

# Farm Labor

Release:  
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## All-Time Low for August Hired Workers

The Nation's farm labor force had an estimated 5,306,000 workers during the survey week of August 23-29. This represented a decline of 2 percent from both the corresponding period for August 1969 and the July 1970 survey week. There were 3,644,000 farm operators and other unpaid family members in the labor force. The 1,663,000 hired workers were the lowest August total on record.

Farm workers averaged 38.6 hours during the August survey week--up 0.3 hours from August last year. Farm operators averaged 44.4 hours and other unpaid family members worked 33.8 hours. Hired workers averaged 34.3 hours, 3.4 hours more than a year ago.

### Percent Change

#### Farm Employment-Weekly Hours Worked

Item	All Workers		Farm Operators and Unpaid Family Members		Hired Workers	
	July 1970 to Aug. 1970	Aug. 1969 to Aug. 1970	July 1970 to Aug. 1970	Aug. 1969 to Aug. 1970	July 1970 to Aug. 1970	Aug. 1969 to Aug. 1970
Employment	- 2	- 2	+ 1	- 3	- 7	- 2
Hours Worked	- 2	+ 1	- 3	0	+ 2	+11

## Harvest of Small Grains Nears Completion

Spring wheat harvest advanced rapidly and was nearing completion, except in Montana and North Dakota and on high elevations in the West. 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 most of the Great Plains.

Warm weather through the Corn Belt rapidly advanced maturity of the corn crop. Development of the crop is ahead of normal in most areas, and in Iowa and Illinois 70 percent of the fields had reached dent stage. Corn harvest along the Gulf Coast was delayed by wet weather.

Soybean podding was ahead of last year and many of the early fields were starting to yellow. Sorghum harvest was nearly half completed in Texas and making excellent progress in Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

Cotton harvest along the Gulf Coast was delayed by wet fields. The Texas crop was 10 percent harvested, compared to 14 percent last year. Light picking was underway in South Carolina and bolls were opening in other southern States. The crop continues to develop well in California.

Tobacco harvest activities increased in Kentucky but cutting is behind normal. Cutting of the burley crop began in North Carolina and good progress was made barning flue-cured. In Virginia, flue-cured tobacco was 45 percent harvested.

Peanut digging was delayed by rains in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. The Texas crop was about 12 percent dug by the end of the survey week. Rice harvest was 74 percent completed in Texas, and 60 percent finished in Louisiana.

Picking of early apples continued in many eastern States and in the Far West. Peach harvesting continued in the Northeast and Pacific Coast States. The Bartlett pear harvest was active in Oregon and Washington.

Vegetable harvesting continued active in most of the northern growing areas and in the Pacific Coast States. Digging of early potatoes was underway in Idaho.

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 1970, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1968	Annual average 1969	August 18-24 1968	August 24-30 1969	August 23-29 1970
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT <u>1/</u></b>					
(Thousands)					
Total .....	4,748.8	4,589.8	5,699.8	5,427.4	5,306.4
Family labor .....	3,535.4	3,415.4	3,888.9	3,738.7	3,643.7
Hired labor .....	1,213.4	1,174.4	1,810.9	1,688.7	1,662.7
<b>INDEXES <u>2/</u></b>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total .....	35	34	36	34	33
Family labor .....	35	34	35	34	33
Hired labor .....	36	35	37	35	34
(1957-59=100)					
Total .....	64	61	64	61	60
Family labor .....	64	62	64	62	60
Hired labor .....	62	60	64	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, July 1, 1970, United States

Item	Annual average 1969	July 1, 1968	July 1, 1969	July 1, 1970
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>				
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u> .....	\$ 1.33	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.38
Per month with house .....	307	295	319	340
Per month with board and room ..	234	217	232	249
Per week with board and room ...	56.75	55.75	58.50	63.00
Per week without board or room ..	73.00	70.75	75.75	81.75
Per day with house .....	9.00	8.10	8.80	9.70
Per day with board and room ....	10.10	9.70	10.50	11.00
Per day without board or room ..	10.90	9.80	10.80	11.60
Per hour with house .....	1.42	1.33	1.45	1.52
Per hour without board or room ..	1.58	1.45	1.58	1.66
<b>INDEXES <u>2/</u></b>				
(1910-14=100) .....	1,023	922	1,010	1,078
(1957-59=100) .....	176	159	174	185

