

Farm Labor

Release
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Record Low Farm Work Force

The Nation's total farm labor force for the week of January 19-25 is estimated at 3,420,000 persons. This was 2 percent below the January survey week a year ago and the smallest total for a survey week in any month of record. The 2,801,000 farm operators and other unpaid family members was also 2 percent below a year ago. Hired workers are estimated at 619,000 persons, 3 percent less than the same period a year earlier.

Farm workers averaged 33.5 hours during the January survey week compared with 32.8 hours a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 34.3 hours while other unpaid family members worked 28.8 hours. Hired workers averaged 35.3 hours during the survey week.

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Farm Employment and indexes, January 1969, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1967	Annual average 1968	January 22-28, 1967	January 21-27, 1968	January 19-25, 1969
FARM EMPLOYMENT <u>1/</u>					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,903	4,749	3,682	3,493	3,420
Family labor	3,650	3,550	2,990	2,852	2,801
Hired labor	1,253	1,199	692	641	619
INDEXES <u>2/</u>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	36	35	38	36	35
Family labor	36	35	37	36	35
Hired labor	37	35	42	39	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total	66	63	69	66	65
Family labor	66	64	69	66	64
Hired labor	64	61	72	67	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.

Workers on Farms, January 1969 1/

State and division	January 1967 Week of 22-28			January 1968 Week of 21-27			January 1969 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	--- Thousands ---								
Maine	17	13	4	17	13	4	16	12	4
N. H.	7	5	2	6	4	2	6	4	2
Vt.	16	13	3	15	12	3	14	11	3
Mass.	16	11	5	15	11	4	14	10	4
R. I.	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	10	8	2	9	7	2	9	7	2
N. Eng.	68	51	17	64	48	16	61	45	16
N. Y.	89	70	19	83	66	17	80	64	16
N. J.	16	10	6	14	9	5	14	9	5
Pa.	102	90	12	98	86	12	93	82	11
M. Atl.	207	170	37	195	161	34	187	155	32
Ohio	132	125	7	125	118	7	121	114	7
Ind.	116	112	4	111	106	5	109	105	4
Ill.	128	113	15	129	112	17	124	109	15
Mich.	120	108	12	116	101	15	111	97	14
Wis.	180	170	10	170	158	12	175	165	10
E. N. Cent.	676	628	48	651	595	56	640	590	50
Minn.	150	144	6	152	143	9	145	139	6
Iowa	160	147	13	159	146	13	153	143	10
Mo.	161	147	14	139	127	12	143	134	9
N. Dak.	40	36	4	38	34	4	35	32	3
S. Dak.	52	49	3	50	47	3	49	46	3
Nebr.	87	80	7	85	80	5	86	81	5
Kans.	92	86	6	87	82	5	83	79	4
W. N. Cent.	742	689	53	710	659	51	694	654	40
Del.	4	3	1	4	3	1	4	3	1
Md.	26	20	6	23	18	5	22	18	4
Va.	91	76	15	87	73	14	81	68	13
W. Va.	31	27	4	29	26	3	28	25	3
N. C.	178	155	23	162	144	18	150	136	14
S. C.	63	50	13	54	44	10	51	43	8
Ga.	78	65	13	76	62	14	76	64	12
Fla.	143	38	105	126	29	97	130	28	102
S. Atl.	614	434	180	561	399	162	542	385	157
Ky.	149	124	25	134	116	18	139	125	14
Tenn.	120	105	15	115	103	12	104	95	9
Ala.	66	51	15	60	48	12	57	47	10
Miss.	88	73	15	88	73	15	84	71	13
E. S. Cent.	423	353	70	397	340	57	384	338	46
Ark.	83	68	15	74	65	9	80	66	14
La.	62	52	10	55	46	9	52	41	11
Okl.	111	105	6	107	102	5	109	102	7
Texas	221	169	52	201	162	39	217	163	54
W. S. Cent.	477	394	83	437	375	62	458	372	86
Mont.	28	24	4	28	23	5	26	23	3
Idaho	30	26	4	31	26	5	27	25	2
Wyo.	11	9	2	10	8	2	9	7	2
Colo.	35	26	9	37	25	12	30	25	5
N. Mex.	18	12	6	18	12	6	18	13	5
Ariz.	38	7	31	36	6	30	38	6	32
Utah	14	12	2	14	12	2	14	12	2
Nev.	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Mount.	177	118	59	177	114	63	165	113	52
Wash.	50	39	11	53	40	13	52	42	10
Oreg.	48	40	8	48	41	7	41	36	5
Calif.	200	74	126	200	80	120	196	71	125
Pac.	298	153	145	301	161	140	289	149	140
U. S.	3682	2990	692	3493	2852	641	3420	2801	619

