

Farm Labor

Release
December 11, 1967
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

Harvest Continues as Crop Season Later Than Normal

The Nation's total farm labor force is estimated at 4,583,000 workers for the week of November 19-25, 5 percent less than a year earlier and 17 percent below a month earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Board.

Family members working during the survey week are estimated at 3,553,000 persons, 5 percent below a year earlier. All regional totals of family workers declined from a year earlier.

The number of hired farm workers employed on farms during the November survey week is estimated at 1,030,000,--5 percent below a year earlier; 17 percent below a month earlier. Rains in the East from Mississippi to New England and in southern California slowed harvests. Time off from work during Thanksgiving week also contributed to offsetting the need for hiring more workers for late harvests. The East North Central, West South Central, and Mountain regions show slight increases from a year earlier.

Hours Per Worker Show Seasonal Decline

The average number of hours worked per person on farms reporting during the November survey week declined from a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 41.3 hours of farm work during the survey week. This was 4.1 hours less than during the October survey week. Other family members averaged 30.2 hours, 7 percent below a month earlier. Hired farm workers averaged 34.4 hours of farm labor during the November survey week, compared with 36.5 hours a month earlier.

Rains and Thanksgiving Holiday Delay Harvest

Heavy rains caused local flooding and mud slides in California, and general rains in the East during the Thanksgiving weekend, combined with holiday celebrations to delay harvests.

Corn harvest continued to progress rather slowly in the eastern part of the Corn Belt, but harvest made good headway in Iowa and the Central Great Plains. High moisture content in corn continued to cause harvesting problems. Harvest in areas other than the Corn Belt and Great Plains was well advanced to nearly complete.

Soybean combining moved along well in all producing areas. Harvest was well advanced to complete. Sorghum harvest was nearing completion in most areas.

Cotton picking progressed rapidly in the southern Great Plains and Delta States, but rains slowed harvest in the extreme Southeast. About two-thirds of the Texas crop was harvested, compared with over three-fourths a year earlier. Rain slowed harvest in Arizona, after three-fourths of the crop had been ginned. Harvest in California was about 90 percent complete.

Peanut combining in Virginia was generally complete, but some threshing of stacks continued. Harvest was active in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Tobacco stripping, grading, and marketing continued active.

Sugar beet harvest neared completion in most northern areas, but rains slowed digging in California. Sugarcane harvest was about two-thirds complete in Louisiana and was active in Florida. Cutting of Christmas trees and holly was underway.

Florida orange harvest increased, but the grapefruit harvest slowed. Citrus picking progressed well in Texas and Arizona, and light picking continued in California. Pecan harvest continued active in most producing States. Tung nut harvest was active in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida.

Vegetable harvest was heavy in Florida, ahead of normal. Planting and harvest operations progressed well in Texas. Vegetable harvest was active in California, but heavy rains in some areas disrupted harvest.

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

	: Annual : average : 1961-65 1/	: Annual : average : 1966 1/	: November : average : 1961-65 1/	: November : 20-26, : 1966	: November : 19-25, : 1967
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,372	5,214	5,648	4,824	4,583
Family labor	4,655	3,854	4,329	3,737	3,553
Hired labor	1,717	1,360	1,319	1,087	1,030
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	47	38	45	38	37
Family labor	46	38	44	38	37
Hired labor	51	40	47	39	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total	85	70	82	70	66
Family labor	84	70	82	71	67
Hired labor	88	69	81	67	63

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, October 1, 1967, United States

	: Annual : average : 1966	: October : average : 1961-65	: 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.

