

Farm Labor

Release
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All-Time Low for August Hired Workers

The Nation's farm labor force for the week of August 24-30 fell 5 percent below the August survey week a year ago and the number of hired workers was down 7 percent. The estimated 5,421,000 total workers was 3 percent below the July survey week. There were 3,745,000 farm operators and unpaid family members. The 1,676,000 hired workers is the lowest August total on record.

Farm workers averaged 38.3 hours during the August survey week -- nearly an hour more than in August last year. Farm operators averaged 44.2 hours and other unpaid family members worked 33.9 hours. Hired workers averaged 30.9 hours, 4 percent below the July survey week and 3 percent less than a year ago.

Percent Change

Farm Employment-Weekly Hours Worked

Item	All Workers		Farm Operators & Unpaid Family Members		Hired Workers	
	July 1969 to August 1969	August 1968 to August 1969	July 1969 to August 1969	August 1968 to August 1969	July 1969 to August 1969	August 1968 to August 1969
Employment	- 3	- 5	0	- 4	- 9	- 7
Hours Worked	- 2	+ 2	- 4	0	- 4	- 3

Spring wheat harvest advanced rapidly, nearing completion in most areas except in Montana and Northern North Dakota. Oat and barley harvesting was also nearly finished except in the northern tier of States. Seedbed preparation and

seeding operations for next year's winter wheat crop were underway in much of the Great Plains.

Warm weather through much of the Corn Belt hastened maturity of the corn crop. In Iowa 50 percent of the fields had reached dent stage, compared to about 70 percent in Illinois. Harvest was underway in Texas, Kansas, and the South Central States.

Soybean podding was progressing near normal with much of the early crop starting to yellow. Sorghum harvest was nearly half completed in Texas and beginning in Oklahoma.

Cotton harvest in Texas was interrupted by rains. Light picking was underway in Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Bolls were opening in other Southern States. California cotton fields were being irrigated for the last time. Harvest was beginning in Arizona.

Tobacco harvest was about 75 percent complete in North Carolina and 50 percent complete in Maryland. The Kentucky burley crop was about 18 percent cut while in Tennessee about 45 percent of the burley and 30 percent of the dark fired had been harvested. Harvest was active in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New England.

Peanuts were about 40 percent dug in Georgia and 12 percent in Texas. Rice was 55 percent harvested in Louisiana and 73 percent cut in Texas.

Apples were being picked in Eastern growing areas and in the Far West. The Bartlett pear harvest in California was nearing completion while the Clingstone peach harvest reached peak levels. Almond harvest was active in California.

Vegetables harvest continued active throughout most of the Northern growing States and in the Pacific Coast States. Digging of early potatoes was underway in Idaho and Maine.

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, August 1969, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1967	: Annual : average : 1968	: August : 20-26, : 1967	: August : 18-24, : 1968	: August : 24-30, : 1969
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,903	4,745.8	5,837	5,699.8	5,420.8
Family labor	3,650	3,532.4	4,007	3,888.9	3,744.6
Hired labor	1,253	1,213.4	1,830	1,810.9	1,676.2
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	36	35	36	36	34
Family labor	36	35	36	35	34
Hired labor	37	36	37	37	34
(1957-59=100)					
Total	66	63	66	64	61
Family labor	66	64	66	64	62
Hired labor	64	62	65	64	60

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, July 1, 1969, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1968	: July 1, : 1967	: July 1, : 1968	: July 1, : 1969
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.29
Per month with house	283	275	295	319
Per month with board and room	216	202	217	232
Per week with board and room	52.50	50.00	55.75	58.25
Per week without board or room	66.50	65.00	70.75	75.75
Per day with house	8.20	7.50	8.10	8.80
Per day with board and room	9.30	9.10	9.70	10.50
Per day without board or room	9.90	9.00	9.80	10.80
Per hour with house	1.28	1.23	1.33	1.45
Per hour without board or room	1.44	1.36	1.45	1.58
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	931	859	922	1,010
(1957-59=100)	160	148	159	174

