

Farm Labor

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OCTOBER FARM LABOR FORCE 3 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR

The Nation's farm labor force had an estimated 4,991,000 workers during the October 18-24 survey week, 3 percent fewer than a year ago. Included were 3,713,000 working farm operators and unpaid family members, 3 percent below a year earlier. Hired workers were estimated at 1,278,000 which was 4 percent less than for the corresponding period last year.

Farm workers averaged 38.3 hours during the October survey week--down 1.3 hours from October last year. Farm operators averaged 43.6 hours and other unpaid family members worked 32.1 hours. Hired workers averaged 35.2 hours, 4 hours more than during the September survey week.

Percent Change

Farm Employment-Weekly Hours Worked

Item	All Workers		Farm Operators & Unpaid Family Members		Hired Workers	
	Sept. 1970 to Oct. 1970	Oct. 1969 to Oct. 1970	Sept. 1970 to Oct. 1970	Oct. 1969 to Oct. 1970	Sept. 1970 to Oct. 1970	Oct. 1969 to Oct. 1970
Employment	-5	-3	0	-3	-17	-4
Hours Worked	+1	-3	0	-3	+3	-3

Fall Harvest Hampered by Rainy Weather

In many Corn Belt States, wet fields and rain hampered corn harvest, but was still about two weeks ahead of the normal.

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Winter wheat and other small grain seeding was complete or nearing completion in major growing areas. Most early seeded fields were growing well.

Rains slowed cotton picking during the week in most major cotton areas. Harvest was 33 percent complete in Texas and nearly 80 percent in Georgia and South Carolina. Picking in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama is well behind last year.

Soybean combining was moving slowly in most soybean producing States, hampered by wet fields. Sorghum harvest was running ahead of normal in the Central and Northern Plains States. It was 89 percent complete in Texas.

Potato digging progressed well in Idaho, but in Maine, muddy fields delayed digging. Sugarbeet harvest advanced as weather permitted.

Apple picking was entering the final stages in most States with completion expected by early November. Walnut picking was in full swing in California and Oregon. Citrus harvest in Florida was increasing with most groves in excellent condition. Harvest of the California grape crop was nearing completion.

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 1970, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1968	Annual average 1969	October 20-26 1968	October 19-25 1969	October 18-24 1970
FARM EMPLOYMENT ^{1/}					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,748.8	4,589.8	5,332.6	5,146.5	4,991.1
Family labor	3,535.4	3,415.4	3,954.8	3,816.9	3,713.1
Hired labor	1,213.4	1,174.4	1,377.8	1,329.6	1,278.0
INDEXES ^{2/}					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	35	34	34	33	32
Family labor	35	34	34	33	32
Hired labor	36	35	32	31	30
(1957-59=100)					
Total	64	61	61	59	57
Family labor	64	62	63	61	59
Hired labor	62	60	56	54	52

^{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, 1970, United States

Item	Annual average 1969	October 1, 1968	October 1, 1969	October 1, 1970
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour ^{1/}	\$ 1.33	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.37	\$ 1.46
Per month with house	307	283	305	325
Per month with board and room	234	220	235	250
Per week with board and room	56.75	53.75	58.25	61.25
Per week without board or room	73.00	66.50	73.00	76.50
Per day with house	9.00	8.60	9.30	10.10
Per day with board and room	10.10	9.20	10.00	10.50
Per day without board or room	10.90	10.50	11.40	12.20
Per hour with house	1.42	1.42	1.54	1.65
Per hour without board or room	1.58	1.41	1.51	1.61
INDEXES ^{2/}				
(1910-14=100)	1,023	964	1,039	1,107
(1957-59=100)	176	166	179	190

