

Farm Labor

Release
November 10, 1966
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October Farm Employment at New Low

The total farm working force for the survey week, October 23-29, is estimated at 5,939,000 persons. This is a record low for this date and a decrease of 7 percent from the previous low set last October. Decreases were reported in almost every State even though ideal weather during the survey week sped the harvest of late-maturing crops.

The number of farm family members working during the survey week totaled 4,376,000 persons, 6 percent less than the previous low reached in October 1965. Only Iowa and Oklahoma showed increases in family workers from a year earlier.

The total of 1,563,000 hired workers during the October 23-29 survey week was 11 percent under a year earlier. Each geographic area except the Pacific States had fewer workers than during the survey week in October 1965. Increased mechanization of many crop harvests continues to diminish the total number of seasonally employed workers in all areas. This is especially evident in the Southern States, where cotton is a major crop. The total number of hired workers in the cotton-producing States in the south was down 16 percent from a year earlier. Much of this decline can be attributed to the increased use of mechanical pickers, and also to the smaller 1966 cotton crop, which is estimated at 10,290,000 bales, 31 percent below the 1965 crop.

Ideal Harvest Weather Adds More Working Hours

Farm workers on reporting farms averaged 40.2 hours of farm work during the October survey week. This was an increase of 1.5 hours over the previous month and up slightly from a year earlier. Farm operators averaged 46.8 hours compared with 45.7 hours in September. Other family members worked an average of 32.8 hours.

The hired farm work force, with an average of 36.3 hours of farm work, showed the largest gains over a month earlier, 2.4 hours. Hired workers in the West North Central States averaged 4.4 hours more work than a month earlier. Average gains of 3 to 4 hours were recorded for New England, the South Atlantic, and the South Central States. Hours worked varied from an average of 30.1 hours in the East South Central States to 43.7 hours in the Pacific States and 43.8 hours in New England.

Harvest Makes Good Progress During Survey Week

Mild, sunny days along with clear, cool nights prevailed over most of the country during the last week of October. Practically no precipitation occurred except eastward from the southern Appalachians to the Atlantic. Harvest of most crops made good progress, but generally was slightly behind schedule for November 1.

Corn harvest progressed rapidly with the help of warm, dry weather throughout most of the Corn Belt and Northern Plains States. Harvest was slightly ahead of last year in most major corn producing States, but was slightly later than normal for this period.

With almost ideal harvesting weather, combining of soybeans neared completion in the Corn Belt States. By the end of October, harvest in the 7 major-producing States had passed the four-fifths mark.

Cotton picking was active. In Southeastern and Delta States, continued unseasonably cool weather and occasional heavy rains during October delayed development and harvest. Georgia's harvest was about 80 percent complete, and about two-thirds of the crop had been picked in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Harvest in Tennessee and California has passed the halfway mark. One-third of the Texas, Arkansas, and Arizona crops has been picked. Picking is making good progress in other cotton States.

Potato digging neared completion throughout the Nation. Louisiana growers have dug about 80 percent of their sweetpotatoes. Sugarcane harvest gained momentum in Louisiana, with 15 percent cut.

Most States are nearly through with the apple harvest. Grape harvest continued active in California. Citrus harvest is on the increase in Florida, with droppage generally light. Grapefruit and orange harvest is underway in Texas. Harvest of lemons and new-crop oranges has begun in Arizona and California.

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

	: Annual : average : 1960-64 <u>1/</u>	: Annual : average : 1965 <u>1/</u>	: October : average : 1960-64 <u>1/</u>	: October : 24-30, : 1965	: October : 23-29, : 1966
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,662	5,610	7,692	6,382	5,939
Family labor	4,862	4,128	5,476	4,633	4,376
Hired labor	1,800	1,482	2,216	1,749	1,563
INDEXES <u>2/</u>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	49	41	49	40	38
Family labor	48	41	48	40	38
Hired labor	53	44	52	41	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total	89	75	88	73	68
Family labor	88	75	88	74	70
Hired labor	92	76	90	71	63

