

farm labor



Release:
June 9, 1971
3:00 P. M. EDT

Farm Work Force Increases Seasonally

The Nation's farm labor force for the week of May 23-29 is estimated at 4,778,000 workers, down 3 percent from the May 1970 survey week. The work force, composed of 3,542,000 family workers and 1,235,000 hired workers, was up 6 percent from the corresponding week in April.

Farm workers averaged 41.2 hours during the May survey week compared with 40.2 hours a month earlier. Farm operators worked an average of 47.5 hours; unpaid family members, 32.3 hours; and hired hands, 36.9 hours during the week.

Cool temperatures prevailed over most of the Nation. Substantial rains fell in some of the drought-stricken parts of Texas. Heavy thunderstorms and tornadoes struck mid-America. Weekend rains flooded streams in Maryland and the Virginias.

Small grain harvest picked up in the South as weather permitted. Wheat combining began in southwest and central Oklahoma and gained momentum in Texas. Kansas wheat was 92 percent headed, compared with 96 percent a year earlier. Rain during the week benefited much of the winter wheat crop. Spring wheat planting was virtually complete as the last of the crop was seeded in Montana and North Dakota. Seeding of oats and barley was also nearing completion in northern areas. In contrast, oats, barley, and wheat were being combined in the South when weather permitted.

Corn planting is well along. Corn Belt farmers virtually completed planting during the week, except in Nebraska. Cool weather retarded growth. Southern Corn Leaf Blight was found in 2 counties of Alabama and was identified on some volunteer corn in Tennessee. Blight is present in 5 counties in Florida on volunteer and T-cytoplasm corn only. Soil moisture is generally adequate to surplus over most of the Corn Belt.

Special in this Issue

Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey
Farm Wage Rates, California and United States
Page 6

Soybean planting moved ahead rapidly as corn planting ended. Planting was generally ahead of normal. Illinois had 85 percent of the crop in the ground and Indiana was 50 percent seeded. Warm weather is needed for development. Planting in the South is lagging. Sorghum planting is behind last year.

Texas and Arizona cotton planting continues behind last year. Planting and replanting continues in the South. California cotton in the San Joaquin Valley is making poor progress.

Harvest of Florida shade tobacco has started. Setting of plants in Kentucky is 7 to 10 days late. Thinning of sugar beets got under way in Montana and Wyoming. Potato planting was about three-quarters complete in Aroostook, Maine. Peach harvest is increasing in the southern and western regions of the nation. Sweet cherry harvest has started in California. The Valencia orange harvest continued normal in California, but was declining in Florida. Cool temperatures over much of the nation retarded vegetable growth. Tomato harvest was past peak in Texas. Onion harvest was active in Texas and New Mexico.

Pasture and range feed conditions improved as widespread rains replenished soil moisture supplies. Ranges are poor in the Southwest. Supplemental feeding and hauling of water to stock continues in the drier areas.

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 1971, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1969	: Annual : average : 1970	: May : 18-24, : 1969	: May : 24-30, : 1970	: May : 23-29, : 1971
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)					
Total	: 4,595.8	: 4,522.6	: 4,998.7	: 4,947.0	: 4,777.7
Family labor	: 3,419.4	: 3,348.1	: 3,686.3	: 3,647.9	: 3,542.4
Hired labor	: 1,176.4	: 1,174.5	: 1,312.4	: 1,299.1	: 1,235.3
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total	: 34	: 33	: 34	: 34	: 33
Family labor	: 34	: 33	: 34	: 33	: 32
Hired labor	: 35	: 35	: 36	: 36	: 34
(1967=100)					
Total	: 94	: 92	: 94	: 93	: 89
Family labor	: 94	: 92	: 94	: 92	: 89
Hired labor	: 92	: 92	: 95	: 95	: 89

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, 1971, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1970	: April 1, : 1969	: April 1, : 1970	: April 1, : 1971
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	: \$ 1.42	: \$ 1.21	: \$ 1.29	: \$ 1.36
Per month with house	: 328	: 297	: 319	: 331
Per month with board and room	: 251	: 228	: 245	: 258
Per week with board and room	: 60.75	: 54.25	: 59.25	: 62.00
Per week without board or room:	: 78.00	: 70.00	: 76.50	: 79.25
Per day with house	: 9.80	: 8.70	: 9.60	: 10.30
Per day with board and room	: 10.70	: 9.20	: 9.90	: 10.40
Per day without board or room	: 11.70	: 10.30	: 11.30	: 11.80
Per hour with house	: 1.50	: 1.34	: 1.40	: 1.45
Per hour without board or room:	: 1.64	: 1.59	: 1.66	: 1.76
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	: 1,092	: 1,029	: 1,096	: 1,157
(1967=100)	: 129	: 121	: 129	: 137

