

Farm Labor

Release
May 10, 1968
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

Farm Employment Up Seasonally Rainy Weather Slowed Activity in Some Areas

The Nation's farm labor force for the week of April 21-27 is estimated at 4,683,000 persons, only slightly less than during the comparable period in 1967. Of this total, 3,666,000 were family members. Hired workers totaled 1,017,000 persons, up 17 percent from the March 1968 survey week, but down 3 percent from April 1967.

Farm workers on reporting farms averaged a work week of 40.1 hours, 8 percent above a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 45.7 hours of work while other family members averaged 31.0 hours. Hired farm workers averaged a work week of 37.0 hours, an increase of 1.4 hours from a month earlier and 1.6 hours more than during April a year ago.

Field Work Delayed By Rain

Cool weather with frequent showers predominated over much of the Nation during the survey week, slowing field activity periodically in many agricultural areas. Rainfall has enhanced the soil moisture conditions in most deficient areas. Seeding of spring wheat was 85 percent completed in South Dakota, 70 percent in Minnesota, and ahead of normal in North Dakota. Oat seeding was nearly 90 percent complete in Ohio and 75 percent complete in Michigan. Small grains in California need moisture. Barley harvest is underway in the Imperial Valley of California.

Corn planting was general in the southern half of the country, but was just starting in much of the Corn Belt. Wet soil in the South Central States has delayed planting, and progress is behind last year. In Texas, 80 percent of the corn has been planted compared with 90 percent last year. Planting activity is increasing in the Corn Belt but has not become general in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana.

Progress of cotton planting continued to lag behind last year. Cotton planting was 24 percent complete in Texas compared with 34 percent a year ago. Slightly over 70 percent of the cotton acreage has been planted in Georgia and South Carolina. Only 10 percent has been planted in Arkansas and approximately 25 percent has been planted in Mississippi and Louisiana. Planting is nearing completion in parts of Arizona and California.

Transplanting of tobacco is nearing completion in Georgia and is 25 percent complete in North Carolina. Tobacco transplanting is beginning in the Appalachian States, and moisture supplies are adequate.

Peanut planting continues in Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas with about 75 percent of the acreage already planted in Alabama. Rice seeding was near 73 percent complete in Texas, 40 percent in Arkansas, 67 percent in Louisiana, and well along in California.

Harvest of California vegetables progressed seasonally. Cutting of lettuce was very active in the Salinas-Watsonville area. Asparagus harvest in the Stockton Delta area continued heavy, with processors taking most supplies. Strawberry picking continued heavy in Salinas and Santa Maria. Digging of potatoes in Kern County was increasing.

In Texas, most spring vegetables are making good progress, but are later than last year in all areas due to cool weather. Onion harvest continued active in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where cabbage and carrot harvest was past peak. Potato digging continued active.

In Florida, harvest of potatoes in the Hastings area was increasing, and digging was near completion in Dade County. Cabbage harvest continued heavy and supplies of tomatoes, sweet corn, beans, and cucumbers were in good volume. Melon harvest at Immokalee was increasing sharply with heavy volume expected during May and June.

Cool weather resulted in localized frost damage to the Michigan cherry crop. On the Pacific Coast, frost has caused local fruit losses in California, Oregon, and Washington. However, damage was not believed to be extensive. California's lemon harvest and the grapefruit harvest in Desert Valley are continuing actively. Harvest of the Florida Valencia orange crop is increasing.

