

farm labor



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October Farm Labor Force 2 Percent Below Last Year

The Nation's farm labor force had an estimated 4,907,000 workers during the October 24-30 survey week, 2 percent fewer than a year ago. Included were 3,648,000 working farm operators and unpaid family members, 3 percent below a year earlier. Hired workers were estimated at 1,259,000 which was 2 percent less than for the corresponding period last year.

Farm workers averaged 38.9 hours during the October survey week compared with 38.3 hours a year earlier. Farm operators averaged 43.5 hours while other unpaid family members worked 32.7 hours. Hired workers averaged 35.9 hours during the survey week.

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Farm employment and indexes, October 1971, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1969	: Annual : average : 1970	: October : 19-25, : 1969	: October : 18-20, : 1970	: October : 24-30, : 1971
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)					
Total	: 4,595.8	: 4,522.6	: 5,146.5	: 5,030.9	: 4,906.7
Family labor	: 3,419.4	: 3,348.1	: 3,816.9	: 3,747.9	: 3,648.1
Hired labor	: 1,176.4	: 1,174.5	: 1,329.6	: 1,283.0	: 1,258.6
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total	: 34	: 33	: 33	: 32	: 31
Family labor	: 34	: 33	: 33	: 33	: 32
Hired labor	: 35	: 35	: 31	: 30	: 29
(1967=100)					
Total	: 94	: 92	: 89	: 89	: 86
Family labor	: 94	: 92	: 92	: 92	: 89
Hired labor	: 92	: 92	: 82	: 79	: 76

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.

Workers on Farms, October 1971 1/

State and division	October 1969			October 1970			October 1971		
	Week of 19-25			Week of 18-24			Week of 24-30		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	18.3	12	6.3	19.2	12	7.2	19.5	13	6.5
N. H.	6.7	5.0	1.7	6.3	4.6	1.7	6.6	4.6	2.0
Vt.	14.5	11	3.5	14.5	11	3.5	14.5	11	3.5
Mass.	17.9	10	7.9	17.4	9.0	8.4	17.4	10	7.4
R. I.	2.0	1.2	.8	1.9	1.2	.7	1.9	1.2	.7
Conn.	12.3	7.8	4.5	11.5	7.1	4.4	11.2	6.7	4.5
N. Eng.	71.7	47.0	24.7	70.8	44.9	25.9	71.1	46.5	24.6
N. Y.	109	79	30	104	78	26	104	75	29
N. J.	20	9.0	11	15	10	5.0	18	9.0	9.0
Pa.	118	102	16	117	98	19	120	101	19
M. Atl.	247	190	57	236	186	50	242	185	57
Ohio	168	149	19	166	142	24	166	145	21
Ind.	140	123	17	139	126	13	136	123	13
Ill.	186	154	32	182	150	32	182	150	32
Mich.	141	113	28	150	117	33	134	108	26
Wis.	189	168	21	186	166	20	178	156	22
E. N. Cent.	824	707	117	823	701	122	796	682	114
Minn.	190	174	16	186	169	17	176	163	13
Iowa	240	210	30	224	199	25	233	204	29
Mo.	224	178	46	221	177	44	217	168	49
N. Dak.	61	52	9.0	58	48	10	56	46	10
S. Dak.	73	63	10	66	59	7.0	66	59	7.0
Nebr.	107	95	12	104	93	11	105	93	12
Kans.	112	101	11	115	103	12	109	99	10
W. N. Cent.	1,007	873	134	974	848	126	962	832	130
Del.	8.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md.	31	24	7.0	32	25	7.0	31	24	7.0
Va.	126	95	31	119	91	28	112	84	28
W. Va.	39	35	4.0	40	35	5.0	38	34	4.0
N. C.	238	195	43	234	194	40	209	176	33
S. C.	87	70	17	87	69	18	82	65	17
Ge.	140	112	28	133	108	25	124	103	21
Fla.	105	40	65	113	42	71	106	39	67
S. Atl.	774	576	198	766	569	197	709	529	180
Ky.	207	178	29	210	175	35	192	166	26
Tenn.	221	180	41	219	178	41	208	176	32
Ala.	161	125	36	133	108	25	134	109	25
Miss.	163	120	43	169	131	38	172	128	44
E. S. Cent.	752	603	149	731	592	139	706	579	127
Ark.	196	103	93	164	90	74	167	102	65
La.	117	66	51	101	58	43	109	62	47
Okla.	145	119	26	144	118	26	134	112	22
Texas	323	193	130	341	214	127	312	194	118
W. S. Cent.	781	481	300	750	480	270	722	470	252
Mont.	40	30	10	40	29	11	36	27	9.0
Idaho	51	39	12	51	38	13	49	38	11
Wyo.	15	10	5.0	15	10	5.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	66	35	31	69	37	32	65	39	26
N. Mex.	30	18	12	32	19	13	30	15	15
Ariz.	38	7.0	31	38	7.0	31	36	6.0	30
Utah	26	18	8.0	23	17	6.0	24	18	6.0
Nev.	4.8	2.9	1.9	5.1	3.0	2.1	4.6	2.6	2.0
Mount.	270.8	159.9	110.9	273.1	160.0	113.1	259.6	155.6	104
Wash.	71	48	23	71	48	23	69	48	21
Oreg.	62	46	16	58	46	12	62	48	14
Calif.	286	86	200	278	73	205	308	73	235
Pac.	419	180	239	407	167	240	439	169	270
U. S.	5,146.5	3,816.9	1,329.6	5,030.9	3,747.9	1,283.0	4,906.7	3,648.1	1,258.6