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis. 2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on farms, May 1971 1/

State and division	May 1969			May 1970			May 1971		
	Week of 18-24			Week of 24-30			Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Thousands									
Maine	19.3	13	6.3	18.8	13	5.8	17.7	12	5.7
N. H.	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.3	4.6	1.7	6.1	4.4	1.7
Vt.	15.6	12	3.6	14.4	11	3.4	14.6	11	3.6
Mass.	18.7	11	7.7	17	9.9	7.1	17.2	9.9	7.3
R. I.	2.2	1.4	.8	2.0	1.3	.7	2.1	1.3	.8
Conn.	14	8.5	5.5	12.5	7.5	5.0	12	7.1	4.9
N. Eng.	76.8	50.9	25.9	71.0	47.3	23.7	69.7	45.7	24.0
N. Y.	97	71	26	93	70	23	95	70	25
N. J.	23	10	13	24	10	14	22	9.0	13
Pa.	122	106	16	120	103	17	117	101	16
M. Atl.	242	187	55	237	183	54	234	180	54
Ohio	167	148	19	168	148	20	163	145	18
Ind.	136	125	11	151	138	13	142	130	12
Ill.	191	157	34	185	153	32	178	150	28
Mich.	145	125	20	155	134	21	154	133	21
Wis.	213	195	18	212	194	18	206	188	18
E. N. Cent.	852	750	102	871	767	104	843	746	97
Minn.	215	191	24	198	178	20	195	174	21
Iowa	236	210	26	244	219	25	222	200	22
Mo.	191	157	34	204	164	40	195	164	31
N. Dak.	70	59	11	68	57	11	67	54	13
S. Dak.	75	68	7.0	74	67	7.0	68	62	6.0
Nebr.	115	101	14	122	104	18	120	99	21
Kans.	113	98	15	120	103	17	115	99	16
W. N. Cent.	1,015	884	131	1,030	892	138	982	852	130
Del.	9.0	5.0	4.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0
Md.	36	26	10	35	26	9.0	35	27	8.0
Va.	128	98	30	129	98	31	124	96	28
W. Va.	44	34	10	42	34	8.0	38	32	6.0
N. C.	255	201	54	240	190	50	232	188	44
S. C.	77	56	21	79	60	19	77	57	20
Ga.	98	77	21	101	80	21	100	79	21
Fla.	120	34	86	123	36	87	124	36	88
S. Atl.	767	531	236	757	529	228	738	520	218
Ky.	161	130	31	155	116	39	140	111	29
Tenn.	155	118	37	161	119	42	148	116	32
Ala.	120	94	26	107	85	22	110	86	24
Miss.	166	117	49	164	111	53	157	105	52
E. S. Cent.	602	459	143	587	431	156	555	418	137
Ark.	169	92	77	164	85	79	159	84	75
La.	93	57	36	80	52	28	76	49	27
Okla.	134	119	15	136	116	20	137	118	19
Texas	325	207	118	302	203	99	274	194	80
W. S. Cent.	721	475	246	682	456	226	646	445	201
Mont.	42	28	14	43	31	12	46	31	15
Idaho	49	36	13	47	35	12	45	33	12
Wyo.	15	10	5.0	15	10	5.0	16	10	6.0
Colo.	57	38	19	63	43	20	59	39	20
N. Mex.	24	15	9.0	20	14	6.0	21	14	7.0
Ariz.	41	7.0	34	37	6.0	31	37	6.0	31
Utah	27	19	8.0	26	19	7.0	26	19	7.0
Nev.	4.9	2.4	2.5	5.0	2.6	2.4	5.0	2.7	2.3
Mount.	259.9	155.4	104.5	256	160.6	95.4	255	154.7	100.3
Wash.	103	64	39	96	56	40	92	59	33
Oreg.	69	49	20	68	49	19	75	49	26
Calif.	291	81	210	292	77	215	288	73	215
Pac.	463	194	269	456	182	274	455	181	274
U. S.	4,998.7	3,686.3	1,312.4	4,947.0	3,647.9	1,299.1	4,777.7	3,542.4	1,235.3