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 1970 1/

State and division	August 1968 Week of 18-24			August 1969 Week of 24-30			August 1970 Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
----- T h o u s a n d s -----									
Maine	24	14	10	24	14	10	22.2	13	9.2
N. H.	9.0	6.0	3.0	8.6	5.4	3.2	7.8	4.8	3.0
Vt.	17	13	4.0	16.1	12	4.1	14.8	11	3.8
Mass.	27	11	16	26	11	15	25	10	15
R. I.	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.3	1.4	.9	2.2	1.4	.8
Conn.	23	9.0	14	21.7	8.7	13	21.2	8.2	13
N. Eng.	103	55	48	98.7	52.5	46.2	93.2	48.4	44.8
N. Y.	123	79	44	124	79	45	118	77	41
N. J.	34	11	23	31	10	21	34	10	24
Pa.	152	124	28	147	118	29	141	114	27
M. Atl.	309	214	95	302	207	95	293	201	92
Ohio	167	137	30	160	131	29	158	129	29
Ind.	139	122	17	130	117	13	133	117	16
Ill.	180	148	32	172	142	30	174	141	33
Mich.	169	125	44	163	124	39	161	123	38
Wis.	241	208	33	222	193	29	211	185	26
E. N. Cent.	896	740	156	847	707	140	837	695	142
Minn.	225	192	33	219	186	33	201	171	30
Iowa	254	203	51	242	200	42	242	199	43
Mo.	238	185	53	204	165	39	214	172	42
N. Dak.	95	70	25	98	71	27	89	65	24
S. Dak.	86	70	16	86	68	18	80	68	12
Nebr.	125	103	22	126	104	22	127	104	23
Kans.	145	111	34	133	102	31	119	98	21
W. N. Cent.	1,168	934	234	1,108	896	212	1,072	877	195
Del.	11	5.0	6.0	10	5.0	5.0	10	5.0	5.0
Md.	47	32	15	43	29	14	40	27	13
Va.	139	94	45	145	97	48	124	92	32
W. Va.	44	37	7.0	42	36	6.0	43	37	6.0
N. C.	446	261	185	416	256	160	418	253	165
S. C.	108	76	32	102	74	28	94	68	26
Ga.	141	105	36	134	100	34	123	92	31
Fla.	86	38	48	81	30	51	86	31	55
S. Atl.	1,022	648	374	973	627	346	938	605	333
Ky.	206	149	57	185	134	51	176	129	47
Tenn.	170	122	48	161	121	40	164	121	43
Ala.	102	78	24	96	72	24	91	68	23
Miss.	169	139	30	156	127	29	150	121	29
E. S. Cent.	647	488	159	598	454	144	581	439	142
Ark.	179	89	90	173	83	90	176	84	92
La.	112	59	53	97	56	41	85	48	37
Okl.	116	94	22	115	94	21	115	97	18
Texas	337	201	136	290	195	95	291	196	95
W. S. Cent.	744	443	301	675	428	247	667	425	242
Mont.	49	33	16	59	36	23	55	34	21
Idaho	60	39	21	62	40	22	60	38	22
Wyo.	18	11	7.0	19	12	7.0	19	12	7.0
Colo.	77	45	32	83	43	40	85	44	41
N. Mex.	27	18	9.0	24	15	9.0	25	15	10
Ariz.	33	7.0	26	32	7.0	25	30	6.0	24
Utah	31	21	10	32	21	11	31	20	11
Nev.	6.8	2.9	3.9	6.7	3.2	3.5	7.2	3.3	3.9
Mount.	301.8	176.9	124.9	317.7	177.2	140.5	312.2	172.3	139.9
Wash.	95	58	37	94	57	37	103	60	43
Oreg.	88	46	42	92	51	41	90	46	44
Calif.	326	86	240	322	82	240	320	75	245
Pac.	509	190	319	508	190	318	513	181	332
U. S.	5,699.8	3,888.9	1,810.9	5,427.4	3,738.7	1,688.7	5,306.4	3,643.7	1,662.7

