

# Farm Labor

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

## Smallest July Work Force on Record

The Nation's farm labor force totaled 5,975,000 workers for the week of July 23-29. This represents a 4 percent decline from the corresponding period in July 1966 and continues the downward trend of recent years in the farm labor force. The total number of workers was 4 percent above the June 1967 survey week. The total work force consisted of 4,012,000 family members and 1,963,000 hired workers.

## Harvest of Grain Continues as Weather Permits

Showers and high humidity delayed harvest of small grains over much of the Central Great Plains and Corn Belt States. Wheat harvest was 93 percent complete in Kansas, 85 percent in Colorado, and three-fourths finished in Nebraska. In South Dakota, 15 percent of the spring wheat had been combined and winter wheat harvest was 70 percent complete. Swathing of rye and barley was underway in North Dakota. Winter wheat harvest began in Montana. Combining small grains was making good progress in the Northwest. Oats harvest was behind schedule through the North Central area.

The corn crop developed well over most of the country, helped by warm temperatures and generally adequate moisture. The Texas crop was 19 percent harvested, compared with only 5 percent last year. Harvest began in Florida.

Progress of the cotton crop was rapid in most areas. Cotton acreage is setting bolls in the southernmost States, with harvest 5 percent complete in Texas. Cotton bolls are opening in Southwest Arizona, while the California acreage is blooming in all areas.

The Georgia tobacco harvest was 60 percent complete by the end of the survey week. South Carolina's acreage was 27 percent harvested. North Carolina harvest was well along in the East and underway elsewhere. Virginia's flue-cured crop was 10 percent harvested.

Sugar beets continue to develop satisfactorily in most areas, digging was active in California. Rice harvest in Texas was one-half completed and getting underway in Louisiana. Safflower harvest continued in Arizona and California. Grass seed harvest continued in Oregon. White clover seed harvest started in Idaho.

Peach harvest was nearly complete in extreme Southeast areas and well advanced in Arkansas and North Carolina. Picking was underway in the Virginias, New Jersey, and Pacific Coast States. Harvest of early apples continued in the Appalachian States. Blueberry harvest continued over parts of the Northeast and far Northwest. Strawberry harvest in California continued.

FARM LABOR, August 1967

Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA

Harvest of vegetable crops, both for fresh market and processing, was active over most of the northern half of the country. Potato harvest was underway in the Pacific Coast States, Colorado, and some areas along the East Coast.

Hours Worked Below June Survey Week

The length of the farm work week averaged 39.5 hours compared with 41.3 hours last month. Family workers averaged 43.3 hours, down 3 percent from the previous month. Hired workers averaged 32.4 hours. This was 5 percent less than the survey week in June. Sharpest declines in the length of the work week for hired workers occurred in the South Atlantic, South Central, and Pacific States.

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

	: Annual : average : 1961-65 1/	: Annual : average : 1966 1/	: July : average : 1961-65 1/	: July : 24-30, : 1966	: July : 23-29, : 1967
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT</b>					
(Thousands)					
Total .....	6,372	5,214	7,694	6,212	5,975
Family labor .....	4,655	3,854	4,055	4,155	4,012
Hired labor .....	1,717	1,360	2,639	2,057	1,963
<b>INDEXES 2/</b>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total .....	47	38	48	39	37
Family labor .....	46	38	46	38	37
Hired labor .....	51	40	52	41	39
(1957-59=100)					
Total .....	85	70	87	70	67
Family labor .....	84	70	85	70	67
Hired labor .....	88	69	91	71	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, 1967, United States

	: Annual : average : 1966	: July : average : 1961-65	: July 1, : 1966	: July 1, : 1967
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>				
Composite rate per hour 1/ .....	\$ 1.03	\$ 0.874	\$ 1.01	\$ 1.10
Per month with house .....	243	216	253	275
Per month with board and room ..	185	160	184	201
Per week with board and room ..	43.50	39.50	45.25	50.00
Per week without board or room.:	55.75	51.50	59.25	65.00
Per day with house .....	6.70	5.70	6.50	7.50
Per day with board and room ...:	8.00	7.40	8.50	9.10
Per day without board or room ..:	8.20	7.00	8.10	9.00
Per hour with house .....	1.10	.99	1.15	1.23
Per hour without board or room :	1.23	1.10	1.26	1.36
<b>INDEXES 2/</b>				
(1910-14=100) .....	792	684	786	859
(1957-59=100) .....	136	118	135	148

