

# Farm Labor

Release  
May 9, 1969  
3:00 P.M. EDT

## Farm Labor Force Registers Seasonal Gain

Nationally, farm employment for the week of April 20-26 rose 14 percent above the March survey week. The estimated 4,566,000 total workers, however, were still 3 percent less than the April 1968 survey week. There were 3,509,000 farm operators and other unpaid family members. The 1,057,000 hired workers represent a one percent gain over the April survey week a year ago.

Improving spring weather increased the average work week to 40.2 hours for all workers. Farm operators averaged 45.3 hours, other unpaid family members 31.5 hours, and hired workers 37.7 hours during the week, all substantially above a month earlier.

### Percent Change

Item	Farm Employment - Weekly Hours Worked					
	All Workers		Farm Operators + Unpaid Family Members		Hired Workers	
	March 1969 to April 1969	April 1968 to April 1969	March 1969 to April 1969	April 1968 to April 1969	March 1969 to April 1969	April 1968 to April 1969
Employment	+14	-3	+10	-4	+30	+1
Hours Worked	+13	0	+17	0	+7	+2

### Variable Weather Affects Spring Farm Activities

Rain and wet soils slowed seedbed preparation and spring planting in the Great Plains and in the Northern States from Minnesota to the Atlantic Coast. Changeable weather conditions affected activities in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain regions while much of the South enjoyed relatively good farming weather.

Seeding of spring wheat was nearing the mid point with 44 percent seeded in South Dakota and 40 percent in Montana. Oat seeding ranged from 93 percent complete in Kansas to only 4 percent complete in Minnesota. Barley harvest was underway in the Imperial Valley of California. Sorghum was 43 percent planted in Texas and planting was active in Arizona.

Planting of corn was beginning in the southern edge of the Corn Belt. Planting was active in the South Central and Southeastern States, though generally behind last year. Texas was 77 percent complete; Oklahoma, 50 percent; Alabama, 36 percent while Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia were just getting started.

Cotton planting was advancing in the South Central States, but was behind last year in the Southeast. Planting was nearing completion in Arizona and California with good stands in earlier fields.

Tobacco transplanting neared completion in Georgia and South Carolina and was active in North Carolina. Plantbed preparation progressed in the Appalachian States. Rice and peanut planting was active in major growing areas.

Harvest of Navel oranges in California was 92 percent complete. Picking of Valencia oranges increased rapidly in Florida and California. Grapefruit harvest continued in producing States. Lemon picking in California was heavy.

Florida vegetable harvest increased with most commodities available. In Texas, onions, cabbage, carrots, and potatoes were being harvested in the Lower Valley. California continued moderate vegetable harvest activities.

Farm employment represents number of family and hired labor working during the survey week. Family labor includes farm operators working on farms one hour or more plus other family members working 15 hours or more without receiving cash wages during survey week. Hired workers include all persons working one hour or more for cash wages during the survey week. These data should not be confused with the 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, April 1969, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1967	Annual average 1968	April 23-29 1967	April 21-27 1968	April 20-26 1969
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT <sup>1/</sup></b>					
(Thousands)					
Total .....	4,903	4,745.8	4,703	4,688.6	4,565.8
Family labor .....	3,650	3,532.4	3,654	3,642.6	3,508.8
Hired labor .....	1,253	1,213.4	1,049	1,046.0	1,057.0
<b>INDEXES <sup>2/</sup></b>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total .....	36	35	36	35	34
Family labor .....	36	35	35	35	34
Hired labor .....	37	36	37	37	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total .....	66	63	65	64	63
Family labor .....	66	64	65	64	62
Hired labor .....	64	62	64	63	64

<sup>1/</sup> Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

<sup>2/</sup> Monthly indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

-----oOo-----

Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, April 1, 1969, United States

	Annual average 1968	April 1, 1967	April 1, 1968	April 1, 1969
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>				
Composite rate per hours <sup>1/</sup> .....	\$ 1.21	\$ 0.998	\$ 1.08	\$ 1.21
Per month with house .....	283	253	270	296
Per month with board and room ...	216	192	206	228
Per week with board and room....	52.50	45.75	50.00	54.25
Per week without board or room ..	66.50	58.75	63.50	70.00
Per day with house .....	8.20	7.30	8.00	8.70
Per day with board and room .....	9.30	7.80	8.50	9.20
Per day without board or room ...	9.90	8.70	9.50	10.30
Per hour with house .....	1.28	1.07	1.17	1.34
Per hour without board or room ..	1.44	1.34	1.44	1.59
<b>INDEXES <sup>2/</sup></b>				
(1910-14=100)				
	931	849	914	1028
(1957-59=100)				
	160	146	157	177

