

# Farm Labor

Release  
December 10, 1968  
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## November Farm Labor Force Dips 18 Percent Below Last Month

The Nation's total farm labor working force is estimated at 4,359,000 workers for the week of November 17-23, 4 percent less than a year earlier and 18 percent below the survey week in October.

Family members working during the survey week are estimated at 3,401,000 persons, 3 percent less than a year earlier and 14 percent below a month earlier. The number of hired farm workers employed on farms during the survey week totaled 958,000 persons, 6 percent below a year-earlier and 31 percent below October 1968. Fall harvest in many areas was completed well ahead of last year. Thus, a lower work force was required during the November 1968 survey week.

Average length of the work week for all workers in November at 37.2 hours was 2.3 hours shorter than for last month. Farm operators averaged 40.9 hours, down 4.2 hours from a month earlier. Other family members averaged 30.8 hours, down 1.5 hours from last month. Hired workers averaged 35.7 hours worked during the survey week, fractionally below a year earlier.

## Harvest Near Completion - Farmers Prepare for Winter

Corn harvest in the western Corn Belt was limited by wet fields, despite little or no precipitation during the week. Iowa's harvest was about 80 percent complete while in Minnesota harvest was 70 percent completed. Harvest in the eastern Corn Belt neared completion with Illinois nearly 95 percent completed by the end of the survey week. In other areas picking advanced toward completion, between intermittent showers.

Soybean combining progressed slowly in South Central and Atlantic Coast States. Rain early in the week curtailed harvest. Some low-lying wet fields in Minnesota remain to be harvested.

Sorghum harvest was virtually complete in Texas and was well advanced in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska.

"Effective January 1, 1969, the Statistical Reporting Service plans to discontinue calculation and publication of 5-year averages that appear in this report. The report will contain data for the current and the two preceding years. It is believed that changes in agriculture have decreased the value of the five-year averages for making comparisons."

Cotton harvest was in full swing on the Texas High Plains, and about two-thirds of the State's crop already had been picked. Soft fields delayed harvest operations in Oklahoma. Picking was well advanced in the Delta and Southeast States, and was virtually complete in southern Alabama and Georgia. Harvesting increased in Arizona following some delay from rain. Damp, foggy weather slowed picking in California.

Peanut digging was in the final stages in Texas, Oklahoma, and Virginia. Burley Tobacco stripping and grading provided work in major growing areas, preparing for opening of markets the following week.

Sugar beet digging, nearly completed in most northern areas, continued active in Arizona and California. Sugar cane harvest was 60 percent complete in Louisiana and increasingly active in Florida.

Supplemental feeding of livestock had begun in some areas, because range grass supplies deteriorated seasonally. Livestock work and preparations for the onset of winter occupied the time of many of the Nation's farm workers.

Harvest of Florida oranges increased sharply. Cool weather aided in fruit coloring. Citrus harvest also was active in Arizona and Texas, and harvest of Navel oranges in California was well underway. A record olive harvest neared completion in California. Pecan harvest was active in most producing States.

Florida's vegetable harvest was active in most locations. Cold weather caused only slight damage. In Southwestern States, including California, planting and harvesting of vegetables proceeded normally.

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, November 1968, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1962-66 1/	: Annual : average : 1967 1/	: November : average : 1962-66 1/	: November : 19-25, : 1967	: November : 17-23, : 1968
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT</b>					
(Thousands)					
Total .....	6,031	4,903	5,344	4,542	4,359
Family labor .....	4,420	3,650	4,109	3,520	3,401
Hired labor .....	1,611	1,253	1,235	1,022	958
<b>INDEXES 2/</b>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total .....	44	36	43	36	35
Family labor .....	44	36	42	36	35
Hired labor .....	47	37	44	36	34
(1957-59=100)					
Total .....	81	66	77	65	63
Family labor .....	80	66	78	66	64
Hired labor .....	82	64	76	63	59

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 : 1, 1967	: 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 .....	3/200	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.

3/ Revised.

