

Farm Labor

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Seasonal Jump in Farm Workers

The Nation's farm labor force was an estimated 4,907,000 workers during the survey week of May 17-23, up 13 percent from a month earlier. The 3,622,000 family workers was 8 percent above a month earlier, while the 1,285,000 hired workers represented a seasonal increase of 30 percent from a month earlier. The numbers of both family and hired workers were down 2 percent from May last year.

Farm workers on reporting farms worked an average 42.2 hours during the May survey week--up approximately 1.0 hour from May last year. Farm operators averaged 49.6 hours, other unpaid family members 33.4 hours, and hired workers 37.5 hours during the survey week, all higher than a year earlier.

Warm Weather Accelerates Field Activity in Central United States

Hot summer weather dominated Central United States during the survey week, speeding development of small grains and allowing rapid planting of row crops.

Wheat harvest was underway in portions of the Southwest. The Texas crop was maturing rapidly and harvest was active in southern areas. Approximately 68 percent of the Oklahoma wheat acreage had reached the dough stage while in Kansas 84 percent of the crop was headed. Small grain seeding was active in the North Central States; however, rain and surplus soil moisture continued to hamper progress in certain parts of the area.

Corn planting was ahead of last year in much of the Corn Belt. In Iowa, planting was 95 percent completed compared to 75 percent a year ago. Planting in other States ranged from 55 to 95 percent finished.

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Soybean planting increased in the Corn Belt and is ahead of usual in Iowa and Nebraska. Planting in other major soybean areas was lagging behind normal because of dry soils.

Cotton planting was virtually completed in Southeastern States. In Arkansas, weed and insect control activities predominate. Texas cotton is 72 percent planted. In Arizona and California, crop development is later than normal.

Potato planting was 60 percent completed in Idaho, but wet fields limited planting in Maine and the Red River Valley. Tobacco transplanting was active in the Appalachian States and was about 80 percent completed in North Carolina. Sorghum seeding progressed rapidly in most growing areas and was 76 percent completed in Texas.

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

Harvest of vegetables continued in full swing 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 1970, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1968	: Annual : average : 1969	: May : 19-25 : 1968	: May : 18-24 : 1969	: May : 24-30 : 1970
FARM EMPLOYMENT ^{1/}					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,748.8	4,589.8	5,062.1	4,998.7	4,907.5
Family labor	3,535.4	3,415.4	3,777.6	3,686.3	3,622.1
Hired labor	1,213.4	1,174.4	1,284.5	1,312.4	1,285.4
INDEXES ^{2/}					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	35	34	35	34	34
Family labor	35	34	34	34	33
Hired labor	36	35	36	36	36
(1957-59=100)					
Total	64	61	63	62	61
Family labor	64	62	63	62	60
Hired labor	62	60	62	63	62

^{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. Composite rate does not include piece rate workers.

^{2/} Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

^{3/} Revised March 1970.

