

Farm Labor

Release
November 9, 1967
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

October Labor Force 7 Percent Below Last Year

The Nation's farm labor force totaled 5,527,000 workers for the week of October 22-28, a record low for the date. This is a decline of 7 percent from the corresponding period in October 1966, and 5 percent below the survey week in September.

The number of farm family members working during the survey week totaled 4,121,000 persons, 5 percent less than a year earlier.

The number of hired workers totaled 1,406,000, 10 percent below October 1966 and 13 percent below September 1967. Sharpest declines occurred in the South Central States. Increased mechanization of many crop harvests has resulted in reducing the number of hired workers. This is especially true in the cotton States, where the bulk of the crop is now harvested by mechanical pickers.

Farm workers averaged 39.7 hours of farm work during the October survey week, compared with 38.9 hours a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 45.4 hours, slightly above a month earlier. Other family members averaged 32.5 hours, up 2 percent and hired workers averaged 36.5 hours, up 4 percent from September.

Weather Conditions Delay Crop Harvests

Violent storms, heavy snow, and cold temperatures characterized weather during the survey week. Tornadoes occurred in seven States from Missouri to Ohio, and in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. The Gulfport area of Mississippi suffered extensive property damage. The first major snow of the season hit the northern Great Plains and the Great Lakes region. The coldest weather of the season came to the Pacific Northwest--daily maximums were in the 40's and 50's.

Corn harvest was slow in the Corn Belt, because of cool temperatures, precipitation, and high moisture content of the corn. Corn picking was about three weeks behind average in Illinois. Harvest also was later than normal in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. Harvest generally progressed well in the Great Plains, Minnesota, and parts of the Southeast.

Soybean harvest was well advanced to nearly complete from the Corn Belt northward, but rain and snow caused some delay. Harvest was gaining in the Southeast.

The cotton crop in the Southeast continued to develop slowly. Harvest was well behind normal. Opening of bolls has been slow. The Texas crop was 42 percent harvested, slightly ahead of last year. Arizona's harvest progressed rapidly. Picking of cotton also moved along well in California.

Sorghum harvest made good progress in most areas. Harvesting of peanuts moved along well. Tobacco marketing and stripping continued.

Sugar beet harvest was well along in most areas. Sugar cane harvest was one-fifth complete in Louisiana and about to begin in Florida. Combining of rice was nearly complete in Arkansas. The second cutting in Texas was nearly three-fourths harvested. Harvest was well advanced in California. Broomcorn harvest continued active in New Mexico. Sunflower harvest progressed in North Dakota. -

Seeding small grains was well advanced in the Southern Great Plains. Seeding was virtually complete in the Mountain, Northern Great Plains, and Great Lakes States. Small grain planting was active in the Pacific Coast States and in the southeastern part of the country.

Apple picking neared completion in most areas. Grape harvest continued in California and in parts of the northeast. Picking of citrus continued to increase in Florida. Citrus harvest remained light in Texas. Fruit and nut harvests in California were moving along well. Pecan harvest was underway from Texas and Oklahoma through the Southeastern States.

Harvest of most vegetable crops was nearly complete in most areas except the extreme South and far west. Volume harvest was increasing in Florida and continued seasonally in California. Potato and sweetpotato harvests were nearly finished in most areas.

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

	: Annual : average : 1961-65 1/	: Annual : average : 1966 1/	: October : average : 1961-65 1/	: October : 23-29, : 1966	: October : 22-28, : 1967
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,372	5,214	7,315	5,923	5,527
Family labor	4,655	3,854	5,216	4,357	4,121
Hired labor	1,717	1,360	2,099	1,566	1,406
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	47	38	46	38	35
Family labor	46	38	45	38	36
Hired labor	51	40	49	37	33
(1957-59=100)					
Total	85	70	84	68	64
Family labor	84	70	83	70	66
Hired labor	88	69	85	64	57

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, October 1, 1967, United States

