. In West South Central States, weather conditions during the survey week generally favored field work. In Arkansas, most of the cotton and nearly all the rice acreage had been planted, but the bulk of the soybean acreage remained to be seeded. Planting of corn, cotton, and rice also was nearly complete in Louisiana. Wheat harvesting was underway on a limited scale in southwest Oklahoma and the Low Plains of Texas, and harvesting of oats was 10 percent complete in Texas. Onion harvest was in the final stage in the Rio Grande Valley and Winter Garden, and cantaloupe harvest was getting underway in the Valley.

In Mountain States, planting of grains, potatoes, and sugar beets made good progress, although dry soil stalled seeding operations in some parts of Colorado. Sugar beet blocking and thinning operations are underway. Harvest of the first cutting of hay had begun, as had potato and vegetable harvest in southern areas.

The Pacific Coast States had warm, dry weather during the survey week. Farmers in western Washington were busy with silage and haying operations and vegetable planting; in the Yakima Valley and Walla Walla area, asparagus harvest continued at peak volume, and cutting of alfalfa hay had begun. Activities in Oregon during the survey week included asparagus harvest, strawberry picking, and some haying. In California, barley harvest is underway 2 weeks earlier than normal. Sugar beet harvest continues in the Imperial Valley. Harvesting of early varieties of peaches, plums, apricots, and cherries was underway. Valencia orange and grapefruit harvest was increasing in volume; the Navel orange harvest was virtually complete. Other activities included harvesting of carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, lettuce, and onions.

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

	: Annual : average : 1960-64 <u>1/</u>	: Annual: : average: : 1965 <u>1/</u>	: May : average : 1960-64 <u>1/</u>	: May : 23-29, : 1965	: May : 22-28, : 1966
FARM EMPLOYMENT	:	:	:	:	:
(Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	6,662	5,610	7,214	6,124	5,750
Family labor .....	4,862	4,128	5,287	4,482	4,269
Hired labor .....	1,800	1,482	1,927	1,642	1,481
INDEXES <u>2/</u>	:	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	49	41	52	42	39
Family labor .....	48	41	48	41	39
Hired labor .....	53	44	54	46	41
(1957-59=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total .....	89	75	95	76	71
Family labor .....	88	75	96	75	71
Hired labor .....	92	76	93	79	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.

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, April 1, 1966, United States

	: Annual : average : 1965	: April : average : 1960-64	: April 1, : 1965	: April 1, : 1966
FARM WAGE RATES	:	:	:	:
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u> .....	\$ 0.951	\$ 0.783	\$ 0.860	\$ 0.945
Per month with house .....	223	194	215	237
Per month with board and room ..	171	151	164	180
Per week with board and room ...	40.25	36.00	39.00	42.00
Per week without board or room :	51.50	47.25	50.75	55.25
Per day with house .....	6.20	5.50	6.00	6.60
Per day with board and room ....	7.40	6.20	6.70	7.30
Per day without board or room ..	7.60	6.70	7.30	8.00
Per hour with house .....	1.03	.82	.93	1.01
Per hour without board or room :	1.14	1.08	1.18	1.28
INDEXES <u>2/</u>	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100) .....	732	670	731	803
(1957-59=100) .....	126	115	126	138

