

Farm Labor

Release
September 9, 1966
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

August Work Force 7 Percent Lower Than a Year Ago

The Nation's farm work force totaled 6,175,000 for the week of August 21-27. This represents a decline of 7 percent from the corresponding period in August 1965 but only a slight decline from a month earlier. This total work force consisted of 4,258,000 family workers and 1,917,000 hired workers.

The family work force was 7 percent smaller than in August 1965 but 2 percent above the comparable period in July 1966. The number of hired farm workers was down 6 percent from July 1966 and also 6 percent lower than in the comparable period of 1965.

The January-August averages when compared with 1965 show declines of 6 percent for family, 10 percent for hired, and 7 percent for total workers. When comparing these averages with the 1960-64 averages, declines are as follows: Family 20 percent, hired 24 percent, and total workers 21 percent. The January-August averages are shown on page 5.

Farm workers on reporting farms averaged 38.6 hours of farm work during the August survey week. This compares with 39.3 hours for the same period in 1965 and represents a slight decline from a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 45.6 hours, down 1.6 hours from July 1966. Other family members averaged a work week of 34.1 hours, virtually unchanged from the 34.0 hours worked in August 1965.

Hired farm workers averaged 32.9 hours compared with 32.8 hours a month earlier. Declines from July 1966 in the South Central, Mountain, and Pacific regions practically offset increases in the New England, Middle Atlantic, North Central, and South Atlantic regions.

Crop Harvest Behind Progress of a Year Ago

Light cotton picking was underway in the south and central areas of Alabama. Boll weevil infestation was unusually heavy in the north and bollworm infestation was heavy in the south. Hand picking was underway in the southern areas of South Carolina and Georgia. The first bales had been ginned in several South Carolina counties. The Mississippi crop was fair to good with 11 percent showing open bolls. Tennessee cotton was developing satisfactorily; however, boll weevil infestation

was the heaviest in recent years and bollworms were also causing considerable damage. The Louisiana crop was opening in most areas with some scattered picking. Rain the latter part of the week interrupted defoliation and harvest of the Texas crop. Harvest was 9 percent complete compared with 18 percent the same date last year. Arizona cotton development was normal with a few fields in the southeast showing open bolls.

Peanut digging was active in most areas except Virginia where the vines were making vigorous growth indicating prospects for a good crop. In Alabama harvest of Spanish peanuts was active while light digging of the runner crop was just beginning. Harvest of the Georgia crop made good progress with nearly one-third dug and 20 percent thrashed. Digging of the Florida crop was underway. Digging of the early crop continued in south Texas; harvest for the State was 9 percent complete compared with 12 percent last year.

Florida flue-cured tobacco harvest was virtually complete. The Georgia and South Carolina crops were also in the final harvest stages. Topping and spraying were active in Kentucky where tobacco has made tremendous growth since recent rains. About 10 percent of Tennessee's Burley and dark-fired crops have been harvested. Maturity of Virginia tobacco has been slow; Burley and sun-cured harvest was just beginning. Fire-cured was 5 percent and flue-cured was 20 percent harvested.

Texas rice combining was hampered by rains; however, harvest reached 47 percent complete, considerably behind the 75 percent harvested by the same date last year. Rice harvest had begun in Arkansas and was well underway in Louisiana with 40 percent of the crop harvested. California growers were draining rice fields as the crop neared harvest stage. Mississippi rice was fair to good with 45 percent headed.

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

	: Annual : average : 1960-64 1/	: Annual : average : 1965 1/	: August : average : 1960-64 1/	: August : 22-28, : 1965	: August : 21-27, : 1966
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,662	5,610	7,958	6,629	6,175
Family labor	4,862	4,128	5,315	4,593	4,258
Hired labor	1,800	1,482	2,643	2,036	1,917
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	49	41	50	41	38
Family labor	48	41	48	41	38
Hired labor	53	44	54	42	39
(1957-59=100)					
Total	89	75	90	75	70
Family labor	88	75	87	76	70
Hired labor	92	76	94	72	68

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, July 1, 1966, United States