Workers on Farms, November 1968  
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	November average 1962-66 1/			November 1967 Week of 19-25			November 1968 Week of 17-23		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	24	19	5	18	14	4	18	13	5
N.H.	9	7	2	7	5	2	7	5	2
Vt.	20	16	4	16	13	3	15	12	3
Mass.	23	16	7	17	11	6	17	11	6
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	17	12	5	11	8	3	10	7	3
N.Eng.	98	72	24	72	53	19	70	50	20
N.Y.	118	88	30	99	78	20	94	75	19
N.J.	24	15	9	16	10	6	16	10	6
Pa.	128	109	19	112	97	15	101	89	12
N.Atl.	270	212	58	226	185	41	211	174	37
Ohio	193	171	22	157	142	15	153	139	14
Ind.	166	149	17	128	114	14	124	113	11
Ill.	212	178	34	198	164	34	166	143	23
Mich.	157	134	23	132	113	19	119	106	13
Wis.	218	199	19	186	169	17	187	173	14
N.W.Cent.	946	831	115	801	702	99	749	674	75
Minn.	195	180	15	176	165	11	162	151	11
Iowa	242	215	27	223	192	31	210	185	25
Mo.	209	190	19	171	150	21	175	155	20
N.Dak.	55	48	7	45	40	5	45	39	6
S.Dak.	66	60	6	58	53	5	57	51	6
Nebr.	115	103	12	107	95	12	97	86	11
Kans.	116	107	9	105	97	8	100	94	6
W.N.Cent.	998	903	95	885	792	93	846	761	85
Del.	8	5	3	7	5	2	6	4	2
Md.	42	32	10	30	23	7	28	22	6
Va.	147	112	35	118	93	25	108	88	20
W.Va.	49	42	7	38	34	4	37	32	5
N.C.	280	218	62	217	175	42	190	160	30
S.C.	111	80	31	68	54	14	66	53	13
Ge.	136	95	41	108	78	30	97	74	23
Fla.	125	39	86	120	33	87	123	36	87
S. Atl.	898	623	275	706	495	211	655	469	186
Ky.	231	189	42	211	174	37	196	165	31
Tenn.	245	205	40	202	170	32	189	164	25
Ala.	133	100	33	121	93	28	120	92	28
Miss.	175	134	41	123	99	24	139	115	24
E.S.Cent.	784	628	156	657	536	121	644	536	108
Ark.	142	92	50	135	94	41	149	95	54
La.	110	77	33	86	61	25	80	56	24
Okla.	118	100	18	120	100	20	115	99	16
Texas	330	206	124	307	200	107	313	200	113
W.S.Cent.	700	475	225	648	453	193	657	450	207
Mont.	40	32	8	35	27	8	34	27	7
Idaho	49	38	11	39	31	8	37	30	7
Wyo.	14	9	5	14	9	5	13	8	5
Colo.	46	36	10	41	31	10	39	30	9
N.Mex.	33	17	16	26	15	11	28	15	13
Ariz.	44	8	36	40	6	34	40	6	34
Utah	24	20	4	21	17	4	21	17	4
Nev.	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2
Mount.	254	162	92	220	138	82	215	135	81
Wash.	63	45	18	61	48	13	55	43	12
Oreg.	63	52	11	52	44	8	48	41	7
Calif.	272	106	166	214	74	140	208	68	140
Pac.	398	203	195	327	164	163	311	152	159
U.S.	5343	4109	1235	4542	3520	1022	4359	3401	958

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 November 1968 1/  
(Thousands of persons)