	: Annual : average : 1966	: October : average : 1961-65	: October : average : 1966	: October 1, : 1966	: October 1, : 1967
FARM WAGE RATES					
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 1.03	\$ 0.902	\$ 1.07		\$ 1.16
Per month with house	243	204	242		261
Per month with board and room ..	185	159	187		203
Per week with board and room ...	43.50	38.00	44.75		48.00
Per week without board or room ..	55.75	47.00	55.25		60.50
Per day with house	6.70	5.90	7.00		7.70
Per day with board and room	8.00	6.70	7.80		8.50
Per day without board or room ..	8.20	7.50	8.80		9.50
Per hour with house	1.10	1.08	1.25		1.32
Per hour without board or room ..	1.23	.99	1.18		1.29
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)	792	683	812		883
(1957-59=100)	136	117	140		152

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, October 1967
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	October average			October 1966			October 1967		
	1961-65 1/			Week of 23-29			Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	29	20	9	24	18	6	33	18	15
N.H.	10	7	3	9	7	2	8	5	3
Vt.	23	18	5	20	16	4	18	14	4
Mass.	32	19	13	25	15	10	21	13	8
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	22	14	8	15	10	5	12	8	4
N.Eng.	119	80	39	96	68	28	95	60	35
N.Y.	151	101	50	116	84	32	117	85	32
N.J.	38	22	16	24	10	14	23	10	13
Pa.	166	136	30	136	115	21	132	110	22
M.Atl.	355	259	96	276	209	67	272	205	67
Ohio	226	191	35	179	158	21	174	151	23
Ind.	200	167	33	168	147	21	145	125	20
Ill.	251	201	50	203	165	38	183	154	29
Mich.	193	152	41	167	137	30	159	126	33
Wis.	243	213	30	210	187	23	185	164	21
E.N.Cent.	1113	924	189	927	794	133	846	720	126
Minn.	244	218	26	221	201	20	204	186	18
Iowa	298	259	39	262	230	32	246	214	32
Mo.	292	239	53	246	201	45	234	182	52
N.Dak.	81	65	16	72	57	15	65	55	10
S.Dak.	87	77	10	78	70	8	73	65	8
Nebr.	150	130	20	130	110	20	120	103	17
Kans.	152	134	18	137	122	15	129	116	13
W.N.Cent.	1304	1122	182	1146	991	155	1071	921	150
Del.	11	7	4	9	6	3	9	6	3
Md.	52	37	15	37	27	10	37	27	10
Va.	185	136	49	142	104	38	137	103	34
W.Va.	61	53	8	46	41	5	44	38	6
N.C.	400	311	89	310	240	70	298	239	59
S.C.	181	130	51	114	88	26	99	76	23
Ga.	209	154	55	149	119	30	146	114	32
Fla.	118	47	71	104	39	65	102	38	64
S.Atl.	1217	875	342	911	664	247	872	641	231
Ky.	285	234	51	245	197	48	239	200	39
Tenn.	351	269	82	286	218	68	246	200	46
Ala.	231	172	59	178	141	37	165	136	29
Miss.	313	200	113	235	157	78	190	144	46
E.S.Cent.	1180	875	305	944	713	231	840	680	160
Ark.	248	129	119	145	96	49	162	101	61
La.	193	98	95	157	86	71	136	72	64
Okla.	159	121	38	130	105	25	126	107	19
Texas	485	246	239	406	230	176	368	233	135
W.S.Cent.	1085	594	491	838	517	321	792	513	279
Mont.	47	38	9	42	33	9	42	30	12
Idah.	76	55	21	68	50	18	65	49	16
Wyo.	20	13	7	17	11	6	16	11	5
Colo.	75	49	26	62	40	22	62	37	25
N.Mex.	53	26	27	38	21	17	36	19	17
Ariz.	43	9	34	36	7	29	37	7	30
Utah	34	24	10	29	20	9	27	19	8
Nev.	6	3	3	4	2	2	6	3	3
Mount.	354	217	137	296	184	112	291	175	116
Wash.	99	66	33	83	55	28	79	53	26
Oreg.	84	64	20	67	51	16	63	47	16
Calif.	405	140	265	339	111	228	306	106	200
Pac.	588	270	318	489	217	272	448	206	242
U.S.	7315	5216	2099	5923	4357	1566	5527	4121	1406

