

Farm Labor

Release
June 9, 1967
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

Seasonal Jump in Farm Workers

Farm employment totaled 5,351,000 persons during the survey week of May 21-27, up 12 percent from a month earlier. Family workers increased 7 percent from the April survey week to 3,960,000 persons, while the number of hired workers jumped 32 percent over April to 1,391,000. The numbers of both family and hired workers were down 4 percent from last year.

The work week of May 21-27 averaged 42.4 hours for farm workers on reporting farms--the longest reported for all farm workers since records began in December 1964--mostly because of cold and wet weather over most of the Nation for much of May. In many parts of the country the survey week was the first in nearly a month that farmers could spend most of their time at field work. Farm operators worked an average of 50.8 hours--an increase of 6.3 hours per operator over a month earlier. Other family members averaged 33.6 hours for the week, up 2.7 hours; hired workers averaged 35.9 hours, half an hour more than reported in April.

Survey Week Busy One for Farmers

Temperatures during the survey week were considerably below normal along the East Coast, somewhat above average in the western Corn Belt, but near seasonal in most of the remainder of the country. Excessive rainfall in the Southeastern States and the coastal areas of New England halted farming activity part of the week.

Combining of wheat and small grains was active in the southernmost tier of States except Florida, where harvest is nearly completed. In Oklahoma and Arkansas, wheat harvest was underway during the week. Seeding of small grains kept farmers busy in the northernmost States because cold weather during much of May delayed progress.

Corn planters in the eastern Corn Belt were being worked late into the evening because damp wet weather earlier in the month kept farmers out of the fields. Progress was 10 days to two weeks behind normal. Planting of corn neared completion in western Corn Belt States. Corn was being cultivated in the Southern States. Excellent progress was made in the planting of soybeans in the major producing areas. Planting is late in most States.

In Oklahoma more than half the cotton crop had been planted by the end of May.. Replanting of cotton was active in several States, although some fields were abandoned and planted to soybeans and other crops. Sorghum was being planted in

Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico. A short moisture supply delayed progress in some areas. During the survey week, peanuts were being planted in Texas and Oklahoma.

Tobacco transplanting was a major farm activity in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia. Transplanting had just begun in New England, and harvest had begun in the Southeast. In the Western States some late areas were still being planted to sugar beets. Emerged fields were being thinned and blocked during late May. Harvest was active in the Imperial Valley of California.

Cold, rainy weather in the southeast slowed the peach harvest. Strawberry picking was active in Maryland and Kentucky. Farmers were busy planting potatoes in up-state New York, Maine, and Idaho during the survey week. Harvest was underway in the Baldwin area of Alabama. Vegetable crops were moving to market in the major producing areas of the South. Planting of vegetables was active when the weather permitted in the Middle Atlantic and New England States.

Livestock required less attention from farmers and ranchers as summer approached. In the northern border States, farmers were forced to continue supplemental feeding one to two weeks later than normal because pasture growth was slowed by the cool spring weather. In most of the Rocky Mountain States, movement of livestock to summer ranges was active during the survey week.

