

Farm Labor

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Weather Holds Farm Employment Level Down

The National farm labor force for the week of April 19-25 was 4 percent below that of the April 1969 survey week, but 12 percent above that of March. Inclement weather in many areas slowed farm work and also the seasonal increase in number of workers.

The estimated 4,356,000 total workers included 3,365,000 farm operators and other unpaid family members together with 991,000 hired farm workers. The latter number was 6 percent below the April survey week a year ago.

Farm workers on reporting farms worked an average 39.0 hours during the April survey week -- down 1.2 hours from April last year. Farm operators averaged 43.4 hours and other unpaid family members worked 31.2 hours. Hired workers averaged 37.0 hours, 1.0 hour less than a year ago.

Percent Change

Item	Farm Employment - Weekly Hours Worked					
	All Workers		Farm Operators + Unpaid Family Members		Hired Workers	
	March 1970	April 1969	March 1970	April 1969	March 1970	April 1969
	to	to	to	to	to	to
	April 1970	April 1970	April 1970	April 1970	April 1970	April 1970
Employment	+12	-4	+10	-4	+21	-6
Hours Worked	+10	-3	+14	-4	+3	-2

Spring Farm Activities Lag Behind Normal

Cold winter temperatures held sway over the West with rain and snow in the Northern part. Although the East was warmer than normal, rain kept fields wet and slowed farm activities.

Seeding of spring wheat was very slow with only 17 percent seeded in North Dakota and 10 percent in Montana. Oat seeding progress ranged from virtually complete in Kansas to just beginning in the Northern tier of States. Winter wheat had made good progress and was beginning to head in Oklahoma and Kansas. Small grains were in the heading stage in California, Arizona, and along the Gulf Coast. Sorghum planting in Texas was 41 percent complete.

Corn planting was underway along the southern edge of the Corn Belt, and land preparation was active where weather permitted. Planting was also active in many States outside the Corn Belt.

Cotton planting was underway in the Southern States, 22 percent complete in Texas, and nearly complete in California and Arizona. Some replanting was necessary in Arizona and California.

Tobacco transplanting was nearing completion in Georgia and was underway in North Carolina. Rice seeding was 60 percent complete in Texas, 70 percent in Louisiana, and 40 percent in Arkansas. Peanut planting was active in major growing areas.

Picking of Valencia oranges was heavy in Florida and increasing in California. Navel orange harvest was nearing completion in California. Grapefruit and lemon picking continued in producing States.

Florida vegetable harvest continued but with lighter than normal supplies. Vegetable harvest was at seasonal levels in Arizona, Texas, and California. Planting of spring vegetables was beginning in more northerly producing States.

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 1970, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1968	Annual average 1969	April 21-27 1968	April 20-26 1969	April 19-25 1970
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,748.8	4,589.8	4,688.6	4,552.0	4,356.0
Family labor	3,535.4	3,415.4	3,642.6	3,498.9	3,364.5
Hired labor	1,213.4	1,174.4	1,046.0	1,053.1	991.5
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	35	34	35	34	33
Family labor	35	34	35	34	32
Hired labor	36	35	37	37	35
(1957-59=100)					
Total	64	61	64	62	60
Family labor	64	62	64	62	60
Hired labor	62	60	63	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, April 1, 1969, United States

Item	Annual average 1969	April 1, 1968	April 1, 1969	April 1, 1970
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 1.33	\$ 1.08	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.29
Per month with house	307	270	3/297	319
Per month with board and room ..	234	206	228	245
Per week with board and room ...	3/56.75	50.00	54.25	59.25
Per week without board or room .:	3/73.00	63.50	70.00	76.50
Per day with house	9.00	8.00	8.70	9.60
Per day with board and room	10.10	8.50	9.20	9.90
Per day without board or room ..:	10.90	9.50	10.30	11.30
Per hour with house	1.42	1.17	1.34	1.40
Per hour without board or room .:	1.58	1.44	1.59	1.66
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,023	914	3/1,029	1,096
(1957-59=100)	176	157	177	189

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ Revised March 1970.