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, May 1966

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	May average 1960-64 1/			May 1965 Week of 23-29			May 1966 Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	33	20	13	32	21	11	29	19	10
N. H.	11	8	3	11	8	3	10	7	3
Vt.	26	20	6	22	17	5	20	16	4
Mass.	36	24	12	30	18	12	26	16	10
R. I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	24	15	9	21	13	8	19	12	7
N. Eng.	133	89	44	119	79	40	107	72	35
N. Y.	146	96	50	120	81	39	120	78	42
N. J.	46	23	23	40	18	22	36	16	20
Pa.	179	148	31	142	120	22	136	116	20
M. Atl.	371	267	104	302	219	83	292	210	82
Ohio	245	209	36	200	174	26	198	169	29
Ind.	238	210	28	188	165	23	193	174	19
Ill.	279	222	57	239	192	47	218	175	43
Mich.	236	197	39	199	168	31	191	164	27
Wis.	284	258	26	253	231	22	242	220	22
E. N. Cent.	1282	1096	186	1079	930	149	1042	902	140
Minn.	292	255	37	248	219	29	254	225	29
Iowa	315	280	35	268	236	32	278	250	28
Mo.	268	232	36	251	210	41	230	203	27
N. Dak.	96	77	19	84	68	16	85	67	18
S. Dak.	91	83	8	80	72	8	78	71	7
Nebr.	166	139	27	136	117	19	134	114	20
Kans.	163	137	26	147	123	24	138	118	20
W. N. Cent.	1391	1203	188	1214	1045	169	1197	1048	149
Del.	14	8	6	12	7	5	11	6	5
Md.	61	40	21	55	37	18	46	32	14
Va.	199	152	47	162	120	42	142	109	33
W. Va.	72	56	16	61	48	13	52	43	9
N. C.	405	317	88	336	256	80	284	224	60
S. C.	187	120	67	141	86	55	111	78	33
Ga.	178	123	55	141	100	41	115	87	28
Fla.	126	47	79	121	38	83	134	37	97
S. Atl.	1242	863	379	1029	692	337	895	616	279
Ky.	225	176	49	220	170	50	185	151	34
Tenn.	233	177	56	208	156	52	191	148	43
Ala.	178	130	48	157	125	32	136	105	31
Miss.	277	180	97	239	150	89	206	129	77
E. S. Cent.	913	663	250	824	601	223	718	533	185
Ark.	225	120	105	187	91	96	149	88	61
La.	144	84	60	117	68	49	122	68	54
Okla.	156	128	28	134	115	19	132	108	24
Texas	431	259	172	300	201	99	324	206	118
W. S. Cent.	956	591	365	738	475	263	727	470	257
Mont.	52	37	15	45	34	11	44	33	11
Idaho	70	49	21	70	48	22	64	45	19
Wyo.	23	15	8	20	12	8	19	12	7
Colo.	68	52	16	52	43	9	56	43	13
N. Mex.	34	20	14	27	14	13	27	15	12
Ariz.	43	9	34	38	7	31	38	6	32
Utah	37	24	13	35	21	14	25	17	8
Nev.	6	4	2	6	3	3	5	3	2
Mount.	333	210	123	293	182	111	278	174	104
Wash.	129	86	43	111	72	39	116	72	44
Oreg.	106	74	32	83	61	22	77	58	19
Calif.	358	145	213	332	126	206	301	114	187
Pac.	593	305	288	526	259	267	494	244	250
U. S.	7214	5287	1927	6124	4482	1642	5750	4269	1481

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 1966 <sup>1/</sup>

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through May Av. 1960-64			January through May 1965			January through May 1966		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	27	19	8	25	19	6	23	17	6
N. H.	10	8	2	9	7	2	8	6	2
Vt.	28	23	5	21	17	4	20	16	4
Mass.	28	19	9	23	16	7	21	15	6
R. I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	20	14	6	18	12	6	16	11	5
N. Eng.	116	85	31	98	72	26	90	66	24
N. Y.	132	93	39	104	77	27	103	75	28
N. J.	34	21	13	28	16	12	26	15	11
Pa.	159	136	23	127	110	17	119	104	15
M. Atl.	325	250	75	259	203	56	248	194	54
Ohio	212	188	24	176	159	17	163	147	16
Ind.	196	179	17	158	145	13	153	142	11
Ill.	210	170	40	182	153	29	172	145	27
Mich.	193	166	27	159	137	22	155	135	20
Wis.	257	235	22	223	205	18	216	199	17
E. N. Cent.	1068	938	130	898	799	99	859	768	91
Minn.	234	212	22	202	185	17	205	188	17
Iowa	256	234	22	220	202	18	218	201	17
Mo.	231	209	22	204	185	19	191	175	16
N. Dak.	73	63	10	61	53	8	60	52	8
S. Dak.	80	74	6	68	63	5	67	62	5
Nebr.	137	121	16	114	102	12	112	101	11
Kans.	139	125	14	120	108	12	116	105	11
W. N. Cent. <sup>2/</sup>	1150	1038	112	989	898	91	969	884	85
Del.	10	6	4	8	5	3	8	5	3
Md.	48	34	14	41	30	11	37	28	9
Va.	158	125	33	126	101	25	118	94	24
W. Va.	57	47	10	46	38	8	41	35	6
N. C.	295	245	50	251	205	46	229	190	39
S. C.	139	95	44	100	69	31	91	66	25
Ga.	143	106	37	114	86	28	104	81	23
Fla.	138	46	92	145	45	100	138	38	100
S. Atl.	988	704	284	831	579	252	766	537	229
Ky.	196	165	31	174	146	28	164	139	25
Tenn.	188	153	35	167	138	29	154	129	25
Ala.	117	90	27	104	84	20	92	74	18
Miss.	189	137	52	154	109	45	142	102	40
E. S. Cent.	690	545	145	599	477	122	552	444	108
Ark.	167	105	62	134	81	53	112	75	37
La.	122	80	42	100	66	34	96	61	35
Okla.	137	121	16	113	101	12	115	103	12
Texas	339	231	108	260	182	78	251	178	73
W. S. Cent.	765	537	228	607	430	177	574	417	157
Mont.	44	35	9	40	33	7	39	32	7
Idaho	55	43	12	51	40	11	48	38	10
Wyo.	17	12	5	15	10	5	15	11	4
Colo.	52	43	9	42	36	6	42	35	7
N. Mex.	29	19	10	23	14	9	21	14	7
Ariz.	40	9	31	36	7	29	37	7	30
Utah	27	20	7	23	17	6	20	15	5
Nev.	4	3	1	5	3	2	3	2	1
Mount.	268	184	84	235	160	75	225	154	71
Wash.	98	70	28	86	59	27	88	61	27
Oreg.	83	64	19	73	57	16	67	53	14
Calif.	310	133	177	277	112	165	260	104	156
Pac.	491	267	224	436	228	208	415	218	197
U. S. <sup>2/</sup>	5861	4548	1313	4952	3846	1106	4698	3682	1016

