
Farm Labor

Release
May 10, 1967
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

Farm Employment Up Seasonally Despite Unfavorable Weather in Many Areas

The Nation's farm work force totaled 4,758,000 persons during the survey week of April 23-29. This represents a 9-percent gain from a month earlier despite cool, wet weather that curtailed field work and slowed or delayed the planting of spring crops in many areas. The family work force, at 3,702,000, was up 7 percent while the number of hired workers, at 1,056,000, was up 15 percent from the March 1967 survey week. Total farm employment was down 6 percent from April 1966.

Farm workers on reporting farms averaged a work week of 39.2 hours, a slight increase from a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 44.5 hours of work while other family members worked 30.9 hours during the week. Hired farm workers averaged a work week of 35.4 hours, a decline of 1.7 hours from a month earlier.

Farm Work Moves Ahead

Cotton planting progressed well in producing areas of the South, while weather conditions slowed planting in other areas. In Texas, cotton planting and growth were normal with 34 percent of the acreage seeded. About 40 percent of the Arkansas and 45 percent of the Tennessee crops had been planted. Mississippi's cotton acreage was 51 percent seeded; Louisiana's was 60 percent planted. Planting had reached two-thirds complete in Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas.

Corn planting advanced well over most of the southern third of the Nation. However, planting was just beginning in the Corn Belt. Texas was leading with 90 percent of the State's corn acreage planted. Georgia and South Carolina were running a close second, at 80 percent. About two-thirds of the Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Alabama corn crops had been planted.

Florida tobacco growers had started priming shade tobacco. Transplanting was nearly complete in Georgia and 85 percent complete in South Carolina. Over half of the North Carolina flue-cured acreage had been transplanted. Transplanting was underway in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Cold, wet weather reduced the volume of California vegetable movement. Carrot harvest reached peak volume at Imperial, while onion harvest remained light. Rain continued to disrupt lettuce harvest in the Salinas-Watsonville area where both size and weight were below normal. The harvest of other vegetables continued in limited volume.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the harvest of peppers, tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, okra, and squash continued in limited volume. Potato digging was active in this area while onion shipments were declining. Coastal Bend and Laredo onion shipments were moderate; shipments in the Winter Garden area were increasing.

In Florida, potato harvest was starting in the Hastings area, active in the south peninsula, and nearing completion in the lower east coast. Vegetable harvest neared completion on the lower east coast but was increasing in the south peninsula. Melon harvest reached the peak at Immokalee and sweet corn harvest was active in the Everglades area.

Asparagus cutting was increasing in New Jersey and the plantings of other spring vegetables was active. Planting of onions, lettuce, and other early vegetables was underway in New York.

Strawberry picking was getting underway in Kentucky; in Louisiana, shipments were nearing completion. Picking was active in Arkansas and increasing on the south coast of California but slow in the Salinas-Watsonville area.

Valencia orange picking was heavy in the central area of Arizona and continued active in the Yuma area. Florida Valencia harvest was increasing during the week. Citrus harvest was active in the producing areas of Texas.

Farm employment and indexes, April 1967, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1961-65 <u>1/</u>	: Annual : average : 1966 <u>1/</u>	: April : average : 1961-65 <u>1/</u>	: April : 17-23, : 1966	: April : 23-29, : 1967
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,372	5,214	6,280	5,035	4,758
Family labor	4,655	3,854	4,789	3,906	3,702
Hired labor	1,717	1,360	1,491	1,129	1,056
INDEXES <u>2/</u>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	47	38	47	38	36
Family labor	46	38	46	38	36
Hired labor	51	40	52	39	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total	85	70	86	69	65
Family labor	84	70	85	69	66
Hired labor	88	69	90	68	64

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, 1967, United States

	: Annual : average : 1966	: April : average : 1961-65	: April 1, : 1966	: April 1, : 1967
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u>	\$ 1.03	\$ 0.804	\$ 0.945	\$ 0.998
Per month with house	243	200	237	253
Per month with board and room ...	185	155	180	192
Per week with board and room	43.50	36.75	42.00	45.75
Per week without board or room ..	55.75	48.25	55.25	58.75
Per day with house	6.70	5.60	6.60	7.30
Per day with board and room	8.00	6.30	7.30	7.80
Per day without board or room ...	8.20	6.90	8.00	8.70
Per hour with house	1.10	.85	1.01	1.07
Per hour without board or room ..	1.23	1.11	1.28	1.34
INDEXES <u>2/</u>				
(1910-14=100)	792	686	803	849
(1957-59=100)	136	118	138	146

