

Farm Labor

Release
August 9, 1968
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

Record Low July Work Force

The Nation's farm labor force is estimated at 5,745,000 workers for the survey week of July 21-27. This represents a 4 percent decline from the corresponding period in July 1967 but nonetheless a 4 percent seasonal increase from the June 1968 survey week. The work force at this level indicates a continuation of the downward trend in the number of workers producing the Nation's food and fiber. The total work force consisted of 3,855,000 family members and 1,890,000 hired workers.

The length of the farm work week averaged 39.0 hours compared with 40.3 hours in June. Family workers averaged 42.3 hours per week, down 4 percent from last month. Hired workers averaged 33.1 hours per week. This was only one percent less than the survey week in June.

Harvest of Grain Active in Northern States

Winter wheat harvest in Kansas and Nebraska was virtually completed. In South Dakota winter wheat was 58 percent combined, while only 8 percent of the spring wheat crop had been harvested. Harvest of grain crops in the Corn Belt States was well advanced, although slightly later than normal. Harvesting is becoming more widespread in Idaho but is just getting underway in Montana. Harvest activity continued in the Pacific Northwest.

The corn crop development in most major growing areas of the country has continued satisfactorily under generally favorable conditions. Detasseling was at peak level in Nebraska and active in other Corn Belt States. Farm labor supplies appear adequate for current needs in these areas. Harvest has begun in a few early fields in Texas.

Much of the Nation's cotton acreage was at the boll setting stage and was making satisfactory progress. The Texas crop was in the beginning stage of harvest, slightly behind a year earlier. Bolls are opening in Arizona. The California crop was progressing well under near ideal conditions. Boll setting was well advanced in the Southeastern States.

The Georgia tobacco harvest was 67 percent complete by the end of the survey week. Near half of South Carolina's acreage was harvested. Harvest in North Carolina was in full swing, with a scarcity of labor reported in some localities. About 10 percent of Virginia's flue-cured crop was in the barn by August 1.

Peanut digging was underway in Georgia and Texas. Rice harvest in Texas was only 5 percent complete, compared to 50 percent a year ago. Sugar beets were developing satisfactorily in most areas and digging was active in California. Cutting of hay continued active throughout much of the Nation with the normal labor requirements.

Peach harvest was nearing completion in the Southeastern States. Picking was getting underway in northern growing areas. Harvest of California's large peach and grape crops increased, putting additional demands on the available seasonal farm labor supply. Bartlett pear picking in California was at peak during the survey week. Harvest of early apples continued in the Appalachian States. Tart cherry picking continued active in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Utah. Raspberry picking in the Pacific Northwest was nearing completion. Strawberry harvest in California continued in central coast locations.

Harvest of vegetable crops for fresh market and processing was active through much of the northern half of the country. California's processing tomato harvest was moving into high gear, with adequate labor available in combination with the high percentage of mechanical harvesting.

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. 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 LABOR, August 1968

Crop Reporting Board, SRS, USDA

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

	: Annual : average : 1962-66 1/	: Annual : average : 1967 1/	: July : average : 1962-66 1/	: July : 23-29, : 1967	: July : 21-27, : 1968
FARM EMPLOYMENT	:	:	:	:	:
(Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	6,031	4,903	7,265	5,597	5,745
Family labor	4,420	3,650	4,782	3,983	3,855
Hired labor	1,611	1,253	2,483	1,974	1,890
INDEXES 2/	:	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	44	36	46	37	36
Family labor	44	36	44	36	35
Hired labor	47	37	49	39	38
(1957-59=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	81	66	82	67	65
Family labor	80	66	80	67	65
Hired labor	82	64	85	68	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.

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, July 1, 1968, United States

	: Annual : average : 1967	: July : average : 1962-66	: July 1, : 1967	: July 1, : 1968
FARM WAGE RATES	:	:	:	:
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 1.12	\$ 0.911	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.18
Per month with house	262	226	275	294
Per month with board and room ..	199	167	3/202	220
Per week with board and room ...	47.50	41.25	50.00	55.75
Per week without board or room ..	60.50	53.50	65.00	70.50
Per day with house	7.50	5.90	7.50	8.00
Per day with board and room	8.60	7.70	9.10	9.70
Per day without board or room ..	9.00	7.30	9.00	9.80
Per hour with house	1.18	1.03	1.23	1.33
Per hour without board or room ..	1.33	1.14	1.36	1.45
INDEXES 2/	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	862	711	859	922
(1957-59=100)	148	122	148	159

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ Revised.