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

<sup>2/</sup> Correction: Workers on Farms, January-April 1965, published in May 1966 FARM LABOR:

	Total	Hired
W. N. Central .....	933	72
United States .....	4656	970

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of May 22-28, 1966				
	Farm Operator	Other Family 1/ Members	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	54.8	31.4	47.7	34.9	42.2
N. H.	63.4	32.9	55.2	36.3	47.6
Vt.	64.8	41.6	57.1	43.6	51.9
Mass.	62.5	28.9	50.4	42.4	47.5
R. I.	54.7	21.7	48.1	40.9	44.4
Conn.	62.5	33.0	49.4	54.7	50.8
N. Eng.	60.5	33.3	51.3	42.3	47.4
N. Y.	64.2	33.2	54.3	40.2	49.1
N. J.	48.1	25.8	41.7	41.3	41.6
Pa.	55.0	30.5	46.1	33.0	43.1
M. Atl.	58.3	31.3	49.2	38.7	45.4
Ohio	57.0	34.3	49.5	29.1	44.6
Ind.	49.9	35.2	45.3	32.0	42.0
Ill.	52.8	37.4	49.1	37.9	46.3
Mich.	60.7	36.4	52.2	32.2	47.5
Wis.	68.5	31.6	52.8	37.7	49.9
E. N. Cent.	57.6	35.0	49.7	34.1	46.2
Minn.	67.7	32.6	54.1	41.8	51.9
Iowa	65.1	34.1	54.0	37.6	50.7
Mo.	50.9	33.7	46.0	29.7	42.8
N. Dak.	67.4	41.7	57.3	43.9	54.7
S. Dak.	64.2	34.5	54.6	44.4	52.9
Nebr.	59.9	38.3	53.1	33.2	49.3
Kans.	51.4	32.7	46.2	30.2	42.5
W. N. Cent.	60.3	34.5	51.4	36.5	48.8
Del.	49.1	28.9	43.3	26.6	38.3
Md.	49.1	32.2	44.1	38.2	42.1
Va.	45.3	33.0	41.7	30.0	36.8
W. Va.	37.0	26.9	34.4	24.5	32.3
N. C.	38.1	29.6	35.5	23.2	30.3
S. C.	37.4	26.1	34.4	27.8	30.7
Ga.	35.6	30.2	34.3	27.2	31.1
Fla.	40.9	39.5	40.7	32.8	35.4
S. Atl.	39.4	30.4	36.9	29.1	33.1
Ky.	40.1	31.5	37.8	25.0	32.7
Tenn.	39.5	29.4	36.7	21.1	30.9
Ala.	35.9	30.5	34.6	25.7	30.7
Miss.	42.4	30.2	38.7	40.6	39.9
E. S. Cent.	39.5	30.4	37.0	30.7	33.9
Ark.	35.8	31.9	34.8	30.7	33.2
La.	38.6	28.9	35.8	35.1	35.5
Okla.	45.3	30.8	41.3	26.1	37.0
Texas	42.1	33.4	40.0	34.5	37.6
W. S. Cent.	41.1	31.9	38.7	32.9	36.2
Mont.	56.9	36.9	50.5	42.4	48.5
Idaho	57.2	32.1	47.8	41.2	46.4
Wyo.	55.5	33.5	48.3	39.1	45.6
Colo.	55.1	36.8	49.1	44.0	47.7
N. Mex.	51.2	35.4	46.9	36.5	41.9
Ariz.	47.3	32.4	44.7	49.9	48.0
Utah	48.9	29.2	42.3	26.4	36.9
Nev.	53.6	28.8	47.2	47.0	47.1
Mount.	54.6	34.2	47.9	42.6	45.9
Wash.	48.9	31.9	44.2	37.8	41.3
Oreg.	46.7	31.9	42.0	35.7	40.0
Calif.	50.8	34.3	46.5	48.9	48.4
Pac.	49.3	33.1	44.8	45.9	45.4
U. S.	50.0	32.7	44.4	35.8	41.8

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

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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