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 1970 1/

State and division	January through August 1968			January through August 1969			January through August 1970		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	----- T h o u s a n d s -----								
Maine .....	21	14	7.0	19.6	13	6.6	18.5	12	6.5
N. H. ....	7.0	5.0	2.0	7.0	4.7	2.3	6.4	4.3	2.1
Vt. ....	16	12	4.0	15.7	12	3.7	14.5	11	3.5
Mass. ....	20	11	9.0	18.4	10.3	8.1	17.5	9.5	8.0
R. I. ....	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.1	1.3	.8	2.0	1.3	.7
Conn. ....	16	8.0	8.0	14.8	7.9	6.9	13.8	7.3	6.5
N. Eng. ....	83	52	31	77.6	49.2	28.4	72.7	45.4	27.3
N. Y. ....	100	73	27	99	72	27	96	71	25
N. J. ....	24	10	14	22	10	12	23	10	13
Pa. ....	126	108	18	119	102	17	118	100	18
M. Atl. ....	250	191	59	240	184	56	237	181	56
Ohio ....	157	139	18	153	136	17	148	131	17
Ind. ....	130	119	11	125	115	10	126	115	11
Ill. ....	168	140	28	165	137	28	162	134	28
Mich. ....	147	121	26	139	116	23	141	118	23
Wis. ....	205	185	20	202	183	19	199	180	19
E. N. Cent. ...	807	704	103	784	687	97	776	678	98
Minn. ....	203	178	25	193	171	22	182	160	22
Iowa ....	221	190	31	214	186	28	214	185	29
Mo. ....	193	164	29	186	158	28	187	157	30
N. Dak. ....	66	54	12	65	53	12	60	49	11
S. Dak. ....	70	62	8.0	70	61	9.0	68	60	8.0
Nebr. ....	114	99	15	112	97	15	111	96	15
Kans. ....	119	102	17	112	95	17	111	94	17
W. N. Cent. ...	986	849	137	952	821	131	933	801	132
Del. ....	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md. ....	35	26	9.0	33	24	9.0	33	24	9.0
Va. ....	121	88	33	116	84	32	111	83	28
W. Va. ....	39	33	6.0	37	31	6.0	37	31	6.0
N. C. ....	275	193	82	263	186	77	254	181	73
S. C. ....	86	62	24	79	58	21	77	56	21
Ga. ....	106	82	24	97	76	21	94	73	21
Fla. ....	113	34	79	114	33	81	112	33	79
S. Atl. ....	782	522	260	746	496	250	725	485	240
Ky. ....	161	127	34	148	119	29	139	112	27
Tenn. ....	149	117	32	135	109	26	137	109	28
Ala. ....	92	72	20	87	67	20	80	62	18
Miss. ....	138	105	33	128	100	28	127	95	32
E. S. Cent. ...	540	421	119	498	395	103	483	378	105
Ark. ....	135	81	54	140	81	59	139	76	63
La. ....	88	55	33	82	52	30	72	46	26
Okla. ....	126	109	17	124	109	15	125	108	17
Texas ....	279	190	89	286	195	91	274	188	86
W. S. Cent. ...	628	435	193	632	437	195	610	418	192
Mont. ....	42	30	12	42	29	13	41	29	12
Idaho ....	49	35	14	47	34	13	47	34	13
Wyo. ....	16	10	6.0	15	10	5.0	15	10	5.0
Colo. ....	59	39	20	57	36	21	58	37	21
N. Mex. ....	23	15	8.0	22	14	8.0	21	14	7.0
Ariz. ....	37	6.0	31	38	7.0	31	35	6.0	29
Utah ....	25	18	7.0	24	17	7.0	23	17	6.0
Nev. ....	4.9	2.5	2.4	4.7	2.5	2.2	4.9	2.5	2.4
Mount. ....	255.9	155.5	100.4	249.7	149.5	100.2	244.9	149.5	95.4
Wash. ....	87	56	31	88	55	33	89	55	34
Oreg. ....	76	49	27	75	48	27	74	47	27
Calif. ....	269	78	191	263	77	186	264	71	193
Pac. ....	432	183	249	426	180	246	427	173	254
U. S. ....	4,763.9	3,512.5	1,251.4	4,605.3	3,398.7	1,206.6	4,508.6	3,308.9	1,199.7

