

Farm Labor

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

Weather Extremes Affect August Farm Employment

The Nation's farm labor force is estimated at 5,697,000 workers for the survey week of August 18-24. This represents a decline of 2 percent from the corresponding period in August 1967 and a drop of only 1 percent from the July 1968 survey week. The number of family members working on farms is estimated at 3,896,000 while hired workers are estimated at 1,801,000.

The length of the work week averaged 37.5 hours compared with 39.0 hours a month earlier. Family workers averaged 40.7 hours, down 4 percent from the previous month. Hired workers averaged 32.0 hours, down 3 percent. This general drop in hours worked reflected inclement weather during the survey week.

Grain Harvest Delayed

Heavy rains in the North Central and Northwestern States delayed grain harvest by as much as 2 weeks in some localities. Winter wheat harvest in Montana was only 65 percent complete compared to 85 percent last year. Soil preparations for planting next year's crop are underway in much of the country. Seeding has begun in Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Corn prospects continue very good throughout the Corn Belt. In Illinois 90 percent of the fields and in Iowa 40 percent have reached dent stage. Harvest of corn had begun in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana.

Soybeans progressed well in most areas. Pod setting was well along and some fields were turning yellow. Hot, dry weather caused some damage in Georgia and South Carolina. Sorghum harvest was about one-third complete in Texas and beginning in Louisiana, Kansas, and Arizona.

Cotton harvest became active in Texas, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Bolls were opening in other Southern States. The crop in Arizona and California was good, with a heavy boll set reported. Increased insect buildup and boll rot following excessive moisture was noted in some areas.

Tobacco harvest has advanced northward. Harvest was two-thirds complete in North Carolina, near completion in South Carolina, and finished in Georgia and Florida. Kentucky's burley crop was two-thirds topped but less than 5 percent cut. Harvest of burley tobacco was 25 percent complete in Tennessee. Harvest was active in Virginia and Maryland.

Peanut digging was active in Texas, Florida, and Alabama. Georgia's crop was about 44 percent dug by the end of the survey week. Peanuts were making good progress in the Carolinas and Virginia.

Rice harvest was in full swing in Texas and about 50 percent complete in Louisiana. Early fields in California were being drained for harvest. Safflower harvest was active in California. Dry beans in Idaho suffered some rain damage. Harvest of dry beans in California was increasing. Flax harvest was about 50 percent complete in Minnesota and South Dakota.

Picking of early apples continued in many eastern States and in the Far West. Peach harvest continued in the Northeast and Pacific Coast States. The canning Clingstone peach crop in California was nearing peak harvest after some interruption by rains in the northern part of the State. Showers also interrupted the Bartlett pear harvest.

Vegetable harvest continued active in most of the northern growing areas. Heavy rains delayed harvest of Oregon's snap bean crop. Picking of tomatoes for processing was advancing rapidly. Potato digging in Maine had begun in light volume. The Idaho potato crop could use some warmer temperatures to aid tuber development.

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

	: Annual : average : 1962-66 1/	: Annual: : average : 1967 1/	: August : average : 1962-66 1/	: August : 20-26, : 1967	: August : 18-24, : 1968
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,031	4,903	7,127	5,837	5,697
Family labor	4,420	3,650	4,841	4,007	3,896
Hired labor	1,611	1,253	2,286	1,830	1,801
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	44	36	44	36	35
Family labor	44	36	43	36	35
Hired labor	47	37	47	37	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total	81	66	80	66	64
Family labor	80	66	80	66	64
Hired labor	82	64	81	65	64

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, August 1968
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	August Average 1962-66 1/			August 1967 Week of 20-26			August 1968 Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	35	21	14	27	16	11	24	14	10
N.H.	12	8	4	10	6	4	9	6	3
Vt.	23	18	5	17	13	4	17	13	4
Mass.	36	18	18	28	12	16	27	11	16
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	31	16	15	23	9	14	23	9	14
N.Eng.	140	83	57	108	58	50	103	55	48
N.Y.	159	96	63	125	79	46	123	79	44
N.J.	51	20	31	36	11	25	33	11	22
Pa.	182	147	35	159	129	30	152	124	28
N.Atl.	392	283	129	320	219	101	305	214	94
Ohio	211	169	42	163	135	28	167	137	30
Ind.	187	161	26	135	119	16	140	123	17
Ill.	226	180	46	187	150	37	180	148	32
Mich.	223	166	57	176	132	44	169	125	44
Wis.	277	240	37	230	197	33	241	208	33
E.W.Cent.	1124	916	208	891	733	158	897	741	156
Minn.	288	234	54	243	210	33	225	192	33
Iowa	299	244	55	255	210	45	254	203	51
Mo.	282	229	53	242	188	54	242	188	54
N.Dak.	119	84	35	105	74	31	95	70	25
S.Dak.	100	81	19	88	73	15	86	70	16
Nebr.	156	125	31	133	105	28	125	103	22
Kans.	166	128	38	151	118	33	145	111	34
W.W.Cent.	1410	1125	285	1217	978	239	1172	937	235
Du.I.	15	8	7	11	8	3	11	5	6
Md.	63	40	23	46	29	17	47	32	15
Va.	189	120	69	141	97	44	139	94	45
W.Va.	61	51	10	45	39	6	44	37	7
N.C.	592	364	228	465	279	186	446	261	185
S.C.	185	120	65	125	84	41	108	76	32
Ge.	193	139	54	145	105	40	141	105	36
Fla.	87	38	49	82	32	50	87	38	49
S.Atl.	1385	880	505	1060	671	389	1023	648	375
Ky.	264	183	81	252	171	81	208	152	56
Tenn.	229	165	64	180	129	51	170	122	48
Ala.	116	87	29	98	75	23	103	79	24
Miss.	207	153	54	154	125	29	169	139	30
E.S.Cent.	816	558	258	684	500	184	650	492	158
Ark.	191	93	98	175	91	84	179	89	90
La.	161	79	82	119	63	56	112	59	53
Okla.	132	98	34	132	102	30	116	94	22
Texas	415	238	177	320	209	111	337	201	136
W.S.Cent.	899	508	391	746	465	281	744	443	301
Mont.	58	39	19	60	35	25	49	33	16
Idaho	88	55	33	66	42	24	60	39	21
Wyo.	22	14	8	20	12	8	19	12	7
Colo.	76	52	24	75	41	34	69	43	26
N.Mex.	33	19	14	27	16	11	27	18	9
Ariz.	32	8	24	32	7	25	33	7	26
Utah	37	25	12	37	24	13	31	21	10
Nev.	6	3	3	9	4	5	6	3	3
Mount.	352	215	137	328	181	147	294	176	118
Washo.	131	76	55	97	60	37	95	58	37
Oreg.	119	62	57	91	50	41	85	46	39
Calif.	359	125	234	297	92	205	326	86	240
Pac.	609	283	346	485	202	283	305	190	316
U.S.	7127	4641	2286	5837	4007	1830	5697	3896	1801

