

Farm Labor

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

Wet Fields Limit Activity in Eastern U. S.

Farm employment totaled an estimated 5,080,000 persons for the week of May 19-25. This is a seasonal increase of 9 percent from a month earlier, but is 4 percent below a year earlier. Both family and hired employment registered seasonal increases, but were 3 and 8 percent respectively below year-earlier levels.

The work week averaged 40.1 hours on reporting farms for May 19-25. This is the same as reported the previous month, primarily because wet soil has limited the usual increase in field activity in the eastern third of the Nation. Farm operators worked an average of 47.3 hours, unpaid family 31.6 hours, and hired workers 35.4 hours during the May survey week. All these averages were below a month earlier.

Wheat harvest is in full swing in portions of the Southwest. Harvest in Texas, however, was slow getting underway and is trailing last year's pace. Crop progress in Central and Northern States is good, with much of Montana and North Dakota needing rain. Some farmers in the Northern tier wheat States were spraying for weed control in grain fields.

Corn planting has been further delayed by wet soils in most eastern Corn Belt States. Only limited planting and replanting activity occurred. In Iowa, corn planting is mostly complete. In the Southeast, progress is satisfactory, with considerable corn being cultivated for the last time.

Wet soils delayed planting of soybeans in the eastern Corn Belt and in the South Central and Appalachian States. Planting in other soybean areas is generally ahead of average for this date.

Cotton planting is mostly complete in the Southeastern States. Major activity has now advanced to the stage of control of insects and grass.

Transplanting of tobacco continues in the Appalachian States, with only about one-third of the Kentucky burley acreage being set, owing to wet soil conditions. Transplanting in North Carolina is about 90 percent complete.

Vegetable harvest on the eastern Seaboard is active in many areas as far north as New York. In some southern areas, seasonal labor is in demand owing to a tendency for harvest crews to migrate to other areas faster than the need for them decreases.

Farm employment represents the number of family and hired labor working during the survey week. Family labor includes farm operators working on farms 1 hour or more plus other family members working 15 hours or more without receiving cash wages during the survey week. Hired workers include all persons working 1 hour or more for cash wages during the survey week. These data should not be confused with data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The BLS data are derived from a household survey where each member 16 years of age and older is classified as performing farm or nonfarm work on the basis of major activity during the survey week.

Farm employment and indexes, May 1968, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1962-66 1/	: Annual : average : 1967 1/	: May : average : 1962-66 1/	: May : 21-27, : 1967	: May : 19-25, : 1968
FARM EMPLOYMENT	:	:	:	:	:
(Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	6,031	4,903	6,574	5,306	5,089
Family labor	4,420	3,650	4,826	3,917	3,813
Hired labor	1,611	1,253	1,748	1,389	1,276
INDEXES 2/	:	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	44	36	45	36	35
Family labor	44	36	44	35	35
Hired labor	47	37	49	39	35
(1957-59=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	81	66	82	66	63
Family labor	80	66	81	65	64
Hired labor	82	64	84	67	61

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.