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, July 1967

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	July Average 1961-65 1/			July 1966 Week of 24-30			July 1967 Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Maine	37	23	14	33	22	11	30	19	11
N.H.	13	9	4	10	7	3	9	6	3
Vt.	26	20	6	22	17	5	20	15	5
Mass.	42	22	20	33	15	18	31	15	16
R.I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	35	17	18	31	12	19	28	10	18
N.Eng.	157	94	63	132	75	57	121	67	54
N.Y.	171	104	67	134	89	45	127	84	43
N.J.	58	24	34	43	12	31	37	11	26
Pa.	192	156	36	157	130	27	151	126	25
M.Atl.	421	284	137	334	231	103	315	221	94
Ohio	242	196	46	198	163	35	179	154	25
Ind.	219	185	34	164	140	24	146	129	17
Ill.	264	200	64	214	166	48	194	154	40
Mich.	253	184	69	208	154	54	192	145	47
Wis.	288	254	34	245	215	30	226	197	29
E.N.Cent.	1266	1019	247	1029	838	191	937	779	158
Minn.	353	267	86	285	226	59	257	205	52
Iowa	353	267	86	314	233	81	276	214	62
Mo.	289	238	51	240	200	40	253	197	56
N.Dak.	122	84	38	102	74	28	96	70	26
S.Dak.	103	82	21	86	71	15	88	71	17
Nebr.	190	146	44	156	118	38	145	108	37
Kans.	189	137	52	156	120	36	171	123	48
W.N.Cent.	1599	1221	378	1339	1042	297	1286	988	298
Del.	16	8	8	13	7	6	10	5	5
Md.	70	43	27	50	33	17	46	31	15
Va.	217	119	98	155	94	61	158	94	64
W.Va.	67	55	12	45	39	6	44	38	6
N.C.	670	354	316	492	249	243	498	263	235
S.C.	232	131	101	138	79	59	120	72	48
Ga.	166	111	55	120	84	36	120	82	38
Fla.	87	38	49	77	29	48	81	32	49
S.Atl.	1525	859	666	1090	614	476	1077	617	460
Ky.	247	172	75	205	144	61	211	152	59
Tenn.	226	157	69	197	138	59	178	127	51
Ala.	109	86	23	101	75	26	100	71	29
Miss.	181	135	46	164	118	46	141	108	33
E.S.Cent.	763	550	213	667	475	192	630	458	172
Ark.	200	92	108	148	73	75	174	83	91
La.	134	70	64	99	59	40	95	55	40
Okla.	145	105	40	120	96	24	132	101	31
Texas	460	255	205	349	214	135	362	227	135
W.S.Cent.	939	522	417	716	442	274	763	466	297
Mont.	61	37	24	62	35	27	61	34	27
Idaho	95	56	39	87	52	35	83	50	33
Wyo.	25	14	11	23	12	11	22	13	9
Colo.	79	50	29	68	43	25	78	41	37
N.Mex.	37	21	16	30	17	13	29	17	12
Ariz.	34	9	25	32	8	24	34	7	27
Utah	40	26	14	32	22	10	34	24	10
Nev.	6	4	2	6	3	3	6	3	3
Mount.	377	217	160	340	192	148	347	189	158
Wash.	156	91	65	124	74	50	111	69	42
Oreg.	132	71	61	109	60	49	93	58	35
Calif.	359	127	232	332	112	220	295	100	195
Pac.	647	289	358	565	246	319	499	227	272
U.S.	7694	5055	2639	6212	4155	2057	5975	4012	1963

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 July 1967 1/  
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through July : Av. 1961-65			January through July : 1966			January through July : 1967		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	29	20	9	26	19	7	23	16	7
N.H.	11	8	3	9	7	2	7	5	2
Vt.	24	19	5	20	16	4	18	14	4
Mass.	30	19	11	24	15	9	20	12	8
R.I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	23	14	9	19	11	8	16	9	7
N.Eng.	120	82	38	100	69	31	86	57	29
N.Y.	137	92	45	107	79	28	103	77	26
N.J.	39	21	18	27	12	15	24	11	13
Pa.	162	136	26	130	111	19	127	109	18
M.Atl.	338	249	89	264	202	62	254	197	57
Ohio	214	184	30	171	152	19	165	148	17
Ind.	198	177	21	156	141	16	140	127	13
Ill.	228	181	47	181	150	31	172	142	30
Mich.	204	166	38	167	139	28	152	127	25
Wis.	259	234	25	216	196	20	198	180	18
E.N.Cent.	1103	942	161	892	778	114	827	724	103
Minn.	261	222	39	217	192	25	202	179	23
Iowa	276	238	38	238	202	36	220	191	29
Mo.	243	212	31	202	177	25	204	171	33
N.Dak.	81	66	15	69	57	12	64	53	11
S.Dak.	84	74	10	72	64	8	70	63	7
Nebr.	146	123	23	122	102	20	114	96	18
Kans.	149	125	24	130	110	20	126	107	19
W.N.Cent.	1240	1080	180	1050	904	146	1000	860	140
Del.	11	7	4	8	5	3	7	5	2
Md.	51	35	16	40	29	11	36	26	10
Va.	168	119	49	130	94	36	123	91	32
W.Va.	58	47	11	42	35	7	41	34	7
N.C.	370	263	107	286	204	82	275	198	77
S.C.	155	99	56	92	63	29	84	60	24
Ga.	144	103	41	103	79	24	103	78	25
Fla.	127	44	83	121	35	86	123	35	88
S.Atl.	1084	717	367	822	544	278	792	527	265
Ky.	211	166	45	178	136	42	177	137	40
Tenn.	199	154	45	175	133	42	155	122	33
Ala.	115	89	26	99	73	26	96	73	23
Miss.	187	135	52	145	103	42	130	99	31
E.S.Cent.	712	544	168	597	445	152	558	431	127
Ark.	163	100	63	124	76	48	126	80	46
La.	123	76	47	104	72	32	88	58	30
Okla.	139	117	22	121	105	16	121	104	17
Texas	359	230	129	289	194	95	293	199	94
W.S.Cent.	784	523	261	638	447	191	628	441	187
Mont.	47	35	12	46	33	13	44	31	13
Idaho	65	46	19	59	42	17	57	41	16
Wyo.	18	12	6	17	11	6	16	11	5
Colo.	58	44	14	51	36	15	51	35	16
N.Mex.	29	18	11	24	15	9	23	14	9
Ariz.	39	9	30	36	7	29	36	7	29
Utah	30	21	9	24	17	7	23	17	6
Nev.	5	3	2	4	2	2	4	2	2
Mount.	291	188	103	261	163	98	254	158	96
Wash.	114	74	40	94	60	34	84	55	29
Oreg.	98	66	32	78	52	26	72	49	23
Calif.	318	127	191	181	107	174	255	95	160
Pac.	530	267	263	453	219	234	411	199	212
U.S.	6202	4572	1630	4925	3771	1154	4810	3594	1216

