

Farm Labor

Release
September 11, 1967
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

August Work Force 4 Percent Below A Year Ago

The Nation's farm labor force is estimated at 5,879,000 workers for the week of August 20-26. This represents a decline of 4 percent from the corresponding period in August 1966 and a drop of 2 percent from the July 1967 survey week.

The number of family members working on farms is estimated at 4,047,000. This was down 4 percent from a year earlier, but up 1 percent from the comparable period in July 1967.

Hired farm workers employed during the August survey week totaled 1,832,000 persons. This is a new low for August.

Rains Hamper Harvest in Southeast; West Suffers from Drought

Heavy rains hit the Southeastern States during the survey week, with localized flooding. Extreme dry conditions however prevailed in the Northwest, where practically no rain had fallen in 2 months. Light to moderate showers were received in most other areas of the United States.

Cotton harvest was delayed by wet fields in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. Harvest began in South Carolina. Control of insects and diseases was a problem to many cotton growers.

Tobacco harvest continued to spread. Harvest was progressing in virtually all northern producing States. Harvest neared completion in Georgia and South Carolina. North Carolina's harvest of the flue-cured crop was about two-thirds complete; burley harvest was about to begin. About one-third of Tennessee's tobacco was harvested. Burley tobacco in Kentucky was 82 percent topped and 20 percent cut. Progress on dark types was slightly further along. Flue-cured harvest in Virginia was one-fourth complete. Fire-cured harvest is moving along well, with burley and sun-cured harvest getting underway.

Peanut harvest was delayed by heavy rains in Georgia, Texas, and Alabama. About one-third of Georgia's crop has been dug. Peanuts are making good progress in the Carolinas and Virginia.

Harvest of small grains moved along well in the northern areas of the country. Preparing soil for fall seeding continued over much of the United States. Seeding had begun in Missouri, the southern Great Plains, and parts of the Northwest.

Corn prospects are generally good in the major producing areas. Most fields are in the dough and dent stages. Harvest began in Georgia and Alabama. Picking continued in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana.

Early soybean fields are turning yellow. Sorghum harvest in Texas and Louisiana was delayed by rain. Limited harvest was underway from Arkansas to Arizona.

Sugar beet harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley and desert areas of California. Rice harvest moved along well in Texas and Louisiana and was getting started in Arkansas. Safflower harvest continued active in California, and was nearly complete in Arizona. Harvest of broomcorn was underway in New Mexico and Oklahoma. Dry bean harvest had begun in Michigan, Colorado, and Wyoming. Flax harvest continued in South Dakota and Minnesota. Mint and hop harvests were active in Washington. Cutting corn and sorghum for silage was underway in many sections of the country.

Peach harvest made good progress in the Northeast and Pacific Coast States. Picking of early apples continued in many eastern areas and in some areas of the Far West. Pear harvest was underway in Michigan and the Pacific Coast States. Blueberry harvest was active in New England. Harvest of most California fruit crops progressed satisfactorily.

Vegetable harvest in some East Coastal States was delayed by rains. Onions harvest was underway in New York, Oregon, and New Mexico. Potato digging was progressing well in many sections of the country. Sweetpotato harvest continued in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Hours Worked Below July Survey Week

The length of the farm work week averaged 38.9 hours per person. This compares with 39.5 hours last month. Family workers averaged 41.6 hours, down 4 percent from the previous month. Hired workers averaged 34.0 hours. This was 5 percent above the July survey week.

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

	: Annual : average : 1961-65 1/	: Annual : average : 1966 1/	: August : average : 1961-65 1/	: August : 21-27, : 1966	: August : 20-26, : 1967
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,372	5,214	7,539	6,155	5,879
Family labor	4,655	3,854	5,099	4,212	4,047
Hired labor	1,717	1,360	2,440	1,943	1,832
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	47	38	47	38	37
Family labor	46	38	46	38	36
Hired labor	51	40	50	40	38
(1957-59=100)					
Total	85	70	85	69	66
Family labor	84	70	84	69	67
Hired labor	88	69	87	69	65

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.

