

# Farm Labor

Release  
November 12, 1968  
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

## October Labor Force 3 Percent Below Last Year

The Nation's farm labor force is estimated at 5,339,000 workers for the week of October 20-26. This is a decline of 3 percent from the corresponding period in October 1967 and 4 percent below the survey week in September.

The number of farm family members working during the survey week is estimated at 3,959,000 persons, 3 percent less than a year earlier. Hired farm workers for the October 1968 survey period totaled 1,380,000 persons which was 1 percent below last year and 11 percent below September.

Farm workers averaged 39.5 hours of farm work during the October 1968 survey week, compared with 38.5 hours a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 45.1 hours, up from 44.3 hours last month. Other family members averaged 32.3 hours, up 3 percent, and hired workers averaged 36.4 hours, up 4 percent from September.

## Fall Harvest Proceeding Normally in East

Corn harvest progressed rapidly and on schedule in the eastern Corn Belt under favorable weather conditions, while harvest activity in the western Corn Belt was delayed by inclement weather. Picking proceeded normally in Eastern and South Central States.

Small grain seeding was complete or nearing completion in major growing areas. Most early seeded fields were making good growth.

Cotton picking was at peak activity levels in many areas. The crop was 39 percent picked in Texas, while Southeastern States were well ahead of this percentage completion. Harvest was moving rapidly in Arizona and progressing well in California.

Soybean harvest was nearing completion in the eastern Corn Belt, but lagging in the western Corn Belt where wet fields and high moisture caused delays. South Central States continued harvest under favorable weather conditions.

Grain sorghum harvest lagged behind normal in the Central and Northern Plains States. The crop was only 40 to 45 percent combined in Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Peanut digging was 75 percent complete in Virginia, nearing completion in the Carolinas, and advancing rapidly in Oklahoma and Texas.

Sugar beet harvest was well along in most areas. Digging was 57 percent complete in Colorado and 75 percent complete in Nebraska and Montana. Sugar cane harvest was underway in Louisiana. Rice harvest was nearing completion in most areas, with the second cutting well underway on the Gulf Coast of Texas.

Apple picking was either complete or entering final stages of harvest in most growing areas. Most Florida citrus groves are in excellent condition. Harvest was increasing as color was breaking on each variety. Picking of California Navel oranges was beginning in light volume, with the Valencia crop drawing to a close. Grape harvest was nearing completion in most areas, and some California wineries were closing for the season.

Late season hardy vegetables were being harvested in some Northern growing areas. Winter vegetable harvest was beginning in Florida. Harvest in California continued in fall growing areas as the winter crop was developing good. The winter crop in Texas was making satisfactory progress.

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, October 1968, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1962-66 1/	: Annual : average : 1967 1/	: October : average : 1962-66 1/	: October : average : 1967	: October : average : 20-26, : 1968
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT</b>					
(Thousands)					
Total .....	6,031	4,903	6,900	5,482	5,339
Family labor .....	4,420	3,650	4,960	4,082	3,959
Hired labor .....	1,611	1,253	1,940	1,400	1,380
<b>INDEXES 2/</b>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total .....	44	36	44	35	34
Family labor .....	44	36	43	36	34
Hired labor .....	47	37	45	33	32
(1957-59=100)					
Total .....	81	66	79	63	62
Family labor .....	80	66	79	65	64
Hired labor .....	82	64	79	57	56

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, 1968, United States

	: Annual : average : 1967	: October : average : 1962-66	: October : average : 1967	: October 1, : 1968	: October 1, : 1968
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>					
Composite rate per hour 1/ .....	\$ 1.12	\$ 0.947	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.27	
Per month with house .....	262	214	261	283	
Per month with board and room .....	199	167	203	220	
Per week with board and room .....	47.50	39.75	48.00	53.75	
Per week without board or room .....	60.50	49.25	60.50	66.50	
Per day with house .....	7.50	6.20	7.70	8.60	
Per day with board and room .....	8.60	7.00	8.50	9.20	
Per day without board or room .....	9.00	7.80	9.50	10.50	
Per hour with house .....	1.18	1.12	1.32	1.42	
Per hour without board or room .....	1.33	1.04	1.29	1.41	
<b>INDEXES 2/</b>					
(1910-14=100) .....	862	718	882	964	
(1957-59=100) .....	148	123	152	166	