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

State and division	January through Oct. Av. 1961-65			January through Oct. 1966			January through Oct. 1967		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	32	20	12	29	19	10	27	17	10
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	22	13	9
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	24	15	9	19	11	8	16	9	7
N.Eng.	125	83	42	106	70	36	95	61	34
N.Y.	146	96	50	114	82	32	110	79	31
N.J.	42	22	20	29	12	17	26	11	15
Pa.	168	139	29	135	114	21	132	112	20
M.Atl.	356	257	99	278	208	70	268	202	66
Ohio	218	184	34	173	151	22	165	145	20
Ind.	199	174	25	159	141	18	141	126	15
Ill.	232	184	48	186	153	33	176	145	31
Mich.	206	164	42	170	140	30	157	128	29
Wis.	261	233	28	218	196	22	201	180	21
E.N.Cent.	1116	939	177	906	781	125	840	724	116
Minn.	263	223	40	223	197	26	208	185	23
Iowa	284	243	41	244	207	37	228	197	31
Mo.	262	223	39	213	182	31	215	176	39
N.Dak.	87	69	18	75	60	15	69	56	13
S.Dak.	87	76	11	75	66	9	72	64	8
Nebr.	148	125	23	125	104	21	117	98	19
Kans.	153	128	25	135	114	21	131	111	20
W.N.Cent.	1284	1087	197	1090	930	160	1040	887	153
Del.	12	7	5	10	6	4	8	5	3
Md.	54	37	17	41	29	12	38	27	11
Va.	175	123	52	136	98	38	128	94	34
W.Va.	61	50	11	44	37	7	42	35	7
N.C.	409	292	117	323	225	98	307	219	88
S.C.	169	110	59	101	70	31	92	66	26
Ga.	165	119	46	117	90	27	116	88	28
Fla.	119	44	75	113	36	77	114	36	78
S.Atl.	1164	782	382	885	591	294	845	570	275
Ky.	232	180	52	198	150	48	200	153	47
Tenn.	228	174	54	197	149	48	173	136	37
Ala.	137	104	33	112	84	28	110	85	25
Miss.	220	152	68	167	117	50	145	110	35
E.S.Cent.	817	610	207	674	500	174	628	484	144
Ark.	186	106	80	131	81	50	138	86	52
La.	147	84	63	111	68	43	103	63	40
Okla.	143	116	27	123	104	19	123	104	19
Texas	395	236	159	319	203	116	307	205	102
W.S.Cent.	871	542	329	684	456	228	671	458	213
Mont.	49	36	13	47	34	13	46	32	14
Idaho	71	49	22	63	44	19	61	43	18
Wyo.	20	13	7	17	11	6	17	11	6
Colo.	64	46	18	56	38	18	55	36	19
N.Mex.	34	20	14	26	16	10	25	15	10
Ariz.	39	9	30	35	7	28	35	7	28
Utah	33	23	10	26	18	8	27	19	8
Nev.	5	3	2	4	2	2	5	3	2
Mount.	375	199	176	274	170	104	271	166	105
Wash.	115	74	41	96	60	36	86	56	30
Oreg.	98	65	33	78	52	26	72	48	24
Calif.	345	131	214	302	108	194	275	98	177
Pac.	558	270	288	476	220	256	433	202	231
U.S.	6616	4769	1837	5373	3926	1447	5091	3754	1337