	: Annual : average : 1965	: July : average : 1960-64	: July 1, : 1965	: July 1, : 1966
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 0.951	\$ 0.837	\$ 0.929	\$ 1.01
Per month with house	223	210	232	253
Per month with board and room	171	156	171	184
Per week with board and room	40.25	38.25	42.50	45.25
Per week without board or room	51.50	50.00	55.00	59.25
Per day with house	6.20	5.50	6.10	6.60
Per day with board and room	7.40	7.20	7.90	8.50
Per day without board or room	7.60	6.80	7.50	8.10
Per hour with house	1.03	.96	1.07	1.15
Per hour without board or room	1.14	1.07	1.17	1.26
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	732	665	726	787
(1957-59=100)	126	114	125	135

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, August 1966

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	August Average 1960-64 1/			August 1965 Week of 22-28			August 1966 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	37	22	15	33	21	12	33	20	13
N.H.	13	9	4	11	8	3	11	7	4
Vt.	25	19	6	23	18	5	21	16	5
Mass.	43	22	21	34	17	17	31	15	16
R.I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	35	18	17	30	14	16	28	12	16
N.Eng.	157	93	64	134	80	54	127	72	55
N.Y.	179	109	70	147	88	59	130	83	47
N.J.	58	26	32	49	19	30	44	18	26
Pa.	209	168	41	167	136	31	152	127	25
M.Atl.	446	303	143	363	243	120	326	228	98
Ohio	238	187	51	194	159	35	186	155	31
Ind.	211	178	33	181	157	24	158	138	20
Ill.	249	190	59	218	175	43	198	159	39
Mich.	253	186	67	201	147	54	193	148	45
Wis.	300	263	37	267	232	35	241	211	30
E.N.Cent.	1251	1004	247	1061	870	191	976	811	165
Minn.	321	248	73	281	227	54	257	218	39
Iowa	335	262	73	284	234	50	278	225	53
Mo.	303	253	50	269	221	48	245	200	45
N.Dak.	127	89	38	120	82	38	109	78	31
S.Dak.	108	87	21	92	75	17	91	74	17
Nebr.	176	137	39	152	125	27	137	112	25
Kans.	182	137	45	157	124	33	160	120	40
W.N.Cent.	1552	1213	339	1355	1088	267	1277	1027	250
Del.	16	8	8	15	8	7	14	8	6
Md.	72	44	28	63	40	23	48	31	17
Va.	227	133	94	179	116	63	157	105	52
W.Va.	74	61	13	55	47	8	47	41	6
N.C.	712	414	298	533	333	200	510	287	223
S.C.	242	145	97	161	105	56	133	90	43
Ga.	205	148	57	180	127	53	153	114	39
Fla.	92	41	51	81	34	47	53	33	20
S.Atl.	1640	994	646	1267	810	457	1115	709	406
Ky.	279	192	87	264	186	78	212	157	55
Tenn.	244	173	71	205	154	51	215	154	61
Ala.	120	95	25	105	84	21	119	83	36
Miss.	220	174	46	178	131	47	177	133	44
E.S.Cent.	863	634	229	752	555	197	723	527	196
Ark.	214	105	109	168	89	79	154	83	71
La.	164	88	76	152	72	80	129	70	59
Okla.	148	106	42	122	95	27	118	94	24
Texas	480	259	221	367	230	137	331	212	119
W.S.Cent.	1006	558	448	809	486	323	732	459	273
Mont.	62	40	22	57	39	18	58	37	21
Idaho	91	56	35	88	56	32	82	51	31
Wyo.	25	15	10	20	12	8	21	13	8
Colo.	85	56	29	69	49	20	72	44	28
N.Mex.	38	21	17	31	18	13	28	17	11
Ariz.	35	9	26	31	8	23	30	7	23
Utah	41	27	14	33	23	10	31	20	11
Nev.	7	4	3	6	3	3	6	3	3
Mount.	384	228	156	335	208	127	328	192	136
Wash.	150	83	67	114	70	44	121	67	54
Oreg.	128	65	63	108	61	47	100	54	46
Calif.	381	140	241	331	122	209	350	112	238
Pac.	659	288	371	553	253	300	571	233	338
U.S.	7958	5315	2643	6629	4593	2036	6175	4258	1917

