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## FARM LABOR FORCE DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

The Nation's farm labor force for the week of April 23-29 dropped 4 percent below the April 1971 survey week, but was 11 percent higher than the corresponding week in March. The estimated 4,332,000 workers included 3,308,800 farm operators and other unpaid family members and 1,023,200 hired farmworkers.

All farmworkers averaged 38.2 hours of work during the April survey week, compared with 36.4 a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 43.1 hours, other unpaid family members 30.7, and hired workers 34.5 hours during the week.

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### Farm employment and indexes, April 1972, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1970	: Annual : average : 1971	: April : 19-25, : 1970	: April : 18-24, : 1971	: April : 23-29, : 1972
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)					
Total	: 4,522.6	: 4,445.9	: 4,393.7	: 4,493.2	: 4,332.0
Family labor	: 3,348.1	: 3,281.4	: 3,393.2	: 3,450.4	: 3,308.8
Hired labor	: 1,174.5	: 1,164.5	: 1,000.5	: 1,042.8	: 1,023.2
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total	: 33	: 33	: 33	: 34	: 33
Family labor	: 33	: 32	: 33	: 33	: 32
Hired labor	: 35	: 34	: 35	: 37	: 36
(1967=100)					
Total	: 92	: 92	: 92	: 93	: 90
Family labor	: 92	: 89	: 92	: 92	: 89
Hired labor	: 92	: 89	: 92	: 97	: 95

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, April 1972 1/

State and division	April 1970 week of 19-25			April 1971 week of 18-24			April 1972 week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	17.4	12	5.4	17.3	12	5.3	16.6	12	4.6
N. H.	6.1	4.4	1.7	6.0	4.2	1.8	5.9	4.2	1.7
Vt.	14.3	11	3.3	14.3	11	3.3	13.8	10	3.8
Mass.	14.5	9.7	4.8	14.5	9.6	4.9	13.8	9.9	3.9
R. I.	1.9	1.2	.7	2.0	1.3	.7	1.7	1.0	.7
Conn.	11.7	7.4	4.3	11.3	6.8	4.5	11.6	7.1	4.5
N. Eng.	65.9	45.7	20.2	65.4	44.9	20.5	63.4	44.2	19.2
N. Y.	89	70	19	88	68	20	84	65	19
N. J.	16	8.0	8.0	19	10	9.0	18	9.0	9.0
Pa.	114	101	13	114	99	15	105	92	13
M. Atl.	219	179	40	221	177	44	207	166	41
Ohio	145	133	12	163	146	17	146	133	13
Ind.	125	116	9.0	136	125	11	121	112	9.0
Ill.	163	138	25	180	152	28	164	138	26
Mich.	138	119	19	128	109	19	128	108	20
Wis.	210	193	17	204	187	17	186	167	19
E. N. Cent.	781	699	82	811	719	92	745	658	87
Minn.	173	163	10	187	173	14	176	163	13
Iowa	214	196	18	211	192	19	203	186	17
Mo.	184	163	21	199	172	27	181	164	17
N. Dak.	50	46	4.0	58	51	7.0	53	47	6.0
S. Dak.	67	63	4.0	68	62	6.0	64	59	5.0
Nebr.	113	99	14	116	102	14	116	98	18
Kans.	103	94	9.0	107	97	10	103	94	9.0
W. N. Cent.	904	824	80	946	849	97	896	811	85
Del.	6.0	4.0	2.0	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Md.	29	23	6.0	33	26	7.0	31	25	6.0
Va.	112	91	21	106	86	20	106	86	20
W. Va.	38	32	6.0	38	32	6.0	37	31	6.0
N. C.	213	175	38	212	174	38	206	165	41
S. C.	78	59	19	74	55	19	69	53	16
Ga.	98	79	19	95	77	18	92	75	17
Fla.	127	37	90	130	41	89	130	38	92
S. Atl.	701	500	201	695	496	199	677	477	200
Ky.	132	112	20	143	120	23	130	110	20
Tenn.	132	113	19	147	122	25	138	118	20
Ala.	92	72	20	93	73	20	89	70	19
Miss.	130	98	32	124	88	36	122	91	31
E. S. Cent.	486	395	91	507	403	104	479	389	90
Ark.	141	78	63	146	84	62	147	84	63
La.	74	48	26	75	48	27	77	47	30
Okla.	127	113	14	127	112	15	124	110	14
Texas	275	190	85	271	192	79	281	202	79
W. S. Cent.	617	429	188	619	436	183	629	443	186
Mont.	37	29	8.0	46	35	11	45	33	12
Idaho	45	35	10	43	34	9.0	44	34	10
Wyo.	14	10	4.0	13	9.0	4.0	14	10	4.0
Colo.	48	37	11	48	37	11	48	37	11
N. Mex.	19	14	5.0	20	14	6.0	20	13	7.0
Ariz.	36	6.0	30	37	6.0	31	36	6.0	30
Utah	22	17	5.0	20	16	4.0	20	16	4.0
Nev.	4.8	2.5	2.3	4.8	2.5	2.3	4.6	2.6	2.0
Mount.	225.8	150.5	75.3	231.8	153.5	78.3	231.6	151.6	80
Wash.	84	54	30	81	53	28	84	53	31
Oreg.	58	45	13	67	50	17	59	45	14
Calif.	252	72	180	249	69	180	261	71	190
Pac.	594	171	223	397	172	225	404	169	235
U. S.	4,393.7	3,393.2	1,000.5	4,493.2	3,450.4	1,042.8	4,332.0	3,308.8	1,023.2

