

# Farm Labor

Release  
June 10, 1969  
3:00 P.M. EDT

## Farm Labor Force Climbs Seasonally

The Nation's farm labor force for the week of May 18-24 climbed 10 percent above the April survey week. The estimated 5,018,000 total workers was virtually the same as for the May 1968 survey week. There were 3,702,000 farm operators and other unpaid family members. The 1,316,000 hired workers represent a significant 3 percent increase from the May Survey week last year. There were reports of local shortages in areas growing crops with high labor requirements.

The press to complete spring farm work boosted the average work week for all workers to 41.4 hours. Farm operators averaged 48.4 hours, other unpaid family members 32.8 hours, and hired workers 36.8 hours during the week, all higher than a year earlier.

### Percent Change

Item	Farm Employment Weekly Hours Worked					
	All Workers		Farm Operators & Unpaid Family Members		Hired Workers	
	April 1969 to May 1969	May 1968 to May 1969	April 1969 to May 1969	May 1968 to May 1969	April 1969 to May 1969	May 1968 to May 1969
Employment	+ 10	0	+ 5	- 2	+ 25	+ 3
Hours Worked	+ 3	+ 3	+ 5	+3	- 2	+ 4

### Wet Soils Slow Field Activity in Corn Belt

Row crop planting in the Corn Belt was delayed by wet soil and below normal temperatures. West of the Rockies above normal temperatures and light rainfall allowed agricultural field activities to proceed. Heavy rains slowed farm work along the Southeastern Coast.

Small grain harvest was underway in Southern and Southwestern areas. Wheat in Texas neared maturity with harvest expected in the major area by early June. The Oklahoma winter wheat crop was reaching the dough stage while in Kansas the crop was heading. Spring wheat seeding was near completion in North Dakota and Montana. Oat seeding in the North Central States was well advanced.

Corn planting was behind last year in much of the Corn Belt. In Iowa, planting was 75 percent completed compared with virtual completion a year ago. Planting in other States ranged from 50 to 90 percent complete.

Soybean planting in the Corn Belt area was lagging behind normal as wet soils limited field activity. Early plantings in the South Central and Southeastern States have emerged.

Cotton planting was mostly complete in Southeastern States and well advanced in the Southwest. In Arizona and California cultivation and irrigation activities predominate.

Tobacco transplanting was active in the Appalachian States although delayed by wet soils in Kentucky. Sorghum seeding was underway in most growing areas and was about 75 percent completed in Texas. Sugar beet planting was nearly complete and beet thinning demanded a substantial labor force. First cutting of alfalfa hay was underway as far North as the Corn Belt.

Picking of early peaches began in California and in Southeastern States. Valencia orange harvest continued in Florida and California.

Harvest of vegetables continued at a moderate rate in Southern and Western producing areas. Planting for summer harvest was underway in the North.

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, May 1969, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1967	Annual average 1968	May 21-27 1967	May 19-25 1968	May 18-24 1969
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/</b> (Thousands)					
Total .....	4,903	4,745.8	5,306	5,041.1	5,017.8
Family labor .....	3,650	3,532.4	3,917	3,758.6	3,701.4
Hired labor .....	1,253	1,213.4	1,389	1,282.5	1,316.4
<b>INDEXES 2/</b> (1910-14=100)					
Total .....	36	35	36	34	34
Family labor .....	36	35	35	34	34
Hired labor .....	37	36	39	36	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total .....	66	63	66	63	62
Family labor .....	66	64	65	63	62
Hired labor .....	64	62	67	62	63

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, April 1, 1969, United States

Item	Annual average 1968	April 1, 1967	April 1, 1968	April 1, 1969
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>				
Composite rate per hours 1/ .....	\$ 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 2/</b>				
(1910-14=100)	931	849	914	1028
(1957-59=100)	160	146	157	177