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

	: Annual : average : 1962-66 <u>1/</u> :	: Annual : average : 1967 <u>1/</u> :	: April : average : 1962-66 <u>1/</u> :	: April : 23-29, : 1967 :	: April : 21-27, : 1968 :
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,031	4,903	5,936	4,703	4,683
Family labor	4,420	3,650	4,536	3,654	3,666
Hired labor	1,611	1,253	1,400	1,049	1,017
INDEXES <u>2/</u>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	44	36	45	36	35
Family labor	44	36	44	35	35
Hired labor	47	37	49	37	36
(1957-59=100)					
Total	81	66	81	65	64
Family labor	80	66	80	65	65
Hired labor	82	64	85	64	62

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, 1968, United States

	: Annual : average : 1967 :	: April : average : 1962-66 :	: April : 1, : 1967 :	: April : 1, : 1968 :
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u>	\$ 1.12	\$ 0.842	\$ 0.998	\$ 1.07
Per month with house	262	210	253	270
Per month with board and room	199	161	192	206
Per week with board and room	47.50	38.25	45.75	50.00
Per week without board or room	60.50	50.00	58.75	63.50
Per day with house	7.50	5.90	7.30	8.00
Per day with board and room	8.60	6.60	7.80	8.50
Per day without board or room	9.00	7.20	8.70	9.40
Per hour with house	1.18	.89	1.07	1.17
Per hour without board or room	1.33	1.16	1.34	1.43
INDEXES <u>2/</u>				
(1910-14=100)	862	717	849	912
(1957-59=100)	148	123	146	157

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, April 1968
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	April average 1962-66 1/			April 1967 Week of 23-29			April 1968 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	26	19	7	18	13	5	18	13	5
N.H.	9	7	2	7	5	2	7	5	2
Vt.	23	18	5	17	14	3	15	12	3
Mass.	27	19	8	18	12	6	17	12	5
R.I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	20	13	7	13	9	4	14	9	5
N.Eng.	108	78	30	75	54	21	73	52	21
N.Y.	120	85	35	94	74	20	94	72	22
N.J.	33	18	15	22	11	11	20	10	10
Pa.	147	126	21	124	108	16	125	109	16
M.Atl.	300	229	71	240	193	47	239	191	48
Ohio	212	187	25	170	155	15	167	150	17
Ind.	190	170	20	132	120	12	134	123	11
Ill.	225	183	42	171	146	25	181	148	33
Mich.	187	160	27	147	129	18	142	125	17
Wis.	248	226	22	202	185	17	209	191	18
E.N.Cent.	1062	926	136	822	735	87	833	737	96
Minn.	251	229	22	216	200	16	205	190	15
Iowa	264	242	22	225	206	19	211	197	14
Mo.	232	209	23	196	166	30	191	170	21
N.Dak.	80	69	11	62	54	8	66	58	8
S.Dak.	83	77	6	74	68	6	70	65	5
Nebr.	141	120	21	116	99	17	115	104	11
Kans.	140	125	15	116	105	11	114	105	9
W.N.Cent.	1191	1071	120	1005	898	107	972	889	83
Del.	10	6	4	6	4	2	6	4	2
Md.	51	37	14	34	26	8	34	27	7
Va.	154	121	33	121	99	22	117	96	21
W.Va.	55	44	11	42	35	7	42	35	7
N.C.	308	250	58	235	183	52	222	184	38
S.C.	136	89	47	84	62	22	78	60	18
Ga.	146	109	37	108	88	20	109	88	21
Fla.	147	50	97	125	34	91	127	36	91
S.Atl.	1007	706	301	755	521	224	735	530	205
Ky.	202	164	38	164	135	29	168	144	24
Tenn.	194	157	37	146	122	24	155	130	25
Ala.	124	94	30	104	81	23	108	84	24
Miss.	202	141	61	143	107	36	143	113	30
E.S.Cent.	722	556	166	557	445	112	574	471	103
Ark.	174	99	75	124	83	41	135	82	53
La.	123	77	46	93	63	30	94	58	36
Okla.	134	117	17	130	113	17	131	117	14
Texas	344	227	117	303	203	100	275	193	82
W.S.Cent.	775	520	255	650	462	188	635	450	185
Mont.	52	41	11	44	34	10	45	35	10
Idaho	64	48	16	50	38	12	48	37	11
Wyo.	19	13	6	16	11	5	16	11	5
Colo.	54	44	10	50	37	13	51	39	12
N.Mex.	26	17	9	21	14	7	22	15	7
Ariz.	40	9	31	39	7	32	39	6	33
Utah	27	21	6	22	17	5	22	17	5
Nev.	5	3	2	3	2	1	6	3	3
Mount.	287	196	91	245	160	85	249	163	86
Wash.	107	69	38	75	50	25	85	52	33
Oreg.	87	64	23	66	49	17	66	52	14
Calif.	290	121	169	213	77	136	222	79	143
Pac.	484	254	230	354	176	178	373	183	190
U.S.	5936	4536	1400	4703	3654	1049	4683	3666	1017