FARM LABOR, December 1967

Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA

Workers on Farms, November 1967
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	November average 1961-65 1/			November 1966 Week of 20-26			November 1967 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	25	19	6	23	18	5	20	16	4
N.H.	10	7	3	8	6	2	7	5	2
Vt.	22	17	5	18	15	3	17	14	3
Mass.	25	17	8	20	14	6	19	13	6
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	18	13	5	13	10	3	11	8	3
N.Eng.	103	75	28	85	65	20	77	58	19
N.Y.	126	93	33	103	80	23	101	79	22
N.J.	27	17	10	17	10	7	16	10	6
Pa.	136	115	21	114	100	14	112	97	15
M.Atl.	289	225	64	234	190	44	229	186	43
Ohio	204	180	24	173	158	17	157	142	15
Ind.	176	157	19	153	137	16	132	118	14
Ill.	223	186	37	190	159	31	195	162	33
Mich.	164	139	25	141	123	18	136	116	20
Wis.	229	209	20	194	179	15	186	169	17
E.N.Cent.	998	871	125	851	754	97	806	707	99
Minn.	200	184	16	181	169	12	176	165	11
Iowa	253	225	28	216	190	26	223	192	31
Mo.	218	199	19	200	176	24	173	152	21
N.Dak.	59	51	8	48	41	7	45	40	5
S.Dak.	69	63	6	60	54	6	58	53	5
Nebr.	121	109	12	103	90	13	107	95	12
Kans.	122	112	10	109	101	8	108	99	9
W.N.Cent.	1042	943	99	917	821	96	890	796	94
Del.	10	6	4	7	5	2	7	5	2
Md.	44	33	11	34	26	8	31	24	7
Va.	155	117	38	128	101	27	118	93	25
W.Va.	51	44	7	41	36	5	38	34	4
N.C.	295	229	66	251	195	56	223	180	43
S.C.	124	88	36	80	61	19	68	54	14
Ga.	150	104	46	107	79	28	108	78	30
Fla.	126	41	85	123	36	87	120	33	87
S.Atl.	955	662	293	771	539	232	713	501	212
Ky.	243	199	44	207	169	38	211	174	37
Tenn.	255	213	42	235	197	38	209	176	33
Ala.	141	107	34	133	98	35	123	94	29
Miss.	190	144	46	145	113	32	123	99	24
E.S.Cent.	829	663	166	720	577	143	666	543	123
Ark.	154	98	56	122	82	40	131	91	40
La.	117	82	35	99	72	27	86	61	25
Okla.	125	104	21	106	92	14	112	93	19
Texas	346	212	134	307	201	106	307	200	107
W.S.Cent.	742	496	246	634	447	187	636	445	191
Mont.	39	32	7	40	31	9	36	28	8
Idaho	51	39	12	45	36	9	44	35	9
Wyo.	15	10	5	14	9	5	14	9	5
Colo.	49	38	11	43	35	8	45	31	14
N.Mex.	36	19	17	27	14	13	26	15	11
Ariz.	46	9	37	40	7	33	39	6	33
Utah	24	20	4	23	19	4	21	17	4
Nev.	4	2	2	3	2	1	4	2	2
Mount.	264	169	95	235	153	82	229	143	86
Wash.	75	57	18	66	50	16	62	47	15
Oreg.	67	55	12	53	45	8	50	42	8
Calif.	286	113	173	258	96	162	225	85	140
Pac.	428	225	203	377	191	186	337	174	163
U.S.	5648	4329	1319	4824	3737	1087	4583	3553	1030

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

State and division	January through Nov. Av. 1961-65			January through Nov. 1966			January through Nov. 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	8	5	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	105	70	35	94	60	34
N.Y.	145	96	49	113	81	32	109	79	30
N.J.	40	21	19	28	12	16	25	11	14
Pa.	165	137	28	133	113	20	131	111	20
M.Atl.	350	254	96	274	206	68	265	201	64
Ohio	216	183	33	173	151	22	165	145	20
Ind.	196	172	24	158	141	17	140	125	15
Ill.	232	185	47	186	153	33	177	146	31
Mich.	202	162	40	167	138	29	155	127	28
Wis.	259	231	28	216	195	21	200	179	21
E.N.Cent.	1105	933	172	900	778	122	837	722	115
Minn.	258	220	38	219	194	25	205	183	22
Iowa	281	241	40	242	206	36	228	197	31
Mo.	258	221	37	213	182	31	211	174	37
N.Dak.	85	68	17	73	58	15	68	55	13
S.Dak.	86	75	11	74	65	9	71	63	8
Nebr.	146	124	22	122	102	20	116	98	18
Kans.	151	127	24	133	113	20	129	110	19
W.N.Cent.	1265	1076	189	1076	920	156	1028	880	148
Del.	12	7	5	9	6	3	8	5	3
Md.	53	37	16	40	28	12	36	26	10
Va.	173	122	51	135	98	37	127	94	33
W.Va.	60	49	11	44	37	7	42	35	7
N.C.	399	286	113	316	222	94	300	216	84
S.C.	165	108	57	99	69	30	90	65	25
Ga.	164	118	46	116	89	27	116	87	29
Fla.	120	44	76	114	36	78	114	36	78
S.Atl.	1146	771	375	873	585	288	833	564	269
Ky.	233	182	51	199	152	47	201	155	46
Tenn.	231	178	53	201	154	47	177	140	37
Ala.	138	105	33	114	85	29	111	86	25
Miss.	217	151	66	165	117	48	143	109	34
E.S.Cent.	819	616	203	679	508	171	632	490	142
Ark.	182	105	77	131	81	50	137	86	51
La.	143	83	60	111	69	42	101	63	38
Okla.	142	115	27	122	103	19	122	103	19
Texas	389	233	156	318	203	115	308	205	103
W.S.Cent.	856	536	320	682	456	226	668	457	211
Mont.	48	36	12	46	33	13	46	32	14
Idaho	69	48	21	62	44	18	60	43	17
Wyo.	20	13	7	17	11	6	17	11	6
Colo.	62	45	17	54	37	17	55	36	19
N.Mex.	34	20	14	26	16	10	25	15	10
Ariz.	39	9	30	36	7	29	36	7	29
Utah	31	22	9	27	19	8	26	19	7
Nev.	5	3	2	4	2	2	5	3	2
Mount.	308	196	112	272	169	103	270	166	104
Wash.	111	72	39	93	59	34	84	55	29
Oreg.	95	64	31	75	51	24	70	48	22
Calif.	341	130	211	299	107	192	272	97	174
Pac.	547	266	281	467	217	250	426	200	225
U.S.	6521	4731	1790	5328	3909	1419	5052	3740	1312