Workers on Farms, May 1970 1/

State and division	May 1968			May 1969			May 1970		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	----- T h o u s a n d s -----								
Maine	21	14	7.0	19.3	13	6.3	17.8	12	5.8
N. H.	8.0	6.0	2.0	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.1	4.4	1.7
Vt.	15	12	3.0	15.6	12	3.6	14.4	11	3.4
Mass.	20	12	8.0	18.7	11	7.7	16.8	9.4	7.4
R. I.	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.2	1.4	.8	2.0	1.3	.7
Conn.	15	9.0	6.0	14.0	8.5	5.5	12.4	7.4	5.0
N. Eng.	82	55	27	76.8	50.9	25.9	69.5	45.5	24.0
N. Y.	98	73	25	97	71	26	92	69	23
N. J.	25	10	15	23	10	13	24	10	14
Pa.	126	109	17	122	106	16	117	101	16
M. Atl.	249	192	57	242	187	55	233	180	53
Ohio	165	144	21	167	148	19	163	148	20
Ind.	127	118	9.0	136	125	11	148	135	13
Ill.	174	146	28	191	157	34	185	153	32
Mich.	165	137	28	145	125	20	153	133	20
Wis.	218	200	18	213	195	18	212	194	18
E. N. Cent.	849	745	104	852	750	102	866	763	103
Minn.	223	199	24	215	191	24	198	178	20
Iowa	242	218	24	236	210	26	242	217	25
Mo.	195	176	19	191	157	34	203	163	40
N. Dak.	72	58	14	70	59	11	67	56	11
S. Dak.	75	69	6.0	75	68	7.0	74	67	7.0
Nebr.	119	106	13	115	101	14	122	104	18
Kans.	115	103	12	113	98	15	117	101	16
W. N. Cent.	1,041	929	112	1,015	884	131	1,023	886	137
Del.	9.0	5.0	4.0	9.0	5.0	4.0	9.0	5.0	4.0
Md.	41	29	12	36	26	10	35	26	9.0
Va.	126	98	28	128	98	30	128	97	31
W. Va.	43	36	7.0	44	34	10	42	34	8.0
N. C.	256	203	53	255	201	54	235	188	47
S. C.	90	66	24	77	56	21	77	59	18
Ga.	110	84	26	98	77	21	99	78	21
Fla.	118	34	84	120	34	86	123	36	87
S. Atl.	793	555	238	767	531	236	748	523	225
Ky.	167	131	36	161	130	31	153	118	35
Tenn.	171	125	46	155	118	37	158	117	41
Ala.	133	105	28	120	94	26	106	84	22
Miss.	170	116	54	166	117	49	161	109	52
E. S. Cent.	641	477	164	602	459	143	578	428	150
Ark.	146	90	56	169	92	77	165	86	79
La.	97	59	38	93	57	36	78	51	27
Okla.	135	117	18	134	119	15	135	115	20
Texas	310	201	109	325	207	118	302	203	99
W. S. Cent.	688	467	221	721	475	246	680	455	225
Mont.	41	31	10	42	28	14	43	31	12
Idaho	52	37	15	49	36	13	47	35	12
Wyo.	18	12	6.0	15	10	5.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	60	41	19	57	38	19	63	43	20
N. Mex.	26	17	9.0	24	15	9.0	20	14	6.0
Ariz.	40	6.0	34	41	7.0	34	37	6.0	31
Utah	28	20	8.0	27	19	8.0	26	19	7.0
Nev.	5.1	2.6	2.5	4.9	2.4	2.5	5.0	2.6	2.4
Mount.	270.1	166.6	103.5	259.9	155.4	104.5	256	160.6	95.4
Wash.	88	58	30	103	64	39	96	56	40
Oreg.	70	52	18	69	49	20	67	49	18
Calif.	291	81	210	291	81	210	291	76	215
Pac.	449	191	258	463	194	269	454	181	273
U. S.	5,062.1	3,777.6	1,284.5	4,998.7	3,686.3	1,312.4	4,907.5	3,622.1	1,285.4

