

Farm Labor

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November Farm Labor Force Drops 17 Percent Below Last Month

The Nation's total farm labor working force is estimated at 4,257,000 workers for the week of November 23-29, 3 percent less than a year earlier and 17 percent below the survey week in October. There were 3,296,000 working farm operators and unpaid family members while the remaining 961,000 persons were hired workers. Most of the reduction in worker numbers can be attributed to the seasonal decline in harvest and fall planting activities, although a portion of the decline is a continuation of the downward trend in farm worker numbers.

Farm workers averaged only 36.4 hours during the November survey week reflecting the slowing activity and the Thanksgiving Holiday. Farm operators averaged 40.2 hours, unpaid family members 30.6 hours, and hired workers 33.3 hours, all substantially below a month earlier.

PERCENT CHANGE

Farm Employment -- Weekly Hours Worked

Item	All Workers		Farm Operators & Unpaid Family Members		Hired Workers	
	Oct. 1969 to Nov. 1969	Nov. 1968 to Nov. 1969	Oct. 1969 to Nov. 1969	Nov. 1968 to Nov. 1969	Oct. 1969 to Nov. 1969	Nov. 1968 to Nov. 1969
Employment	-17	-3	-14	-3	-27	-1
Hours Worked	-8	-2	-9	-2	-9	-8

Harvest Near Completion -- Winter Preparations Underway

Corn harvest in the Central States neared completion as farmers took advantage of ideal weather conditions. Most States in this area were at or near the 90 percent completion level except Indiana and Ohio. Picking was in the final stage throughout the Southern States.

Soybean combining was finished in the Northern States and fast drawing to a close further South where only the Carolina's had about 30 percent of the acreage remaining in the field.

Cotton picking was advancing into the final stages in the Southeastern and Delta States. Harvest in Texas and Oklahoma was about 60 percent complete and moving rapidly. In Arizona and California harvest was near completion with 60 percent of the Arizona crop already ginned.

Sugar beet harvest was slow in Colorado and Kansas due to frost. Digging was active in California while most other States were at or near completion. Sugarcane was 80 percent cut in Louisiana and advancing rapidly there as well as in Florida.

Peanut digging was in the final stages in Texas and Oklahoma and completed in Virginia. Grain sorghum harvest was also near completion in Texas and Oklahoma.

Citrus harvest in California continued with an increasing volume of Navel oranges. Harvest activity was increasing in Florida. Pecan harvest was active in the Southern States.

Vegetable harvest was interrupted by heavy rains in Southern Texas. Harvest activity continued seasonally from California and Florida.

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, November 1969, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1967	: Annual : average : 1968	: Nov. : 19-25 : 1967	: Nov. : 17-23 : 1968	: Nov. : 23-29 : 1969
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,903	4,745.8	4,542	4,368.5	4,257.4
Family labor	3,650	3,532.4	3,520	3,398.8	3,296.1
Hired labor	1,253	1,213.4	1,022	969.7	961.3
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	36	35	36	35	34
Family labor	36	35	36	35	34
Hired labor	37	36	36	34	34
(1957-59=100)					
Total	66	63	65	63	62
Family labor	66	64	66	64	62
Hired labor	64	62	63	60	59