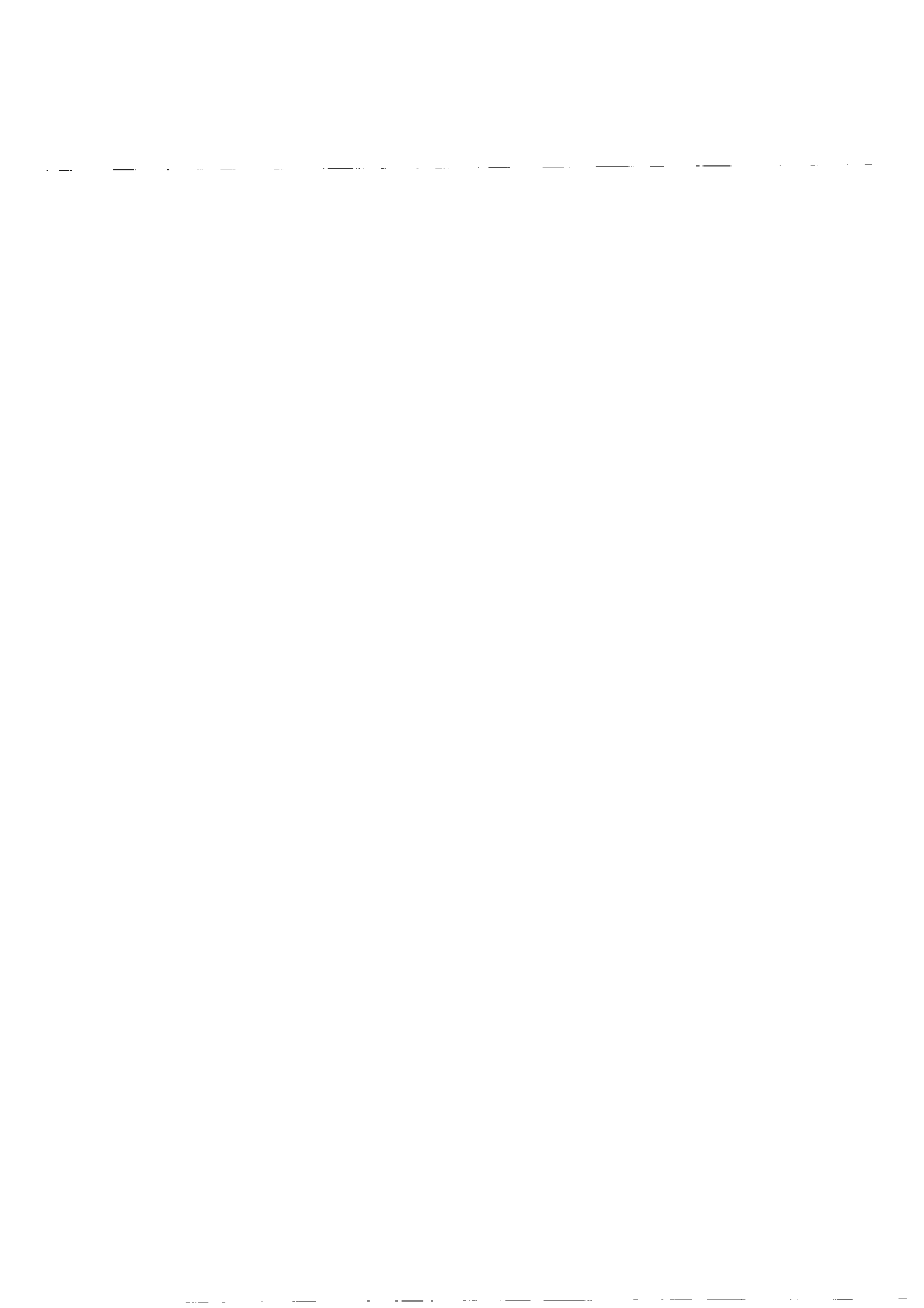
State and division	January through Nov. Av. 1962-66			January through Nov. 1967			January through Nov. 1968		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	20	11	24	15	9	22	14	8
N.H.	10	7	3	9	6	3	7	5	2
Vt.	23	18	5	17	13	4	15	12	3
Mass.	29	18	11	21	12	9	20	11	9
R.I.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	23	14	9	16	9	7	15	8	7
N.Eng.	119	79	40	90	57	33	82	52	30
N.Y.	134	91	43	107	78	29	104	75	29
N.J.	37	19	18	25	11	14	23	10	13
Pa.	155	129	26	131	111	20	124	106	18
N.Atl.	328	239	87	283	200	63	251	181	60
Ohio	204	174	30	165	145	20	159	139	20
Ind.	186	163	23	135	121	14	132	120	12
Ill.	220	177	43	179	148	31	171	143	28
Mich.	192	155	37	154	127	27	147	120	27
Wis.	247	221	26	202	181	21	201	185	16
E.W.Cent.	1049	890	159	835	722	113	810	707	103
Minn.	248	213	35	205	183	22	197	175	22
Iowa	271	232	39	228	197	31	222	192	30
Mo.	245	210	35	208	171	37	202	169	33
N.Dak.	82	65	17	68	55	13	66	54	12
S.Dak.	82	72	10	71	63	8	70	62	8
Nebr.	139	118	21	116	98	18	112	98	14
Kans.	146	123	23	126	108	18	119	103	16
E.N.Cent.	1213	1033	180	1022	875	147	988	853	135
Del.	10	6	4	8	5	3	7	4	3
Md.	50	35	15	36	26	10	35	26	9
Va.	162	115	47	127	94	33	122	90	32
W.Va.	54	45	9	42	35	7	40	34	6
N.C.	376	268	108	289	208	81	269	197	72
S.C.	146	97	49	90	65	25	87	64	23
Geo.	152	110	42	116	87	29	112	87	25
Fla.	119	42	77	114	36	78	112	36	76
S.Atl.	1069	718	351	822	556	266	784	538	246
Ky.	223	173	50	201	155	46	189	150	39
Tenn.	222	171	51	171	135	36	165	132	33
Ala.	131	99	32	110	85	25	107	84	23
Miss.	202	141	61	143	109	34	148	113	35
E.S.Cent.	778	584	194	625	484	141	609	479	130
Ark.	172	97	75	140	88	52	143	87	56
La.	134	78	56	101	63	38	97	59	38
Okla.	134	111	23	131	111	20	127	109	18
Texas	365	222	143	308	205	103	298	195	103
W.S.Cent.	305	308	297	680	467	213	665	450	215
Mont.	47	35	12	24	31	13	41	30	11
Idaho	67	47	20	82	37	15	50	36	14
Wyo.	18	12	6	17	11	6	17	11	6
Colo.	60	43	17	58	36	22	53	36	17
N.Mex.	31	18	13	25	15	10	26	16	10
Ariz.	38	8	30	38	7	31	37	6	31
Utah	30	21	9	26	19	7	25	18	7
Nev.	6	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	3
Mount.	297	187	110	266	159	107	255	156	99
Wash.	105	68	37	81	53	28	83	54	29
Oreg.	91	61	30	73	49	24	73	49	24
Calif.	324	122	202	259	85	174	258	79	179
Pac.	528	251	269	413	187	226	414	182	232
U.S.	6176	4489	1687	5016	3707	1309	4856	3608	1250