Workers on Farms, April 1970

State and division	April 1968			April 1969			April 1970		
	Week of 21-27			Week of 20-26			Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
----- T h o u s a n d s -----									
Maine	18	13	5.0	18.1	13	5.1	17.4	12	5.4
N. H.	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.7	4.7	2.0	5.8	4.1	1.7
Vt.	15	12	3.0	14.4	11	3.4	14.3	11	3.3
Mass.	17	12	5.0	15	10	5.0	14	9.2	4.8
R. I.	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.1	1.3	.8	1.9	1.2	.7
Conn.	14	9.0	5.0	12	7.5	4.5	11.8	7.5	4.3
N. Eng.	73	52	21	68.3	47.5	20.8	65.2	45.0	20.2
N. Y.	94	72	22	90	70	20	87	68	19
N. J.	20	10	10	18	9.0	9.0	18	9.0	9.0
Pa.	125	109	16	115	101	14	112	99	13
M. Atl.	239	191	48	223	180	43	217	176	41
Ohio	167	150	17	156	142	14	145	133	12
Ind.	132	122	10	126	116	10	122	113	9.0
Ill.	181	148	33	180	150	30	163	138	25
Mich.	142	125	17	131	113	18	136	117	19
Wis.	209	191	18	205	188	17	210	193	17
E. N. Cent.	831	736	95	798	709	89	776	694	82
Minn.	205	190	15	197	179	18	173	163	10
Iowa	211	197	14	216	196	20	212	194	18
Mo.	186	166	20	196	171	25	183	162	21
N. Dak.	66	58	8.0	62	55	7.0	49	45	4.0
S. Dak.	70	65	5.0	70	64	6.0	67	63	4.0
Nebr.	115	104	11	120	104	16	113	99	14
Kans.	114	105	9.0	107	97	10	102	93	9.0
W. N. Cent.	967	885	82	968	866	102	899	819	80
Del.	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Md.	34	27	7.0	31	24	7.0	29	23	6.0
Va.	117	96	21	113	91	22	109	89	20
W. Va.	42	35	7.0	38	32	6.0	38	32	6.0
N. C.	222	184	38	212	179	33	213	175	38
S. C.	78	60	18	76	58	18	77	58	19
Ge.	109	88	21	96	75	21	96	77	19
Fla.	127	36	91	121	34	87	122	37	85
S. Atl.	735	530	205	693	497	196	690	495	195
Ky.	152	126	26	138	116	22	128	109	19
Tenn.	155	130	25	138	116	22	129	111	18
Ala.	108	84	24	103	80	23	90	71	19
Miss.	143	113	30	136	104	32	128	96	32
E. S. Cent.	558	453	105	515	416	99	475	387	88
Ark.	135	82	53	150	89	61	141	78	63
La.	94	58	36	87	55	32	73	47	26
Okla.	131	117	14	116	105	11	125	111	14
Texas	275	193	82	294	197	97	275	190	85
W. S. Cent.	635	450	185	647	446	201	614	426	188
Mont.	45	35	10	42	33	9.0	37	29	8.0
Idaho	48	37	11	46	36	10	45	35	10
Wyo.	16	11	5.0	14	10	4.0	14	10	4.0
Colo.	55	41	14	49	38	11	48	37	11
N. Mex.	22	15	7.0	19	13	6.0	19	14	5.0
Ariz.	39	6.0	33	40	7.0	33	36	6.0	30
Utah	22	17	5.0	23	17	6.0	22	17	5.0
Nev.	4.6	2.6	2.0	4.7	2.4	2.3	4.8	2.5	2.3
Mount.	251.6	164.6	87.0	237.7	156.4	81.3	225.8	150.5	75.3
Wash.	83	52	31	94	56	38	84	54	30
Oreg.	62	50	12	62	49	13	59	47	12
Calif.	254	79	175	246	76	170	251	71	180
Pac.	399	181	218	402	181	221	394	172	222
U. S.	4,688.6	3,642.6	1,046.0	4,552.0	3,498.9	1,053.1	4,356.0	3,364.5	991.5