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, October 1, 1966, United States

	: Annual : average : 1965	: October : average : 1960-64	: October : average : 1965	: October 1, : 1965	: October 1, : 1966
FARM WAGE RATES					
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u>	\$ 0.951	\$ 0.869	\$ 0.984	\$ 1.07	
Per month with house	223	197	221	242	
Per month with board and room ...	170	154	171	187	
Per week with board and room	40.25	37.00	40.25	44.75	
Per week without board or room ..	51.50	45.75	50.25	55.25	
Per day with house	6.20	5.60	6.40	7.00	
Per day with board and room	7.40	6.50	7.20	7.80	
Per day without board or room ...	7.60	7.20	8.00	8.80	
Per hour with house	1.03	1.05	1.16	1.25	
Per hour without board or room ..	1.14	.96	1.09	1.18	
INDEXES <u>2/</u>					
(1910-14=100)	732	656	746	812	
(1957-59=100)	126	113	128	140	

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, October 1966

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	October average 1960-64 ^{1/}			October 1965 Week of 24-30			October 1966 Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	29	20	9	27	20	7	24	18	6
N. H.	11	8	3	9	7	2	9	7	2
Vt.	24	19	5	21	17	4	20	16	4
Mass.	35	20	15	26	16	10	25	15	10
R. I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	24	15	9	18	12	6	15	10	5
N. Eng.	126	84	42	104	74	30	96	68	28
N. Y.	158	105	53	135	92	43	115	83	32
N. J.	42	24	18	33	19	14	28	15	13
Pa.	177	145	32	139	116	23	136	115	21
M. Atl.	377	274	103	307	227	80	279	213	66
Ohio	238	203	35	189	164	25	179	158	21
Ind.	210	175	35	177	152	25	168	147	21
Ill.	259	207	52	224	182	42	203	165	38
Mich.	202	157	45	170	139	31	168	138	30
Wis.	257	222	35	218	193	25	210	187	23
E. N. Cent.	1166	964	202	978	830	148	928	795	133
Minn.	249	222	27	229	203	26	223	203	20
Iowa	306	267	39	268	234	34	276	242	34
Mo.	303	247	56	254	213	41	246	201	45
N. Dak.	84	67	17	80	63	17	72	57	15
S. Dak.	92	81	11	79	70	9	78	70	8
Nebr.	158	136	22	129	115	14	127	110	17
Kans.	158	139	19	137	122	15	137	122	15
W. N. Cent.	1350	1159	191	1176	1020	156	1159	1005	154
Del.	12	7	5	11	7	4	9	6	3
Md.	55	38	17	46	34	12	37	27	10
Va.	193	142	51	161	116	45	142	104	38
W. Va.	66	57	9	49	43	6	47	42	5
N. C.	429	338	91	335	256	79	310	240	70
S. C.	195	140	55	146	106	40	119	92	27
Ga.	222	162	60	188	144	44	152	122	30
Fla.	118	48	70	111	45	66	104	39	65
S. Atl.	1290	932	358	1047	751	296	920	672	248
Ky.	292	240	52	270	222	48	245	197	48
Tenn.	379	288	91	285	225	60	286	218	68
Ala.	253	186	67	187	150	37	182	144	38
Miss.	335	213	122	277	175	102	235	157	78
E. S. Cent.	1259	927	332	1019	772	247	948	716	232
Ark.	267	141	126	204	108	96	145	96	49
La.	202	107	95	184	91	93	157	86	71
Okla.	170	127	43	123	101	22	127	102	25
Texas	500	254	246	424	230	194	394	223	171
W. S. Cent.	1139	629	510	935	530	405	823	507	316
Mont.	49	39	10	45	36	9	42	33	9
Idaho	77	55	22	69	51	18	68	50	18
Wyo.	20	13	7	17	11	6	17	11	6
Colo.	77	51	26	66	44	22	63	40	23
N. Mex.	55	27	28	42	22	20	38	21	17
Ariz.	48	10	38	38	8	30	36	7	29
Utah	36	25	11	30	19	11	28	19	9
Nev.	6	3	3	6	3	3	4	2	2
Mount.	368	223	145	313	194	119	296	183	113
Wash.	103	68	35	81	62	19	84	55	29
Oreg.	86	66	20	72	55	17	67	51	16
Calif.	428	150	278	350	118	232	339	111	228
Pac.	617	284	333	503	235	268	490	217	273
U. S.	7692	5476	2216	6382	4633	1749	5939	4376	1563