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, November 1969 1/

State and division	November 1967			November 1968			November 1969		
	Week of 19-25			Week of 17-23			Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	18	14	4	18	13	5.0	16.9	12	4.9
N. H.	7	5	2	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.4	4.6	1.8
Vt.	16	13	3	15	12	3.0	14.7	11	3.7
Mass.	17	11	6	17	11	6.0	14.9	10	4.9
R. I.	3	2	1	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.9	1.2	.7
Conn.	11	8	3	10	7.0	3.0	10.3	7.3	3.0
N. Eng.	72	53	19	70	50	20	65.1	46.1	19.0
N. Y.	99	78	20	94	75	19	90	71	19
N. J.	16	10	6	16	10	6.0	14	9.0	5.0
Pa.	112	97	15	101	89	12	99	87	12
M. Atl.	226	185	41	211	174	37	203	167	36
Ohio	157	142	15	153	139	14	146	135	11
Ind.	128	114	14	122	112	10	116	108	8.0
Ill.	198	164	34	166	143	23	163	140	23
Mich.	132	113	19	119	106	13	120	106	14
Wis.	186	169	17	187	173	14	178	164	14
E. N. Cent.	801	702	99	747	673	74	723	653	70
Minn.	176	165	11	162	151	11	171	160	11
Iowa	223	192	31	210	185	25	207	182	25
Mo.	171	150	21	174	154	20	171	152	19
N. Dak.	45	40	5	45	39	6.0	43	38	5.0
S. Dak.	58	53	5	57	51	6.0	58	52	6.0
Nebr.	107	95	12	97	86	11	96	86	10
Kans.	105	97	8	100	94	6.0	97	90	7.0
W. N. Cent.	885	792	93	845	760	85	843	760	83
Del.	7	5	2	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Md.	30	23	7	28	22	6.0	28	23	5.0
Va.	118	93	25	108	88	20	108	87	21
W. Va.	38	34	4	37	32	5.0	34	30	4.0
N. C.	217	175	42	190	160	30	179	150	29
S. C.	68	54	14	66	53	13	68	54	14
Ga.	108	78	30	97	74	23	98	74	24
Fla.	120	33	87	121	36	85	118	35	83
S. Atl.	706	495	211	653	469	184	639	457	182
Ky.	211	174	37	188	164	24	182	160	22
Tenn.	202	170	32	189	164	25	177	155	22
Ala.	121	93	28	119	91	28	118	92	26
Miss.	123	99	24	139	115	24	119	98	21
E. S. Cent.	657	536	121	635	534	101	596	505	91
Ark.	135	94	41	149	95	54	164	87	77
La.	86	61	25	80	56	24	70	52	18
Okla.	120	100	20	115	99	16	120	100	20
Texas	307	200	107	313	200	113	294	188	106
W. S. Cent.	648	455	193	657	450	207	648	427	221
Mont.	35	27	8	34	27	7.0	34	27	7.0
Idaho	39	31	8	37	30	7.0	36	29	7.0
Wyo.	14	9	5	12	8.0	4.0	13	8.0	5.0
Colo.	41	31	10	48	32	16	45	29	16
N. Mex.	26	15	11	28	15	13	29	15	14
Ariz.	40	6	34	40	6.0	34	39	6.0	33
Utah	21	17	4	21	17	4.0	20	16	4.0
Nev.	4	2	2	3.5	1.8	1.7	3.3	2.0	1.3
Mount.	220	138	82	223.5	136.8	86.7	219.3	132	87.3
Wash.	61	46	15	55	43	12	57	43	14
Oreg.	52	44	8	47	41	6.0	48	40	8.0
Calif.	214	74	140	225	68	157	216	66	150
Pac.	327	164	163	327	152	175	321	149	172
U. S.	4,542	3,520	1,022	4,368.5	3,398.8	969.7	4,257.4	3,296.1	961.3

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 November 1969 1/

State and division	January through November 1967			January through November 1968			January through November 1969		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	----- Thousands -----								
Maine	24	15	9	22	14	8.0	21.2	13	8.2
N. H.	9	6	3	7.0	5.0	2.0	7.1	4.7	2.4
Vt.	17	13	4	15	12	3.0	14.6	11	3.6
Mass.	21	12	9	20	11	9.0	18.1	10	8.1
R. I.	3	2	1	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.2	1.3	.9
Conn.	16	9	7	15	8.0	7.0	14.3	8.0	6.3
N. Eng.	90	57	33	82	52	30	77.5	48.0	29.5
N. Y.	107	78	29	103	75	28	99	72	27
N. J.	25	11	14	23	10	13	21	10	11
Pa.	131	111	20	124	106	18	118	101	17
M. Atl.	263	200	63	250	191	59	238	183	55
Ohio	165	145	20	159	139	20	153	136	17
Ind.	135	121	14	131	119	12	124	113	11
Ill.	179	148	31	171	143	28	169	141	28
Mich.	154	127	27	147	120	27	138	115	23
Wis.	202	181	21	203	183	20	200	180	20
E. N. Cent.	835	722	113	811	704	107	784	685	99
Minn.	205	183	22	197	175	22	192	172	20
Iowa	228	197	31	222	192	30	218	190	28
Mo.	208	171	37	199	166	33	194	163	31
N. Dak.	68	55	13	66	54	12	63	52	11
S. Dak.	71	63	8	70	62	8.0	70	61	9.0
Nebr.	116	98	18	112	98	14	109	95	14
Kans.	126	108	18	119	103	16	112	97	15
W. N. Cent.	1,022	875	147	985	850	135	958	830	128
Del.	8	5	3	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md.	36	26	10	35	26	9.0	32	24	8.0
Va.	127	94	33	122	90	32	100	87	13
W. Va.	42	35	7	40	34	6.0	38	32	6.0
N. C.	289	208	81	269	197	72	259	191	68
S. C.	90	65	25	87	64	23	79	59	20
Ga.	116	87	29	112	87	25	105	82	23
Fla.	114	36	78	112	36	76	111	34	77
S. Atl.	822	556	266	784	538	246	731	513	218
Ky.	201	155	46	175	139	36	168	137	31
Tenn.	171	135	36	165	132	33	152	124	28
Ala.	110	85	25	106	83	23	102	79	23
Miss.	143	109	34	148	113	35	135	104	31
E. S. Cent.	625	484	141	594	467	127	557	444	113
Ark.	140	88	52	143	87	56	152	85	67
La.	101	63	38	97	59	38	89	55	34
Okla.	131	111	20	127	109	18	128	110	18
Texas	308	205	103	298	195	103	293	195	98
W. S. Cent.	680	467	213	665	450	215	662	445	217
Mont.	44	31	13	41	30	11	41	29	12
Idaho	52	37	15	50	36	14	48	35	13
Wyo.	17	11	6	16	10	6.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	58	36	22	59	38	21	58	35	23
N. Mex.	25	15	10	26	16	10	24	15	9.0
Ariz.	38	7	31	37	6.0	31	38	7.0	31
Utah	26	19	7	24	17	7.0	25	18	7.0
Nev.	6	3	3	4.9	2.5	2.4	4.4	2.5	1.9
Mount.	266	158	107	257.9	155.5	102.4	253.4	151.5	101.9
Wash.	81	53	28	82	54	28	82	53	29
Oreg.	73	49	24	71	48	23	72	48	24
Calif.	259	85	174	272	78	194	267	79	188
Pac.	413	187	226	425	180	245	421	180	241
U. S.	5,016	3,707	1,309	4,853.9	3,587.5	1,266.4	4,681.9	3,479.5	1,202.4