-----oOo-----

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 1/	\$ 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 2/	:	:	:	:
(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, May 1968
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	May average 1962-66 1/			May 1967 Week of 21-27			May 1968 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	32	20	12	23	15	8	21	14	7
N.H.	11	8	3	8	6	2	8	6	2
Vt.	23	18	5	17	13	4	15	12	3
Mass.	32	20	12	21	13	8	20	12	8
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	22	14	8	15	9	6	15	9	6
N.Eng.	123	82	41	87	58	29	82	55	27
N.Y.	129	87	42	102	76	26	98	73	25
N.J.	42	19	23	26	11	15	25	10	15
Pa.	159	133	26	132	114	18	126	109	17
M.Atl.	330	239	91	260	201	59	249	192	57
Ohio	219	190	29	190	168	22	165	144	21
Ind.	213	189	24	160	142	18	128	119	9
Ill.	256	204	52	220	172	48	174	146	28
Mich.	217	183	34	180	150	30	165	137	28
Wis.	264	240	24	209	190	19	218	200	18
E.N.Cent.	1169	1006	163	959	822	137	850	746	104
Minn.	270	239	31	225	201	24	223	199	24
Iowa	296	262	34	246	213	33	242	218	24
Mo.	253	217	36	234	185	49	198	178	20
N.Dak.	90	73	17	76	62	14	72	58	14
S.Dak.	86	78	8	75	67	8	75	69	6
Nebr.	149	125	24	124	105	19	119	106	13
Kans.	152	128	24	132	112	20	115	103	12
W.N.Cent.	1296	1122	174	1112	945	167	1044	931	113
Del.	13	7	6	9	5	4	9	5	4
Md.	56	37	19	40	28	12	41	29	12
Va.	175	133	42	131	105	26	126	98	28
W.Va.	62	49	13	47	37	10	43	36	7
N.C.	363	281	82	255	200	55	256	203	53
S.C.	154	100	54	88	65	23	90	66	24
Ga.	152	107	45	103	82	21	110	84	26
Fla.	124	42	82	123	36	87	123	34	89
S.Atl.	1099	756	343	796	558	238	798	555	243
Ky.	219	169	50	198	148	50	195	162	33
Tenn.	220	165	55	172	128	44	171	125	46
Ala.	165	123	42	127	100	27	134	106	28
Miss.	244	158	86	157	113	44	170	116	54
E.S.Cent.	848	615	233	654	489	165	670	509	161
Ark.	201	105	96	146	92	54	146	90	56
La.	130	76	54	98	63	35	97	59	38
Okla.	147	121	26	139	118	21	135	117	18
Texas	375	233	142	312	207	105	310	201	109
W.S.Cent.	853	535	318	695	480	215	688	467	221
Mont.	50	36	14	50	33	17	41	31	10
Idaho	69	48	21	54	38	16	52	37	15
Wyo.	20	13	7	18	12	6	18	12	6
Colo.	61	47	14	61	39	22	54	39	15
N.Mex.	29	17	12	27	16	11	26	17	9
Ariz.	41	8	33	40	7	33	40	6	34
Utah	34	22	12	29	20	9	28	20	8
Nev.	6	4	2	6	3	3	6	3	3
Mount.	310	195	115	285	168	117	265	165	100
Wash.	116	77	39	89	55	34	88	58	30
Oreg.	94	66	28	76	52	24	74	54	20
Calif.	336	133	203	293	89	204	281	81	200
Pac.	546	276	270	458	196	262	473	193	250
U.S.	6574	4826	1748	5306	3917	1389	5089	3813	1276

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

State and division	January through May : Av. 1962-66			January through May : 1967			January through May : 1968		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	26	19	7	19	14	5	18	13	5
N.H.	9	7	2	7	5	2	7	5	2
Vt.	21	17	4	16	13	3	15	12	3
Mass.	24	17	7	18	12	6	16	11	5
R.I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	19	13	6	12	8	4	12	8	4
N.Eng.	102	75	27	74	53	21	70	50	20
N.Y.	116	84	32	92	72	20	89	69	20
N.J.	31	18	13	19	10	9	18	10	8
Pa.	139	120	19	117	103	14	113	100	13
M.Atl.	286	222	64	228	185	43	220	179	41
Ohio	189	170	19	157	144	13	149	136	13
Ind.	176	161	15	129	119	10	123	115	8
Ill.	198	163	35	162	137	25	156	132	24
Mich.	175	151	24	142	124	18	137	119	18
Wis.	236	216	20	194	178	16	184	178	6
E.N.Cent.	974	861	113	784	702	82	749	680	69
Minn.	218	199	19	182	169	13	180	167	13
Iowa	236	216	20	200	182	18	195	180	15
Mo.	214	194	20	188	161	27	172	155	17
N.Dak.	67	58	9	56	49	7	54	47	7
S.Dak.	75	69	6	65	60	5	63	59	4
Nebr.	124	110	14	104	91	13	103	95	8
Kans.	129	116	13	112	101	11	104	96	8
W.N.Cent.	1063	962	101	907	813	94	871	799	72
Del.	9	6	3	6	4	2	6	4	2
Md.	43	31	12	32	24	8	31	24	7
Va.	141	112	29	110	90	20	106	87	19
W.Va.	50	41	9	38	32	6	36	31	5
N.C.	270	222	48	208	171	37	199	168	31
S.C.	114	79	35	72	55	17	69	53	16
Ga.	123	92	31	94	76	18	96	76	20
Fla.	140	44	96	132	36	96	130	35	95
S.Atl.	890	627	263	692	488	204	673	478	195
Ky.	186	154	32	163	131	32	156	134	22
Tenn.	176	143	33	141	115	26	137	114	23
Ala.	109	84	25	93	73	20	89	71	18
Miss.	167	121	46	124	96	28	128	97	31
E.S.Cent.	638	502	136	521	415	106	510	416	94
Ark.	147	92	55	115	81	34	116	78	38
La.	109	72	37	83	59	24	81	54	27
Okla.	128	113	15	123	111	12	120	110	10
Texas	302	209	93	266	187	79	245	178	67
W.S.Cent.	686	486	200	587	438	149	562	420	142
Mont.	42	34	8	39	30	9	37	29	8
Idaho	52	41	11	42	33	9	40	32	8
Wyo.	16	11	5	14	10	4	14	10	4
Colo.	47	39	8	46	33	13	45	34	11
N.Mex.	25	16	9	21	14	7	21	14	7
Ariz.	38	8	30	38	7	31	38	6	32
Utah	24	18	6	20	15	5	19	15	4
Nev.	4	3	1	3	2	1	4	2	2
Mount.	248	170	78	223	144	79	218	142	76
Wash.	89	63	26	67	47	20	72	50	22
Oreg.	77	59	18	61	47	14	61	49	12
Calif.	288	120	168	225	81	144	219	77	142
Pac.	454	242	212	353	175	178	352	176	176
U.S.	5341	4147	1194	4369	3413	956	4226	3341	885