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 May 23-29, 1971				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
	Hours				
Maine	54.2	34.9	48.1	44.4	46.5
N. H.	56.2	25.2	50.2	41.3	46.6
Vt.	62.6	33.9	53.1	44.1	49.9
Mass.	52.3	40.1	48.8	40.3	45.7
R. I.	49.3	18.0	42.3	47.1	45.0
Conn.	50.4	37.9	46.5	36.6	42.8
N. Eng.	55.2	34.6	49.2	41.4	46.3
N. Y.	61.5	31.9	50.4	39.0	46.5
N. J.	46.8	34.9	43.6	32.7	40.2
Pa.	52.5	29.3	44.7	31.7	41.9
M. Atl.	55.9	30.7	47.0	35.3	43.6
Ohio	47.3	33.1	43.1	31.9	40.9
Ind.	43.9	31.4	40.7	27.6	38.1
Ill.	48.7	33.6	45.2	35.0	43.2
Mich.	59.6	33.9	52.0	36.3	48.4
Wis.	61.4	32.6	49.8	37.6	47.8
E. N. Cent.	51.9	32.9	46.0	34.3	44.0
Minn.	58.1	34.4	49.7	32.9	46.9
Iowa	59.0	32.4	50.7	32.4	47.4
Mo.	45.1	30.9	41.5	34.1	39.7
N. Dak.	66.2	40.6	56.8	43.5	54.4
S. Dak.	57.6	34.8	50.3	41.0	48.9
Nebr.	57.8	37.2	51.6	30.6	47.3
Kans.	48.2	35.5	44.9	32.6	42.3
W. N. Cent.	54.6	34.1	48.2	34.1	45.7
Del.	40.7	41.1	40.9	30.6	38.1
Md.	50.2	31.7	44.0	34.9	41.6
Va.	46.0	33.9	42.7	32.4	38.4
W. Va.	39.1	29.7	36.5	25.3	34.4
N. C.	40.9	30.1	37.6	27.2	33.6
S. C.	39.8	29.5	37.1	28.7	33.0
Ga.	40.5	29.5	37.6	29.2	34.3
Fla.	39.6	31.0	38.8	39.9	39.6
S. Atl.	41.7	30.7	38.7	33.6	35.9
Ky.	38.3	29.5	36.1	24.0	31.7
Tenn.	37.7	31.1	36.1	21.8	31.5
Ala.	36.0	29.5	34.3	27.7	32.0
Miss.	41.3	31.6	38.8	42.2	40.9
E. S. Cent.	38.3	30.4	36.3	31.0	34.3
Ark.	38.6	33.1	37.3	37.8	37.5
La.	36.8	34.0	36.2	36.1	36.1
Okla.	43.4	31.0	39.9	29.4	37.6
Texas	42.9	30.7	40.1	45.1	42.0
W. S. Cent.	41.4	31.6	39.0	39.7	39.3
Mont.	59.5	34.7	51.1	35.2	46.4
Idaho	54.5	34.8	47.8	40.0	46.6
Wyo.	57.0	36.5	50.5	41.4	46.6
Colo.	55.7	37.2	50.3	36.4	46.6
N. Mex.	53.9	29.0	48.3	49.4	48.7
Ariz.	46.7	32.1	43.2	40.3	41.5
Utah	49.4	31.0	43.1	31.0	39.4
Nev.	48.2	31.1	43.3	44.7	43.8
Mount.	54.9	34.2	48.5	38.9	45.2
Wash.	48.4	30.5	44.1	36.9	40.9
Oregon	41.1	29.2	38.1	32.8	36.5
Calif.	44.6	40.4	43.6	43.7	43.6
Pac.	44.8	34.1	42.2	41.8	41.9
U. S.	47.5	32.3	43.0	36.9	41.2

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

QUARTERLY PROBABILITY FARM LABOR SURVEY

The selected wage rate items presented below were derived from a probability farm labor survey conducted in April 1971 by the Statistical Reporting Service. This continues the series of published farm wage rates from Quarterly probability surveys started in April 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 the April survey was about 3,000 employees. Because of the small sample, the data published are limited to averages for California and the United States.

Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey
Farm Wage Rates, April 11-17, 1971, California and United States

Item	April 11-17 1971	
	California	United States
	Dollars	
Farm Wage Rates 1/		
All Hired Farm Workers	2.12	1.75
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.38	2.36
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week and Month	2.07	1.72
Workers Paid by Hour only	1.96	1.73
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.08	1.91
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	1.99	1.81
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	1.99	1.71
Packinghouse workers	2.19	2.03
Machine Operators	2.13	1.46
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.59	2.30
Supervisors	3.27	3.06
Other Agricultural workers	2.27	2.01

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

IN THIS ISSUE

	<u>Page</u>
Comments	1 - 2
Farm employment, wage rates, and indexes, United States.....	3
Workers on farms, May 1971	4
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farm May 23-29, 1971, by States and Divisions	5
Farm Wage Rates, California and United States, quarterly probability farm labor survey.....	6

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