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 November 23-29, 1969				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
	Hours				
Maine	54.1	31.1	47.0	31.9	41.4
N. H.	56.6	29.2	51.7	35.6	44.2
Vt.	57.9	30.9	48.4	46.7	47.9
Mass.	55.7	30.1	48.0	39.9	44.7
R. I.	48.0	42.0	46.0	61.2	49.8
Conn.	55.4	35.7	48.7	35.9	45.1
N. Eng.	55.5	31.6	48.2	38.9	44.7
N. Y.	56.5	31.9	48.7	40.9	46.3
N. J.	39.4	30.4	37.1	34.7	36.5
Pa.	48.0	31.0	42.8	32.6	40.8
M. Atl.	51.0	31.3	44.9	37.3	42.9
Ohio	40.1	31.4	37.8	28.1	36.2
Ind.	35.7	29.3	34.3	26.5	33.1
Ill.	40.3	34.5	39.2	34.2	38.2
Mich.	44.7	32.0	41.3	34.1	40.0
Wis.	55.4	30.4	45.9	35.8	44.2
E. N. Cent.	43.3	31.7	39.8	32.7	38.8
Minn.	50.0	31.4	43.8	31.8	42.1
Iowa	57.1	33.8	50.2	36.6	47.5
Mo.	39.2	32.7	38.0	31.5	36.7
N. Dak.	37.6	31.2	35.9	37.8	36.1
S. Dak.	46.6	29.9	41.8	28.7	39.9
Nebr.	48.9	32.6	44.9	35.5	43.4
Kans.	42.2	29.2	39.2	30.4	37.7
W. N. Cent.	47.0	31.9	42.8	33.6	41.5
Del.	34.0	28.0	32.2	33.6	32.6
Md.	39.1	32.3	37.0	28.9	35.1
Va.	40.3	30.0	37.9	35.5	37.0
W. Va.	33.5	26.1	31.8	27.0	31.0
N. C.	30.7	30.0	30.6	24.6	28.7
S. C.	34.7	27.8	33.0	29.6	31.6
Ga.	33.3	27.9	31.9	27.8	30.3
Fla.	23.2	20.0	22.7	10.4	17.1
S. Atl.	33.2	28.5	32.0	20.5	29.0
Ky.	37.4	31.4	35.5	27.6	32.6
Tenn.	30.4	27.6	29.9	23.2	28.3
Ala.	31.9	26.8	30.8	23.4	28.3
Miss.	32.6	29.5	32.1	28.0	29.9
E. S. Cent.	33.2	29.0	32.2	25.4	29.9
Ark.	33.4	26.4	31.8	29.9	30.8
La.	27.3	30.9	28.0	34.6	30.3
Okla.	38.3	29.7	36.1	26.5	34.1
Texas	40.2	30.9	38.2	35.2	37.0
W. S. Cent.	36.8	29.8	35.2	32.5	34.2
Mont.	39.2	32.1	37.5	40.9	38.1
Idaho	36.1	29.0	34.2	24.2	32.6
Wyo.	44.9	34.5	42.3	44.1	43.0
Colo.	40.9	38.9	40.5	38.0	40.0
N. Mex.	41.1	29.7	37.4	42.2	39.2
Ariz.	43.2	36.5	41.8	43.5	42.8
Utah	34.9	26.8	32.5	21.9	29.6
Nev.	41.8	23.7	37.1	33.9	36.4
Mount.	39.2	32.4	37.4	39.4	38.1
Wash.	33.8	30.3	33.1	37.0	34.4
Oreg.	33.4	27.8	32.2	30.3	31.7
Calif.	41.0	37.4	40.3	47.6	45.6
Pac.	36.6	32.5	35.8	45.9	41.5
U. S.	40.2	30.6	37.5	33.0	36.4

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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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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