^{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 May 19-25, 1968				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	56.9	34.0	49.6	38.0	45.1
N.H.	57.6	37.5	51.8	38.5	47.6
Vt.	64.9	38.6	55.8	43.5	51.5
Mass.	61.2	33.3	53.1	42.7	48.5
R.I.	50.8	31.6	44.6	38.4	42.2
Conn.	57.7	38.3	51.2	34.9	45.5
N.Eng.	59.5	35.8	52.0	39.4	47.3
N.Y.	62.4	32.2	51.9	41.4	48.6
N.J.	45.8	34.6	43.0	37.3	41.1
Pa.	51.7	29.4	43.8	32.7	41.5
M.Atl.	55.8	30.9	47.1	37.7	44.3
Ohio	42.8	31.7	39.7	25.5	36.5
Ind.	34.0	34.2	34.1	26.7	32.7
Ill.	44.3	35.0	42.5	34.2	40.9
Mich.	55.3	33.8	49.1	32.9	45.3
Wis.	63.5	30.6	48.8	33.9	46.4
E.N.Cent.	47.9	33.0	42.8	31.4	41.1
Minn.	59.6	31.2	48.6	29.8	45.4
Iowa	61.8	31.7	51.9	32.5	48.5
Mo.	42.8	31.4	40.1	31.0	38.0
N.Dak.	63.4	42.0	56.0	44.3	54.0
S.Dak.	61.2	36.0	52.7	39.7	50.9
Nebr.	55.9	36.9	50.3	35.3	48.3
Kans.	44.9	31.4	41.6	33.9	40.3
W.N.Cent.	54.4	33.0	47.5	34.0	45.5
Del.	46.6	34.5	42.5	25.4	36.2
Md.	51.6	33.5	45.2	37.1	42.8
Va.	45.9	34.4	42.8	33.1	38.9
W.Va.	33.1	27.9	31.8	27.6	31.0
N.C.	42.8	29.9	38.3	24.7	32.6
S.C.	39.6	25.5	35.7	28.1	31.8
Ga.	40.5	28.8	37.5	27.8	33.2
Fla.	42.5	31.9	40.3	27.3	29.5
S.Atl.	42.3	30.1	38.6	28.0	33.6
Ky.	39.9	24.9	34.9	24.4	30.9
Tenn.	38.9	28.5	36.2	20.5	30.0
Ala.	40.8	29.6	37.6	29.4	34.5
Miss.	43.4	32.0	40.6	38.8	39.5
E.S.Cent.	40.6	28.4	37.0	29.0	33.6
Ark.	38.4	34.1	37.4	34.4	36.3
La.	38.5	31.7	36.6	34.5	35.7
Okla.	40.6	29.2	37.7	22.4	34.5
Texas	47.3	30.4	43.3	38.1	41.0
W.S.Cent.	43.0	31.0	40.1	35.3	38.0
Mont.	56.2	37.5	50.9	39.4	48.3
Idaho	54.3	32.1	46.8	33.5	43.5
Wyo.	58.0	28.2	47.0	38.9	44.1
Colo.	52.5	34.5	46.8	41.0	45.5
N.Mex.	58.5	35.2	50.3	40.7	46.8
Ariz.	48.8	28.1	45.0	44.2	44.5
Utah	47.8	30.9	41.5	37.6	40.4
Nev.	51.9	35.9	47.7	37.6	42.7
Mount.	53.9	33.6	47.4	40.3	44.8
Wash.	44.9	33.8	42.3	38.3	40.7
Oreg.	40.6	31.2	38.3	35.6	37.6
Calif.	45.8	35.5	43.5	48.2	47.2
Pac.	44.1	33.8	41.7	46.0	44.3
U.S.	47.3	31.6	42.4	35.4	40.1

^{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 and indexes, United States	3
Workers on Farms, May 1968	4
Average number of workers on farms January through May 1968, by States and Divisions, with comparisons	5
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms May 19-25, 1968 by States and Divisions	6