^{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 1970 1/

State and division	October 1968 Week of 20-26			October 1969 Week of 19-25			October 1970 Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	T h o u s a n d s								
Maine	19	13	6.0	18.3	12	6.3	18.2	12	6.2
N. H.	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.7	5.0	1.7	6.1	4.4	1.7
Vt.	15	12	3.0	14.5	11	3.5	14.5	11	3.5
Mass.	19	11	8.0	17.9	10	7.9	16.9	8.5	8.4
R. I.	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.2	.8	1.9	1.2	.7
Conn.	12	8.0	4.0	12.3	7.8	4.5	11.4	7.0	4.4
N. Eng.	75	51	24	71.7	47.0	24.7	69.0	44.1	24.9
N. Y.	112	81	31	109	79	30	103	77	26
N. J.	21	10	11	20	9.0	11	22	10	12
Pa.	123	105	18	118	102	16	115	96	19
M. Atl.	256	196	60	247	190	57	240	183	57
Ohio	172	149	23	168	149	19	164	142	22
Ind.	144	124	20	140	123	17	136	124	12
Ill.	196	164	32	186	154	32	182	150	32
Mich.	153	117	36	141	113	28	148	116	32
Wis.	196	174	22	189	168	21	186	166	20
E. N. Cent.	861	728	133	824	707	117	816	698	118
Minn.	184	170	14	190	174	16	186	169	17
Iowa	240	212	28	240	210	30	222	197	25
Mo.	223	173	50	224	178	46	220	176	44
N. Dak.	66	54	12	61	52	9.0	57	47	10
S. Dak.	73	65	8.0	73	63	10	66	59	7.0
Nebr.	110	97	13	107	95	12	104	93	11
Kans.	119	109	10	112	101	11	113	101	12
W. N. Cent.	1,015	880	135	1,007	873	134	968	842	126
Del.	8.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0
Md.	32	24	8.0	31	24	7.0	30	24	6.0
Va.	128	97	31	126	95	31	118	90	28
W. Va.	42	36	6.0	39	35	4.0	40	35	5.0
N. C.	256	208	48	238	195	43	232	192	40
S. C.	97	79	18	87	70	17	86	68	18
Ga.	146	118	28	140	112	28	129	105	24
Fla.	101	38	63	105	40	65	111	42	69
S. Atl.	810	605	205	774	576	198	754	561	193
Ky.	217	182	35	207	178	29	204	170	34
Tenn.	225	187	38	221	180	41	217	176	41
Ala.	167	136	31	161	125	36	132	107	25
Miss.	192	145	47	163	120	43	165	128	37
E. S. Cent.	801	650	151	752	603	149	718	581	137
Ark.	172	102	70	196	103	93	164	90	74
La.	131	70	61	117	66	51	99	57	42
Okla.	140	117	23	145	119	26	143	117	26
Texas	361	208	153	323	193	130	341	214	127
W. S. Cent.	804	497	307	781	481	300	747	478	269
Mont.	43	31	12	40	30	10	40	29	11
Idaho	54	39	15	51	39	12	51	38	13
Wyo.	16	10	6.0	15	10	5.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	65	40	25	66	35	31	69	37	32
N. Mex.	37	21	16	30	18	12	32	19	13
Ariz.	38	7.0	31	38	7.0	31	38	7.0	31
Utah	27	18	9.0	26	18	8.0	23	17	6.0
Nev.	4.6	2.8	1.8	4.8	2.9	1.9	5.1	3.0	2.1
Mount.	284.6	168.8	115.8	270.8	159.9	110.9	273.1	160	113.1
Wash.	68	48	20	71	48	23	71	48	23
Oreg.	64	47	17	62	46	16	58	46	12
Calif.	294	84	210	286	86	200	277	72	205
Pac.	426	179	247	419	180	239	406	166	240
U. S.	5,332.6	3,954.8	1,377.8	5,146.5	3,816.9	1,329.6	4,991.1	3,713.1	1,278.0