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

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, May 1969

State and division	May 1967 Week of 21-27			May 1968 Week of 19-25			May 1969 Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	-- Thousands --								
Maine .....	23	15	8	21	14	7.0	19.3	13	6.3
N.H. ....	8	6	2	8.0	6.0	2.0	7.1	5.1	2.0
Vt. ....	17	13	4	15	12	3.0	15.6	12	3.6
Mass. ....	21	13	8	20	12	8.0	18.7	11	7.7
R.I. ....	3	2	1	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.2	1.4	.8
Conn. ....	15	9	6	15	9.0	6.0	14	8.5	5.5
N. Eng. ....	87	58	29	82	55	27	76.9	51.0	25.9
N.Y. ....	102	76	26	98	73	25	95	70	25
N.Y. ....	26	11	15	25	10	15	23	10	13
Pa. ....	132	114	18	126	109	17	122	106	16
M. Atl. ....	260	201	59	249	192	57	240	186	54
Ohio ....	190	168	22	165	144	21	167	148	19
Ind. ....	160	142	18	127	118	9.0	134	123	11
Ill. ....	220	172	48	174	146	28	192	158	34
Mich. ....	180	150	30	165	137	28	145	125	20
W. Ind. ....	209	190	19	197	181	16	213	195	18
E.N. Cent. ....	959	822	137	828	726	102	851	749	102
Minn. ....	225	201	24	223	199	24	215	191	24
Iowa ....	246	213	33	242	218	24	236	210	26
Mo. ....	234	185	49	195	176	19	191	157	34
N. Dak. ....	76	62	14	72	58	14	70	59	11
S. Dak. ....	75	67	8	75	69	6.0	75	68	7.0
Nebr. ....	124	105	19	119	106	13	115	101	14
Kans. ....	132	112	20	115	103	12	113	98	15
W.N. Cent. ....	1,112	945	167	1,041	929	112	1,015	884	131
Del. ....	9	5	4	9.0	5.0	4.0	8.0	5.0	3.0
Md. ....	40	28	12	41	29	12	37	26	11
Va. ....	131	105	26	126	98	28	123	98	30
W. Va. ....	47	37	10	43	36	7.0	44	34	10
N.C. ....	255	200	55	256	203	53	259	204	55
S.C. ....	88	65	23	90	66	24	76	55	21
Ga. ....	103	82	21	110	84	26	98	77	21
Fla. ....	123	36	87	118	34	84	120	34	86
S. Atl. ....	796	558	238	793	555	238	770	533	237
Ky. ....	198	148	50	167	131	36	167	138	29
Tenn. ....	172	128	44	171	125	46	155	118	37
Ala. ....	127	100	27	133	105	28	121	95	26
Miss. ....	157	113	44	170	116	54	166	117	49
E.S. Cent. ....	654	489	165	641	477	164	609	468	141
Ark. ....	146	92	54	146	90	56	169	92	77
La. ....	98	63	35	97	59	38	95	57	38
Okla. ....	139	118	21	135	117	18	137	121	16
Texas ....	312	207	105	310	201	109	325	207	118
W.S. Cent. ....	695	480	215	688	467	221	726	477	249
Mont. ....	50	33	17	41	31	10	42	28	14
Idaho ....	54	38	16	42	37	15	49	36	13
Wyo. ....	18	12	6	18	12	6.0	15	10	5.0
Colo. ....	61	39	22	60	41	19	56	37	19
N. Mex. ....	27	16	11	26	17	9.0	24	15	9.0
Ariz. ....	40	7	33	40	6.0	34	41	7.0	34
Utah ....	29	20	9	28	20	8.0	27	19	8.0
Nev. ....	6	3	3	5.1	2.6	2.5	4.9	2.4	2.5
Mount. ....	285	168	117	270.1	166.6	103.5	258.9	154.4	104.5
Wash. ....	89	55	34	88	58	30	103	64	39
Oreg. ....	76	52	24	70	52	18	73	50	23
Calif. ....	293	89	204	291	81	210	295	85	210
Pac. ....	458	196	262	449	191	258	471	199	272
U.S. ....	5,306	3,917	1,389	5,041.1	3,758.6	1,282.5	5,017.8	3,701.4	1,316.4