^{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 October 1966 1/
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through Oct. Av. 1960-64			January through Oct. 1965			January through Oct. 1966		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	33	20	13	30	20	10	29	19	10
N. H.	11	8	3	10	7	3	10	7	3
Vt.	27	21	6	22	17	5	20	16	4
Mass.	34	21	13	28	16	12	25	15	10
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	15	10	22	13	9	19	11	8
N. Eng.	134	88	46	115	75	40	106	70	36
N. Y.	155	101	54	125	84	41	115	80	35
N. J.	43	23	20	36	17	19	32	16	16
Pa.	180	148	32	142	119	23	135	114	21
M. Atl.	378	272	106	303	220	83	282	210	72
Ohio	230	193	37	188	162	26	176	152	24
Ind.	210	183	27	170	150	20	162	144	18
Ill.	238	188	50	203	166	37	188	154	34
Mich.	217	173	44	177	143	34	172	141	31
Wis.	271	242	29	238	213	25	223	201	22
E. N. Cent.	1166	979	187	976	834	142	921	792	129
Minn.	271	230	41	238	203	35	229	201	28
Iowa	292	250	42	256	220	36	255	217	38
Mo.	272	231	41	233	201	32	219	188	31
N. Dak.	92	72	20	80	63	17	75	60	15
S. Dak.	91	79	12	77	68	9	75	66	9
Nebr.	156	131	25	131	112	19	126	107	19
Kans.	159	133	26	140	118	22	135	114	21
W. N. Cent.	1333	1126	207	1155	985	170	1114	953	161
Del.	12	7	5	10	6	4	10	6	4
Md.	56	38	18	49	34	15	41	29	12
Va.	184	129	55	152	107	45	136	98	38
W. Va.	65	53	12	51	42	9	45	38	7
N. C.	426	308	118	359	250	109	323	225	98
S. C.	184	120	64	131	85	46	110	76	34
Ga.	175	126	49	144	105	39	124	94	30
Fla.	120	46	74	120	43	77	106	36	70
S. Atl.	1222	827	395	1016	672	344	895	602	293
Ky.	237	184	53	211	166	45	199	154	45
Tenn.	240	182	58	199	156	43	194	149	45
Ala.	144	108	36	123	98	25	111	85	26
Miss.	232	162	70	190	128	62	169	118	51
E. S. Cent.	853	636	217	723	548	175	673	506	167
Ark.	204	113	91	162	88	74	131	81	50
La.	152	88	64	128	72	56	116	69	47
Okla.	151	121	30	122	102	20	121	102	19
Texas	417	248	169	320	200	120	310	197	113
W. S. Cent.	924	570	354	732	462	270	678	449	229
Mont.	50	37	13	46	35	11	46	34	12
Idaho	71	49	22	67	47	20	63	44	19
Wyo.	21	14	7	18	11	7	18	12	6
Colo.	67	48	19	55	41	14	56	39	17
N. Mex.	36	21	15	28	16	12	26	16	10
Ariz.	41	10	31	36	8	28	35	7	28
Utah	34	24	10	29	20	9	26	18	8
Nev.	5	3	2	6	3	3	4	2	2
Mount.	325	206	119	285	181	104	274	172	102
Wash.	120	77	43	100	66	34	101	65	36
Oreg.	101	67	34	89	59	30	81	54	27
Calif.	360	138	222	315	117	198	302	108	194
Pac.	581	282	299	504	242	262	494	227	257
U. S.	6916	4986	1930	5809	4219	1590	5427	3981	1446

