

Farm Labor

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Harvesting Season Ends on Most Farms

The farm labor survey week of November 20-26 provided ideal "Indian Summer" conditions over most of the Country. The relatively mild weather brought the best work week in the month and farmers took advantage of the opportunity to complete late season work. The number of farm workers during the survey week is estimated at 4,854,000 persons. This is the first time since records began that less than 5 million people were working on farms during the November survey week. The current estimate is 4 percent less than for the comparable period last year.

Family workers during the survey week totaled 3,759,000 persons, 4 percent under a year earlier and a record low for the date. Only in the South Central States, bordering Mississippi, were there more family workers in 1966 than a year earlier. The harvesting season in these States was considerably later than in 1965, as wet weather in October delayed the cotton, corn, and soybean harvests.

During the November 20-26 survey week a total of 1,095,000 hired workers were on the Nation's farms. This is 5 percent less than the previous year and 30 percent below the number in October. However, the percentage drop from the preceding month is less than in any recent year. A late harvest season in the South, a sharp seasonal increase of citrus workers in Florida, and a smaller than usual decline in hired workers in California were largely responsible.

Seasonal Decline in Hours Worked

The average hours of farm work per person on reporting farms during the survey week of November 20-26 declined from the October period, because harvesting operations were largely completed in the Northern States by early November and were in the final stages in most Southern areas by the survey week. Farm operators averaged 41.6 hours compared with 46.8 hours in October, with all regions lower. Other family workers averaged 29.8 hours, a drop of 3 hours from the survey week in October 1966.

Hired farm workers had an average work week of 35.0 hours, 1.3 hours less than a month earlier. The greatest declines from October were in the North Central States where the onset of colder weather lessened the need for hired help. Average hours per hired farm worker in the Mountain States was little

changed from the preceding month. The hours worked in all Mountain States except Arizona were lower. The start of the Arizona citrus season required additional hired help. With the average hours worked higher in California, the Pacific region was the only area with an increase from the preceding month.

Excellent Late Season Weather Spurs Work Progress

With generally mild, open weather throughout the country during the November survey week, many farmers deferred the traditional Thanksgiving respite to wind up chores before the winter season began. Although the mild weather allowed farmers to complete most of the sorghum and soybean harvest, corn picking was behind schedule in the Corn Belt and South as high moisture content was a problem.

Dampness was also a problem in the burley tobacco area. A shortage of cured tobacco in Kentucky slowed stripping, but progress was more rapid in surrounding States. Some Virginia and West Virginia tobacco was moved to warehouses in preparation for the auction season.

Moisture was becoming short in Florida and irrigation activity took some of farmers' time away from the citrus harvest. Sugarcane harvest was active in both Florida and Louisiana. Picking the small pecan crop progressed rapidly in the Southern States. Peanut harvest was nearing completion in all areas. Ideal weather during the survey week allowed cotton harvesters to move through the fields at a rapid pace. Picking was generally later than normal in the Southeast with harvest almost finished. In Texas and Oklahoma, the cotton harvest is from one week to a month ahead of 1965.

Picking of citrus fruits was slow during the week in Texas. Volume increased in Arizona and citrus groves were in good condition. Recent California rains helped size the fruit and Navel orange picking gained momentum. Late season vegetables were moving to market from the Pacific Coast States, Arizona, Texas, Florida, and scattered East Coast areas.

Warmer than normal weather in the Northern States allowed farmers to finish their outside work. Late fieldwork was possible in most areas. A good deal of fall plowing was completed. The approaching holiday season focused attention on Christmas tree cutting in the commercial areas of the country. All in all it was a busy week on the Nation's farms considering the lateness of the season and Thanksgiving Day.

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

	: Annual : average : 1960-64 <u>1/</u>	: Annual : average : 1965 <u>1/</u>	: November : average : 1960-64 <u>1/</u>	: November : 21-27, : 1965	: November : 20-26, : 1966
FARM EMPLOYMENT	:	:	:	:	:
(Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	6,662	5,610	5,944	5,059	4,854
Family labor	4,862	4,128	4,536	3,911	3,759
Hired labor	1,800	1,482	1,408	1,148	1,095
INDEXES <u>2/</u>	:	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	49	41	47	40	39
Family labor	48	41	47	40	39
Hired labor	53	44	50	41	39
(1957-59=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	89	75	86	73	70
Family labor	88	75	86	74	71
Hired labor	92	76	87	71	67

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, : 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, November 1966