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 October 24-30, 1971				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
Hours					
Maine	48.2	29.0	41.7	34.2	39.1
N. H.	48.5	29.8	43.8	36.4	41.7
Vt.	58.0	30.8	48.2	46.3	47.6
Mass.	51.4	37.1	46.8	40.5	44.5
R. I.	52.0	27.5	45.9	31.1	37.7
Conn.	50.2	32.9	45.3	42.5	44.3
N. Eng.	51.4	31.6	45.0	39.4	43.2
N. Y.	59.4	33.3	50.9	41.4	47.6
N. J.	40.5	34.2	38.9	33.4	37.5
Pa.	51.4	31.1	44.5	34.6	42.4
M. Atl.	54.0	32.2	46.8	37.9	44.3
Ohio	47.2	33.3	43.1	25.8	39.2
Ind.	43.9	34.9	41.6	28.5	39.5
Ill.	50.2	37.9	47.2	34.3	44.2
Mich.	49.9	37.9	46.4	35.4	44.0
Wis.	57.4	32.9	48.2	34.6	45.6
E. N. Cent.	49.9	35.3	45.4	32.4	42.6
Minn.	56.7	32.4	48.1	36.5	46.3
Iowa	58.9	32.3	50.0	35.3	47.0
Mo.	43.6	31.4	41.1	38.8	40.6
N. Dak.	47.0	36.7	44.1	39.8	43.4
S. Dak.	51.1	32.0	45.6	31.6	43.6
Nebr.	53.2	37.4	48.6	36.2	46.5
Kans.	43.2	33.4	41.0	31.3	39.3
W. N. Cent.	51.1	33.1	45.7	36.7	44.1
Del.	35.3	24.0	32.8	37.1	34.1
Md.	46.9	35.5	43.0	31.3	39.9
Va.	37.2	32.9	36.2	31.5	34.4
W. Va.	38.2	28.7	35.7	25.1	33.9
N. C.	31.5	29.1	30.9	25.5	29.2
S. C.	33.4	29.9	32.7	26.3	29.7
Ga.	34.8	30.4	33.8	27.6	31.6
Fla.	42.3	21.3	38.8	40.7	40.1
S. Atl.	35.2	29.6	33.9	32.8	32.9
Ky.	38.0	33.6	36.9	30.3	34.8
Tenn.	32.4	30.1	31.9	29.1	31.2
Ala.	32.2	27.7	31.3	25.0	29.2
Miss.	37.0	32.8	36.0	43.1	39.9
E. S. Cent.	35.0	31.2	34.1	33.4	33.9
Ark.	38.5	35.9	37.9	43.8	40.5
La.	34.0	33.2	33.8	39.5	36.0
Okla.	39.0	31.4	37.1	27.2	35.1
Texas	36.4	33.3	35.9	35.5	35.8
W. S. Cent.	37.1	33.3	36.3	37.7	36.8
Mont.	44.7	33.6	41.8	39.7	41.4
Idaho	45.7	29.8	40.9	33.0	39.3
Wyo.	52.1	27.9	44.1	39.9	42.4
Colo.	48.0	35.1	44.6	40.6	43.7
N. Mex.	41.5	26.0	38.8	40.1	39.4
Ariz.	42.7	35.1	41.5	53.3	48.4
Utah	33.3	28.8	32.0	24.6	30.3
Nev.	43.9	30.6	40.5	41.2	40.7
Mount.	44.4	31.4	40.9	42.4	41.3
Wash.	39.9	32.7	38.3	37.5	37.9
Oreg.	38.3	27.4	35.2	28.3	33.2
Calif.	44.7	41.2	43.9	35.7	37.3
Pac.	41.4	34.6	39.7	35.5	36.8
U. S.	43.5	32.7	40.4	35.9	38.9

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

Snowstorm Halts Harvest in Northern Great Plains

Snow and rain curtailed corn harvesting in the western Corn Belt. Very little headway was made west of a line from northern Wisconsin to Kansas. However, beautiful Indian summer weather existed east of this line and farmers were extremely busy getting in this year's crop.

Cotton picking carried top priority with farmers in the Deep South. Picking moved along steadily under favorable conditions and, despite this fall's slow start, is now ahead of last season in States bordering the Mississippi River. However, picking is still late from Alabama to North Carolina.

Potato digging was winding up in New York and Pennsylvania but cold and snow halted cleanup operations in Idaho. Sugarbeet harvest was also delayed in most States due to adverse weather.

Apple picking was entering the final stages in most States. Citrus harvest in Florida was increasing with most groves in excellent condition.

First shipments of celery and tomatoes moved from Florida during the survey week. Cold temperatures hampered growth and restricted tender vegetable harvesting in California.

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.