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 1966 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through August : Av. 1960-64			January through August : 1965			January through August : 1966		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Maine	38	28	10	28	20	8	27	19	8
N.H.	11	8	3	9	7	2	10	7	3
Vt.	28	22	6	22	17	5	20	16	4
Mass.	33	21	12	27	16	11	24	15	9
R.I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	15	10	23	13	10	19	11	8
N.Eng.	139	97	42	112	75	37	103	70	33
N.Y.	151	99	52	120	82	38	113	79	34
N.J.	43	23	20	36	17	19	32	16	16
Pa.	177	147	30	141	119	22	133	113	20
M.Atl.	371	269	102	297	218	79	278	208	70
Ohio	227	193	34	187	163	24	175	152	23
Ind.	210	186	24	170	151	19	160	144	16
Ill.	234	184	50	201	164	37	187	153	34
Mich.	218	175	43	178	144	34	173	142	31
Wis.	273	245	28	239	216	23	225	204	21
E.N.Cent.	1162	983	179	975	838	137	920	795	125
Minn.	274	231	43	241	204	37	230	201	29
Iowa	289	247	42	253	217	36	252	213	39
Mo.	259	224	35	225	196	29	211	184	27
N.Dak.	90	71	19	79	62	17	75	60	15
S.Dak.	89	78	11	76	67	9	75	66	9
Nebr.	155	130	25	132	112	20	126	107	19
Kans.	158	130	28	140	116	24	133	111	22
W.N.Cent.	1314	1111	203	1146	974	172	1102	942	160
Del.	12	7	5	10	6	4	10	6	4
Md.	56	37	19	49	34	15	41	29	12
Va.	180	126	54	164	104	60	134	96	38
W.Va.	64	52	12	50	41	9	44	37	7
N.C.	413	292	121	355	240	115	314	214	100
S.C.	176	112	64	125	81	44	107	73	34
Ga.	158	114	44	133	96	37	115	86	29
Fla.	122	44	78	123	41	82	108	35	73
S.Atl.	1181	784	397	1009	643	366	873	576	297
Ky.	222	172	50	200	156	44	183	143	40
Tenn.	211	161	50	183	143	40	176	136	40
Ala.	120	92	28	107	86	21	100	76	24
Miss.	200	147	53	169	117	51	152	108	44
E.S.Cent.	753	572	181	658	502	156	611	463	148
Ark.	186	106	80	152	83	69	128	77	51
La.	135	81	54	112	66	46	103	63	40
Okla.	146	120	26	121	102	19	119	102	17
Texas	394	245	149	298	194	104	287	191	96
W.S.Cent.	861	552	309	683	445	238	637	433	204
Mont.	50	36	14	46	34	12	45	33	12
Idaho	69	48	21	65	45	20	62	43	19
Wyo.	20	13	7	18	11	7	18	12	6
Calo.	64	47	17	52	40	12	53	38	15
N.Mex.	33	20	13	26	16	10	24	15	9
Ariz.	39	9	30	36	8	28	35	7	28
Utah	33	23	10	28	19	9	24	17	7
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	4	2	2
Mcunt.	313	199	114	276	176	100	265	167	98
Wash.	122	78	44	103	67	36	103	66	37
Oreg.	103	67	36	93	60	33	84	55	29
Calif.	338	134	204	300	116	184	289	107	182
Pac.	563	279	284	496	243	255	476	228	248
U.S.	6657	4846	1811	5652	4114	1538	5265	3882	1383

