

Farm Labor

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Farm Labor Force Continues Downward Trend

The Nation's farm labor force for the week of October 19-25 fell 3 percent below the October survey week a year ago. The estimated 5,150,000 total workers was 5 percent below the September survey week. There were 3,825,000 farm operators and unpaid family members and 1,325,000 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 39.6 hours during the October survey week -- virtually unchanged from October last year. Farm operators averaged 45.0 hours, unpaid family members 32.6 hours, and hired workers 36.4 hours.

Percent Change

Farm Employment-Weekly Hours Worked

Item	All Workers		Farm Operators & Unpaid Family Members		Hired Workers	
	Sept. 1969 to Oct. 1969	Oct. 1968 to Oct. 1969	Sept. 1969 to Oct. 1969	Oct. 1968 to Oct. 1969	Sept. 1969 to Oct. 1969	Oct. 1968 to Oct. 1969
Employment	-5	-3	-2	-3	-13	-4
Hours Worked	+2	0	+1	0	+2	0

Corn harvest was hampered in many Corn Belt States by wet fields and high moisture content of the grain, but was near a normal completion percentage in most other States. Picking proceeded rapidly in Eastern and South Central States.

Winter wheat and other small grain seeding neared completion in the Plains, Pacific Northwest, and Corn Belt States. Generally, the early seeded fields are up to good stands and are making good growth.

Cotton picking was near peak levels in most areas except in the Texas High Plains where heavy rain stymied harvest activity. Harvest was 57 percent complete in Mississippi, 70 percent in Arkansas, and 75 percent in Louisiana.

Soybean combining was moving slowly in most Corn Belt States where wet fields hampered field activities. However, combining was very active in the South Central and Mid-Atlantic States.

Sorghum harvest was running behind normal in the Central and Northern Plains States but was about 85 percent complete in Texas. Peanut digging was nearing completion in Virginia and the Carolinas. Sugarbeet harvest was advancing as weather permitted.

Apple picking was entering the final stages in most growing areas that were not already finished for the season. Wine grape harvest was past peak in California while table grape harvest continued active.

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, October 1969, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1967	Annual average 1968	Oct. 22-28 1967	Oct. 20-26 1968	Oct. 19-25 1969
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,903	4,745.8	5,482	5,332.6	5,150.4
Family labor	3,650	3,532.4	4,082	3,954.8	3,824.8
Hired labor	1,253	1,213.4	1,400	1,377.8	1,325.6
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	36	35	35	34	33
Family labor	36	35	36	34	33
Hired labor	37	36	33	32	31
(1957-59=100)					
Total	66	63	63	61	59
Family labor	66	64	65	63	61
Hired labor	64	62	57	56	54

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, 1969, United States

Item	Annual average 1968	October 1, 1967	October 1, 1968	October 1, 1969
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.37
Per month with house	283	261	283	304
Per month with board and room	216	203	220	235
Per week with board and room	52.50	48.00	53.75	57.50
Per week without board or room	66.50	60.50	66.50	72.75
Per day with house	8.20	7.70	8.60	9.30
Per day with board and room	9.30	8.50	9.20	10.00
Per day without board or room	9.90	9.50	10.50	11.40
Per hour with house	1.28	1.32	1.42	1.54
Per hour without board or room	1.44	1.29	1.41	1.51
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	931	882	964	1,039
(1957-59=100)	160	152	166	179

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, October 1969 1/

State and division	October 1967			October 1968			October 1969		
	Week of 22-28			Week of 20-26			Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	23	15	8	19	13	6.0	18.3	12	6.3
N. H.	7	5	2	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.6	4.9	1.7
Vt.	17	13	4	15	12	3.0	14.5	11	3.5
Mass.	20	11	9	19	11	8.0	17.9	10	7.9
R. I.	3	2	1	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.2	.8
Conn.	12	8	4	12	8.0	4.0	12.3	7.8	4.5
N. Eng.	82	54	28	75	51	24	71.6	46.9	24.7
N. Y.	116	84	32	112	81	31	106	77	29
N. J.	22	10	12	21	10	11	20	9.0	11
Pa.	132	110	22	123	105	18	118	102	16
M. Atl.	270	204	66	256	196	60	244	188	56
Ohio	174	151	23	172	149	23	168	149	19
Ind.	140	122	18	144	124	20	137	121	16
Ill.	185	156	29	196	164	32	186	154	32
Mich.	155	123	32	153	117	36	141	113	28
Wis.	185	164	21	196	174	22	189	168	21
E. N. Cent.	839	716	123	861	728	133	821	705	116
Minn.	204	186	18	184	170	14	190	174	16
Iowa	246	214	32	240	212	28	240	210	30
Mo.	231	179	52	223	173	50	224	178	46
N. Dak.	65	55	10	66	54	12	61	52	9.0
S. Dak.	73	65	8	73	65	8.0	74	64	10
Nebr.	120	103	17	110	97	13	107	95	12
Kans.	126	113	13	119	109	10	112	101	11
W. N. Cent.	1,065	915	150	1,015	880	135	1,008	874	134
Del.	9	6	3	8.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0
Md.	37	27	10	32	24	8.0	31	24	7.0
Va.	137	103	34	128	97	31	126	95	31
W. Va.	44	38	6	42	36	6.0	40	35	5.0
N. C.	289	232	57	256	208	48	241	197	44
S. C.	100	77	23	97	79	18	85	69	16
Ge.	146	114	32	146	118	28	140	112	28
Fla.	104	38	66	101	38	63	104	40	64
S. Atl.	866	635	231	810	605	205	775	577	198
Ky.	239	200	39	217	182	35	215	185	30
Tenn.	238	193	45	225	187	38	221	180	41
Ala.	164	135	29	167	136	31	163	127	36
Miss.	190	144	46	192	145	47	163	120	43
E. S. Cent.	831	672	159	801	650	151	762	612	150
Ark.	166	104	62	172	102	70	196	103	93
La.	136	72	64	131	70	61	117	66	51
Okla.	136	115	21	140	117	23	146	120	26
Texas	368	233	135	361	208	153	323	193	130
W. S. Cent.	806	524	282	804	497	307	782	482	300
Mont.	41	29	12	43	31	12	40	30	10
Idaho	57	43	14	54	39	15	51	39	12
Wyo.	16	11	5	16	10	6.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	65	37	28	65	40	25	65	35	30
N. Mex.	36	19	17	37	21	16	30	18	12
Ariz.	38	7	31	38	7.0	31	38	7.0	31
Utah	27	19	8	27	18	9.0	26	18	8.0
Nev.	6	3	3	4.6	2.8	1.8	4.8	2.9	1.9
Mount.	286	168	118	284.6	168.8	115.8	269.8	159.9	109.9
Wash.	78	52	26	68	48	20	69	48	21
Oreg.	66	49	17	64	47	17	63	47	16
Calif.	293	93	200	294	84	210	285	85	200
Pac.	437	194	243	426	179	247	417	180	237
U. S.	5,482	4,082	1,400	5,332.6	3,954.8	1,377.8	5,150.4	3,824.8	1,325.6