Workers on Farms, July 1968
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	July Average 1962-66 1/			July 1967 Week of 23-29			July 1968 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	35	22	13	28	17	11	26	16	10
N.H.	12	8	4	10	7	3	9	6	3
Vt.	25	19	6	19	14	5	19	14	5
Mass.	38	19	19	29	13	16	29	13	16
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	34	15	19	28	10	18	26	9	17
N. Eng.	147	85	62	117	53	54	112	60	52
N.Y.	159	99	60	126	83	43	124	81	43
N.J.	55	21	34	37	11	26	36	11	25
Pa.	180	147	33	151	126	25	146	120	26
M. Atl.	394	267	127	314	220	94	306	212	94
Ohio	229	186	43	179	154	25	174	148	26
Ind.	205	172	33	142	125	17	138	124	14
Ill.	251	191	60	198	158	40	193	153	40
Mich.	241	174	67	188	142	46	172	128	44
Wis.	275	242	33	226	197	29	235	205	30
E. W. Cent.	1201	965	236	933	776	157	912	758	154
Minn.	339	257	82	257	205	52	239	192	47
Iowa	346	259	87	276	214	62	288	220	68
Mo.	277	227	50	250	195	55	232	178	54
N. Dak.	117	81	36	96	70	26	95	69	26
S. Dak.	98	79	19	88	71	17	82	69	13
Nebr.	180	138	42	145	108	37	138	108	30
Kans.	181	132	49	168	121	47	142	110	32
W. W. Cent.	1538	1173	365	1280	984	296	1216	946	270
Del.	15	8	7	10	5	5	11	5	6
Md.	65	41	24	46	31	15	46	32	14
Va.	197	110	87	158	94	64	153	90	63
W. Va.	60	50	10	44	38	6	43	37	6
N. C.	615	321	294	483	255	228	431	229	202
S. C.	204	116	88	122	73	49	122	81	41
Ga.	156	105	51	120	82	38	110	83	27
Fla.	85	36	49	81	32	49	82	34	48
S. Atl.	1397	787	610	1064	610	454	998	591	407
Ky.	234	183	71	211	152	59	208	150	58
Tenn.	216	150	66	172	123	49	167	121	46
Ala.	105	82	23	98	70	28	91	70	21
Miss.	179	130	49	141	108	33	149	110	39
E. S. Cent.	734	525	209	622	453	169	615	451	164
Ark.	187	85	102	180	85	94	159	77	82
La.	124	65	59	95	55	40	91	53	38
Okla.	136	102	34	144	110	34	144	108	36
Texas	422	241	181	362	227	135	363	219	144
W. S. Cent.	869	493	376	781	478	303	757	457	300
Mont.	62	37	25	59	33	26	52	31	21
Idaho	93	55	38	73	44	29	65	41	24
Wyo.	24	13	11	22	13	9	21	12	9
Colo.	75	48	27	82	42	40	69	42	27
N. Mex.	36	20	16	29	17	12	27	16	11
Ariz.	34	9	25	36	7	29	35	7	28
Utah	37	24	13	34	24	10	34	22	12
Nev.	7	4	3	7	3	4	6	3	3
Mount.	368	210	158	342	183	159	309	174	135
Wash.	147	87	60	112	68	44	120	70	50
Oreg.	126	68	58	109	60	49	103	54	49
Calif.	344	122	222	283	88	195	297	82	215
Pac.	617	277	340	504	216	288	520	206	314
U.S.	7265	4782	2483	5957	3983	1974	5745	3855	1890

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 July 1968 1/
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through July Av. 1962-66			January through July 1967			January through July 1968		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	29	20	9	21	14	7	20	14	6
N.H.	10	7	3	8	6	2	7	5	2
Vt.	23	18	5	17	13	4	15	12	3
Mass.	28	18	10	20	12	8	20	12	8
R.I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	22	13	9	16	9	7	15	8	7
N.Eng.	115	78	37	84	55	29	79	52	27
N.Y.	128	88	40	101	75	26	97	72	25
N.J.	37	19	18	24	11	13	22	10	12
Pa.	152	128	24	127	109	18	123	106	17
M.Atl.	317	235	82	252	195	57	242	188	54
Ohio	202	175	27	165	148	17	156	139	17
Ind.	187	167	20	135	123	12	129	119	10
Ill.	216	173	43	174	144	30	166	139	27
Mich.	193	158	35	154	129	25	145	121	24
Wis.	246	223	23	201	183	18	196	185	11
E.N.Cent.	1044	896	148	829	727	102	792	703	89
Minn.	250	214	36	202	179	23	200	176	24
Iowa	266	228	38	220	191	29	216	188	28
Mo.	232	203	29	202	169	33	190	164	26
N.Dak.	77	63	14	64	53	11	62	52	10
S.Dak.	80	71	9	70	63	7	67	61	6
Nebr.	138	117	21	114	96	18	113	99	14
Kans.	145	121	24	123	105	18	115	100	15
W.N.Cent.	1188	1017	171	995	858	137	963	840	123
Del.	10	6	4	7	4	3	7	4	3
Md.	49	34	15	36	26	10	35	26	9
Va.	156	111	45	123	91	32	120	88	32
W.Va.	53	43	10	41	34	7	39	33	6
N.C.	347	246	101	266	191	75	250	183	67
S.C.	137	89	48	84	60	24	83	60	23
Ga.	132	96	36	103	78	25	100	78	22
Fla.	126	42	84	121	35	86	118	34	84
S.Atl.	1010	667	343	781	519	262	752	506	246
Ky.	202	158	44	177	137	40	173	140	33
Tenn.	191	148	43	151	118	33	147	117	30
Ala.	110	85	25	95	72	23	91	71	20
Miss.	176	126	50	130	99	31	133	100	33
E.S.Cent.	679	517	162	553	426	127	544	428	116
Ark.	161	93	68	130	83	47	128	80	48
La.	115	71	44	88	58	30	84	54	30
Okla.	133	113	20	130	112	18	127	111	16
Texas	339	220	119	293	199	94	270	189	81
W.S.Cent.	748	497	251	641	452	189	609	433	176
Mont.	47	35	12	43	30	13	40	29	11
Idaho	64	45	19	49	35	14	48	35	13
Wyo.	18	12	6	16	11	5	16	11	5
Colo.	56	42	14	56	36	20	51	36	15
N.Mex.	28	17	11	23	14	9	23	15	8
Ariz.	37	8	29	38	7	31	38	6	32
Utah	28	20	8	23	17	6	23	17	6
Nev.	5	3	2	4	2	2	6	3	3
Mount.	283	182	101	252	152	100	245	152	93
Wash.	109	71	38	82	53	29	87	56	31
Oreg.	93	62	31	76	50	26	76	51	25
Calif.	305	121	184	244	84	160	241	78	163
Pac.	507	254	253	402	187	215	404	185	219
U.S.	5891	4343	1548	4789	3569	1220	4630	3487	1143