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 workers: Average reporting farms, week of April 23-29, 1972

State and division	Farm Operator	Other Family Members <sup>1/</sup>	All Family	Hired Workers	All Workers <sup>1/</sup>
			Hours		
Maine	51.8	34.0	46.6	34.0	41.3
N. H.	56.6	29.5	49.6	36.0	44.3
Vt.	59.1	37.4	51.5	45.7	49.2
Mass.	56.2	33.5	48.2	36.9	43.0
R. I.	65.1	51.7	63.2	39.8	51.2
Conn.	61.3	35.2	52.2	39.7	47.1
N. Eng.	56.5	34.8	49.6	38.4	45.3
N. Y.	54.5	32.5	47.4	36.4	43.6
N. J.	37.5	23.3	35.5	33.3	35.0
Pa.	48.6	29.1	42.7	31.9	40.3
M. Atl.	50.4	30.5	44.2	34.4	41.2
Ohio	38.5	30.1	36.2	28.2	34.0
Ind.	34.8	29.6	33.9	23.1	31.9
Ill.	42.2	34.2	40.7	32.1	39.0
Mich.	42.4	32.5	39.6	30.3	37.3
Wis.	53.5	30.4	45.0	33.0	42.7
E. N. Cent.	42.4	31.4	39.2	30.5	37.7
Minn.	52.9	31.7	46.0	32.3	44.1
Iowa	57.2	29.3	48.5	32.0	45.2
Mo.	41.6	23.5	37.6	30.7	37.4
N. Dak.	49.0	37.7	45.9	36.0	44.4
S. Dak.	53.8	33.2	47.7	37.2	46.1
Nebr.	53.3	34.7	47.9	36.1	45.6
Kans.	42.1	33.4	40.1	30.8	38.5
W. N. Cent.	49.8	30.4	44.2	34.3	42.7
Del.	47.7	41.6	46.0	34.3	42.2
Md.	46.6	35.7	43.1	35.6	41.2
Va.	39.9	31.3	37.9	34.2	36.6
W. Va.	36.7	26.3	33.3	25.8	32.3
N. C.	37.1	30.0	35.1	24.6	30.6
S. C.	35.7	27.7	33.7	29.9	32.1
Ga.	39.4	28.5	36.9	32.2	35.1
Fla.	40.5	24.6	35.5	29.3	32.3
S. Atl.	38.5	29.4	36.1	29.3	33.3
Ky.	35.1	27.2	33.5	27.3	31.7
Tenn.	34.0	28.6	32.9	26.5	31.3
Ala.	37.1	29.9	35.6	33.5	34.9
Miss.	34.9	20.9	33.6	39.9	37.1
E. S. Cent.	35.1	28.5	33.8	32.9	33.6
Ark.	38.8	33.1	37.5	40.1	38.7
La.	37.7	31.4	36.6	42.2	38.9
Okla.	39.2	29.0	36.6	29.4	35.3
Texas	42.4	30.5	39.3	30.5	35.9
W. S. Cent.	40.4	30.3	38.2	35.6	36.8
Mont.	56.2	37.0	50.0	44.3	48.4
Idaho	52.7	35.7	46.6	34.4	43.7
Wyo.	57.4	31.2	49.2	37.1	43.8
Colo.	49.4	34.7	45.4	41.6	44.5
N. Mex.	49.2	30.9	44.8	45.0	45.2
Ariz.	41.4	28.6	38.6	49.3	45.5
Utah	43.9	30.7	39.2	30.5	37.4
Nev.	45.6	27.9	38.5	50.2	42.2
Mount.	51.0	33.9	45.7	44.0	44.6
Wash.	47.7	32.6	43.3	37.3	40.7
Oreg.	37.1	30.0	35.3	33.3	34.7
Calif.	46.1	43.6	45.5	37.1	39.1
Pac.	44.2	36.4	42.2	36.9	38.8
U. S.	43.1	30.7	39.7	34.5	38.2

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

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### Cold, Wet Weather Dampens Pace of Corn Belt Farm Activities

Wet fields prevented Corn Belt farmers from planting much corn during the week. Planted acreage is running behind last spring when a dry April prevailed. Iowa and Illinois, the Nation's two leading corn producing States, have planted only 10 percent and 2 percent of their intended 1972 acreage, compared with last spring's progress of 20 and 35 percent, respectively.

In contrast, the South had another dry week and farmers were busy planting cotton. Cotton is about 70 percent seeded in Georgia and South Carolina, 50 percent seeded in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, 30 percent seeded in Texas, and nearly all seeded in California.

Few soybeans were planted during the week. Fields were wet in the Corn Belt and farmers in the South were busy planting cotton.

Seeding of spring-sown grains is behind last spring's rapid pace in the northern States. The season is about 1 to 2 weeks late because of wet weather.

Wheat and oats harvesting made good progress in south Texas. Combining of small grains is getting underway in Mississippi.

Vegetable planting is off to a slow start in the Northeast. Farther south watermelon planting is completed in South Carolina. The strawberry crop in Arkansas needs more sunshine. Celery cutting is about to start 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.