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

	: Annual : average : 1961-65 <u>1/</u> :	: Annual : average : 1966 <u>1/</u> :	: May : average : 1961-65 <u>1/</u> :	: May : 22-28, : 1966	: May : 21-27, : 1967
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,372	5,214	6,921	5,586	5,351
Family labor	4,655	3,854	5,065	4,137	3,960
Hired labor	1,717	1,360	1,856	1,449	1,391
INDEXES <u>2/</u>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	47	38	47	38	37
Family labor	46	38	46	38	36
Hired labor	51	40	52	40	39
(1957-59=100)					
Total	85	70	86	69	66
Family labor	84	70	85	69	66
Hired labor	88	69	89	70	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, 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, May 1967
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	May average 1961-65 1/			May 1966 Week of 22-28			May 1967 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	33	21	12	29	19	10	25	17	8
N. H.	11	8	3	10	7	3	9	6	3
Vt.	25	19	6	20	16	4	18	14	4
Mass.	33	21	12	26	16	10	23	15	8
R. I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	24	15	9	19	12	7	15	9	6
N. Eng.	129	86	43	107	72	35	93	63	30
N. Y.	138	91	47	110	79	31	103	77	26
N. J.	44	21	23	33	13	20	27	11	16
Pa.	167	139	28	136	116	20	132	114	18
M. Atl.	349	251	98	279	208	71	262	202	60
Ohio	231	198	33	192	169	23	190	168	22
Ind.	225	199	26	185	166	19	165	146	19
Ill.	272	216	56	206	167	39	219	171	48
Mich.	226	189	37	189	162	27	184	153	31
Wis.	275	250	25	231	209	22	209	190	19
E. N. Cent.	1229	1052	177	1003	873	130	967	828	139
Minn.	281	246	35	235	213	22	225	201	24
Iowa	305	270	35	270	237	33	246	213	33
Mo.	263	225	38	219	192	27	238	188	50
N. Dak.	92	74	18	85	67	18	76	62	14
S. Dak.	88	80	8	79	71	8	75	67	8
Nebr.	156	132	24	132	109	23	124	105	19
Kans.	156	132	24	138	118	20	135	114	21
W. N. Cent.	1341	1159	182	1158	1007	151	1119	950	169
Del.	14	8	6	11	6	5	9	6	3
Md.	59	39	20	46	32	14	40	28	12
Va.	188	143	45	142	109	33	131	105	26
W. Va.	68	53	15	48	39	9	47	37	10
N. C.	388	301	87	284	224	60	263	206	57
S. C.	175	111	64	92	66	26	87	64	23
Ga.	166	115	51	103	80	23	103	82	21
Fla.	124	44	80	126	37	89	125	36	89
S. Atl.	1182	814	368	852	593	259	805	564	241
Ky.	228	177	51	180	141	39	198	148	50
Tenn.	226	171	55	203	148	55	177	132	45
Ala.	172	127	45	143	103	40	128	101	27
Miss.	270	173	97	179	115	64	157	113	44
E. S. Cent.	896	648	248	705	507	198	660	494	166
Ark.	216	113	103	149	88	61	143	90	53
La.	137	79	58	108	68	40	98	63	35
Okla.	151	125	26	136	110	26	130	110	20
Texas	397	243	154	333	212	121	312	207	105
W. S. Cent.	901	560	341	726	478	248	683	470	213
Mont.	50	36	14	48	33	15	52	34	18
Idaho	71	49	22	64	45	19	61	43	18
Wyo.	22	14	8	18	11	7	18	12	6
Colo.	63	49	14	57	40	17	53	38	15
N. Mex.	32	19	13	27	15	12	27	16	11
Ariz.	41	8	33	38	6	32	38	7	31
Utah	37	24	13	27	19	8	29	20	9
Nev.	6	4	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	322	203	119	284	172	112	283	173	110
Wash.	123	82	41	99	60	39	98	63	35
Oreg.	101	71	30	72	53	19	75	51	24
Calif.	348	139	209	301	114	187	306	102	204
Pac.	572	292	280	472	227	245	479	216	263
U. S.	6921	5065	1856	5586	4137	1449	5351	3960	1391

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 1967 1/
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through May Av. 1961-65			January through May 1966			January through May 1967		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	26	19	7	23	17	6	21	16	5
N. H.	9	7	2	8	6	2	7	5	2
Vt.	23	18	5	20	16	4	17	14	3
Mass.	26	18	8	21	15	6	20	14	6
R. I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	20	14	6	16	11	5	12	8	4
N. Eng.	107	78	29	90	66	24	79	58	21
N. Y.	124	88	36	98	76	22	95	74	21
N. J.	33	20	13	23	12	11	20	11	9
Pa.	148	127	21	119	104	15	117	103	14
M. Atl.	305	235	70	240	192	48	232	188	44
Ohio	201	179	22	160	147	13	157	144	13
Ind.	186	170	16	147	136	11	134	124	10
Ill.	209	171	38	167	142	25	161	136	25
Mich.	184	158	26	154	134	20	146	127	19
Wis.	247	226	21	206	189	17	192	176	16
E. N. Cent.	1027	904	123	834	748	86	790	707	83
Minn.	227	206	21	194	180	14	182	169	13
Iowa	246	225	21	208	189	19	200	182	18
Mo.	225	203	22	185	169	16	190	163	27
N. Dak.	71	61	10	60	52	8	56	49	7
S. Dak.	77	71	6	67	62	5	65	60	5
Nebr.	131	116	15	110	96	14	104	91	13
Kans.	134	120	14	116	105	11	114	103	11
W. N. Cent.	1111	1002	109	940	853	87	911	817	94
Del.	9	6	3	8	5	3	6	4	2
Md.	46	33	13	37	28	9	32	24	8
Va.	150	119	31	118	94	24	110	90	20
W. Va.	54	44	10	39	33	6	38	32	6
N. C.	285	235	50	229	190	39	216	178	38
S. C.	128	88	40	77	57	20	71	54	17
Ga.	134	99	35	94	75	19	94	76	18
Fla.	140	46	94	136	38	98	134	36	98
S. Atl.	946	670	276	738	520	218	701	494	207
Ky.	192	161	31	160	130	30	163	131	32
Tenn.	182	148	34	160	129	31	145	119	26
Ala.	114	88	26	96	72	24	94	74	20
Miss.	181	130	51	136	99	37	124	96	28
E. S. Cent.	669	527	142	552	430	122	526	420	106
Ark.	159	99	60	112	75	37	113	79	34
La.	116	76	40	88	61	27	83	59	24
Okla.	133	117	16	119	106	13	115	103	12
Texas	319	219	100	258	183	75	266	187	79
W. S. Cent.	727	511	216	577	425	152	577	428	149
Mont.	43	35	8	41	32	9	41	31	10
Idaho	54	42	12	48	38	10	48	38	10
Wyo.	17	12	5	14	10	4	14	10	4
Colo.	50	41	9	43	33	10	42	33	9
N. Mex.	27	18	9	21	14	7	21	14	7
Ariz.	39	9	30	37	7	30	36	7	29
Utah	25	19	6	21	16	5	20	15	5
Nev.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Mount.	259	179	80	228	152	76	225	150	75
Wash.	94	67	27	77	54	23	71	50	21
Oreg.	82	63	19	63	49	14	60	46	14
Calif.	299	126	173	260	104	156	237	93	144
Pac.	475	256	219	400	207	193	368	189	179
U. S.	5626	4362	1264	4599	3593	1006	4409	3451	958