<sup>1/</sup> Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis. Composite rate does not include piece rate workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, April 1969

State and division	April 1967 Week of 23-29			April 1968 Week of 21-27			April 1969 Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	-- Thousands --								
Maine .....	18	13	5	18	13	5.0	18	13	5.0
N.H. ....	7	5	2	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.6	4.6	2.0
Vt. ....	17	14	3	15	12	3.0	14.4	11	3.4
Mass. ....	18	12	6	17	12	5.0	15	10	5.0
R.I. ....	2	1	1	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.1	1.3	.8
Conn. ....	13	9	4	14	9.0	5.0	12	7.5	4.5
N.Eng. ....	75	54	21	73	52	21	68.1	47.4	20.7
N.Y. ....	94	74	20	94	72	22	89	69	20
N.J. ....	22	11	11	20	10	10	18	9.0	9.0
Pa. ....	124	108	16	125	109	16	115	101	14
M.Atl. ....	240	193	47	239	191	48	222	179	43
Ohio ....	170	155	15	167	150	17	156	142	14
Ind. ....	132	120	12	132	122	10	123	113	10
Ill. ....	171	146	25	181	148	33	182	151	31
Mich. ....	147	129	18	142	125	17	131	113	18
Wis. ....	202	185	17	209	191	18	205	188	17
E.N.Cent. ....	822	735	87	831	736	95	797	707	90
Minn. ....	216	200	16	205	190	15	197	179	18
Iowa ....	225	206	19	211	197	14	216	196	20
Mo. ....	196	166	30	186	166	20	196	171	25
N.Dak. ....	62	54	8	66	58	8.0	62	55	7.0
S.Dak. ....	74	68	6	70	65	5.0	70	64	6.0
Nebr. ....	116	99	17	115	104	11	120	104	16
Kans. ....	116	105	11	114	105	9.0	107	97	10
W.N.Cent. ....	1,005	898	107	967	885	82	968	866	102
Del. ....	6	4	2	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Md. ....	34	26	8	34	27	7.0	31	24	7.0
Va. ....	121	99	22	117	96	21	113	91	22
W.Va. ....	42	35	7	42	35	7.0	38	32	6.0
N.C. ....	235	183	52	222	184	38	214	181	33
S.C. ....	84	62	22	78	60	18	74	57	17
Ga. ....	108	88	20	109	88	21	96	75	21
Fla. ....	125	34	91	127	36	91	122	34	88
S.Atl. ....	755	531	224	735	530	205	694	498	196
Ky. ....	164	135	29	152	126	26	143	122	21
Tenn. ....	146	122	24	155	130	25	138	116	22
Ala. ....	104	81	23	108	84	24	104	81	23
Miss. ....	143	107	36	143	113	30	136	104	32
E.S.Cent. ....	557	445	112	558	453	105	521	423	98
Ark. ....	124	83	41	135	82	53	150	89	61
La. ....	93	63	30	94	58	36	88	55	33
Okla. ....	130	113	17	131	117	14	118	106	12
Texas ....	303	203	100	275	193	82	294	197	97
W.S.Cent. ....	650	462	188	635	450	185	650	447	203
Mont. ....	44	34	10	45	35	10	42	33	9.0
Idaho ....	50	38	12	48	37	11	46	36	10
Wyo. ....	16	11	5	16	11	5.0	14	10	4.0
Colo. ....	50	37	13	55	41	14	48	37	11
N.Mex. ....	21	14	7	22	15	7.0	19	13	6.0
Ariz. ....	39	7	32	39	6.0	33	40	7.0	33
Utah ....	22	17	5	22	17	5.0	23	17	6.0
Nev. ....	3	2	1	4.6	2.6	2.0	4.7	2.4	2.3
Mount. ....	245	160	85	251.6	164.6	87.0	236.7	155.4	81.3
Wash. ....	75	50	25	83	52	31	94	56	38
Oreg. ....	66	49	17	62	50	12	65	50	15
Calif. ....	213	77	136	254	79	175	250	80	170
Pac. ....	354	176	178	399	181	218	409	186	223
U.S. ....	4,703	3,654	1,049	4,688.6	3,642.6	1,046.0	4,565.8	3,508.8	1,057.0