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 April 1968 ^{1/}
(Thousands of persons)

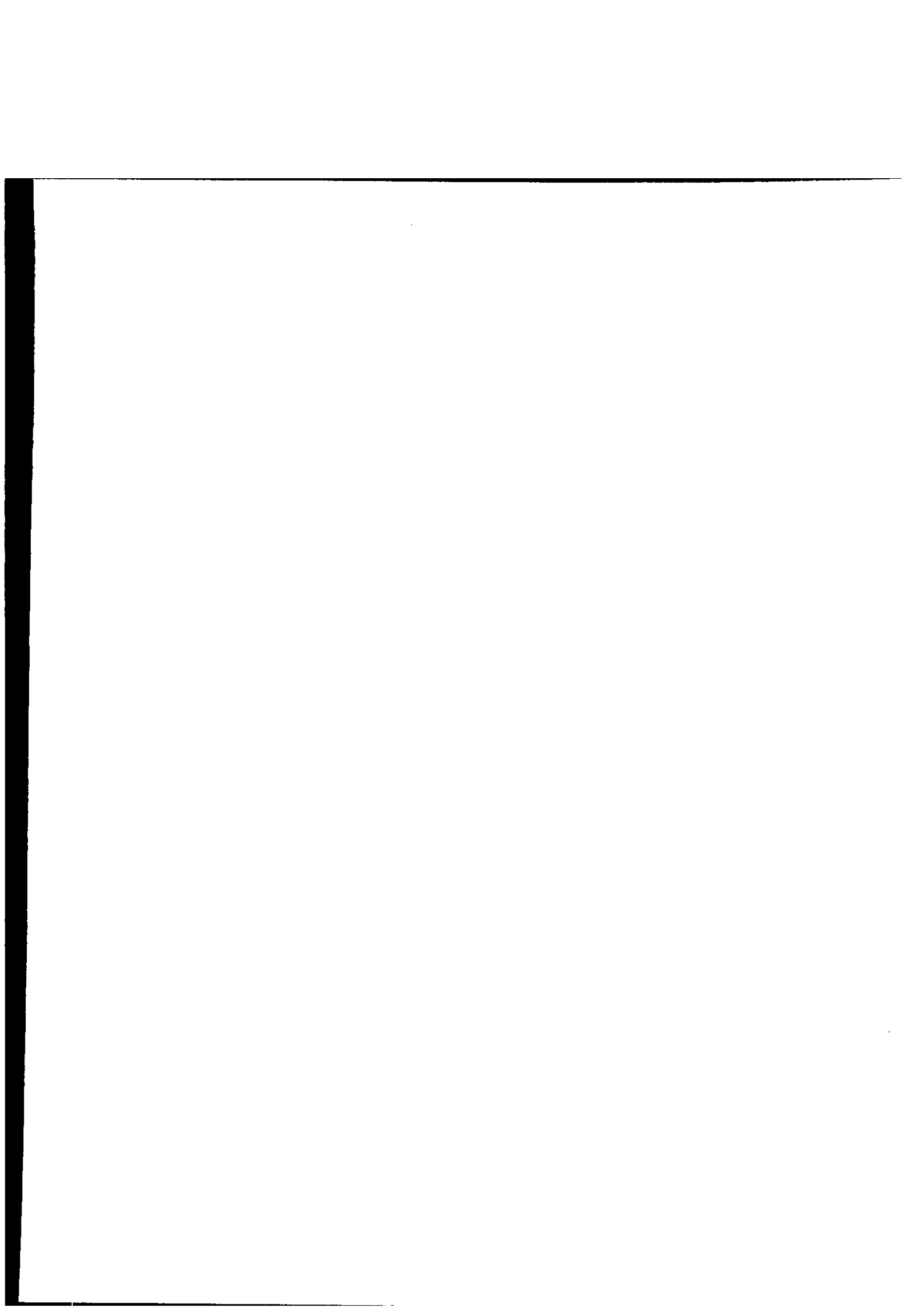
State and division	January through April : Av. 1962-66			January through April : 1967			January through April 1968		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	24	18	6	18	13	5	18	13	5
N.H.	9	7	2	7	5	2	6	4	2
Vt.	21	17	4	16	13	3	15	12	3
Mass.	22	16	6	16	11	5	15	11	4
R.I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	17	12	5	11	8	3	11	8	3
N.Eng.	96	72	24	70	51	19	67	49	18
N.Y.	112	83	29	90	71	19	86	68	18
N.J.	28	18	10	17	10	7	16	10	6
Pa.	135	117	18	113	100	13	110	98	12
M.Atl.	275	218	57	220	181	39	212	176	36
Ohio	182	165	17	148	138	10	146	134	12
Ind.	166	154	12	121	113	8	122	114	8
Ill.	183	153	30	148	128	20	151	128	23
Mich.	165	143	22	134	118	16	131	115	16
Wis.	229	210	19	190	175	15	189	173	16
E.N.Cent.	925	825	100	741	672	69	739	664	75
Minn.	204	188	16	172	161	11	169	159	10
Iowa	221	204	17	189	174	15	183	170	13
Mo.	204	188	16	175	154	21	166	150	16
N.Dak.	61	54	7	50	45	5	50	45	5
S.Dak.	71	66	5	62	58	4	60	56	4
Nebr.	118	106	12	99	88	11	99	92	7
Kans.	124	113	11	106	98	8	101	94	7
W.N.Cent.	1003	919	84	853	778	75	828	766	62