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 23-29, 1970				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
----- Hours -----					
Maine	51.8	39.6	47.5	39.0	44.6
N. H.	59.4	35.2	52.7	48.7	50.9
Vt.	61.2	37.4	52.6	46.1	50.2
Mass.	56.0	31.9	48.4	31.7	40.6
R. I.	44.0	29.0	40.7	43.4	41.9
Conn.	56.0	37.6	48.8	49.4	48.9
N. Eng.	55.9	36.6	49.4	40.9	45.9
N. Y.	58.2	35.4	49.6	38.4	45.9
N. J.	42.9	37.2	41.3	32.6	38.5
Pa.	52.9	33.8	46.0	31.9	42.4
M. Atl.	54.4	34.7	47.2	35.0	43.4
Ohio	43.5	33.8	40.8	28.3	37.5
Ind.	38.5	30.1	36.5	23.2	33.6
Ill.	41.0	34.8	39.7	28.6	37.2
Mich.	51.2	37.0	46.8	32.5	43.0
Wis.	57.9	32.3	46.9	37.5	45.2
E. N. Cent.	46.3	33.6	42.0	30.6	39.8
Minn.	51.7	36.1	46.3	34.3	44.2
Iowa	51.4	30.9	44.4	26.3	40.5
Mo.	41.9	32.9	39.7	34.2	38.2
N. Dak.	66.1	45.5	57.1	42.8	53.9
S. Dak.	56.1	37.1	48.9	38.0	47.3
Nebr.	53.1	35.8	46.9	31.9	44.0
Kans.	46.7	36.7	44.1	35.6	42.5
W. N. Cent.	50.2	35.0	45.1	33.6	43.0
Del.	41.5	43.3	42.0	45.9	43.4
Md.	46.4	38.8	43.9	33.4	40.5
Va.	43.7	35.3	41.2	31.0	36.8
W. Va.	41.3	32.5	38.7	20.1	34.0
N. C.	41.7	36.2	39.5	23.1	29.4
S. C.	36.8	32.8	35.7	22.7	28.4
Ga.	33.7	32.8	33.4	28.8	31.5
Fla.	33.0	31.9	32.7	36.4	35.0
S. Atl.	39.6	34.7	37.9	27.2	31.9
Ky.	39.1	32.5	37.3	22.7	31.2
Tenn.	33.5	29.0	32.5	22.8	29.4
Ala.	30.3	28.5	29.8	26.0	28.6
Miss.	35.3	29.5	33.5	34.3	34.0
E. S. Cent.	34.8	30.0	33.5	25.6	31.0
Ark.	32.6	31.7	32.4	33.1	32.7
La.	32.2	29.8	31.6	29.2	30.7
Okla.	41.9	30.5	38.7	35.6	38.1
Texas	43.2	36.3	41.5	38.8	40.4
W. S. Cent.	39.5	33.3	37.9	34.9	36.7
Mont.	61.2	45.4	54.8	47.5	52.5
Idaho	57.4	40.6	51.6	36.6	46.6
Wyo.	54.3	33.1	46.1	45.9	46.0
Colo.	54.6	27.7	44.3	42.0	43.5
N. Mex.	49.8	33.7	44.7	41.0	43.2
Ariz.	40.7	26.0	36.8	46.9	42.4
Utah	47.3	31.1	40.8	29.2	36.7
Nev.	46.1	28.7	39.4	53.2	48.0
Mount.	54.5	35.4	47.4	42.3	45.1
Wash.	48.1	35.2	44.4	35.6	39.6
Oreg.	43.1	31.8	39.7	34.6	38.0
Calif.	47.3	41.7	45.7	44.9	45.1
Pac.	46.4	36.9	43.6	42.3	42.8
U. S.	44.4	33.8	40.9	34.3	38.6

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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