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of January 19-25, 1969				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	-- Hours --				
Maine	49.7	33.9	45.1	35.9	42.0
N.H.	57.4	34.2	52.5	39.6	47.3
Vt.	57.8	33.4	49.4	45.9	48.1
Mass.	54.5	32.3	47.1	38.5	44.0
R.I.	36.2	50.0	40.0	45.2	41.1
Conn.	53.6	38.6	49.0	39.1	46.1
N.Eng.	53.4	34.6	47.7	39.9	45.0
N.Y.	54.1	30.8	47.1	40.6	45.0
N.J.	36.2	29.0	34.5	38.7	35.6
Pa.	45.8	28.9	40.6	30.8	38.7
M.Atl.	48.6	29.7	42.9	36.9	41.2
Ohio	34.0	30.0	33.1	30.8	32.8
Ind.	30.2	29.1	30.0	25.0	29.3
Ill.	30.0	31.1	30.2	32.2	30.4
Mich.	39.5	29.9	37.1	31.2	36.0
Wis.	51.6	29.1	42.4	36.5	41.6
E.N.Cent.	37.0	29.9	34.5	32.0	34.7
Minn.	41.1	29.3	37.3	32.9	36.9
Iowa	41.4	28.5	38.1	30.7	37.1
Mo.	32.5	27.3	31.6	29.1	31.2
N.Dak.	29.0	32.2	29.8	33.6	30.1
S.Dak.	40.1	29.1	37.2	35.6	37.0
Nebr.	37.3	30.2	35.7	26.1	34.6
Kans.	34.4	30.3	33.6	30.7	33.3
W.N.Cent.	37.2	29.1	35.1	30.7	34.7
Del.	32.0	28.4	31.2	31.4	31.2
Md.	38.8	31.2	36.7	36.0	36.5
Va.	33.7	29.3	32.8	32.5	32.7
W.Va.	32.5	24.0	30.4	26.7	29.9
N.C.	26.0	27.4	26.2	22.0	25.2
S.C.	29.4	29.0	29.3	25.6	27.8
Ga.	31.6	28.0	30.8	30.8	30.8
Fla.	31.9	38.8	33.3	44.1	40.7
S.Atl.	30.0	28.8	29.7	38.6	31.8
Ky.	29.6	26.8	28.9	28.0	28.7
Tenn.	24.5	29.5	25.3	24.5	25.2
Ala.	27.7	27.6	27.7	27.1	27.5
Miss.	28.2	20.2	26.5	25.3	26.0
E.S.Cent.	27.4	26.3	27.1	26.4	27.0
Ark.	27.1	29.8	27.5	30.0	28.2
La.	24.9	27.5	25.4	29.6	26.9
Okla.	32.8	27.3	31.6	29.6	31.3
Texas	38.2	29.4	36.5	39.2	37.5
W.S.Cent.	33.2	28.8	32.3	35.7	33.2
Mont.	34.5	29.3	33.5	40.0	34.6
Idaho	36.1	23.7	32.7	37.3	33.1
Wyo.	38.7	29.6	36.5	41.4	38.1
Colo.	34.4	29.2	33.3	38.5	34.1
N.Mex.	37.3	30.4	35.5	41.5	37.4
Ariz.	40.8	34.7	39.6	45.8	43.0
Utah	29.7	23.8	28.0	27.7	28.0
Nev.	41.0	25.2	37.2	43.7	39.7
Mount.	35.3	27.7	33.4	43.1	36.2
Wash.	27.9	27.0	27.7	27.9	27.7
Oreg.	25.6	28.4	26.2	28.6	26.6
Calif.	33.7	33.1	33.6	33.6	33.6
Pac.	29.6	29.9	29.7	33.0	31.5
U.S.	34.3	28.8	32.8	35.3	33.5

^{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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Rain, Snow, Blizzard Conditions Restrict Farm Activities

Extremely cold weather and heavy snows covered much of the northern half of the Nation during the survey week. Record snow depths covered many areas, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. The southern coastal area of California experienced very heavy rainfall resulting in extensive flooding in low lying areas.

Harvest activities were limited to citrus and winter vegetable crops in southern growing areas. In the north, activity was restricted to care of livestock, general chores, and shoveling snow.

Citrus picking in California was limited almost entirely to grapefruit harvest in the desert areas. Other areas in California were generally too wet to permit entering groves with equipment. Orange picking in Florida continued active. Citrus harvest was active in Texas, but was restricted some in Arizona by rain.

Vegetable harvest was active in south Texas areas and increased in Florida under generally favorable weather. The rain brought California's vegetable harvest to a near standstill in coastal areas and slowed operations in the desert areas and in Arizona.

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.