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 April 1969 <sup>1/</sup>

State and division	January through April 1967			January through April 1968			January through April 1969		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	-- Thousands --								
Maine .....	18	13	5	18	13	5.0	17	12	5.0
N.H. ....	7	5	2	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.2	4.2	2.0
Vt. ....	16	13	3	15	12	3.0	14.1	11	3.1
Mass. ....	16	11	5	15	11	4.0	14	10	4.0
R.I. ....	2	1	1	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.1	1.2	.9
Conn. ....	11	8	3	11	8.0	3.0	10.5	7.5	3.0
N.Eng. ....	70	51	19	67	49	18	63.9	45.9	18.0
N.Y. ....	90	71	19	86	68	18	84	66	18
N.J. ....	17	10	7	16	10	6.0	15	9	6.0
Pa. ....	113	100	13	110	98	12	104	92	12
M.Atl. ....	220	181	39	212	176	36	203	167	36
Ohio ....	148	138	10	146	134	12	139	129	10
Ind. ....	121	113	8	122	115	7.0	115	108	7.0
Ill. ....	148	128	20	151	128	23	145	124	21
Mich. ....	134	118	16	131	115	16	121	106	15
Wis. ....	190	175	15	189	173	16	187	173	14
E.N.Cent. ....	741	672	69	739	665	74	707	640	67
Minn. ....	172	161	11	169	159	10	162	152	10
Iowa ....	189	174	15	183	170	13	179	166	13
Mo. ....	175	154	21	162	147	15	166	150	16
N.Dak. ....	50	45	5	50	45	5.0	46	42	4.0
S.Dak. ....	62	58	4	60	56	4.0	58	54	4.0
Nebr. ....	99	88	11	99	92	7.0	97	89	8.0
Kans. ....	106	98	8	101	94	7.0	95	88	7.0
W.N.Cent. ....	853	778	75	824	763	61	803	741	62
Del. ....	5	4	1	5.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0
Md. ....	30	23	7	29	23	6.0	27	21	6.0
Va. ....	104	86	18	101	84	17	95	79	16
W.Va. ....	36	30	6	34	30	4.0	32	28	4.0
N.C. ....	196	164	32	186	160	26	176	155	21
S.C. ....	68	52	16	64	50	14	61	48	13
Ga. ....	93	75	18	92	74	18	86	69	17
Fla. ....	134	36	98	131	35	96	130	33	97
S.Atl. ....	666	470	196	642	460	182	612	437	175
Ky. ....	154	127	27	132	114	18	132	116	16
Tenn. ....	132	111	21	129	111	18	118	103	15
Ala. ....	84	66	18	78	62	16	75	60	15
Miss. ....	116	92	24	117	92	25	107	85	22
E.S.Cent. ....	486	396	90	456	379	77	432	364	68
Ark. ....	108	78	30	108	75	33	112	78	34
La. ....	80	58	22	78	53	25	73	49	24
Okla. ....	119	109	10	116	108	8.0	114	106	8.0
Texas ....	255	182	73	228	172	56	242	178	64
W.S.Cent. ....	562	427	135	530	408	122	541	411	130
Mont. ....	36	29	7	35	28	7.0	33	27	6.0
Idaho ....	38	31	7	38	31	7.0	35	30	5.0
Wyo. ....	14	10	4	14	10	4.0	11	8.0	3.0
Colo. ....	42	32	10	43	34	9.0	39	31	8.0
N.Mex. ....	19	13	6	20	14	6.0	18	13	5.0
Ariz. ....	37	7	30	38	6.0	32	38	6.0	32
Utah ....	18	14	4	18	14	4.0	18	14	4.0
Nev. ....	3	2	1	3.8	2.1	1.7	3.5	2.1	1.4
Mount. ....	207	138	69	209.8	139.1	70.7	195.5	131.1	64.4
Wash. ....	63	46	17	68	48	20	69	48	21
Oreg. ....	57	46	11	55	46	9	54	44	10
Calif. ....	209	80	129	232	73	159	220	74	146
Pac. ....	329	172	157	355	167	188	343	166	177
U.S. ....	4,134	3,285	849	4,034.8	3,206.1	828.7	3,900.4	3,103.0	797.4

<sup>1/</sup> Average number during survey week of each month.