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 July 23-29, 1967				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	61.4	38.8	52.6	32.3	43.7
N.H.	64.7	22.0	51.3	43.2	47.7
Vt.	66.5	41.5	55.9	45.8	51.6
Mass.	62.0	35.8	52.2	44.7	49.3
R.I.	48.6	35.2	44.1	45.5	44.7
Conn.	58.7	40.9	52.2	47.9	50.6
N.Eng.	62.3	37.3	52.8	43.3	48.4
N.Y.	60.6	38.1	52.7	42.8	49.1
N.J.	47.5	30.9	42.4	35.9	39.9
Pa.	55.6	32.3	46.5	32.0	42.7
M.Atl.	57.2	34.7	48.9	38.0	45.0
Ohio	52.5	34.1	46.7	26.9	40.7
Ind.	42.0	31.5	39.3	27.5	36.6
Ill.	45.0	35.6	42.9	31.9	40.3
Mich.	57.4	37.6	50.4	33.5	45.7
Wis.	63.2	36.1	51.2	40.6	49.1
E.N.Cent.	51.8	34.9	46.0	32.7	43.0
Minn.	59.3	39.7	51.7	36.2	48.4
Iowa	58.4	37.3	51.2	30.0	45.6
Mo.	46.4	31.8	42.3	28.4	38.0
N.Dak.	61.2	43.4	54.1	47.5	52.8
S.Dak.	62.1	39.8	53.7	34.1	49.8
Nebr.	60.5	43.2	54.9	35.5	49.8
Kans.	55.7	38.8	50.4	33.4	45.5
W.N.Cent.	56.3	38.0	50.0	33.8	45.9
Del.	36.8	52.8	41.6	18.6	35.4
Md.	48.6	33.5	43.2	34.2	40.4
Va.	43.4	35.4	40.9	30.4	36.4
W.Va.	39.1	30.0	36.6	24.1	33.6
N.C.	40.5	31.8	36.8	19.1	25.4
S.C.	38.5	31.5	36.3	19.1	25.0
Ga.	37.3	31.3	35.7	21.2	27.7
Fla.	25.2	28.5	26.2	21.2	23.1
S.Atl.	39.2	32.1	36.7	21.6	28.1
Ky.	39.5	32.3	37.3	25.4	33.0
Tenn.	33.4	30.4	32.7	22.4	29.4
Ala.	33.3	31.1	32.7	25.7	30.0
Miss.	40.3	27.9	36.4	32.6	34.1
E.S.Cent.	36.6	30.6	34.8	25.9	31.8
Ark.	36.6	34.6	36.0	31.2	33.8
La.	33.4	30.2	32.6	28.8	31.0
Okla.	47.8	33.7	43.2	28.8	39.0
Texas	42.1	34.6	39.8	31.0	35.8
W.S.Cent.	41.0	33.8	38.8	30.5	35.3
Mont.	60.8	44.1	54.6	47.7	52.3
Idaho	58.7	36.0	49.0	32.7	44.1
Wyo.	61.1	47.2	55.0	42.0	49.9
Colo.	60.6	44.1	54.3	44.3	50.8
N.Mex.	53.1	34.3	46.2	38.2	42.8
Ariz.	50.2	41.6	48.0	47.9	47.9
Utah	50.3	30.0	40.7	28.3	37.0
Nev.	50.5	39.5	46.5	43.1	45.0
Mount.	57.7	39.6	50.4	41.4	47.0
Wash.	51.1	38.3	46.9	38.2	42.6
Oreg.	48.1	36.6	43.9	41.0	43.1
Calif.	49.3	41.5	47.1	48.5	48.2
Pac.	49.5	39.4	46.3	45.9	46.0
U.S.	47.7	34.8	43.3	32.4	39.5

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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