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 July 21-27, 1968				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	58.2	37.9	50.7	31.1	41.1
N.H.	63.1	38.0	55.6	43.4	50.3
Vt.	67.9	38.7	54.6	39.7	48.2
Mass.	61.9	34.3	51.4	36.0	43.6
R.I.	53.4	47.5	51.5	39.6	45.7
Conn.	56.7	42.2	52.3	41.9	47.8
N.Eng.	61.2	38.3	52.5	37.8	45.4
N.Y.	62.3	37.5	53.2	40.4	48.3
N.J.	43.9	32.0	40.2	29.3	36.7
Pa.	56.1	33.3	47.4	31.2	42.9
N.Atl.	57.9	35.0	49.4	34.9	44.4
Ohio	48.8	31.4	43.3	28.2	39.0
Ind.	40.5	33.7	38.9	24.8	35.9
Ill.	43.8	36.3	42.1	29.9	39.2
Mich.	53.8	36.0	48.2	31.8	43.5
Wis.	59.9	33.3	47.7	35.5	45.1
E.N.Cent.	49.2	34.1	43.9	30.8	41.0
Minn.	55.2	37.5	48.5	34.1	45.8
Iowa	55.8	33.0	47.4	24.2	40.9
Mo.	42.1	34.5	40.3	28.8	37.0
N.Dak.	61.4	43.0	53.7	45.8	52.1
S.Dak.	61.1	39.9	53.1	38.2	50.5
Nebr.	58.2	40.2	52.0	34.6	48.1
Kans.	49.9	37.6	46.4	36.6	44.1
W.N.Cent.	52.9	36.7	47.2	32.2	43.8
Del.	35.3	45.0	39.0	23.9	33.4
Md.	46.4	32.0	41.2	30.8	38.1
Va.	44.1	36.2	41.6	29.5	36.5
W.Va.	38.6	32.5	36.7	26.9	34.3
N.C.	39.8	33.0	37.2	18.7	25.6
S.C.	40.8	30.3	37.2	26.0	30.3
Ga.	36.1	33.7	35.4	23.5	29.0
Fla.	38.9	33.2	36.7	28.3	30.6
S.Atl.	40.1	33.4	37.7	23.2	29.7
Ky.	37.5	29.4	35.2	25.2	31.3
Tenn.	34.6	33.4	34.3	27.2	32.0
Ala.	33.9	31.0	33.2	27.6	31.2
Miss.	38.5	30.7	36.4	28.3	31.6
W.S.Cent.	36.2	31.1	34.8	26.8	31.5
Ark.	34.3	32.3	33.7	33.1	33.4
La.	32.9	32.7	32.8	32.7	32.8
Okla.	46.0	34.3	42.3	30.2	38.5
Texas	44.1	35.5	41.7	40.7	41.2
W.S.Cent.	41.2	34.3	39.2	36.3	38.0
Mont.	57.0	42.5	52.2	45.7	50.1
Idaho	56.2	38.3	49.2	41.1	47.0
Wyo.	64.6	42.5	56.4	34.6	47.7
Colo.	58.8	35.0	49.4	41.6	47.4
N.Mex.	53.7	46.4	51.4	45.0	48.6
Ariz.	48.4	30.8	43.5	42.7	43.0
Utah	51.6	34.8	44.2	32.7	40.6
Mex.	52.8	41.7	48.7	44.0	46.4
Mount.	56.3	38.8	49.7	41.4	46.6
Wash.	51.1	36.5	48.4	38.7	42.1
Oreg.	43.4	33.6	40.2	35.5	38.7
Calif.	50.1	37.5	46.3	46.2	46.2
Pac.	48.6	36.1	44.7	43.3	43.8
U.S.	46.4	34.6	42.3	33.1	39.0

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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