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	November average 1960-64 1/			November 1965 Week of 21-27			November 1966 Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	25	19	6	23	19	4	23	18	5
N. H.	10	7	3	9	7	2	8	6	2
Vt.	23	18	5	20	16	4	18	15	3
Mass.	26	17	9	22	16	6	20	14	6
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	20	14	6	15	11	4	13	10	3
N. Eng.	108	78	30	92	71	21	85	65	20
N. Y.	133	97	36	111	83	28	102	79	23
N. J.	30	19	11	21	13	8	19	12	7
Pa.	147	123	24	118	102	16	114	100	14
M. Atl.	310	239	71	250	198	52	235	191	44
Ohio	216	190	26	179	160	19	173	156	17
Ind.	183	163	20	160	143	17	153	137	16
Ill.	232	193	39	202	168	34	190	159	31
Mich.	170	143	27	150	129	21	142	124	18
Wis.	239	218	21	210	190	20	194	179	15
E. N. Cent.	1040	907	133	901	790	111	852	755	97
Minn.	205	188	17	189	175	14	182	170	12
Iowa	264	235	29	235	208	27	227	200	27
Mo.	229	209	20	197	179	18	200	176	24
N. Dak.	62	53	9	52	46	6	48	41	7
S. Dak.	73	66	7	62	56	6	60	54	6
Nebr.	128	115	13	107	98	9	103	90	13
Kans.	128	117	11	115	106	9	109	101	8
W. N. Cent.	1089	983	106	957	868	89	929	832	97
Del.	10	6	4	8	5	3	7	5	2
Md.	47	34	13	40	31	9	34	26	8
Va.	163	124	39	139	104	35	128	101	27
W. Va.	55	47	8	45	39	6	42	37	5
N. C.	313	240	73	254	207	47	251	195	56
S. C.	134	94	40	105	74	31	85	65	20
Ga.	160	111	49	126	88	38	109	81	28
Fla.	125	42	83	127	38	89	131	36	95
S. Atl.	1007	698	309	844	586	258	787	546	241
Ky.	249	205	44	224	179	45	207	169	38
Tenn.	274	226	48	219	190	29	235	197	38
Ala.	149	113	36	122	97	25	136	100	36
Miss.	202	154	48	151	118	33	152	120	32
E. S. Cent.	874	698	176	716	584	132	730	586	144
Ark.	169	107	62	138	87	51	122	82	40
La.	121	86	35	105	71	34	99	72	27
Okla.	133	110	23	115	95	20	104	90	14
Texas	364	221	143	327	206	121	298	195	103
W. S. Cent.	787	524	263	685	459	226	623	439	184
Mont.	39	32	7	38	30	8	40	31	9
Idaho	51	39	12	48	38	10	45	36	9
Wyo.	16	10	6	15	10	5	14	9	5
Colo.	52	40	12	42	34	8	44	36	8
N. Mex.	40	20	20	29	16	13	27	14	13
Ariz.	49	9	40	42	8	34	40	7	33
Utah	26	21	5	22	18	4	23	19	4
Nev.	4	2	2	4	2	2	3	2	1
Mount.	277	173	104	240	156	84	236	154	82
Wash.	77	59	18	73	56	17	66	50	16
Oreg.	69	57	12	58	48	10	53	45	8
Calif.	306	120	186	243	95	148	258	96	162
Pac.	452	236	216	374	199	175	377	191	186
U. S.	5944	4536	1408	5059	3911	1148	4854	3759	1095

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 November 1966 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through Nov. Av. 1960-64			January through Nov. 1965			Jan. through Nov. 1966		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	32	20	12	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.	33	20	13	27	16	11	24	15	9
R. I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	24	15	9	21	12	9	18	11	7
N. Eng.	131	87	44	113	74	39	104	70	34
N. Y.	152	100	52	124	84	40	114	80	34
N. J.	42	23	19	35	17	18	30	15	15
Pa.	177	146	31	139	117	22	133	113	20
M. Atl.	371	269	102	298	218	80	277	208	69
Ohio	229	193	36	187	162	25	175	152	23
Ind.	207	181	26	170	150	20	160	143	17
Ill.	237	188	49	203	166	37	189	155	34
Mich.	212	170	42	175	142	33	170	140	30
Wis.	269	240	29	235	211	24	220	199	21
E. N. Cent.	1154	972	182	970	831	139	914	789	125
Minn.	265	226	39	233	200	33	225	199	26
Iowa	289	249	40	253	218	35	253	216	37
Mo.	268	229	39	230	199	31	218	187	31
N. Dak.	89	70	19	78	62	16	73	58	15
S. Dak.	89	78	11	76	67	9	74	65	9
Nebr.	153	129	24	129	111	18	123	105	18
Kans.	156	131	25	138	117	21	133	113	20
W. N. Cent.	1309	1112	197	1137	974	163	1099	943	156
Del.	12	7	5	10	6	4	9	6	3
Md.	55	37	18	48	34	14	40	28	12
Va.	182	128	54	150	106	44	135	98	37
W. Va.	65	53	12	50	42	8	45	38	7
N. C.	416	302	114	350	246	104	316	222	94
S. C.	178	117	61	128	84	44	108	75	33
Ga.	174	125	49	143	104	39	122	92	30
Fla.	120	45	75	120	42	78	109	36	73
S. Atl.	1202	814	388	999	664	335	884	595	289
Ky.	238	186	52	213	168	45	200	155	45
Tenn.	243	186	57	201	159	42	198	154	44
Ala.	145	109	36	123	98	25	113	86	27
Miss.	229	161	68	186	127	59	168	119	49
E. S. Cent.	855	642	213	723	552	171	679	514	165
Ark.	200	112	88	160	88	72	131	81	50
La.	149	88	61	126	72	54	114	69	45
Okla.	149	120	29	121	101	20	119	101	18
Texas	413	246	167	321	200	121	309	197	112
W. S. Cent.	911	566	345	728	461	267	673	448	225
Mont.	50	37	13	45	34	11	45	33	12
Idaho	69	48	21	66	46	20	62	44	18
Wyo.	20	13	7	17	11	6	17	11	6
Colo.	66	47	19	54	40	14	54	38	16
N. Mex.	36	21	15	28	16	12	26	16	10
Ariz.	42	10	32	36	8	28	36	7	29
Utah	33	23	10	28	19	9	26	18	8
Nev.	5	3	2	6	3	3	4	2	2
Mount.	321	202	119	280	177	103	270	169	101
Wash.	116	75	41	98	65	33	98	63	35
Oreg.	98	66	32	87	58	29	78	53	25
Calif.	354	136	218	308	115	193	299	107	192
Pac.	568	277	291	493	238	255	475	223	252
U. S.	6822	4941	1881	5741	4189	1552	5375	3959	1416