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 1970 1/

State and division	January through May 1968			January through May 1969			January through May 1970		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
----- T h o u s a n d s -----									
Maine	18	13	5.0	17.0	12	5.0	16.1	11	5.1
N. H.	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.2	4.3	1.9	5.7	4.0	1.7
Vt.	15	12	3.0	14.4	11	3.4	14.4	11	3.4
Mass.	16	11	5.0	14.5	9.7	4.8	13.7	8.9	4.8
R. I.	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.2	.8	1.8	1.2	.6
Conn.	12	8.0	4.0	11.1	7.6	3.5	10.3	6.9	3.4
N. Eng.	70	50	20	65.2	45.8	19.4	62.0	43.0	19.0
N. Y.	89	69	20	88	68	20	83	66	17
N. J.	18	10	8.0	16	9.0	7.0	16	9.0	7.0
Pa.	113	100	13	107	95	12	104	92	12
M. Atl.	220	179	41	211	172	39	203	167	36
Ohio	149	136	13	145	133	12	137	126	11
Ind.	123	115	8.0	121	113	8.0	121	113	8.0
Ill.	156	132	24	153	130	23	146	125	21
Mich.	137	119	18	126	110	16	128	111	17
Wis.	191	175	16	193	178	15	190	175	15
E. N. Cent.	756	677	79	738	664	74	722	650	72
Minn.	180	167	13	172	159	13	159	148	11
Iowa	195	180	15	190	175	15	189	174	15
Mo.	169	153	16	171	152	19	166	147	19
N. Dak.	54	47	7.0	51	45	6.0	47	42	5.0
S. Dak.	63	59	4.0	61	57	4.0	60	56	4.0
Nebr.	103	95	8.0	100	91	9.0	100	90	10
Kans.	104	96	8.0	98	90	8.0	98	89	9.0
W. N. Cent.	868	797	71	843	769	74	819	746	73
Del.	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Md.	31	24	7.0	28	22	6.0	28	22	6.0
Va.	106	87	19	102	83	19	100	81	19
W. Va.	36	31	5.0	34	29	5.0	34	29	5.0
N. C.	199	168	31	191	163	28	183	156	27
S. C.	69	53	16	65	50	15	64	50	14
Ga.	96	76	20	88	70	18	86	69	17
Fla.	129	35	94	127	33	94	123	33	90
S. Atl.	672	478	194	641	454	187	624	444	180
Ky.	138	117	21	131	112	19	122	104	18
Tenn.	137	114	23	125	106	19	123	104	19
Ala.	88	70	18	84	66	18	76	60	16
Miss.	128	97	31	119	91	28	117	88	29
E. S. Cent.	491	398	93	459	375	84	438	356	82
Ark.	116	78	38	123	80	43	120	73	47
La.	81	54	27	76	51	25	65	45	20
Okla.	120	110	10	117	108	9.0	120	108	12
Texas	245	178	67	259	184	75	244	175	69
W. S. Cent.	562	420	142	575	423	152	549	401	148
Mont.	36	29	7.0	34	27	7.0	34	27	7.0
Idaho	40	32	8.0	38	31	7.0	38	31	7.0
Wyo.	14	10	4.0	12	9.0	3.0	12	9.0	3.0
Colo.	47	36	11	43	33	10	43	33	10
N. Mex.	21	14	7.0	19	13	6.0	18	13	5.0
Ariz.	38	6.0	32	39	7	32	36	6.0	30
Utah	19	15	4.0	20	15	5.0	19	15	4.0
Nev.	4.1	2.2	1.9	3.8	2.2	1.6	3.9	2.1	1.8
Mount.	219.1	144.2	74.9	208.8	137.2	71.6	203.9	136.1	67.8
Wash.	72	50	22	76	51	25	73	49	24
Oreg.	58	47	11	56	45	11	57	45	12
Calif.	244	75	169	237	75	162	236	69	167
Pac.	374	172	202	369	171	198	366	163	203
U. S.	4,232.1	3,315.2	916.9	4,110.0	3,211.0	899.0	3,986.9	3,106.1	880.8