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

State and division	January through August : Av. 1962-66			January through August : 1967			January through August : 1968		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	29	20	9	21	14	7	21	14	7
N.H.	10	7	3	8	6	2	7	5	2
Vt.	23	18	5	17	13	4	16	12	4
Mass.	29	18	11	21	12	9	21	12	9
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	23	14	9	17	9	8	16	8	8
N.Eng.	117	79	38	87	56	31	84	53	31
N.Y.	132	89	43	104	76	28	101	73	28
N.J.	39	19	20	25	11	14	24	10	14
Pa.	155	130	25	131	112	19	126	108	18
M.Atl.	326	238	88	260	199	61	251	191	60
Ohio	203	174	29	165	145	19	157	139	18
Ind.	187	166	21	135	122	13	131	120	11
Ill.	218	174	44	176	145	31	168	140	28
Mich.	197	159	38	156	129	27	147	121	26
Wis.	250	225	25	205	185	20	202	188	14
E.N.Cent.	1055	898	157	837	727	110	805	708	97
Minn.	254	216	38	207	183	24	203	178	25
Iowa	270	230	40	225	194	31	221	190	31
Mo.	238	206	32	207	171	36	197	167	30
N.Dak.	83	66	17	70	56	14	66	54	12
S.Dak.	83	73	10	72	64	8	70	62	8
Nebr.	141	118	23	116	97	19	114	99	15
Kans.	147	122	25	127	107	20	119	102	17
W.N.Cent.	1216	1031	185	1024	872	152	990	852	138
Del.	10	6	4	7	4	3	7	4	3
Md.	50	34	16	37	26	11	35	26	9
Va.	160	112	48	126	92	34	121	88	33
W.Va.	54	44	10	41	34	7	39	33	6
N.C.	378	261	117	291	202	89	278	193	82
S.C.	143	93	50	89	63	26	86	62	24
Ga.	140	101	39	109	82	27	106	82	24
Fla.	120	41	79	116	34	82	114	34	80
S.Atl.	1055	692	363	816	537	279	783	522	261
Ky.	210	161	49	187	142	45	177	141	36
Tenn.	196	150	46	154	119	35	150	118	32
Ala.	112	86	26	96	73	23	92	72	20
Miss.	180	130	50	133	102	31	138	105	33
E.S.Cent.	698	527	171	570	436	134	557	436	121
Ark.	165	93	72	136	84	52	135	81	54
La.	120	72	48	92	59	33	88	55	33
Okla.	133	111	22	130	111	19	126	109	17
Texas	346	220	126	296	200	96	279	190	89
W.S.Cent.	764	496	268	654	454	200	628	435	193
Mont.	48	35	13	45	31	14	42	30	12
Idaho	66	46	20	51	36	15	49	35	14
Wyo.	18	12	6	17	11	6	17	11	6
Colo.	58	43	15	57	36	21	54	37	17
N.Mex.	29	18	11	23	14	9	23	15	8
Ariz.	37	8	29	37	7	30	37	6	31
Utah	29	20	9	25	18	7	25	18	7
Nev.	6	3	3	5	3	2	6	3	3
Mount.	291	185	106	260	156	104	253	155	98
Wash.	111	71	40	84	54	30	89	57	32
Oreg.	96	62	34	78	50	28	77	50	27
Calif.	312	122	190	250	85	165	251	79	172
Pac.	519	255	264	412	189	223	417	186	231
U.S.	6041	4401	1640	4920	3626	1294	4768	3538	1230

^{1/} Average number during survey week of each month.

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Washington, D.C. 20250

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