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, August 1969 1/

State and division	August 1967 Week of 20-26			August 1968 Week of 18-24			August 1969 Week of 24-30		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousand								
Maine	27	16	11	24	14	10	24	14	10
N. H.	10	6	4	9.0	6.0	3.0	8.5	5.3	3.2
Vt.	17	13	4	17	13	4.0	16.1	12	4.1
Mass.	28	12	16	27	11	16	26	11	15
R. I.	3	2	1	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.3	1.4	.9
Conn.	23	9	14	23	9.0	14	21.7	8.7	13
N. Eng.	108	58	50	103	55	48	98.6	52.4	46.2
N. Y.	125	79	46	123	79	44	121	77	44
N. J.	36	11	25	34	11	23	31	10	21
Pa.	159	129	30	152	124	28	147	118	29
M. Atl.	320	219	101	309	214	95	299	205	94
Ohio	163	135	28	167	137	30	160	131	29
Ind.	135	119	16	139	122	17	127	114	13
Ill.	187	150	37	180	148	32	173	143	30
Mich.	176	132	44	169	125	44	163	124	39
Wis.	230	197	33	241	208	33	222	193	29
E. N. Cent.	891	733	158	896	740	156	845	705	140
Minn.	243	210	33	225	192	33	219	186	33
Iowa	255	210	45	254	203	51	242	200	42
Mo.	242	188	54	238	185	53	204	165	39
N. Dak.	105	74	31	95	70	25	98	71	27
S. Dak.	88	73	15	86	70	16	86	68	18
Nebr.	133	105	28	125	103	22	126	104	22
Kans.	151	118	33	145	111	34	133	102	31
W. N. Cent.	1217	978	239	1168	934	234	1108	896	212
Del.	11	6	5	11	5.0	6.0	10	5.0	5.0
Md.	46	29	17	47	32	15	43	29	14
Va.	141	97	44	139	94	45	145	97	48
W. Va.	45	39	6	44	37	7.0	42	36	6.0
N. C.	465	279	186	446	261	185	419	259	160
S. C.	125	84	41	108	76	32	100	72	28
Ga.	145	105	40	141	105	36	134	100	34
Fla.	82	32	50	86	38	48	81	30	51
S. Atl.	1060	671	389	1022	648	374	974	628	346
Ky.	252	171	81	206	149	57	192	138	54
Tenn.	180	129	51	170	122	48	161	121	40
Ala.	98	75	23	102	78	24	97	73	24
Miss.	154	125	29	169	139	30	156	127	29
E. S. Cent.	684	500	184	647	488	159	606	459	147
Ark.	175	91	84	179	89	90	173	83	90
La.	119	63	56	112	59	53	97	56	41
Okla.	132	102	30	116	94	22	115	94	21
Texas	320	209	111	337	201	136	290	195	95
W. S. Cent.	746	465	281	744	443	301	675	428	247
Mont.	60	35	25	49	33	16	59	36	23
Idaho	66	42	24	60	39	21	62	40	22
Wyo.	20	12	8	18	11	7.0	19	12	7.0
Colo.	75	41	34	77	45	32	82	42	40
N. Mex.	27	16	11	27	18	9.0	24	15	9.0
Ariz.	32	7	25	33	7.0	26	32	7.0	25
Utah	37	24	13	31	21	10	32	21	11
Nev.	9	4	5	6.8	2.9	3.9	6.2	3.2	3.0
Mount.	326	181	145	301.8	176.9	124.9	316.2	176.2	140
Wash.	97	60	37	93	58	37	90	57	33
Oreg.	91	50	41	91	46	42	93	52	41
Calif.	297	92	205	326	86	240	316	86	230
Pac.	485	202	283	509	190	319	499	195	304
U. S.	5837	4007	1830	5699.8	3888.9	1810.9	5420.8	3744.6	1676.2

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 August 1969 1/

State and division	January through August 1967			January through August 1968			January through August 1969		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousand								
Maine	21	14	7	21	14	7.0	19.6	13	6.6
N. H.	8	6	2	7.0	5.0	2.0	7.1	4.7	2.4
Vt.	17	13	4	16	12	4.0	15.6	12	3.6
Mass.	21	12	9	20	11	9.0	18.2	10	8.2
R. I.	3	2	1	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.2	1.3	0.9
Conn.	17	9	8	16	8.0	8.0	14.9	8.0	6.9
N. Eng.	87	56	31	83	52	31	77.6	49	28.6
N. Y.	104	76	28	100	73	27	97	71	26
N. J.	25	11	14	24	10	14	22	10	12
Pa.	131	112	19	126	108	18	119	102	17
M. Atl.	260	199	61	250	191	59	238	183	55
Ohio	165	145	19	157	139	18	152	136	16
Ind.	135	122	13	130	119	11	122	112	10
Ill.	176	145	31	168	140	28	166	138	28
Mich.	156	129	27	147	121	26	139	116	23
Wis.	205	185	20	205	185	20	202	183	19
E. N. C.	837	727	110	807	704	103	781	685	96
Minn.	207	183	24	203	178	25	193	171	22
Iowa	225	194	31	221	190	31	214	186	28
Mo.	207	171	36	193	164	29	187	159	28
N. Dak.	70	56	14	66	54	12	65	53	12
S. Dak.	72	64	8	70	62	8.0	69	60	9.0
Nebr.	116	97	19	114	99	15	112	97	15
Kans.	127	107	20	119	102	17	112	95	17
W. N. Cent.	1024	872	152	986	849	137	952	821	131
Del.	7	4	3	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md.	37	26	11	35	26	9.0	33	24	9.0
Va.	126	92	34	121	88	33	116	84	32
W. Va.	41	34	7	39	33	6.0	37	31	6.0
N. C.	291	202	89	275	193	82	266	188	78
S. C.	89	63	26	86	62	24	78	57	21
Ga.	109	82	27	106	82	24	98	77	21
Fla.	116	34	82	113	34	79	113	32	81
S. Atl.	816	537	279	782	522	260	748	497	251
Ky.	187	142	45	161	127	34	155	126	29
Tenn.	154	119	35	149	117	32	135	109	26
Ala.	96	73	23	92	72	20	88	68	20
Miss.	133	102	31	138	105	33	128	100	28
E. S. Cent.	570	436	134	540	421	119	506	403	103
Ark.	136	84	52	135	81	54	140	81	59
La.	92	59	33	88	55	33	83	52	31
Okla.	130	111	19	126	109	17	126	110	16
Texas	296	200	96	279	190	89	286	195	91
W. S. Cent.	654	454	200	628	435	193	635	438	197
Mont.	45	31	14	42	30	12	42	29	13
Idaho	51	36	15	49	35	14	47	34	13
Wyo.	17	11	6	16	10	6.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	57	36	21	59	39	20	55	35	20
N. Mex.	23	14	9	23	15	8.0	22	14	8.0
Ariz.	37	7	30	37	6.0	31	38	7.0	31
Utah	25	18	7	25	18	7.0	24	17	7.0
Nev.	5	3	2	4.9	2.5	2.4	4.5	2.5	2.0
Mount.	260	156	104	255.9	155.5	100.4	247.5	148.5	98.0
Wash.	84	54	30	87	56	31	87	55	32
Oreg.	78	50	28	76	49	27	77	49	28
Calif.	250	85	165	269	78	191	261	79	182
Pac.	412	189	223	432	183	249	425	183	242
U. S.	4920	3626	1294	4763.9	3512.5	1251.4	4610.1	3407.5	1202.6