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 May 1969 1/

State and division	January Through May 1967			January Through May 1968			January Through May 1969		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	-- Thousands --								
Maine .....	19	14	5	18	13	5.0	17	12	5.0
N.H. ....	7	5	2	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.3	4.3	2.0
Vt. ....	16	13	3	15	12	3.0	14.2	11	3.2
Mass. ....	18	12	6	16	11	5.0	14.9	10	4.9
R.I. ....	2	1	1	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.0	.9
Conn. ....	12	8	4	12	8.0	4.0	11.2	7.7	3.5
N.Eng. ....	74	53	21	70	50	20	65.5	46.0	19.5
N.Y. ....	92	72	20	89	69	20	86	67	19
N.J. ....	19	10	9	18	10	8.0	16	9.0	7.0
Pa. ....	117	103	14	113	100	13	107	95	12
M.Atl. ....	228	185	43	220	179	41	209	171	38
Ohio ....	157	144	13	149	136	13	145	133	12
Ind. ....	129	119	10	123	115	8.0	119	111	8.0
Ill. ....	162	137	25	156	132	24	155	131	24
Mich. ....	142	124	18	137	119	18	126	110	16
Wis. ....	194	178	16	191	175	16	193	178	15
E.N.Cent. ....	784	702	82	756	677	79	738	663	75
Minn. ....	182	169	13	180	167	13	172	159	13
Iowa ....	200	182	18	195	180	15	190	175	15
Mo. ....	188	161	27	169	153	16	171	152	19
N.Dak. ....	56	49	7	54	47	7.0	51	45	6.0
S.Dak. ....	65	60	5	63	59	4.0	61	57	4.0
Nebr. ....	104	91	13	103	95	8.0	100	91	9.0
Kans. ....	112	101	11	104	96	8.0	98	90	8.0
W.N.Cent. ....	907	813	94	868	797	71	843	769	74
Del. ....	6	4	2	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Md. ....	32	24	8	31	24	7.0	29	22	7.0
Va. ....	110	90	20	106	87	19	102	83	19
W.Va. ....	38	32	6	36	31	5.0	34	29	5.0
N.C. ....	208	171	37	199	168	31	193	165	28
S.C. ....	72	55	17	69	53	16	64	50	14
Ga. ....	94	76	18	96	76	20	88	70	18
Fla. ....	132	36	96	129	35	94	128	33	95
S.Atl. ....	692	488	204	672	478	194	644	456	188
Ky. ....	163	131	32	138	117	21	140	121	19
Tenn. ....	141	115	26	137	114	23	125	106	19
Ala. ....	93	73	20	88	70	18	84	67	17
Miss. ....	124	96	28	128	97	31	119	91	28
E.S.Cent. ....	521	415	106	491	398	93	468	385	83
Ark. ....	115	81	34	116	78	38	123	80	43
La. ....	83	59	24	81	54	27	77	51	26
Okla. ....	123	111	12	120	110	10	119	109	10
Texas ....	266	187	79	245	178	67	259	184	75
W.S.Cent. ....	587	438	149	562	420	142	578	424	154
Mont. ....	39	30	9	36	29	7.0	34	27	7.0
Idaho ....	42	33	9	40	32	8.0	38	31	7.0
Wyo. ....	14	10	4	14	10	4.0	12	9.0	3.0
Colo. ....	46	33	13	47	36	11	42	32	10
N. Mex. ....	21	14	7	21	14	7.0	19	13	6.0
Ariz. ....	38	7	31	38	6.0	32	39	7.0	32
Utah ....	20	15	5	19	15	4.0	20	15	5.0
Neav. ....	3	2	1	4.1	2.2	1.9	3.8	2.2	1.6
Mount. ....	223	144	79	219.1	144.2	74.9	207.8	136.2	71.6
Wash. ....	67	47	20	72	50	22	76	51	25
Oreg. ....	61	47	14	58	47	11	58	46	12
Calif. ....	225	81	144	244	75	169	235	76	159
Pac. ....	353	175	178	374	172	202	369	173	196
U.S. ....	4,369	3,413	956	4,232.1	3,315.2	916.9	4,122.3	3,223.2	899.1

1/ Average number during survey week of each month.