-----o0o-----

Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, July 1, 1967, United States

	: Annual : average : 1966	: July : average : 1961-65	: July 1, : 1966	: July 1, : 1967
FARM WAGE RATES				
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
INDEXES 2/				
(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, August 1967
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	August Average 1961-65 1/			August 1966			August 1967		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	37	22	15	33	20	13	30	18	12
N.H.	12	8	4	11	7	4	10	6	4
Vt.	24	19	5	21	16	5	18	14	4
Mass.	39	20	19	32	15	17	29	14	15
R.I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	32	17	15	27	12 ^a	15	23	9	14
N.Eng.	148	89	59	127	72	55	113	63	50
N.Y.	174	103	71	131	84	47	127	80	47
N.J.	56	24	32	41	12	29	36	11	25
Pa.	198	158	40	152	127	25	159	129	30
M.Atl.	428	285	143	324	223	101	322	220	102
Ohio	226	179	47	177	146	31	163	135	28
Ind.	199	170	29	158	138	20	139	122	17
Ill.	235	186	49	198	159	39	186	149	37
Mich.	240	176	64	191	146	45	179	134	45
Wis.	293	253	40	241	211	30	230	197	33
E.N.Cent.	1193	964	229	965	800	165	897	737	160
Minn.	301	242	59	256	217	39	243	210	33
Iowa	311	254	57	264	214	50	255	210	45
Mo.	301	244	57	235	190	45	245	191	54
N.Dak.	123	87	36	109	78	31	105	74	31
S.Dak.	104	84	20	91	74	17	88	73	15
Nebr.	165	133	32	136	106	30	133	105	28
Kans.	171	132	39	160	120	40	155	121	34
W.N.Cent.	1476	1176	300	1251	999	252	1224	984	240
Del.	16	8	8	14	8	6	13	7	6
Md.	68	43	25	48	31	17	46	29	17
Va.	201	127	74	157	105	52	141	97	44
W.Va.	68	56	12	46	40	6	45	39	6
N.C.	614	389	225	510	287	223	479	287	192
S.C.	208	133	75	127	86	41	125	84	41
Ga.	199	143	56	150	112	38	145	105	40
Fla.	89	39	50	80	33	47	77	32	45
S.Atl.	1463	938	525	1132	702	430	1071	680	391
Ky.	273	191	82	212	157	55	252	171	81
Tenn.	236	169	67	215	154	61	186	133	53
Ala.	122	92	30	117	82	35	99	76	23
Miss.	220	159	61	177	133	44	154	125	29
E.S.Cent.	851	611	240	721	526	195	691	505	186
Ark.	208	99	109	154	83	71	171	89	82
La.	175	85	90	129	70	59	119	63	56
Okla.	142	102	40	121	96	25	123	95	28
Texas	459	250	209	340	218	122	320	209	111
W.S.Cent.	984	536	448	744	467	277	733	456	277
Mont.	57	39	18	58	37	21	61	36	25
Idaho	88	56	32	82	51	31	76	48	28
Wyo.	22	14	8	20	12	8	20	12	8
Colo.	78	54	24	70	43	27	70	40	30
N.Mex.	35	20	15	28	17	11	27	16	11
Ariz.	34	9	25	30	7	23	30	7	23
Utah	38	26	12	31	20	11	37	24	13
Nev.	7	4	3	6	3	3	9	4	5
Mount.	359	222	137	325	190	135	330	187	143
Wash.	138	80	58	116	67	49	100	62	38
Oreg.	122	64	58	100	54	46	88	48	40
Calif.	377	134	243	350	112	238	310	105	205
Pac.	637	278	359	566	233	333	498	215	283
U.S.	7539	5099	2440	6155	4212	1943	5879	4047	1832

