

farm labor



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NOVEMBER FARM LABOR FORCE 18 PERCENT BELOW LAST MONTH

The Nation's farm labor force had an estimated 4,008,000 workers during the November 21-27 survey week, 3 percent less than a year earlier and 18 percent below last month. Included were 3,104,000 working farm operators and unpaid family members while the remaining 904,000 persons were hired hands.

Farmworkers averaged 34.6 hours during the November survey week reflecting the slowing activity and Thanksgiving holiday. Farm operators averaged 38.0 hours, unpaid family members 30.0 hours, and hired workers 32.3 hours.

Work on farms slacked off as the harvest neared completion. Activity was mostly confined to the usual winter chores. The cold temperatures and snow made extra work for stockmen in caring for their herds.

Mud, rain, and snow stood in the way of completing the corn harvest in the Corn Belt. Harvesting was well advanced and only scattered fields remain to be picked. Storage space is also a problem and some operators have delayed harvesting until they can locate or improvise additional storage.

Most of the soybean acreage remaining to be combined is in the South Central and Atlantic Coast States. Frequent rains halted combining in late November; however, the harvest continues ahead of last year in many Southern States. There are still a few beans to be combined in Kansas, Missouri, and in the Great Lakes area. Elsewhere in North Central States, combines have been put away until next year.

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Cool, wet weather continues to delay cotton harvest in Texas and Oklahoma. About one-third of the crop in the two-State area was ginned by December 1, sharply below the 87 percent ginned in 1970. Growers in California's Central Valley and in Arizona were picking their last fields. Harvest was nearly finished in the Delta States. Rains returned to the Carolinas to interrupt an already slow harvest season.

Sorghum grain harvest was about complete except for parts of Oklahoma where wet weather stopped combines.

Tobacco stripping is later than normal in Kentucky and marketing is underway in Virginia and Tennessee.

Sugarbeet factories are operating at peak capacity processing this year's crop. Some beets were abandoned in the Red River Valley where wet fields kept diggers out. Cane harvest is over two-thirds complete in Louisiana.

Clear skies aided the picking of lemons and grapefruit in Arizona. Lemon and tangerine picking continued in Arizona. Pecan gathering was a big project in many southern orchards. The vegetable harvest was generally on schedule from Florida to 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.

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

Item	Annual average 1969	Annual average 1970	November 23-29, 1969	November 22-28, 1970	November 21-27, 1971
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,595.8	4,522.6	4,255.1	4,142.1	4,008.1
Family labor	3,419.4	3,348.1	3,286.8	3,206.9	3,103.6
Hired labor	1,176.4	1,174.5	968.3	935.2	904.5
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	34	33	34	33	32
Family labor	34	33	34	33	32
Hired labor	35	35	35	33	32
(1967=100)					
Total	94	92	94	91	88
Family labor	94	92	94	92	89
Hired labor	92	92	92	87	84

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.

Farm wage rates and indexes, October 1, 1971, United States

Item	Annual average 1970	October 1, 1969	October 1, 1970	October 1, 1971
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.37	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.54
Per month with house	328	305	325	338
Per month with board and room	251	235	250	262
Per week with board and room	60.75	58.25	61.25	67.00
Per week without board or room	78.00	73.00	76.50	80.50
Per day with house	9.80	9.30	10.10	10.60
Per day with board and room	10.70	10.00	10.50	11.10
Per day without board or room	11.70	11.40	12.20	12.80
Per hour with house	1.50	1.54	1.65	1.72
Per hour without board or room	1.64	1.51	1.61	1.70
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,092	1,039	1,107	1,170
(1967=100)	129	123	131	138