Del.	7	5	2	5	4	1	5	4	1
Md.	40	30	10	30	23	7	29	23	6
Va.	132	106	26	104	86	18	101	84	17
W.Va.	46	38	8	36	30	6	34	30	4
N.C.	247	208	39	196	164	32	186	160	26
S.C.	104	74	30	68	52	16	64	50	14
Ga.	115	88	27	93	75	18	92	74	18
Fla.	143	44	99	134	36	98	131	35	96
S.Atl.	834	593	241	666	470	196	642	460	182
Ky.	177	150	27	154	127	27	147	128	19
Tenn.	164	137	27	132	111	21	130	112	18
Ala.	94	74	20	84	66	18	78	62	16
Miss.	148	112	36	116	92	24	117	92	25
E.S.Cent.	583	473	110	486	396	90	472	394	78
Ark.	133	88	45	108	78	30	108	75	33
La.	103	71	32	80	58	22	77	53	24
Okla.	124	112	12	119	109	10	116	108	8
Texas	285	204	81	255	182	73	228	172	56
W.S.Cent.	645	475	170	562	427	135	529	408	121
Mont.	41	34	7	36	29	7	35	28	7
Idaho	48	39	9	38	31	7	38	31	7
Wyo.	15	11	4	14	10	4	14	10	4
Colo.	44	37	7	42	32	10	42	32	10
N.Mex.	24	16	8	19	13	6	20	14	6
Ariz.	37	8	29	37	7	30	38	6	32
Utah	21	17	4	18	14	4	18	14	4
Nev.	3	2	1	3	2	1	4	2	2
Mount.	233	164	69	207	138	69	209	137	72
Wash.	83	60	23	63	46	17	68	48	20
Oreg.	74	58	16	57	46	11	58	48	10
Calif.	275	116	159	209	80	129	204	76	128
Pac.	432	234	198	329	172	157	330	172	158
U.S.	5026	3973	1053	4134	3285	849	4028	3226	802