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, October 1968  
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	October average 1962-66 1/			October 1967 Week of 22-28			October 1968 Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	28	20	8	23	15	8	19	13	6
N.H.	10	7	3	7	5	2	7	5	2
Vt.	21	17	4	17	13	4	15	12	3
Mass.	30	18	12	20	11	9	19	11	8
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	20	13	7	12	8	4	12	8	4
N.Y.	112	77	35	82	54	28	75	51	24
N.J.	140	96	44	116	84	32	112	81	31
N.Je.	33	19	14	22	10	12	21	10	11
Pa.	154	128	26	132	110	22	123	105	18
M.Atl.	327	243	84	270	204	66	256	196	60
Ohio	213	181	32	174	151	23	172	149	23
Ind.	193	162	31	140	122	18	145	125	20
Ill.	239	192	47	185	156	29	196	164	32
Mich.	184	146	38	155	123	32	153	117	36
Wis.	235	207	28	185	164	21	196	174	22
E.N.Cent.	1064	988	176	839	718	121	882	729	153
Minn.	240	215	25	204	186	18	184	170	14
Iowa	288	251	37	246	214	32	240	212	28
Mo.	279	229	50	231	179	52	227	176	51
N.Dak.	79	63	16	65	55	10	66	54	12
S.Dak.	85	75	10	73	65	8	73	65	8
Nebr.	144	125	19	120	103	17	110	97	13
Kans.	147	130	17	126	113	13	119	109	10
W.N.Cent.	1262	1088	174	1085	915	170	1019	883	136
Del.	11	7	4	9	8	1	8	5	3
Md.	48	35	13	37	27	10	32	24	8
Va.	174	127	47	137	103	34	128	97	31
W.Va.	55	48	7	44	38	6	42	36	6
N.C.	377	291	86	289	232	57	256	208	48
S.C.	161	118	43	100	77	23	97	79	18
Ge.	193	145	48	146	114	32	146	118	28
Fla.	115	45	70	104	38	66	100	38	62
S.Atl.	1134	816	318	866	635	231	809	605	204
Ky.	273	223	50	239	200	39	224	183	41
Tenn.	327	251	76	238	193	45	225	187	38
Ala.	213	161	52	164	135	29	168	137	31
Miss.	290	187	103	190	144	46	192	145	47
E.S.Cent.	1103	822	281	831	672	159	809	652	157
Ark.	218	118	100	186	104	82	172	102	70
La.	184	94	90	136	72	64	131	70	61
Okl.	147	114	33	136	115	21	140	117	23
Texas	452	236	216	368	233	135	361	208	153
W.S.Cent.	1001	562	439	806	524	282	804	497	307
Mont.	45	37	8	41	29	12	43	31	12
Idaho	74	54	20	57	43	14	54	39	15
Wyo.	19	12	7	16	11	5	16	10	6
Colo.	71	47	24	65	37	28	57	38	19
N.Mex.	49	24	25	36	19	17	37	21	16
Ariz.	41	9	32	38	7	31	38	7	31
Utah	32	23	9	27	19	8	27	18	9
Nev.	6	3	3	6	3	3	5	3	2
Mount.	338	209	129	286	168	118	277	167	110
Wash.	96	64	32	78	52	26	66	48	20
Oreg.	81	61	20	66	49	17	66	47	19
Calif.	362	130	232	293	93	200	294	84	210
Pac.	559	255	304	437	194	243	428	179	249
U.S.	6900	4960	1940	5482	4082	1400	5339	3959	1380

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 October 1968 1/  
(Thousands of persons)