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

Workers on Farms, November 1971 1/

State and division	November 1969			November 1970			November 1971		
	week of 23-29			week of 22-28			week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	T h o u s a n d s								
Maine	16.9	12	4.9	15.6	11	4.6	14.7	10	4.7
N.H.	6.5	4.7	1.8	6.0	4.4	1.6	5.8	3.9	1.9
Vt.	14.7	11	3.7	13.5	10	3.5	13.4	10	3.4
Mass.	14.5	9.6	4.9	13.7	8.9	4.8	13.8	9.2	4.6
R.I.	1.9	1.2	.7	1.8	1.2	.6	1.8	1.2	.6
Conn.	10.3	7.3	3.0	8.5	6.3	2.2	9.9	6.4	3.5
N. Eng.	64.8	45.8	19.0	59.1	41.8	17.3	59.4	40.7	18.7
N. Y.	91	72	19	91	72	19	90	71	19
N. J.	14	9.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0
Pa.	99	87	12	97	85	12	96	85	11
M. Atl.	204	168	36	202	166	36	200	165	35
Ohio	146	135	11	137	125	12	138	127	11
Ind.	119	110	9.0	119	110	9.0	121	110	11
Ill.	161	138	23	153	133	20	156	136	20
Mich.	120	106	14	122	104	18	109	93	16
Wis.	178	164	14	177	162	15	169	154	15
E. N. Cent.	724	653	71	708	634	74	693	620	73
Minn.	171	160	11	158	147	11	150	141	9.0
Iowa	207	182	25	198	173	25	185	167	18
Mo.	171	152	19	186	162	24	164	146	18
N. Dak.	43	38	5.0	30	35	4.0	40	35	5.0
S. Dak.	58	52	6.0	54	49	5.0	51	46	5.0
Nebr.	96	86	10	96	87	9.0	93	84	9.0
Kans.	97	90	7.0	95	88	7.0	91	85	6.0
W. N. Cent.	843	760	83	826	741	85	774	704	70
Del.	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Md.	28	23	5.0	28	22	6.0	28	22	6.0
Va.	108	87	21	104	84	20	98	80	18
W. Va.	34	30	4.0	35	31	4.0	34	30	4.0
N. C.	176	148	28	181	154	27	183	153	30
S. C.	70	56	14	66	52	14	64	51	13
Ge.	98	74	24	92	71	21	95	73	22
Fla.	116	35	81	121	34	87	119	35	84
S. Atl.	636	457	179	633	452	181	627	448	179
Ky.	175	154	21	156	139	17	154	134	20
Tenn.	177	155	22	171	151	20	170	147	23
Ala.	117	91	26	105	84	21	101	81	20
Miss.	119	98	21	124	100	24	111	90	21
E. S. Cent.	588	498	90	556	474	82	536	452	84
Ark.	164	87	77	135	82	53	121	79	42
La.	70	52	18	70	52	18	65	48	17
Okla.	118	98	20	115	96	19	113	97	16
Texas	294	188	106	297	194	103	256	170	86
W. S. Cent.	646	425	221	617	424	193	555	394	161
Mont.	34	27	7.0	33	26	7.0	33	25	8.0
Idaho	36	29	7.0	36	28	8.0	39	31	8.0
Wyo.	13	8.0	5.0	13	8.0	5.0	13	8.0	5.0
Colo.	45	29	16	48	32	16	44	33	11
N. Mex.	29	15	14	24	13	11	25	14	11
Ariz.	39	6.0	33	39	6.0	33	38	5.0	33
Utah	20	16	4.0	18	15	3.0	18	16	2.0
Nev.	3.3	2.0	1.3	4.0	2.1	1.9	3.7	1.9	1.8
Mount.	219.3	132.0	87.3	215.0	130.1	84.9	213.7	133.9	79.8
Wash.	57	43	14	58	43	15	57	44	13
Oreg.	48	40	8.0	47	40	7.0	44	38	6.0
Calif.	225	65	160	221	61	160	249	64	185
Pac.	330	148	182	326	144	182	350	146	204
U. S.	4,255.1	3,286.8	968.3	4,142.1	3,206.9	935.2	4,008.1	3,103.6	904.5