1/ Average number during survey week of each month.

Farm work: Weekly hours worked per worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of August 24-30, 1969				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
----- H o u r s -----					
Maine	55.9	34.9	48.8	38.5	44.8
N. H.	39.7	38.2	39.4	30.9	35.5
Vt.	62.7	36.3	52.6	43.4	49.4
Mass.	58.7	30.5	48.1	39.2	44.3
R. I.	46.4	22.5	42.1	21.6	31.4
Conn.	53.0	36.7	46.8	38.0	44.1
N. Eng.	55.5	34.6	48.0	38.5	43.9
N. Y.	59.4	33.8	50.1	42.8	47.4
N. J.	40.7	28.9	37.5	36.0	37.0
Pa.	53.7	34.0	46.5	30.2	42.2
M. Atl.	55.2	33.6	47.4	35.2	43.5
Ohio	45.2	33.8	41.7	24.9	37.2
Ind.	36.9	32.0	35.9	28.3	34.4
Ill.	40.9	34.7	39.7	29.0	37.5
Mich.	48.7	32.2	43.6	26.3	39.5
Wis.	59.4	34.7	48.4	35.3	46.0
E. N. Cent.	46.3	33.6	41.9	29.4	39.5
Minn.	52.6	35.4	47.8	32.0	43.8
Iowa	52.5	31.6	45.7	25.7	41.5
Mo.	41.6	33.9	40.0	30.5	37.7
N. Dak.	70.1	47.1	59.5	50.8	57.6
S. Dak.	58.1	38.0	51.0	37.0	48.1
Nebr.	52.1	38.3	47.5	27.2	43.4
Kans.	46.8	34.1	43.5	29.8	40.2
W. N. Cent.	50.9	35.3	46.0	31.4	43.8
Del.	34.5	32.9	34.0	31.6	33.6
Md.	44.9	36.8	41.9	37.8	40.6
Va.	43.4	35.9	41.0	29.4	35.8
W. Va.	39.3	31.8	37.0	21.2	33.1
N. C.	39.3	35.0	37.6	20.2	27.8
S. C.	36.9	32.7	35.7	26.8	31.4
Ge.	35.6	31.6	34.6	27.5	31.5
Fla.	34.5	29.9	33.4	32.9	33.1
S. Atl.	38.9	33.8	37.2	25.1	31.0
Ky.	39.1	31.4	37.0	24.0	31.7
Tenn.	31.1	31.1	31.1	22.2	28.4
Ala.	32.4	30.1	31.8	26.4	30.0
Miss.	34.8	26.7	32.4	29.3	30.6
E. S. Cent.	34.5	30.4	33.2	25.4	30.3
Ark.	34.8	34.1	34.7	35.2	34.9
La.	30.9	30.6	30.8	29.9	30.5
Okla.	40.9	31.5	38.4	28.2	36.3
Texas	39.8	35.2	38.7	40.3	39.3
W. S. Cent.	38.0	33.6	36.9	35.3	36.0
Mont.	61.1	46.0	54.9	48.2	52.6
Idaho	56.4	32.6	47.3	35.8	44.0
Wyo.	60.4	36.2	51.5	49.7	50.7
Colo.	56.9	40.1	51.1	40.5	48.0
N. Mex.	50.6	42.1	48.2	41.3	45.3
Ariz.	46.6	39.4	44.6	44.6	44.6
Utah	47.1	32.7	41.5	30.0	37.5
Nev.	50.8	31.6	43.7	50.5	47.6
Mount	55.5	38.6	49.3	40.8	46.6
Wash.	43.0	34.7	40.5	39.1	39.8
Oreg.	41.4	31.7	37.8	36.8	37.5
Calif.	48.6	38.8	45.8	41.9	42.7
Pac.	44.8	35.5	41.9	39.7	41.7
U. S.	44.2	33.9	40.8	30.9	38.3

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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