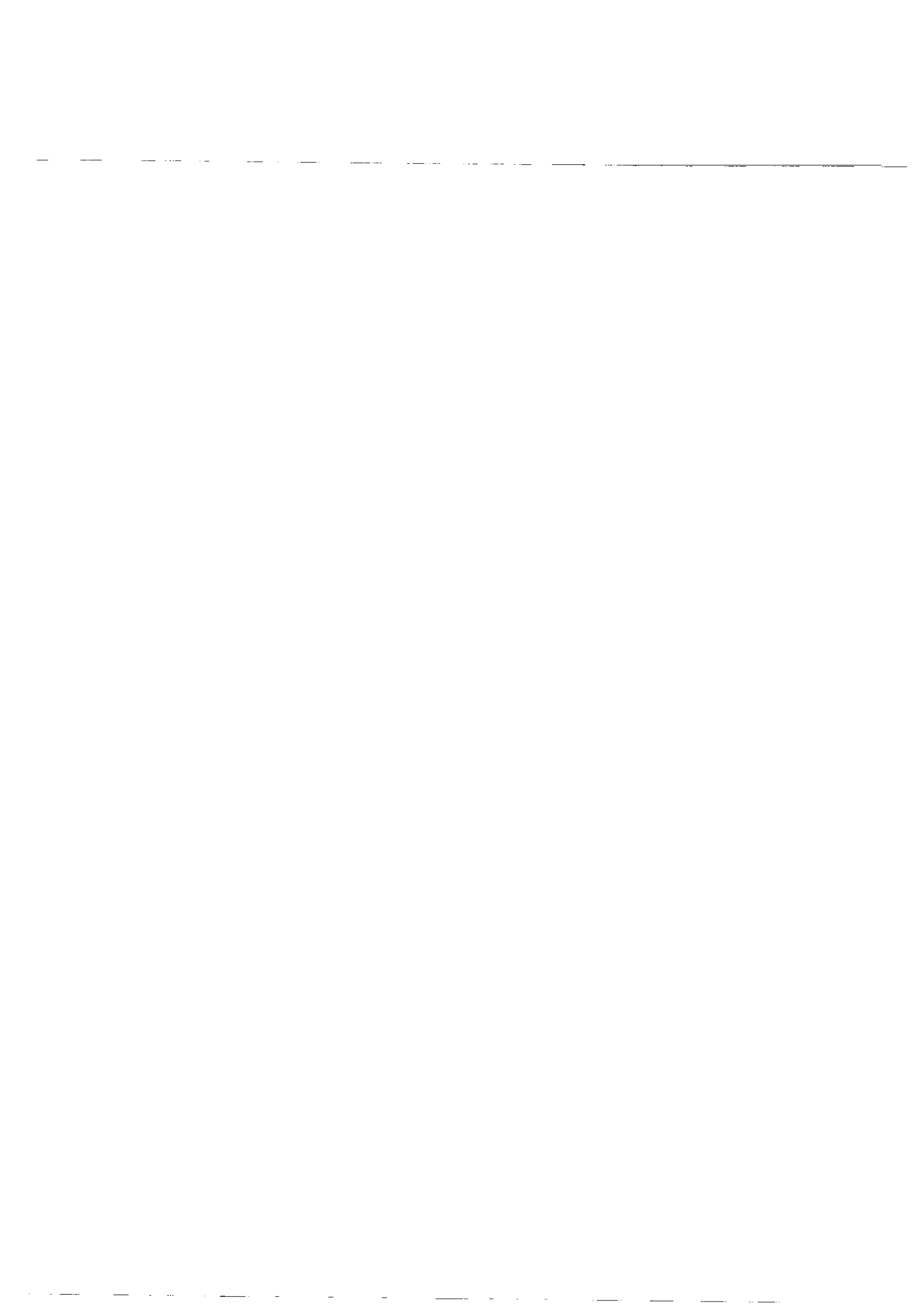
State and division	January through Oct. : Av. 1962-66			January through Oct. : 1967			January through Oct. : 1968		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	32	20	12	25	15	10	23	14	9
N.H.	10	7	3	9	6	3	7	5	2
Vt.	23	18	5	17	13	4	16	12	4
Mass.	30	18	12	22	12	10	20	11	9
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	23	14	9	16	9	7	15	8	7
N.Hkg.	121	79	42	92	57	35	84	52	32
N.Y.	136	91	45	108	78	30	105	75	30
N.J.	38	19	19	26	11	15	24	10	14
Pa.	156	130	26	132	112	20	126	108	18
Mt.I.	330	240	90	266	201	65	255	193	62
Ohio	205	174	31	165	145	20	159	139	20
Ind.	187	164	23	136	122	14	132	120	12
Ill.	220	176	44	177	146	31	171	143	28
Mich.	195	157	38	157	129	28	149	121	28
Wis.	250	223	27	203	182	21	202	186	16
E.N.Cent.	1057	884	153	838	724	114	813	709	104
Minn.	253	216	37	208	185	23	202	178	24
Iowa	273	233	40	228	197	31	224	193	31
Mo.	249	212	37	212	173	39	204	170	34
N.Dak.	85	67	18	69	56	13	67	55	12
S.Dak.	83	73	10	72	64	8	71	63	8
Nebr.	141	119	22	117	98	19	113	99	14
Kans.	148	124	24	128	109	19	120	104	16
W.N.Cent.	1232	1044	188	1034	882	152	1001	852	159
Del.	12	7	5	8	5	3	7	4	3
Ma.	51	35	16	38	27	11	36	27	9
Va.	164	115	49	128	94	34	124	90	34
W.Va.	55	45	10	43	36	7	40	34	6
N.C.	386	273	113	297	212	85	276	200	76
S.C.	149	99	50	92	66	26	90	66	24
Ga.	154	112	42	116	88	28	114	89	25
Fla.	118	42	76	113	36	77	111	36	75
S.Atl.	1089	728	361	835	564	271	798	546	252
Ky.	223	172	51	200	153	47	189	149	40
Tenn.	219	167	52	169	132	37	162	129	33
Ala.	130	99	31	108	84	24	106	83	23
Miss.	205	142	63	145	110	35	149	113	36
E.S.Cent.	777	580	197	622	478	143	608	474	132
Ark.	176	98	78	141	88	53	143	86	57
La.	137	79	58	103	63	40	98	59	39
Okla.	136	112	24	132	112	20	128	110	18
Texas	368	224	144	307	205	102	297	195	102
W.S.Cent.	817	513	304	683	468	215	666	450	216
Mont.	49	36	13	45	31	14	42	30	12
Idaho	69	48	21	54	38	16	50	36	14
Wyo.	19	12	7	17	11	6	17	11	6
Colo.	61	44	17	60	37	23	55	37	18
N.Mex.	31	18	13	25	15	10	25	16	9
Ariz.	37	8	29	37	7	30	37	6	31
Utah	30	21	9	27	19	8	25	18	7
Nevo.	6	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	3
Mount.	302	190	112	271	161	110	257	157	100
Wash.	109	70	39	84	54	30	88	56	30
Oreg.	94	62	32	75	50	25	75	50	25
Calif.	330	124	206	263	86	177	263	80	183
Pac.	333	256	277	422	190	232	424	186	238
U.S.	6258	4524	1734	5063	3728	1337	4904	3629	1275