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 November 21-27, 1971				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
Hours					
Maine	46.9	27.8	42.8	32.3	38.6
N. H.	49.1	31.9	46.3	35.7	42.1
Vt.	61.0	34.2	52.4	42.7	48.8
Mass.	54.3	36.4	49.0	40.1	45.1
R. I.	41.7	30.0	40.0	18.7	29.4
Conn.	47.0	37.5	43.8	32.8	39.7
N. Eng.	51.6	32.8	46.6	36.1	42.7
N. Y.	54.1	34.1	47.6	37.7	44.5
N. J.	37.1	28.0	34.9	33.5	34.5
Pa.	46.4	30.9	41.6	32.1	39.8
M Atl.	49.0	32.0	43.7	35.3	41.5
Ohio	38.9	32.7	37.3	27.3	35.5
Ind.	36.8	29.4	35.3	27.9	33.9
Ill.	36.6	31.0	35.5	31.2	34.8
Mich.	40.6	34.0	39.0	33.1	37.8
Wis.	53.2	28.9	44.0	36.7	42.7
E. N. Cent.	41.2	31.1	38.2	31.7	37.2
Minn.	46.1	30.4	41.5	32.4	40.3
Iowa	46.9	27.2	41.7	30.2	39.9
Mo.	36.4	33.7	35.9	29.0	34.4
N. Dak.	36.1	31.6	35.0	33.4	34.8
S. Dak.	40.7	26.4	37.7	27.6	36.3
Nebr.	41.9	31.4	39.0	31.0	37.8
Kans.	36.7	32.9	36.0	28.8	34.8
W. N. Cent.	41.4	30.8	38.6	30.2	37.5
Del.	39.3	29.1	35.6	25.8	32.4
Md.	41.0	31.1	38.3	27.9	35.5
Va.	37.0	29.9	35.5	35.2	35.4
W. Va.	33.6	25.1	31.4	24.8	30.5
N. C.	36.3	27.9	33.9	21.9	29.8
S. C.	32.5	26.5	31.1	25.1	28.6
Ga.	34.6	27.1	32.6	26.2	30.2
Fla.	34.0	24.3	31.7	41.3	37.2
S. Atl.	35.5	27.6	33.5	33.4	32.3
Ky.	34.3	30.3	33.2	26.8	30.8
Tenn.	28.7	28.8	28.7	22.6	27.2
Ala.	29.2	26.1	28.6	23.8	27.1
Miss.	29.2	28.5	29.0	34.3	31.9
E. S. Cent.	30.5	28.6	30.0	26.8	29.2
Ark.	27.8	29.7	28.2	27.3	27.8
La.	26.7	31.1	27.5	36.3	30.6
Okla.	33.7	26.7	32.0	25.8	30.8
Texas	39.3	31.4	37.8	27.6	33.6
W. S. Cent.	34.3	30.0	33.4	28.3	31.4
Mont.	38.6	30.1	36.5	39.3	37.1
Idaho	38.5	29.1	35.4	31.3	34.7
Wyo.	49.7	24.8	42.0	35.4	39.3
Colo.	40.8	31.9	38.5	35.1	37.9
N. Mex.	42.0	26.6	37.8	43.3	40.0
Ariz.	39.0	31.2	37.5	51.7	45.7
Utah	35.7	29.3	33.9	28.6	33.0
Nev.	35.1	19.9	31.9	46.5	37.4
Mount.	39.8	29.4	36.9	43.2	38.5
Wash.	34.6	29.3	33.6	30.4	32.5
Oreg.	30.1	29.2	30.0	28.9	29.7
Calif.	40.5	34.5	39.0	32.6	34.1
Pac.	35.7	31.3	34.7	32.4	33.3
U. S.	38.0	30.0	35.8	32.3	34.6

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 selected wage rate items presented below were derived from a probability farm labor survey conducted in October 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 inputs for making the following wage rate computations were supplied by employers of farm labor in the mainland 48 States. The sample was not large enough to provide wage rates for all States, but was of sufficient size to provide indicators for California and the United States.

Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey
Farm Wage Rates, October 10-16, 1971, California and United States

Item	October 10-16, 1971	
	California	United States
Dollars		
Farm Wage Rates 1/		
All Hired Farm Workers	2.42	1.93
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.79	2.51
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week and Month	2.29	1.85
Workers Paid by Hour only	2.17	1.85
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.41	2.13
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	2.14	1.92
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	2.38	1.85
Packinghouse workers	2.20	1.87
Machine Operators	2.34	1.91
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.73	2.37
Supervisors	3.37	3.07
Other Agricultural workers	2.47	2.02

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

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