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 1970 1/

State and division	January through April 1968			January through April 1969			January through April 1970		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	----- Thousands -----								
Maine	18	13	5.0	16.7	12	4.7	15.9	11	4.9
N. H.	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.2	1.8	5.5	3.9	1.6
Vt.	15	12	3.0	14.4	11	3.4	14.4	11	3.4
Mass.	15	11	4.0	13.4	9.4	4.0	12.9	8.7	4.2
R. I.	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.2	.8	1.8	1.2	.6
Conn.	11	8.0	3.0	10.4	7.4	3.0	9.8	6.8	3.0
N. Eng.	67	49	18	62.9	45.2	17.7	60.3	42.6	17.7
N. Y.	86	68	18	85	67	18	82	66	16
N. J.	16	10	6.0	15	9.0	6.0	15	9.0	6.0
Pa.	110	98	12	104	92	12	102	90	12
M. Atl.	212	176	36	204	168	36	199	165	34
Ohio	146	134	12	139	129	10	129	120	9.0
Ind.	122	115	7.0	117	110	7.0	113	107	6.0
Ill.	151	128	23	143	123	20	137	118	19
Mich.	131	115	16	121	106	15	122	106	16
Wis.	189	173	16	187	173	14	184	170	14
E. N. Cent.	739	665	74	707	641	66	685	621	64
Minn.	169	159	10	162	152	10	148	140	8.0
Iowa	183	170	13	179	166	13	175	163	12
Mo.	162	147	15	166	150	16	157	143	14
N. Dak.	50	45	5.0	46	42	4.0	42	38	4.0
S. Dak.	60	56	4.0	58	54	4.0	57	53	4.0
Nebr.	99	92	7.0	97	89	8.0	94	86	8.0
Kans.	101	94	7.0	95	88	7.0	93	86	7.0
W. N. Cent.	824	763	61	803	741	62	766	709	57
Del.	5.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0
Md.	29	23	6.0	27	21	6.0	25	20	5.0
Va.	101	84	17	95	79	16	93	77	16
W. Va.	34	30	4.0	32	28	4.0	31	27	4.0
N. C.	186	160	26	174	153	21	170	148	22
S. C.	64	50	14	62	49	13	61	48	13
Ga.	92	74	18	85	68	17	82	66	16
Fla.	131	35	96	129	33	96	124	33	91
S. Atl.	642	460	182	609	435	174	591	423	168
Ky.	132	114	18	124	108	16	115	101	14
Tenn.	129	111	18	118	103	15	114	100	14
Ala.	78	62	16	75	59	16	68	54	14
Miss.	117	92	25	107	85	22	106	82	24
E. S. Cent.	456	379	77	424	355	69	403	337	66
Ark.	108	75	33	112	78	34	109	70	39
La.	78	53	25	71	49	22	61	43	18
Okla.	116	108	8.0	113	105	8.0	116	106	10
Texas	228	172	56	242	178	64	230	168	62
W. S. Cent.	530	408	122	538	410	128	516	387	129
Mont.	35	28	7.0	33	27	6.0	32	26	6.0
Idaho	38	31	7.0	35	30	5.0	36	30	6.0
Wyo.	14	10	4.0	11	8.0	3.0	11	8.0	3.0
Colo.	43	34	9.0	40	32	8.0	37	30	7.0
N. Mex.	20	14	6.0	18	13	5.0	18	13	5.0
Ariz.	38	6.0	32	38	6.0	32	36	6.0	30
Utah	18	14	4.0	18	14	4.0	18	14	4.0
Nev.	3.8	2.1	1.7	3.5	2.1	1.4	3.6	2.0	1.6
Mount.	209.8	139.1	70.7	196.5	132.1	64.4	191.6	129	62.6
Wash.	68	48	20	69	48	21	68	48	20
Oreg.	55	46	9.0	53	44	9.0	54	44	10
Calif.	232	73	159	223	73	150	223	68	155
Pac.	355	167	188	345	165	180	345	160	185
U. S.	4,034.8	3,206.1	828.7	3,889.4	3,092.3	797.1	3,756.9	2,973.6	783.3