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, April 1967
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	April average 1961-65 1/2			April 1966 Week of 17-23			April 1967 Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	27	19	8	23	18	5	20	15	5
N. H.	11	8	3	9	7	2	7	5	2
Vt.	25	19	6	20	16	4	18	15	3
Mass.	30	21	9	21	15	6	19	14	5
R. I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	21	14	7	17	11	6	13	9	4
N. Eng.	117	83	34	92	68	24	79	59	20
N. Y.	130	89	41	102	78	24	99	78	21
N. J.	35	20	15	27	13	14	22	11	11
Pa.	157	134	23	129	112	17	124	108	16
M. Atl.	322	243	79	258	203	55	245	197	48
Ohio	225	197	28	176	161	15	170	155	15
Ind.	203	182	21	145	132	13	135	123	12
Ill.	238	192	46	179	152	27	170	145	25
Mich.	198	168	30	162	142	20	151	132	19
Wis.	259	236	23	219	202	17	202	185	17
E. N. Cent.	1123	975	148	881	789	92	828	740	88
Minn.	262	238	24	221	206	15	216	200	16
Iowa	277	254	23	232	211	21	225	206	19
Mo.	246	221	25	191	174	17	198	168	30
N. Dak.	84	72	12	71	62	9	62	54	8
S. Dak.	87	80	7	73	68	5	74	68	6
Nebr.	148	126	22	123	105	18	116	99	17
Kans.	145	129	16	125	113	12	119	108	11
W. N. Cent.	1249	1120	129	1036	939	97	1010	903	107
Del.	12	7	5	9	5	4	7	5	2
Md.	53	39	14	43	31	12	34	26	8
Va.	166	130	36	131	103	28	121	99	22
W. Va.	61	48	13	45	37	8	41	34	7
N. C.	325	265	60	276	227	49	252	199	53
S. C.	153	99	54	89	64	25	83	61	22
Ga.	160	119	41	109	87	22	108	88	20
Fla.	150	53	97	143	45	98	132	34	98
S. Atl.	1080	760	320	845	599	246	778	546	232
Ky.	209	171	38	170	136	34	164	135	29
Tenn.	203	164	39	170	138	32	152	127	25
Ala.	130	99	31	113	85	28	106	82	24
Miss.	217	150	67	164	117	47	143	107	36
E. S. Cent.	759	584	175	617	476	141	565	451	114
Ark.	190	107	83	125	78	47	122	82	40
La.	134	84	50	100	67	33	93	63	30
Okla.	141	122	19	119	107	12	121	105	16
Texas	366	240	126	276	191	85	303	203	100
W. S. Cent.	831	553	278	620	443	177	639	453	186
Mont.	52	41	11	50	39	11	46	35	11
Idaho	66	50	16	60	44	16	58	44	14
Wyo.	19	13	6	16	11	5	16	11	5
Colo.	57	47	10	47	36	11	45	36	9
N. Mex.	28	18	10	21	14	7	21	14	7
Ariz.	41	10	31	38	7	31	37	7	30
Utah	29	22	7	25	19	6	22	17	5
Nev.	5	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
Mount.	297	204	93	260	172	88	248	166	82
Wash.	110	72	38	90	57	33	78	52	26
•reg.	92	67	25	68	52	16	64	47	17
Calif.	300	128	172	268	108	160	224	88	136
Pac.	502	267	235	426	217	209	366	187	179
U. S.	6280	4789	1491	5035	3906	1129	4758	3702	1056

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 April 1967 ^{1/}
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through April : Av. 1961-65			January through April : 1966			January through April : 1967		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	24	18	6	22	17	5	20	15	5
N. H.	9	7	2	8	6	2	7	5	2
Vt.	23	18	5	20	16	4	17	14	3
Mass.	25	18	7	19	14	5	19	14	5
R. I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	19	14	5	14	10	4	11	8	3
N. Eng.	103	77	26	85	64	21	76	57	19
N. Y.	121	88	33	95	75	20	92	73	19
N. J.	30	20	10	20	12	8	17	10	7
Pa.	144	124	20	115	101	14	113	100	13
M. Atl.	295	232	63	230	188	42	222	183	39
Ohio	194	175	19	152	142	10	148	138	10
Ind.	176	163	13	138	129	9	126	118	8
Ill.	194	160	34	156	135	21	147	127	20
Mich.	173	150	23	145	127	18	136	120	16
Wis.	240	220	20	200	184	16	188	173	15
E. N. Cent.	977	868	109	791	717	74	745	676	69
Minn.	214	196	18	184	172	12	172	161	11
Iowa	231	214	17	194	178	16	189	174	15
Mo.	216	198	18	177	163	14	178	165	22
N. Dak.	65	57	8	54	48	6	50	42	5
S. Dak.	74	69	5	64	60	4	62	58	4
Nebr.	125	112	13	104	93	11	99	88	11
Kans.	128	117	11	111	102	9	108	100	8
W. N. Cent.	1053	963	90	888	816	72	858	782	76
Del.	9	6	3	6	4	2	5	4	1
Md.	43	32	11	34	26	8	30	23	7
Va.	140	113	27	112	90	22	104	86	18
W. Va.	50	42	8	38	32	6	36	30	6
N. C.	258	218	40	216	182	34	204	171	33
S. C.	116	82	34	74	55	19	68	52	16
Ga.	126	96	30	92	74	18	93	75	18
Fla.	144	46	98	138	38	100	137	36	101
S. Atl.	886	635	251	710	501	209	677	477	200
Ky.	183	157	26	155	127	28	154	127	27
Tenn.	170	142	28	149	124	25	138	116	22
Ala.	99	78	21	85	65	20	87	68	19
Miss.	159	120	39	129	95	31	116	92	24
E. S. Cent.	611	497	114	515	411	104	495	403	92
Ark.	144	95	49	103	72	31	105	76	29
La.	111	76	35	82	59	23	80	58	22
Okla.	128	115	13	114	105	9	111	101	10
Texas	300	213	87	239	176	63	255	182	73
W. S. Cent.	683	499	184	538	412	126	551	417	134
Mont.	41	34	7	40	32	8	38	30	8
Idaho	50	41	9	44	36	8	44	36	8
Wyo.	15	11	4	14	10	4	14	10	4
Colo.	46	39	7	40	32	8	38	31	7
N. Mex.	25	17	8	19	13	6	19	13	6
Ariz.	39	9	30	36	7	29	35	7	28
Utah	23	18	5	19	15	4	18	14	4
Nev.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Mount.	242	171	71	215	147	68	209	143	66
Wash.	87	63	24	71	52	19	65	47	18
Oreg.	77	61	16	60	48	12	55	44	11
Calif.	287	123	164	250	101	149	220	91	129
Pac.	451	247	204	381	201	180	340	182	158
U. S.	5301	4189	1112	4353	3457	896	4173	3320	853