^{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 October 22-28, 1967				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	53.7	35.1	47.6	37.1	43.8
N.H.	56.5	38.5	52.4	46.4	50.1
Vt.	62.5	43.2	55.8	36.6	49.3
Mass.	56.5	28.9	49.7	40.4	45.9
R.I.	48.8	29.0	43.9	46.3	44.6
Conn.	55.4	32.4	48.4	36.5	44.7
N.Eng.	56.6	35.4	50.3	38.8	46.0
N.Y.	58.5	33.8	50.3	38.1	46.2
N.J.	46.1	29.7	41.8	35.4	39.8
Pa.	54.0	30.6	45.8	33.7	43.0
M.Atl.	55.4	31.9	47.5	36.1	44.1
Ohio	49.1	31.8	44.3	29.6	40.4
Ind.	41.6	32.5	39.5	29.0	37.3
Ill.	47.3	38.0	45.2	33.6	42.7
Mich.	51.9	37.0	47.5	28.8	43.0
Wis.	60.0	30.2	48.0	38.4	46.4
E.N.Cent.	50.0	33.9	44.9	31.7	42.2
Minn.	60.5	36.1	51.7	38.2	49.4
Iowa	58.3	33.5	50.7	33.2	47.0
Mo.	43.3	35.6	41.8	36.3	40.5
N.Dak.	46.4	36.5	43.4	36.9	42.6
S.Dak.	54.3	35.7	49.0	33.8	46.6
Nebr.	52.5	35.3	47.3	31.0	44.4
Kans.	48.8	34.0	45.2	30.8	42.2
W.N.Cent.	52.5	35.1	47.2	34.7	44.9
Del.	40.5	46.4	42.4	22.0	36.1
Md.	47.9	33.0	43.1	36.4	41.0
Va.	44.3	32.0	40.9	32.3	37.6
W.Va.	36.6	29.0	34.8	25.8	33.2
N.C.	39.2	30.2	36.0	28.7	33.2
S.C.	36.5	28.6	34.6	23.3	28.4
Ga.	36.7	31.8	35.6	30.9	33.6
Fla.	39.5	24.6	37.2	45.8	42.7
S.Atl.	39.5	30.3	36.9	33.0	34.9
Ky.	39.1	27.8	35.9	26.5	32.8
Tenn.	35.0	29.1	33.7	24.9	31.1
Ala.	34.1	30.2	33.2	26.1	30.8
Miss.	39.2	29.0	36.9	40.8	39.2
E.S.Cent.	36.9	28.9	34.9	30.1	33.4
Ark.	35.0	34.5	34.9	33.6	36.3
La.	34.4	29.5	33.5	34.6	33.9
Okla.	41.1	29.0	37.8	25.5	35.5
Texas	41.9	32.9	40.0	37.9	39.3
W.S.Cent.	39.4	31.9	37.7	36.5	37.2
Mont.	46.1	34.8	43.7	44.1	43.8
Idaho	49.3	31.0	43.0	33.7	41.2
Wyo.	50.5	30.5	44.8	35.6	42.0
Colo.	45.1	34.6	42.1	38.1	41.1
N.Mex.	43.5	28.8	39.8	34.5	37.5
Ariz.	44.9	30.9	41.8	45.8	44.0
Utah	40.7	27.0	36.1	31.6	35.0
Nev.	43.8	21.5	37.1	56.9	46.8
Mount.	46.0	31.7	41.9	39.5	41.0
Wash.	41.9	27.8	38.4	32.8	35.7
Oreg.	38.6	32.3	37.0	30.2	35.1
Calif.	45.8	39.6	44.3	48.3	47.4
Pac.	43.0	34.5	40.9	45.4	43.6
U.S.	45.4	32.5	41.6	36.5	39.7

^{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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Comments	1 - 2
Farm employment, wage rates, and indexes, United States	3
Workers on Farms, October 1967	4
Average number of workers on farms January through October 1967, by States and Divisions, with comparisons	5
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms, October 22-28, 1967, by States and Divisions	6