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 August 21-27, 1966				
	Farm Operator	Other Family 1/ Members	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	58.5	34.7	50.6	38.9	45.2
N.H.	56.7	44.5	52.6	43.8	49.2
Vt.	65.5	44.2	58.2	47.6	53.7
Mass.	59.8	35.1	51.5	43.8	48.1
R.I.	41.2	26.5	38.9	39.4	39.1
Conn.	53.9	29.5	45.7	48.4	46.6
N.Eng.	59.0	36.9	51.7	44.2	47.8
N.Y.	61.3	34.2	52.2	45.4	49.8
N.J.	49.1	31.1	43.7	37.6	41.3
Pa.	53.2	33.0	45.9	36.4	43.8
M.Atl.	56.3	33.4	48.4	41.0	45.9
Ohio	48.0	34.9	44.1	25.3	38.8
Ind.	39.3	32.6	37.8	29.1	35.8
Ill.	42.8	35.2	41.2	30.7	38.7
Mich.	52.0	38.4	47.4	30.3	43.4
Wis.	61.8	34.6	50.0	39.8	48.1
E.N.Cent.	48.6	35.0	43.9	31.0	41.5
Minn.	56.7	33.0	47.1	34.2	44.8
Iowa	53.9	33.2	47.0	28.7	42.8
Mo.	42.8	34.0	40.7	31.2	37.8
N.Dak.	64.0	44.6	55.2	43.9	52.5
S.Dak.	56.8	39.9	50.7	33.8	47.5
Nebr.	52.9	39.4	48.7	29.9	44.5
Kans.	52.0	37.1	47.7	32.9	43.8
W.M.Cent.	52.6	35.7	46.7	33.0	43.7
Del.	41.9	47.0	44.1	17.6	38.9
Md.	47.9	40.1	45.8	29.5	39.8
Va.	40.8	34.3	38.8	29.9	34.8
W.Va.	38.3	30.8	36.3	28.1	34.5
N.C.	38.6	31.0	35.6	17.5	24.0
S.C.	37.1	30.8	35.1	22.4	27.4
Ga.	38.6	34.6	37.4	25.7	31.9
Fla.	37.1	36.1	36.8	43.9	41.7
S.Atl.	39.1	33.0	37.0	22.4	29.2
Ky.	38.7	31.6	36.7	24.9	31.9
Tenn.	34.9	27.8	33.0	21.3	28.9
Ala.	32.4	30.6	32.0	21.8	27.6
Miss.	37.3	31.5	35.5	33.2	34.0
E.S.Cent.	36.0	30.2	34.4	25.1	30.8
Ark.	34.2	32.1	33.7	28.1	31.4
La.	36.0	29.6	34.4	34.7	34.5
Okla.	43.5	33.2	40.4	28.2	37.6
Texas	38.7	35.1	37.7	35.6	36.8
W.S.Cent.	38.5	33.4	37.0	32.8	35.4
Mont.	55.2	41.6	50.0	44.5	48.3
Idaho	58.7	37.0	49.8	36.7	46.8
Wyo.	56.5	32.0	47.9	30.2	41.3
Colo.	54.2	36.0	47.7	43.9	46.5
N.Mex.	44.3	35.6	41.4	32.1	37.5
Ariz.	41.5	40.4	41.2	42.2	41.8
Utah	50.9	37.3	45.9	29.2	39.8
Nev.	49.7	34.6	45.1	42.2	43.8
Mount.	53.7	37.4	47.6	39.1	44.7
Wash.	48.1	36.3	44.6	37.1	40.5
Oreg.	44.5	36.9	41.8	38.2	40.8
Calif.	52.5	38.7	48.5	47.4	47.6
Pac.	49.4	37.6	45.8	44.5	44.9
U.S.	45.6	34.1	41.7	32.9	38.6

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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES DIVISION
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POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

This report, one of the more than 700 published annually by the Statistical Reporting Service, is the product of a national crop and livestock reporting system now celebrating its Centennial.

Although the first individual report on farm wage rates and employment began in January 1936, similar reports on wages first appeared in the CROP REPORTER issue of March 1911. Farm labor supply and demand as percent of normal was first published in Crops and Markets, April 1922.

The report entitled Farm Labor covers all States and is published monthly. Data for wage rates are published quarterly and employment estimates are published each month. Continuous series for wage rates are available from 1923 and for numbers of farm workers from 1950.

The reports were begun to inform agriculture and Government on the number of persons engaged in producing the Nation's food and fiber, and on the wages of hired farm workers. The data are used to compute indexes of wage rates (a part of the Parity Index), to analyze demand and supply factors for farm workers, and to provide a measure of labor input for the measurement of agricultural production.