^{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 April 23-29, 1967				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	51.8	32.9	47.3	36.7	43.2
N. H.	54.4	34.2	49.3	40.0	46.1
Vt.	65.9	44.2	57.5	42.2	52.5
Mass.	56.0	28.1	46.2	36.3	42.5
R. I.	45.8	29.4	41.5	48.4	43.9
Conn.	55.4	33.2	49.1	39.3	46.0
N. Eng.	56.3	34.4	49.6	39.0	45.9
N. Y.	58.9	32.2	49.8	41.7	47.2
N. J.	43.0	28.2	38.8	30.5	35.9
Pa.	52.0	29.8	44.5	34.0	42.2
M. Atl.	54.4	30.7	46.4	36.6	43.7
Ohio	46.8	31.0	42.6	28.6	39.6
Ind.	39.8	28.3	37.3	28.0	35.4
Ill.	43.3	34.4	41.6	34.3	40.2
Mich.	48.1	32.7	43.6	32.3	41.3
Wis.	62.1	32.7	50.3	36.3	48.0
E. N. Cent.	48.0	31.9	43.1	32.4	41.4
Minn.	58.5	31.9	48.5	36.6	46.6
Iowa	59.7	31.9	51.1	36.1	48.1
Mo.	41.5	30.6	39.1	34.8	37.9
N. Dak.	47.6	35.2	43.8	36.1	42.6
S. Dak.	59.4	33.6	51.4	39.9	49.5
Nebr.	54.0	37.5	49.5	31.1	46.4
Kans.	45.7	31.0	42.1	32.3	40.4
W. N. Cent.	52.2	32.5	46.2	34.8	44.4
Del.	48.0	49.6	48.3	34.4	44.5
Md.	44.1	29.3	39.7	39.1	39.6
Va.	42.8	31.4	40.0	34.4	37.9
W. Va.	36.1	25.8	33.6	27.3	32.3
N. C.	37.9	31.0	36.1	25.2	30.9
S. C.	39.2	29.9	36.6	25.4	30.8
Ga.	37.6	25.5	34.1	31.3	33.0
Fla.	41.4	33.9	40.6	38.6	39.2
S. Atl.	39.3	30.0	36.9	32.9	34.3
Ky.	38.8	31.3	37.1	29.0	34.3
Tenn.	30.9	26.4	30.1	28.8	29.8
Ala.	34.6	28.3	33.4	31.1	32.6
Miss.	38.9	23.2	35.1	33.5	34.2
E. S. Cent.	35.6	27.5	33.9	30.8	32.7
Ark.	33.2	33.6	33.3	31.0	32.5
La.	37.5	29.5	35.7	36.0	35.8
Okla.	41.0	28.9	38.2	29.9	36.4
Texas	41.0	31.0	38.9	39.5	39.1
W. S. Cent.	39.1	30.8	37.3	36.3	36.8
Mont.	48.5	35.9	44.5	39.0	43.3
Idaho	50.7	31.3	44.1	38.9	42.9
Wyo.	55.6	28.2	46.6	37.7	43.6
Colo.	49.9	34.3	45.0	43.3	44.6
N. Mex.	47.2	31.4	43.2	38.4	41.3
Ariz.	49.0	25.0	43.9	46.5	45.4
Utah.	41.1	25.2	35.8	26.7	33.9
Nev.	35.2	32.4	34.4	38.4	35.9
Mount.	48.7	31.8	43.4	41.3	42.7
Wash.	44.1	29.3	40.6	32.0	37.0
Oreg.	38.3	28.7	35.8	30.0	34.2
Calif.	33.7	35.3	34.0	41.6	39.6
Pac.	37.8	32.0	36.3	39.1	38.1
U. S.	44.5	30.9	40.6	35.4	39.2

^{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
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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