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 1970 1/

State and division	January through October 1968			January through October 1969			January through October 1970		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	T h o u s a n d s								
Maine	23	14	9.0	21.5	13	8.5	20.3	12	8.3
N. H.	7	5.0	2.0	7.2	4.8	2.4	6.6	4.4	2.2
Vt.	16	12	4.0	15.7	12	3.7	14.6	11	3.6
Mass.	20	11	9.0	18.7	10.3	8.4	17.7	9.5	8.2
R. I.	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.1	1.3	.8	2.0	1.3	.7
Conn.	15	8.0	7.0	14.6	8.0	6.6	13.6	7.3	6.3
N. Eng.	84	52	32	79.8	49.4	30.4	74.8	45.5	29.3
N. Y.	104	75	29	103	74	29	98	72	26
N. J.	24	10	14	22	10	12	23	10	13
Pa.	126	108	18	119	102	17	118	100	18
M. Atl.	254	193	61	244	186	58	239	182	57
Ohio	159	139	20	154	136	18	151	132	19
Ind.	132	120	12	127	116	11	128	116	12
Ill.	171	143	28	168	140	28	164	136	28
Mich.	149	121	28	139	116	23	141	117	24
Wis.	205	184	21	202	182	20	198	178	20
E. N. Cent.	816	707	109	790	690	100	782	679	103
Minn.	202	178	24	194	173	21	183	162	21
Iowa	224	193	31	220	191	29	216	187	29
Mo.	201	167	34	195	163	32	194	161	33
N. Dak.	67	55	12	65	54	11	61	50	11
S. Dak.	71	63	8.0	70	61	9.0	69	61	8.0
Nebr.	113	99	14	111	96	15	110	95	15
Kans.	120	104	16	113	97	16	111	95	16
W. N. Cent.	998	859	139	968	835	133	944	811	133
Del.	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0
Md.	35	26	9.0	33	24	9.0	32	24	8.0
Va.	124	90	34	120	87	33	114	85	29
W. Va.	40	34	6.0	38	32	6.0	38	32	6.0
N. C.	276	200	76	264	193	71	255	186	69
S. C.	90	66	24	81	60	21	80	59	21
Ga.	114	89	25	106	83	23	102	80	22
Fla.	111	36	75	111	34	77	110	34	76
S. Atl.	797	545	252	760	517	243	739	505	234
Ky.	173	136	37	159	128	31	151	121	30
Tenn.	161	128	33	149	121	28	151	120	31
Ala.	105	82	23	99	77	22	89	70	19
Miss.	149	113	36	137	105	32	137	102	35
E. S. Cent.	588	459	129	544	431	113	528	413	115
Ark.	143	86	57	151	85	66	143	79	64
La.	99	59	40	89	55	34	78	49	29
Okla.	128	110	18	128	111	17	128	109	19
Texas	297	195	102	294	196	98	289	193	96
W. S. Cent.	667	450	217	662	447	215	638	430	208
Mont.	42	30	12	42	30	12	41	29	12
Idaho	50	36	14	49	36	13	49	35	14
Wyo.	17	11	6.0	15	10	5.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	61	39	22	59	36	23	61	37	24
N. Mex.	25	16	9.0	24	15	9.0	23	15	8.0
Ariz.	37	6.0	31	38	7.0	31	35	6.0	29
Utah	25	18	7.0	25	18	7.0	25	18	7.0
Nev.	5.1	2.6	2.5	4.8	2.6	2.2	5.0	2.6	2.4
Mount.	262.1	158.6	103.5	256.8	154.6	102.2	254	152.6	101.4
Wash.	86	56	30	87	54	33	90	55	35
Oreg.	74	49	25	73	48	25	72	47	25
Calif.	277	79	198	272	79	193	274	71	203
Pac.	437	184	253	432	181	251	436	173	263
U. S.	4,903.1	3,607.6	1,295.5	4,736.6	3,491.0	1,245.6	4,634.8	3,391.1	1,243.7