FARM WORK: Weekly hours worked per worker: Average for reporting farms, May 18-24, 1969

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of May 18-24, 1969 .				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
Hours					
Maine	59.8	31.4	51.6	32.9	44.1
N.H.	58.1	30.7	51.9	41.2	47.0
Vt.	66.1	43.8	58.5	40.3	51.3
Mass.	61.8	33.8	53.8	36.0	45.8
R.I.	41.9	28.0	40.3	45.0	42.7
Conn.	64.4	36.0	54.0	36.3	48.3
N. Eng.	61.6	35.1	53.6	36.6	47.0
N.Y.	61.0	31.1	50.7	38.9	46.9
N.J.	40.0	30.2	37.3	31.8	35.9
Pa.	53.5	29.8	45.0	33.5	42.7
M.Atl.	55.8	30.4	46.9	35.6	43.7
Ohio	46.8	34.0	43.0	25.2	39.0
Ind.	42.0	31.5	39.5	25.2	36.7
Ill.	53.2	38.8	49.6	36.6	46.8
Mich.	51.9	37.5	48.5	33.9	45.2
Wis.	62.0	30.7	48.7	34.5	46.4
E.N.Cent.	51.5	34.6	46.0	32.3	43.3
Minn.	61.3	34.7	51.4	36.9	48.9
Iowa	60.3	31.7	51.0	33.0	47.5
Mo.	41.9	33.5	40.2	31.1	37.8
N.Dak.	68.4	39.0	57.5	45.6	55.7
S.Dak.	62.8	36.7	53.8	38.9	51.4
Nebr.	55.5	36.2	49.8	34.1	47.6
Kans.	45.7	31.4	42.5	30.7	40.0
W.N.Cent.	54.8	34.0	48.1	34.4	46.0
Del.	48.6	36.0	44.4	36.2	42.3
Md.	50.4	37.1	46.1	40.3	44.5
Va.	47.3	34.8	43.9	30.1	37.8
W.Va.	40.1	28.3	37.1	18.3	32.2
N.C.	41.4	29.7	37.4	25.4	32.4
S.C.	38.1	30.0	36.3	28.5	32.3
Ga.	37.5	28.8	35.4	29.3	32.9
Fla.	39.6	35.2	38.6	31.6	33.9
S.Atl.	41.5	31.1	38.5	29.4	34.3
Ky.	41.6	28.0	37.4	25.1	32.7
Tenn.	38.7	30.8	36.8	21.6	31.4
Ala.	37.7	28.6	35.5	31.9	34.2
Miss.	42.0	29.9	38.6	37.8	38.1
E.S.Cent.	40.1	29.3	37.1	29.8	34.1
Ark.	42.0	38.0	40.9	37.6	39.4
La.	38.5	28.9	35.9	40.2	37.5
Okla.	43.1	31.6	39.6	27.4	37.4
Texas	48.8	33.6	45.1	42.0	43.7
W.S.Cent.	44.9	33.3	41.9	39.4	40.7
Mont.	57.9	39.9	53.1	43.3	50.4
Idaho	57.8	33.3	49.6	39.5	47.4
Wyo.	56.8	32.6	48.7	47.0	48.1
Colo.	55.2	36.4	50.2	41.3	47.9
N.Mex.	55.2	32.7	48.9	46.2	47.8
Ariz.	56.0	32.5	48.0	41.1	44.5
Utah	51.3	34.2	45.3	29.3	40.0
Nev.	49.6	33.9	46.0	49.3	46.8
Mount.	55.9	35.3	49.7	41.2	46.8
Wash.	50.3	30.4	44.6	38.5	41.8
Oreg.	43.2	31.4	40.2	32.8	37.9
Calif.	48.3	40.2	46.3	48.7	48.2
Pac.	47.5	34.6	44.1	45.9	45.2
U.S.	48.4	32.8	43.6	36.8	41.4

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Comments .....	1 - 2
Farm employment and indexes, United States .....	3
Workers on Farms, May 1969 .....	4
Average number of workers on farms January through May 1969, by States and Divisions, with comparisons .....	5
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms May 18-24, 1969 by States and Divisions .....	6

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