^{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 April 21-27, 1968				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	55.3	34.3	49.1	37.6	44.5
N.H.	60.9	34.0	53.2	41.6	48.9
Vt.	60.3	36.7	53.1	42.7	49.2
Mass.	64.3	28.8	51.9	43.5	48.4
R.I.	48.1	39.4	45.4	36.8	41.6
Conn.	58.1	36.1	49.8	37.0	45.7
N.Eng.	59.0	34.1	51.0	39.9	46.9
N.Y.	58.5	31.3	49.5	40.9	46.5
N.J.	45.6	31.0	40.8	32.7	38.3
Pa.	53.1	29.7	44.9	34.0	42.6
M. Atl.	54.9	30.4	46.6	36.9	43.8
Ohio	51.2	31.1	45.4	31.7	42.5
Ind.	42.6	31.5	40.0	33.1	38.7
Ill.	49.2	37.1	46.8	35.5	44.4
Mich.	49.9	30.5	44.4	31.0	41.7
Wis.	60.2	29.8	47.1	36.8	45.4
E.N.Cent.	50.8	32.2	44.9	34.0	42.9
Minn.	57.5	32.1	48.3	35.2	46.4
Iowa	55.3	29.3	47.6	33.1	45.2
Mo.	40.8	31.5	38.8	30.4	37.0
N. Dak.	61.3	40.2	53.8	41.9	51.9
S. Dak.	55.3	34.5	48.9	39.8	47.6
Nebr.	52.7	35.0	47.6	29.8	45.5
Kans.	46.1	30.0	41.9	32.7	40.5
W.N.Cent.	51.4	32.1	45.6	33.6	44.0
DeI.	34.0	37.6	34.8	27.3	32.2
Md.	48.3	35.1	44.3	37.3	42.5
Va.	44.2	34.3	41.7	34.3	39.1
W.Va.	39.5	28.3	36.4	24.2	34.0
N.C.	38.5	29.4	36.0	24.7	31.4
S.C.	37.9	27.1	35.2	26.1	31.1
Ga.	37.6	28.2	35.3	31.3	33.7
Fla.	32.1	29.1	31.4	38.8	36.8
S. Atl.	39.2	29.9	36.7	33.2	34.5
Ky.	39.3	30.9	37.3	25.2	33.2
Tenn.	36.1	24.8	33.4	25.4	31.3
Ala.	38.1	27.7	35.8	29.4	33.4
Miss.	37.4	27.1	35.2	32.8	33.9
E.S.Cent.	37.7	27.7	35.4	28.4	32.9
Ark.	33.1	31.5	32.8	36.1	34.0
La.	37.8	32.6	36.8	38.4	37.5
Okla.	40.4	28.8	37.5	26.9	35.6
Texas	44.8	32.6	42.1	41.3	41.8
W.S.Cent.	40.8	31.6	38.7	38.2	38.2
Mont.	55.2	35.0	49.5	47.9	49.1
Idaho	50.7	28.1	43.7	39.4	42.8
Wyo.	56.1	28.4	46.4	45.0	45.9
Colo.	49.2	34.1	44.7	40.2	43.6
N.Mex.	48.2	36.0	44.6	36.7	41.7
Ariz.	48.9	26.9	44.6	45.4	45.1
Utah	41.6	26.5	36.4	28.9	35.0
Nev.	54.5	48.4	53.0	49.5	50.9
Mount.	50.3	31.8	44.8	42.6	44.1
Wash.	45.6	28.9	41.2	35.2	38.6
Oreg.	37.2	28.5	34.9	33.5	34.6
Calif.	46.9	38.6	45.0	48.2	47.5
Pac.	43.8	32.9	41.1	44.9	43.2
U.S.	45.7	31.0	41.5	37.0	40.1

^{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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