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 October 23-29, 1966				
	Farm Operator	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	54.5	33.6	48.9	38.3	44.9
N.H.	57.3	30.0	48.4	33.2	44.1
Vt.	63.2	44.0	56.5	48.0	53.5
Mass.	62.2	29.6	52.0	47.7	50.2
R.I.	55.3	31.0	46.8	35.7	42.6
Conn.	55.8	31.1	49.7	45.1	48.2
N. Eng.	58.4	34.3	51.2	43.8	48.4
N.Y.	58.0	33.4	50.5	39.9	46.9
N.J.	41.8	30.4	39.2	38.2	38.9
Pa.	52.1	30.1	44.4	33.1	41.9
M. Atl.	53.8	31.5	46.6	37.4	43.7
Ohio	53.1	32.5	47.2	25.2	41.6
Ind.	45.1	32.6	41.9	34.2	40.4
Ill.	52.6	36.4	48.9	38.2	46.3
Mich.	56.5	38.4	50.6	38.3	48.0
Wis.	64.2	32.9	50.8	34.0	48.0
E.N. Cent.	54.2	34.5	47.9	34.8	45.0
Minn.	61.7	33.3	50.7	39.4	48.7
Iowa	63.6	35.0	53.9	34.8	50.1
Mo.	48.0	34.0	44.5	38.5	43.1
N. Dak.	48.0	34.0	43.7	39.0	42.8
S. Dak.	56.8	34.5	49.7	36.4	47.8
Nebr.	56.3	39.7	51.2	32.6	47.5
Kans.	49.4	32.5	44.9	32.6	42.5
W.N. Cent.	55.7	34.5	48.8	36.5	46.6
Del.	45.4	60.2	50.0	38.4	45.8
Md.	46.2	36.8	43.6	38.1	41.8
Va.	41.3	31.6	38.8	32.9	36.4
W. Va.	35.2	27.1	33.2	29.4	32.5
N. C.	36.8	31.5	35.2	25.5	31.0
S. C.	35.4	27.1	32.9	26.2	29.5
Ga.	35.7	30.2	34.4	28.3	31.7
Fla.	35.9	45.7	37.4	38.4	38.1
S. Atl.	37.5	32.0	35.9	31.2	33.2
Ky.	40.2	30.3	37.8	28.7	34.3
Tenn.	35.9	29.7	34.4	24.1	30.7
Ala.	33.4	26.0	31.8	27.5	30.1
Miss.	40.1	30.8	37.5	37.4	37.4
E.S. Cent.	37.5	29.3	35.5	30.1	33.2
Ark.	36.0	29.9	34.7	35.0	34.8
La.	37.3	34.9	36.6	36.0	36.4
Okla.	41.1	31.2	38.7	22.7	35.1
Texas	41.0	33.6	39.3	40.2	39.6
W.S. Cent.	39.6	32.7	38.0	37.1	37.4
Mont.	44.3	34.1	41.6	38.4	41.0
Idaho	48.1	35.7	44.2	34.9	41.8
Wyo.	47.1	29.7	41.9	36.4	40.1
Colo.	48.0	33.7	43.6	43.3	43.5
N. Mex.	46.1	32.1	41.9	36.4	39.8
Ariz.	41.3	27.7	39.0	44.0	41.9
Utah	44.5	27.2	38.1	28.0	35.2
Nev.	38.2	35.0	37.5	47.9	42.9
Mount.	46.2	32.9	42.2	39.2	41.1
Wash.	43.4	30.5	40.3	35.9	38.1
Oreg.	43.1	28.3	39.0	32.1	37.1
Calif.	47.6	38.3	45.3	45.5	45.4
Pac.	45.4	33.7	42.4	43.7	43.0
U.S.	46.8	32.8	42.5	36.3	40.2

^{1/} 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
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