1/ Average number during survey week of each month.

Farm Works Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms -- week of October 20-26, 1968				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members	All Family <sup>1/</sup>	Hired Workers	All Workers <sup>1/</sup>
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	53.6	34.1	48.6	34.7	44.0
N.H.	57.9	36.4	52.6	42.6	48.8
Vt.	65.5	38.5	56.5	43.3	53.8
Mass.	60.7	33.0	52.5	38.1	46.8
R.I.	48.5	25.4	41.7	40.9	41.3
Conn.	58.3	39.0	51.6	40.1	48.3
N.Eng.	58.6	35.6	51.8	39.4	47.7
N.Y.	59.1	33.0	50.5	41.6	47.4
N.J.	40.0	31.7	38.0	33.8	36.8
Pa.	52.0	28.9	44.3	33.9	42.1
N.Atl.	54.7	30.8	46.5	37.9	44.0
Ohio	48.7	33.0	44.1	28.1	40.4
Ind.	45.5	31.8	42.1	31.0	39.6
Ill.	52.8	36.2	48.5	35.7	45.6
Mich.	50.8	34.0	46.0	31.3	42.7
Wis.	60.1	31.6	48.8	37.3	46.9
E.N.Cent.	51.8	33.4	46.1	32.8	43.3
Minn.	52.2	34.4	46.1	37.6	44.8
Iowa	59.3	31.2	50.6	33.2	47.3
Mo.	43.1	30.5	40.8	32.8	39.9
N.Dak.	49.4	36.8	45.5	41.6	44.8
S.Dak.	54.3	35.1	48.4	34.9	46.5
Nebr.	52.0	35.9	47.4	33.7	45.0
Kans.	49.0	33.7	45.3	32.4	43.1
W.N.Cent.	51.3	33.1	45.1	34.3	44.2
Del.	40.3	31.3	37.9	35.1	37.3
Md.	43.5	34.3	40.9	38.3	40.2
Va.	42.4	33.1	39.9	33.9	37.7
W.Va.	37.0	30.9	35.5	27.0	33.9
N.C.	37.4	29.6	35.2	27.4	32.3
S.C.	35.1	28.2	33.5	25.9	30.1
Ga.	35.5	30.0	34.2	30.6	32.8
Fla.	38.1	32.6	37.1	35.2	35.7
S.Atl.	37.9	30.6	36.0	31.6	33.8
Ky.	38.7	33.0	37.4	27.1	33.6
Tenn.	35.0	30.4	33.9	26.0	31.6
Ala.	36.2	29.4	34.5	24.4	30.6
Miss.	38.1	29.4	35.9	34.3	35.1
E.S.Cent.	37.0	30.7	35.3	28.5	32.8
Ark.	38.1	37.8	36.5	40.3	38.0
La.	35.2	35.1	35.2	37.9	36.2
Okla.	41.0	29.7	38.1	28.0	36.0
Texas	40.7	33.1	39.1	37.7	38.5
W.S.Cent.	39.2	33.5	37.9	37.6	37.6
Mont.	48.6	34.5	43.2	37.4	41.7
Idaho	50.8	30.5	43.7	37.4	42.3
Wyo.	50.3	25.5	43.4	50.6	46.3
Colo.	46.3	36.0	43.1	41.2	42.7
N.Mex.	47.2	31.2	42.0	36.1	39.8
Ariz.	43.2	36.8	42.3	52.2	48.4
Utah	31.9	30.1	31.3	32.7	31.6
Nev.	41.3	37.5	40.2	50.6	44.2
Mount.	45.9	32.7	41.8	42.6	42.0
Wash.	40.7	28.7	38.0	34.6	36.5
Oreg.	38.6	30.8	36.7	28.4	34.0
Calif.	46.3	35.7	43.6	45.9	45.3
Pac.	42.5	32.2	40.0	43.7	42.2
U.S.	45.1	32.3	41.4	36.4	39.5

<sup>1/</sup> 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  
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