FARM WORK: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of April 20-26, 1969				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
			-- Hours --		
Maine .....	55.1	33.0	47.9	36.7	43.2
N.H. ....	55.6	35.1	51.5	39.4	46.7
Vt. ....	61.8	33.0	51.5	46.2	49.6
Mass. ....	56.4	34.4	50.0	34.5	43.7
R.I. ....	39.7	36.7	38.7	46.7	41.4
Conn. ....	58.0	37.3	51.1	34.6	45.7
N.Eng. ....	56.9	34.2	49.7	37.9	45.4
N.Y. ....	55.3	30.9	46.8	39.1	44.4
N.J. ....	38.6	26.2	35.5	32.6	34.8
Pa. ....	50.3	30.2	43.7	32.5	41.4
M.Atl. ....	51.6	30.2	44.5	35.6	42.1
Ohio ....	41.0	29.8	38.2	27.4	36.2
Ind. ....	37.8	28.6	35.9	26.8	34.2
Ill. ....	46.1	34.2	43.4	33.8	41.3
Mich. ....	47.2	35.4	44.3	30.5	41.2
Wis. ....	57.7	30.3	46.6	34.0	44.4
E.N.Cent. ....	46.2	31.7	41.8	31.4	40.0
Minn. ....	54.3	32.1	46.7	31.0	44.1
Iowa ....	62.1	33.6	53.3	29.0	47.9
Mo. ....	42.7	31.2	40.1	35.1	39.0
N.Dak. ....	56.9	36.4	49.7	40.7	48.4
S.Dak. ....	59.4	36.0	52.2	37.3	49.6
Nebr. ....	57.5	35.7	50.9	34.4	48.2
Kans. ....	45.5	33.2	42.8	31.7	40.9
W.N.Cent. ....	53.2	33.3	47.2	33.3	44.7
Del. ....	41.2	37.7	40.2	35.9	39.1
Md. ....	46.4	36.2	43.9	36.6	41.7
Va. ....	42.4	32.7	40.1	42.2	41.2
W.Va. ....	37.3	29.7	35.7	28.2	34.2
N.C. ....	36.4	28.3	35.5	25.2	31.7
S.C. ....	38.9	32.2	37.2	31.9	34.8
Ga. ....	36.7	27.9	34.7	31.8	33.5
Fla. ....	35.1	30.1	34.0	38.9	37.7
S.Atl. ....	38.8	30.0	36.6	35.2	35.5
Ky. ....	37.9	31.1	36.4	29.6	34.1
Tenn. ....	33.6	30.7	33.1	28.5	31.9
Ala. ....	38.1	27.6	35.8	34.4	35.4
Miss. ....	38.3	29.9	36.2	30.4	33.0
E.S.Cent. ....	36.8	30.0	35.3	30.7	33.5
Ark. ....	41.6	34.4	39.9	44.8	41.9
La. ....	36.9	28.9	35.2	40.1	37.1
Okla. ....	39.5	31.2	37.7	26.7	35.8
Texas ....	44.9	32.4	42.2	42.4	42.2
W.S.Cent. ....	42.0	32.0	39.9	41.8	40.3
Mont. ....	59.0	38.6	53.0	48.4	51.9
Idaho ....	53.0	32.8	46.3	31.7	43.2
Wyo. ....	59.8	32.1	51.9	45.3	49.6
Colo. ....	49.2	32.4	44.7	42.5	44.3
N.Mex. ....	46.4	31.3	43.5	38.5	41.5
Ariz. ....	50.4	39.3	48.2	46.1	46.9
Utah ....	45.1	26.4	38.8	25.8	35.6
Nev. ....	51.6	38.0	49.0	55.3	52.4
Mount. ....	52.1	33.3	46.7	42.3	45.3
Wash. ....	47.6	27.7	41.7	35.7	38.6
Oreg. ....	40.4	30.6	38.0	34.4	37.0
Calif. ....	46.7	32.2	43.4	44.5	44.3
Pac. ....	45.2	30.3	41.3	42.3	41.8
U.S. ....	45.3	31.5	41.4	37.7	40.2

1/ Includes as "other family" only these farm household members working 15 hours or more per week without receiving cash wages.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

---

IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Comments .....	1 - 2
Farm employment and indexes, United States .....	3
Workers on Farms, April 1969 .....	4
Average number of workers on farms January through April 1969, by States and Divisions, with comparisons .....	5
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms April 20-26, 1969 by States and Divisions .....	6

---