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 May 24-30, 1970				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	----- H o u r s -----				
Maine	57.3	31.0	49.0	28.0	39.9
N. H.	60.6	33.2	54.4	40.2	48.1
Vt.	62.0	30.4	50.2	44.0	48.4
Mass.	55.5	31.8	48.4	39.3	44.6
R. I.	43.4	29.0	39.3	46.0	41.7
Conn.	52.1	35.7	46.6	41.0	45.0
N. Eng.	57.2	31.9	49.1	37.8	44.5
N. Y.	61.3	33.6	51.7	38.4	47.5
N. J.	40.9	34.0	39.0	26.0	35.7
Pa.	54.0	32.9	46.7	32.1	43.6
M. Atl.	56.2	33.3	48.3	33.2	44.3
Ohio	50.3	32.8	44.6	27.5	40.9
Ind.	48.8	35.2	44.8	32.5	42.1
Ill.	53.6	37.5	49.7	38.8	47.3
Mich.	56.1	35.7	50.0	33.6	46.1
Wis.	61.1	30.5	48.0	37.3	46.2
E. N. Cent.	54.0	34.3	47.4	34.5	44.7
Minn.	60.2	33.5	50.7	37.4	48.6
Iowa	63.3	31.9	52.0	30.8	48.1
Mo.	49.4	36.1	46.1	32.7	42.3
N. Dak.	66.9	41.5	57.2	45.8	55.4
S. Dak.	63.3	37.7	54.5	40.7	52.2
Nebr.	60.3	36.0	52.7	36.7	50.0
Kans.	51.9	34.0	47.2	29.2	43.2
W. N. Cent.	58.1	34.9	50.4	34.6	47.5
Del.	52.6	36.9	47.8	26.2	40.7
Md.	49.1	36.4	45.0	34.9	42.3
Va.	47.1	35.1	43.6	28.1	36.9
W. Va.	38.8	28.8	35.9	24.5	33.5
N. C.	40.6	28.3	36.6	24.0	31.5
S. C.	38.1	29.6	35.9	30.3	33.3
Ga.	38.7	30.2	36.5	29.3	33.6
Fla.	42.3	35.0	40.3	40.1	40.2
S. Atl.	41.5	30.8	38.3	32.3	35.0
Ky.	43.5	32.0	40.3	22.5	32.7
Tenn.	39.4	31.2	37.4	19.7	30.7
Ala.	35.2	29.8	33.9	28.7	32.2
Miss.	42.6	31.9	39.9	43.0	41.8
E. S. Cent.	40.4	31.3	38.1	29.8	34.6
Ark.	42.7	36.3	41.1	43.2	42.2
La.	36.3	30.0	34.7	36.4	35.3
Okla.	46.2	33.8	43.0	34.1	41.0
Texas	48.6	33.3	44.4	38.4	42.0
W. S. Cent.	45.4	33.5	42.2	39.5	41.1
Mont.	59.4	34.7	51.3	43.8	49.5
Idaho	54.0	36.0	47.6	37.2	45.4
Wyo.	59.5	37.5	53.0	45.0	49.6
Colo.	57.9	34.2	49.9	41.2	47.7
N. Mex.	44.6	29.1	40.7	37.1	39.4
Ariz.	49.6	35.3	46.4	40.8	43.1
Utah	48.3	32.2	42.2	27.6	38.1
Nev.	46.7	24.3	40.9	39.2	40.3
Mount.	54.4	34.0	47.7	39.8	45.3
Wash.	48.5	35.0	45.3	38.4	42.0
Oregon	40.5	29.4	37.4	34.4	36.6
Calif.	48.3	41.5	46.5	49.8	49.0
Pac.	46.2	36.1	43.6	47.1	45.7
U. S.	49.6	33.4	44.5	37.5	42.2

^{1/} Includes as "other family" only those farm household members working 15 hours or more per week without receiving cash wages.

Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey

The April 1970 issue of Farm Labor included (page 7) selected farm wage rate data derived from a January probability sample of employers of farm labor. Data are presented in this issue derived from a similar survey conducted in April 1970. The data presented do not replace the farm wage rate series regularly published in Farm Labor, but supplement them.

The size of the sample for these surveys was relatively small--about 2,800 employers for both the January and April surveys. Accordingly, the initial publication of the January data was limited to averages for the United States. However, since the number of hired farm workers in California is much larger than in other States, in both January and April, the California sample of 365 employers is larger than for any other State. It provides estimates with essentially the same precision as those for the U. S. Therefore, in view of expressed interest in the California data they are included in this issue of Farm Labor along with April data for the United States.

Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey
Farm Wage Rates, California and United States

Item	: January 11-17, : April 12-17,			
	: 1970 : 1970			
	: Cali- : United : Cali- : United			
	: fornia : States : fornia : States			
Farm Wage Rates ^{1/}				
All Hired Farm Workers	2.07	1.85	2.10	1.69
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.15	2.24	2.60	2.19
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week and Month	2.06	1.82	2.04	1.67
Workers Paid by Hour only	1.85	1.69	1.88	1.67
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.06	1.98	2.04	1.82
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	1.87	1.78	1.87	1.73
Type of Work Performed:				
Field and Livestock Workers	1.96	1.72	2.01	1.60
Packinghouse Workers	2.01	1.81	1.83	1.67
Machine Operators	2.04	1.86	1.94	1.56
Maintenance and Bookkeeping Workers	2.18	2.14	2.58	2.29
Supervisors	3.23	3.12	2.98	3.06
Other Agricultural Workers	2.03	2.07	2.27	1.70

^{1/} Averages of wage rates for all methods of payment are on a per-hour basis.

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