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 August 1967 1/
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through August : Av. 1961-65			January through August : 1966			January through August : 1967		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	30	20	10	27	19	8	23	16	7
N.H.	11	8	3	10	7	3	9	6	3
Vt.	24	19	5	20	16	4	18	14	4
Mass.	31	19	12	25	15	10	21	12	9
R.I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Conn.	24	15	9	20	11	9	17	9	8
N.Eng.	123	83	40	104	69	35	91	59	32
N.Y.	142	94	48	111	80	31	106	77	29
N.J.	41	21	20	29	12	17	25	11	14
Pa.	166	138	28	133	113	20	131	112	19
M.Atl.	349	253	96	273	205	68	262	200	62
Ohio	216	184	32	172	151	21	165	146	19
Ind.	198	176	22	156	140	16	140	127	13
Ill.	229	182	47	183	151	32	174	143	31
Mich.	208	167	41	170	140	30	156	128	28
Wis.	263	236	27	219	198	21	202	182	20
E.N.Cent.	1114	945	169	900	780	120	837	726	111
Minn.	286	224	42	222	195	27	207	183	24
Iowa	281	240	41	241	203	38	225	194	31
Mo.	250	216	34	206	179	27	209	173	36
N.Dak.	87	69	18	75	60	15	70	56	14
S.Dak.	86	75	11	75	66	9	72	64	8
Nebr.	149	125	24	124	103	21	116	97	19
Kans.	152	126	26	133	111	22	130	109	21
W.N.Cent.	1271	1075	196	1076	917	159	1029	876	153
Del.	12	7	5	10	6	4	8	5	3
Md.	53	36	17	41	29	12	37	26	11
Va.	172	120	52	134	96	38	126	92	34
W.Va.	60	48	12	43	36	7	41	34	7
N.C.	400	279	121	314	214	100	300	209	91
S.C.	162	103	59	96	66	30	89	63	26
Ga.	150	108	42	109	83	26	109	82	27
Fla.	121	43	78	116	35	81	116	34	82
S.Atl.	1130	744	386	863	565	298	826	545	281
Ky.	219	169	50	181	138	43	187	142	45
Tenn.	204	156	48	180	136	44	160	124	36
Ala.	116	90	26	101	74	27	97	74	23
Miss.	191	138	53	148	106	42	133	102	31
E.S.Cent.	730	553	177	610	454	156	577	442	135
Ark.	168	100	68	128	77	51	132	82	50
La.	129	77	52	98	63	35	92	59	33
Okla.	139	115	24	121	104	17	121	103	18
Texas	371	232	139	296	197	99	296	200	96
W.S.Cent.	807	524	283	643	441	202	641	444	197
Mont.	49	36	13	47	33	14	47	32	15
Idaho	68	47	21	62	43	19	60	42	18
Wyo.	20	13	7	17	11	6	17	11	6
Colo.	61	45	16	53	37	16	53	36	17
N.Mex.	31	19	12	24	15	9	23	14	9
Ariz.	38	9	29	35	7	28	35	7	28
Utah	31	22	9	25	18	7	25	18	7
Nev.	5	3	2	4	2	2	5	3	2
Mount.	303	194	109	267	166	101	265	163	102
Wash.	117	75	42	96	60	36	86	56	30
Oreg.	101	66	35	80	52	28	75	49	26
Calif.	326	128	198	289	107	182	261	96	165
Pac.	544	269	275	465	219	246	422	201	221
U.S.	6371	4640	1731	5201	3816	1385	4950	3656	1294

1/ Average number during survey week of each month.

2/ Correct July average in August Farm Labor for Total, Family, and Hired to read as follows: Indiana 157; Louisiana 94 and 62; West South Central 628 and 437; California 281; United States 5067, 3761, and 1306.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Comments	1 - 2
Farm employment, wage rates, and indexes, United States	3
Workers on Farms, August 1967	4
Average number of workers on farms January through August 1967, by States and Division, with comparisons	5
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms August 20-26, 1967, by States and Division	6