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 May 21-27, 1967				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	54.5	30.4	47.0	36.2	42.4
N. H.	56.5	33.9	50.8	46.7	49.3
Vt.	62.9	38.7	54.6	43.2	50.4
Mass.	61.1	30.7	50.6	42.5	47.6
R. I.	52.5	29.4	45.2	39.5	43.1
Conn.	50.4	35.9	46.6	41.6	44.8
N. Eng.	57.3	33.3	49.7	41.1	46.3
N. Y.	61.2	34.9	52.4	41.5	48.9
N. J.	45.2	29.1	40.3	42.7	41.1
Pa.	56.4	30.9	47.2	34.1	44.4
M. Atl.	57.7	32.5	49.0	39.6	45.8
Ohio	61.4	36.5	52.7	32.8	47.6
Ind.	55.9	40.4	51.2	32.5	46.5
Ill.	63.0	40.0	56.6	33.0	49.8
Mich.	58.6	37.0	51.5	34.6	47.7
Wis.	65.1	32.8	51.6	42.0	50.0
E. N. Cent.	61.0	37.4	52.9	34.5	48.4
Minn.	66.0	35.3	54.6	38.4	51.7
Iowa	64.3	35.8	54.8	36.3	50.9
Mo.	52.8	35.2	47.9	33.1	43.3
N. Dak.	71.6	43.7	61.5	53.5	60.1
S. Dak.	61.4	38.4	54.5	39.5	51.9
Nebr.	58.5	37.0	52.0	34.4	49.1
Kans.	52.8	34.2	47.8	30.9	43.7
W. N. Cent.	60.2	36.2	52.4	36.3	49.1
Del.	46.5	40.8	44.7	33.8	41.7
Md.	48.4	33.8	43.5	32.5	40.0
Va.	44.9	32.8	41.4	31.0	37.2
W. Va.	38.4	28.5	35.7	20.6	32.1
N. C.	40.9	29.4	37.4	23.6	31.4
S. C.	39.5	24.8	35.1	23.4	29.4
Ga.	38.2	27.1	35.1	27.0	31.6
Fla.	41.2	36.8	40.3	30.1	32.0
S. Atl.	41.1	29.8	37.8	27.5	32.8
Ky.	43.9	33.0	40.8	18.4	30.3
Tenn.	39.6	28.2	36.6	23.6	32.1
Ala.	37.5	29.8	35.7	28.8	33.3
Miss.	38.7	28.1	35.8	37.3	36.6
E. S. Cent.	40.2	29.9	37.5	26.5	32.9
Ark.	39.4	33.0	37.9	39.0	38.3
La.	37.6	30.0	35.5	38.4	36.5
Okla.	43.5	31.0	40.1	29.6	37.6
Tex.	41.9	33.9	40.1	41.1	40.5
W. S. Cent.	41.2	32.6	39.1	39.1	38.9
Mont.	61.9	41.4	55.4	36.7	50.4
Idaho	58.5	32.8	48.6	32.5	45.1
Wyo.	57.1	38.1	50.4	35.9	46.0
Colo.	52.8	36.8	47.4	39.3	45.3
N. Mex.	39.7	28.7	36.5	41.4	38.7
Ariz.	53.4	34.0	48.9	45.3	46.8
Utah	53.8	33.4	46.1	33.5	42.2
Nev.	55.4	29.0	48.1	40.2	44.1
Mount.	55.2	35.4	48.3	39.0	45.5
Wash.	49.0	30.8	44.5	35.9	40.5
Oreg.	45.5	30.4	40.9	31.3	38.1
Calif.	47.7	36.4	45.1	47.5	47.0
Pac.	47.5	33.4	43.9	44.5	44.3
U. S.	50.8	33.6	45.4	35.9	42.4

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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