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 October 18-24 1970				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
Hours					
Maine	52.8	38.8	48.5	35.4	43.6
N. H.	50.6	36.1	47.4	39.7	44.1
Vt.	61.3	30.8	50.2	41.4	47.4
Mass.	55.2	38.3	50.3	45.0	47.9
R. I.	40.1	21.5	36.0	53.1	43.5
Conn.	50.0	30.1	43.5	39.8	42.1
N. Eng.	54.2	34.9	48.0	41.1	45.2
N. Y.	55.9	33.4	48.2	40.7	46.0
N. J.	39.2	31.5	37.1	36.1	36.8
Pa.	49.7	31.8	44.0	30.9	41.1
M. Atl.	51.6	32.4	45.3	36.5	42.8
Ohio	46.8	31.7	42.4	26.2	38.6
Ind.	43.9	31.4	40.5	26.7	38.2
Ill.	49.3	35.3	46.1	31.1	42.6
Mich.	52.3	34.9	47.5	31.6	43.2
Wis.	55.9	27.3	44.0	33.4	42.3
E. N. Cent.	49.7	32.1	44.1	30.3	41.1
Minn.	58.2	34.2	49.7	33.7	46.8
Iowa	56.6	32.8	49.6	34.9	46.9
Mo.	43.2	34.0	41.3	30.4	38.9
N. Dak.	49.1	36.7	45.5	40.2	44.7
S. Dak.	49.6	33.6	45.2	30.9	43.2
Nebr.	52.0	35.7	47.4	33.5	45.4
Kans.	46.2	34.6	43.4	30.7	40.8
W. N. Cent.	51.1	34.2	46.2	32.8	43.8
Del.	39.7	23.9	35.4	40.5	36.9
Md.	45.0	31.7	40.6	34.6	39.0
Va.	40.1	32.7	38.2	31.5	35.7
W. Va.	37.9	29.7	35.6	28.1	34.3
N. C.	35.5	29.8	33.9	26.7	31.6
S. C.	36.5	30.0	35.0	26.9	31.2
Ga.	33.6	30.4	32.9	27.8	31.0
Fla.	41.7	38.5	41.0	40.9	40.9
S. Atl.	37.1	31.1	35.5	33.1	34.0
Ky.	38.2	31.4	36.4	28.8	33.6
Tenn.	32.7	31.4	32.4	24.3	30.0
Ala.	30.7	28.6	30.3	24.0	28.1
Miss.	33.5	29.4	32.7	27.7	30.2
E. S. Cent.	34.0	30.4	33.2	26.3	30.7
Ark.	31.4	30.2	31.2	27.5	29.6
La.	28.7	29.9	28.9	30.3	29.5
Okla.	42.3	31.8	39.4	25.8	36.4
Texas	40.6	31.9	38.7	38.5	38.6
W. S. Cent.	37.8	31.3	36.2	33.0	35.0
Mont.	44.1	31.7	40.8	43.2	41.4
Idaho	42.5	29.5	39.0	33.6	37.7
Wyo.	51.8	29.5	45.0	48.5	46.4
Colo.	44.1	34.6	41.6	40.3	41.3
N. Mex.	46.4	29.8	42.0	37.2	40.3
Ariz.	45.6	23.7	40.3	47.7	44.1
Utah	34.1	30.2	33.3	26.1	31.7
Nev.	39.6	22.4	34.1	48.3	40.2
Mount.	43.4	30.9	40.0	41.2	40.4
Wash.	40.5	30.9	38.5	37.9	38.2
Oreg.	37.0	24.1	33.7	31.7	33.1
Calif.	44.5	41.8	43.9	45.6	45.2
Pac.	41.1	33.4	39.3	44.2	42.2
U. S.	43.6	32.1	40.2	35.2	38.3

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 and June issues of Farm Labor published this year included selected farm wage rate data derived from probability farm labor surveys conducted in January and April 1970. Data presented in this issue are derived from a similar survey conducted in July 1970. These data 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, and about 3,000 employers for the July survey. For all three surveys, approximately 13 percent of the total sample was allocated to California. Accordingly, publication of the data is limited to averages for California and the United States.

Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey
Farm Wage Rates, July 12-18, 1970, California and United States

Item	July 12-18 1970	
	California	United States
Farm Wage Rates 1/		
All Hired Farm Workers	2.09	1.60
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate.....	2.42	1.87
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week and Month.....	2.07	1.58
Workers Paid by Hour only	1.91	1.56
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.06	1.67
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	1.86	1.61
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	1.95	1.50
Packinghouse workers (fruit & vegetable)	2.07	1.70
Machine Operators	2.23	1.70
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.50	2.08
Supervisors	3.13	3.02
Other Agricultural workers	1.92	1.56

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

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