1/ Average number during survey week of each month.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average per reporting farms - week of November 17-23, 1968					
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/	
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	51.5	29.2	44.7	27.3	39.0	
N.H.	55.2	32.7	48.8	43.3	46.7	
Vt.	60.4	34.2	50.7	43.4	48.1	
Mass.	58.9	33.5	50.9	39.9	46.3	
R.I.	47.4	42.0	45.7	43.4	44.7	
Conn.	55.8	38.7	51.0	37.2	46.5	
N.Eng.	55.8	33.3	48.6	37.4	44.8	
N.Y.	58.8	33.3	48.8	41.8	46.8	
N.J.	38.7	30.2	36.8	39.8	37.7	
Pac.	49.5	31.6	44.0	31.7	41.5	
M.Atl.	51.9	32.2	45.5	38.2	43.6	
Ohio	41.9	30.0	38.6	26.8	36.4	
Ind.	38.0	31.2	36.6	26.7	34.9	
Ill.	40.1	33.6	38.9	33.1	37.8	
Mich.	45.4	30.8	41.8	38.1	41.2	
Wis.	55.9	27.8	44.5	36.6	43.3	
E.N.Cent.	44.3	30.7	40.1	32.5	38.9	
Minn.	51.9	32.5	45.9	35.3	44.4	
Iowa	55.1	30.7	48.0	30.5	44.5	
Mo.	38.2	28.3	36.4	35.7	36.3	
N.Dak.	36.2	34.2	35.7	32.2	35.3	
S.Dak.	47.2	34.0	43.8	33.0	42.4	
Nebr.	45.6	35.2	43.1	25.8	40.1	
Kans.	41.4	31.3	39.2	29.8	37.7	
W.N.Cent.	48.2	31.8	42.3	32.0	40.8	
Dal.	38.2	34.1	37.1	37.8	37.4	
Mt.	42.0	30.6	38.9	36.9	38.4	
Vic.	38.9	30.1	36.9	32.5	35.4	
W.Va.	35.1	29.1	33.7	28.5	32.7	
N.C.	33.2	29.9	32.5	25.4	30.2	
S.C.	34.2	26.9	32.7	26.5	30.1	
Ge.	34.6	29.4	33.5	27.6	31.2	
Fla.	34.5	21.5	30.9	39.3	35.6	
S.Atl.	35.1	28.9	33.7	33.6	32.8	
Ky.	37.3	32.3	35.7	29.3	33.3	
Tenn.	31.3	30.9	31.2	23.9	29.2	
Ala.	32.3	26.6	31.1	23.1	28.1	
Miss.	37.3	27.5	34.5	32.6	33.5	
E.S.Cent.	34.5	29.7	33.2	27.2	31.2	
Ark.	35.9	32.8	35.1	40.3	37.2	
La.	31.5	28.1	30.9	32.7	31.6	
Okla.	36.8	30.3	35.4	29.6	34.3	
Texas	41.5	32.4	39.4	39.7	39.5	
W.S.Cent.	38.1	31.4	36.6	38.3	37.1	
Mont.	37.3	32.3	36.3	39.5	36.9	
Idaho	41.0	27.2	37.1	33.8	36.6	
Wyo.	41.9	27.2	38.3	41.7	39.8	
Colo.	40.7	34.1	39.1	35.1	38.3	
N.Mex.	38.1	26.1	34.7	37.5	35.8	
Ariz.	41.2	25.1	38.6	40.1	39.5	
Utah	36.1	28.4	33.8	29.8	32.8	
Nev.	47.3	38.3	45.1	47.6	46.2	
Mount.	39.5	29.9	37.1	38.3	37.4	
Wash.	34.2	29.8	33.3	34.4	33.7	
Oreg.	31.9	28.9	31.2	35.1	32.0	
Calif.	40.1	38.7	39.8	42.7	42.0	
Pac.	38.1	33.3	35.5	41.7	39.0	
U.S.	40.9	30.8	38.1	35.7	37.2	

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  
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POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
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