^{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 November 19-25, 1967				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	54.8	32.6	48.4	32.9	43.5
N.H.	55.4	31.3	47.8	33.7	42.2
Vt.	61.6	43.9	55.3	41.8	50.6
Mass.	56.6	33.0	49.2	42.3	46.4
R.I.	57.4	35.0	49.9	41.8	46.9
Conn.	52.9	31.7	46.2	36.0	42.9
N.Eng.	56.5	35.0	49.7	38.3	45.7
N.Y.	56.7	30.9	48.6	42.5	46.7
N.J.	42.1	28.5	38.5	37.9	38.3
Pa.	50.5	29.9	43.7	34.1	41.5
M.Atl.	52.6	30.2	45.4	38.9	43.6
Ohio	45.9	30.9	41.7	28.7	39.0
Ind.	40.4	31.3	38.3	31.3	36.9
Ill.	49.3	35.8	45.9	35.1	43.4
Mich.	47.3	34.2	43.6	32.2	41.1
Wis.	57.0	29.3	45.5	39.7	44.5
E.N.Cent.	48.2	32.3	43.1	33.8	41.3
Minn.	52.2	30.6	45.3	34.0	43.8
Iowa	55.0	32.6	48.0	32.6	44.6
Mo.	39.9	28.8	37.9	31.4	36.5
N.Dak.	35.4	32.9	34.8	38.6	35.2
S.Dak.	45.5	30.3	41.5	33.8	40.6
Nebr.	48.4	33.8	44.3	28.6	41.9
Kans.	42.7	31.0	40.1	28.4	37.9
W.N.Cent.	46.8	31.2	42.5	32.0	41.0
Del.	34.5	24.7	31.7	33.3	32.2
Md.	42.5	34.7	40.4	37.2	39.5
Va.	40.3	29.7	37.7	29.1	34.5
W.Va.	33.9	28.4	32.6	27.5	31.9
N.C.	33.9	28.5	32.4	27.2	30.4
S.C.	33.8	27.7	32.7	26.3	29.6
Ga.	34.3	29.9	33.2	24.0	29.4
Fla.	37.5	22.5	35.3	43.4	42.1
S.Atl.	35.6	28.6	34.0	34.0	33.3
Ky.	39.3	31.8	37.0	27.2	33.1
Tenn.	31.8	28.6	31.1	23.0	28.7
Ala.	29.6	28.0	29.3	23.9	27.4
Miss.	34.2	26.6	32.8	25.7	28.4
E.S.Cent.	34.0	29.0	32.8	25.0	29.8
Ark.	32.1	30.6	31.7	37.4	33.8
La.	30.8	26.8	29.9	37.4	32.6
Okla.	35.3	28.7	33.6	21.1	30.9
Texas	36.9	29.3	35.3	31.1	33.5
W.S.Cent.	34.8	29.1	33.5	32.2	33.0
Mont.	38.2	33.2	37.0	40.2	37.6
Idaho	38.0	25.8	34.3	30.5	33.7
Wyo.	41.5	29.3	37.8	39.9	38.3
Colo.	37.8	23.7	34.0	34.8	34.2
N.Mex.	36.8	26.1	34.1	41.7	36.7
Ariz.	41.7	28.1	38.8	40.5	39.8
Utah	36.7	26.0	33.5	25.9	31.9
Nev.	48.5	25.8	43.4	48.2	45.8
Mount.	38.3	27.2	35.2	38.1	36.1
Wash.	34.0	26.7	32.4	34.2	33.0
Oreg.	33.0	29.1	32.2	32.4	32.2
Calif.	38.4	34.9	37.7	44.2	42.6
Pac.	35.8	31.2	34.9	42.7	39.3
U.S.	41.3	30.2	38.2	34.4	37.0

^{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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