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 November 20-26, 1966				
	Farm Operator	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	51.9	32.8	46.4	34.3	42.7
N. H.	57.1	32.6	51.5	40.7	47.7
Vt.	63.8	45.9	58.4	48.8	54.9
Mass.	61.7	25.9	50.2	40.7	46.2
R. I.	50.3	29.7	43.4	47.6	44.8
Conn.	56.4	40.7	51.0	44.9	49.3
N. Eng.	57.6	35.5	50.9	41.3	47.7
N. Y.	58.8	31.2	50.3	40.1	47.0
N. J.	43.6	32.8	41.4	41.4	41.4
Pa.	50.0	28.3	42.5	33.7	40.6
M. Atl.	53.2	29.8	45.7	38.3	43.4
Ohio	49.1	32.2	43.8	29.3	40.7
Ind.	42.2	30.2	39.2	29.0	37.0
Ill.	44.0	32.1	41.5	34.0	39.8
Mich.	48.2	31.3	43.1	33.3	41.3
Wis.	57.8	30.0	46.6	37.8	45.2
E. N. Cent.	48.2	31.2	42.8	32.8	41.0
Minn.	50.9	32.4	44.8	33.4	43.2
Iowa	52.5	32.2	46.7	32.9	44.0
Mo.	41.2	30.1	38.6	32.8	37.6
N. Dak.	35.9	32.4	35.1	36.7	35.3
S. Dak.	46.3	30.9	42.2	30.7	40.7
Nebr.	44.3	32.5	41.6	30.2	39.6
Kans.	40.6	30.7	38.4	30.4	37.0
W. N. Cent.	45.8	31.5	41.9	32.5	40.5
Del.	32.5	35.6	33.4	31.2	33.0
Md.	44.5	25.9	38.7	38.0	38.5
Va.	39.1	28.7	36.3	30.9	34.3
W. Va.	35.2	25.7	32.9	28.0	32.0
N. C.	35.6	29.6	33.9	27.7	31.3
S. C.	35.0	28.5	33.4	24.9	29.0
Ga.	34.9	28.9	33.4	26.4	30.2
Fla.	33.2	23.2	31.3	35.6	34.2
S. Atl.	36.1	28.4	34.1	31.2	32.2
Ky.	37.5	28.0	34.7	25.2	31.0
Tenn.	33.6	27.0	31.9	23.8	29.5
Ala.	32.1	27.0	31.0	26.4	29.2
Miss.	36.7	26.7	34.1	35.8	35.1
E. S. Cent.	35.0	27.2	33.0	27.5	31.0
Ark.	33.4	32.6	33.2	35.3	33.9
La.	34.2	27.2	32.3	31.5	32.0
Okla.	34.4	27.1	32.6	24.6	31.2
Texas	36.2	27.5	34.3	37.0	35.3
W. S. Cent.	35.0	28.3	33.5	34.9	33.8
Mont.	39.1	33.5	37.7	38.7	37.9
Idaho	40.7	27.6	37.5	29.9	36.4
Wyo.	45.4	25.9	39.7	33.8	38.1
Colo.	42.4	28.2	38.0	39.8	38.3
N. Mex.	39.4	33.3	38.2	38.4	38.3
Ariz.	38.5	31.5	36.8	48.2	43.7
Utah	38.8	27.5	35.1	31.4	34.1
Nev.	37.5	23.1	32.6	39.4	35.2
Mount.	40.6	29.5	37.5	41.0	38.3
Wash.	35.7	26.8	33.6	27.7	31.4
Oreg.	34.0	27.9	32.5	30.8	32.1
Calif.	42.0	35.3	40.3	46.4	44.9
Pac.	38.3	31.2	36.6	44.1	40.7
U. S.	41.6	29.8	38.3	35.0	37.1

^{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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IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Comments	1 - 2
Farm employment, wage rates, and indexes, United States ...	3
Workers on farms, November 1966	4
Average number of workers on farms January through November 1966, by States and divisions, with comparisons	5
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms, November 20-26, 1966, by States and divisions	6