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 October 1969 1/

State and division	January through October 1967			January through October 1968			January through October 1969		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	25	15	10	23	14	9.0	21.5	13	8.5
N. H.	9	6	3	7	5.0	2.0	7.2	4.7	2.5
Vt.	17	13	4	16	12	4.0	15.6	12	3.6
Mass.	22	12	10	20	11	9.0	18.5	10	8.5
R. I.	3	2	1	3	2.0	1.0	2.2	1.3	.9
Conn.	16	9	7	15	8.0	7.0	14.6	8.0	6.6
N. Eng.	92	57	35	84	52	32	79.6	49.0	30.6
N. Y.	108	78	30	104	75	29	100	72	28
N. J.	26	11	15	24	10	14	22	10	12
Pa.	132	112	20	126	108	18	119	102	17
M. Atl.	266	201	65	254	193	61	241	184	57
Ohio	165	145	20	159	139	20	154	136	18
Ind.	136	122	14	132	120	12	124	113	11
Ill.	177	146	31	171	143	28	169	141	28
Mich.	157	129	28	149	121	28	139	116	23
Wia.	203	182	21	205	184	21	202	182	20
E. W. Coast.	838	724	114	816	707	109	788	688	100
Minn.	208	185	23	202	178	24	194	173	21
Iowa	228	197	31	224	193	31	220	191	29
Mo.	212	173	39	201	167	34	196	164	32
N. Dak.	69	56	13	67	55	12	65	54	11
S. Dak.	72	64	8	71	63	8.0	71	62	9.0
Nebr.	117	98	19	113	99	14	111	96	15
Kans.	128	109	19	120	104	16	113	97	16
W. N. Cent.	1,034	882	152	998	859	139	970	837	133
Del.	8	5	3	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md.	38	27	11	35	26	9.0	33	24	9.0
Va.	128	94	34	124	90	34	99	87	12
W. Va.	43	36	7	40	34	6.0	38	32	6.0
N. C.	297	212	85	276	200	76	267	195	72
S. C.	92	66	26	90	66	24	80	59	21
Ga.	116	88	28	114	89	25	106	83	23
Fla.	113	36	77	111	36	75	110	34	76
S. Atl.	835	564	271	797	545	252	740	518	222
Ky.	200	153	47	173	136	37	166	134	32
Tenn.	169	132	37	161	128	33	149	121	28
Ala.	108	84	24	105	82	23	100	78	22
Miss.	145	110	35	142	113	36	136	104	32
E. S. Cent.	622	479	143	588	459	129	551	437	114
Ark.	141	88	53	143	86	57	151	85	66
La.	103	63	40	99	59	40	90	55	35
Okla.	132	112	20	128	110	18	129	111	18
Texas	307	205	102	297	195	102	294	196	98
W. S. Cent.	683	468	215	667	450	217	664	447	217
Mont.	45	31	14	42	30	12	42	30	12
Idaho	54	38	16	50	36	14	49	36	13
Wyo.	17	11	6	17	11	6.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	60	37	23	61	39	22	59	36	23
N. Mex.	25	15	10	25	16	9.0	24	15	9.0
Ariz.	37	7	30	37	6.0	31	38	7.0	31
Utah	27	19	8	25	18	7.0	25	18	7.0
Nev.	6	3	3	5.1	2.6	2.5	4.6	2.6	2.0
Mount.	271	161	110	262.1	158.6	103.5	256.6	154.6	102.0
Wash.	84	54	30	86	56	30	85	54	31
Oreg.	75	50	25	74	49	25	75	49	26
Calif.	263	86	177	277	79	198	273	81	192
Pac.	422	190	232	437	184	253	433	184	249
U. S.	5,063	3,726	1,337	4,903.1	3,607.6	1,295.5	4,723.2	3,498.6	1,224.6

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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