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 April 19-25, 1970				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
----- H o u r s -----					
Maine	52.6	30.7	45.8	34.6	40.8
N. H.	57.6	34.7	53.2	37.0	46.7
Vt.	57.9	40.3	51.2	41.6	48.2
Mass.	51.3	32.1	45.7	38.7	42.8
R. I.	45.6	24.0	42.0	54.0	47.5
Conn.	55.8	35.4	49.0	37.6	45.8
N. Eng.	54.4	34.1	48.2	38.2	44.5
N. Y.	57.0	32.1	48.3	37.9	44.9
N. J.	34.3	37.1	34.8	38.3	35.5
Pa.	50.5	29.8	43.6	33.0	41.5
M. Atl.	52.2	31.2	45.0	36.4	42.4
Ohio	40.5	31.3	38.2	25.4	36.0
Ind.	38.1	27.7	35.9	26.9	34.4
Ill.	40.6	32.5	39.0	34.0	38.1
Mich.	50.6	32.6	45.5	26.2	41.2
Wis.	59.3	30.3	46.8	38.3	45.4
E. N. Cent.	45.7	30.9	41.0	31.0	39.6
Minn.	48.5	29.1	42.5	34.0	41.5
Iowa	61.2	32.2	51.9	30.7	47.8
Mo.	41.3	32.2	39.4	28.8	37.1
N. Dak.	42.9	35.5	40.9	38.3	40.6
S. Dak.	52.3	34.4	46.5	33.6	44.9
Nebr.	53.7	35.5	48.5	31.1	45.8
Kans.	44.3	32.8	41.8	31.3	40.0
W. N. Cent.	49.6	32.4	44.6	31.3	42.7
Del.	32.5	32.2	32.4	38.4	33.7
Md.	40.7	34.4	38.8	37.2	38.5
Va.	41.7	32.4	39.3	33.4	37.3
W. Va.	37.5	26.8	34.8	26.3	33.1
N. C.	39.1	30.1	36.6	25.8	32.2
S. C.	38.3	29.6	36.0	31.6	33.9
Ga.	38.7	29.8	36.5	31.1	34.4
Fla.	42.1	35.4	40.5	36.9	38.0
S. Atl.	39.5	30.8	37.2	33.0	34.9
Ky.	35.1	29.9	34.0	25.7	31.6
Tenn.	31.0	29.5	30.8	24.2	29.2
Ala.	33.5	28.3	32.4	26.9	30.7
Miss.	33.3	25.4	31.7	27.3	29.1
E. S. Cent.	33.2	28.5	32.2	26.2	30.1
Ark.	35.6	32.5	35.0	34.8	34.9
La.	36.2	31.5	35.3	38.9	36.7
Okla.	40.4	28.7	37.5	29.9	36.1
Texas	42.6	31.9	40.3	40.5	40.4
W. S. Cent.	40.0	31.2	38.1	37.8	37.8
Mont.	45.6	34.7	42.8	41.0	42.4
Idaho	48.0	30.4	42.9	31.5	40.4
Wyo.	53.1	30.2	46.0	53.7	48.7
Colo.	46.6	35.9	43.8	38.0	42.4
N. Mex.	49.9	25.7	42.5	50.4	44.8
Ariz.	45.1	39.9	44.0	44.8	44.4
Utah	41.7	28.5	37.4	27.3	35.1
Nev.	42.5	28.1	38.1	43.8	40.9
Mount.	46.8	32.2	42.6	41.3	42.2
Wash.	45.9	31.3	42.3	36.8	39.7
Oreg.	34.7	29.3	33.2	32.6	33.1
Calif.	47.6	40.5	45.9	49.4	48.5
Pac.	43.5	34.4	41.2	46.8	44.3
U. S.	43.4	31.2	39.9	37.0	39.0

^{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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