

farm labor



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MORE WORKERS ON FARMS

The Nation's farm labor force for May 21-27, 1972 was estimated at 4,922,500 workers, about 163,100 more than a year ago. The labor force consisted of 3,592,400 farm operators and unpaid family members and 1,330,100 hired workers.

Farmworkers average 41.7 hours during the May survey week compared with 38.2 a month earlier. Farm operators worked 49.9 hours, other unpaid family members 34.2, and hired workers 35.1 hours during the week.

In the Corn Belt the weather was ideal for planting corn and soybeans. Rain on the Great Plains slowed corn and soybean planting. Cotton seeding and wheat harvesting ran ahead of last year in Texas. Good drying weather aided haying operations in most of the Nation.

Farmers in the Corn Belt had another good week, and most took advantage of the weather to complete plantings. Illinois growers are starting to cultivate. In Iowa about half the crop is up; however, topsoil crusting caused some replanting. Corn planting was again delayed by rain from Kansas to the Dakotas. South Dakota farmers are struggling to get their crop planted.

Cotton planting was virtually complete from Arkansas - Louisiana to South Carolina. A dry week in Texas kept cotton planting crews working long hours as they strived to get the crop planted. Planting was 75 percent complete in Texas and 50 percent complete in Oklahoma.

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Wheat combining continues in Texas with 13 percent of the crop harvested versus 7 percent last year. Combining gained momentum in southwest Oklahoma. Wheat and oat combining progressed favorably across the South. Barley harvest has started as far north as Kentucky.

The big swing during the week was to soybean planting, as cotton and corn planting neared completion. About 55 percent of the acreage in the North-Central States was planted, compared with 70 percent at this time last year. Seeding was on or ahead of schedule in the South; however, wet fields delayed plantings from New Jersey to the Carolinas.

A break in the rainy weather allowed farmers in the Northeast to put in a full week of fieldwork. Maine potato growers were busy during the week getting the crop in. Potato planting was also active in Upstate New York. Haying is just starting in the region.

Vegetable seeding made rapid headway from Wisconsin to New England. Strawberry picking started in New Jersey and was active on Kentucky farms. Supplies of vegetables from Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina were on the increase as more acreage came into production.

Thinning and spraying are the major fruit crop activities. Picking of early season peaches was underway in the South. Freestone peach harvest has started in California along with plums, nectarines, apricots, cherries, and Valencia oranges.

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 1972, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1970	: Annual : average : 1971	: May : 24-30, : 1970	: May : 23-29, : 1971	: May : 21-27, : 1972
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)					
Total	: 4,522.6	4,445.9	4,947.0	4,759.4	4,922.5
Family labor	: 3,348.1	3,281.4	3,647.9	3,531.1	3,592.4
Hired labor	: 1,174.5	1,164.5	1,299.1	1,228.3	1,330.1
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total	: 33	33	34	33	34
Family labor	: 33	32	33	32	33
Hired labor	: 35	34	36	34	37
(1967=100)					
Total	: 92	92	93	89	93
Family labor	: 92	89	92	89	92
Hired labor	: 92	89	95	89	97

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, 1972, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1971	: April 1, : 1970	: April 1, : 1971	: April 1, : 1972
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/ Per month with house	: \$ 1.48	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.44
Per month with board and room	: 340	319	331	351
Per week with board and room	: 263	245	258	274
Per week without board or room	: 64.50	59.25	62.00	65.50
Per day with house	: 81.00	76.50	79.25	83.75
Per day with board and room	: 10.30	9.60	10.30	10.90
Per day without board or room	: 11.20	9.90	10.40	11.10
Per hour with house	: 12.20	11.30	11.80	12.70
Per hour without board or room	: 1.56	1.40	1.45	1.55
Per hour without board or room	: 1.73	1.66	1.76	1.84
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)	: 1,138	1,096	1,156	1,221
(1967=100)	: 134	129	136	144

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.

3/ Revised.

Workers on Farms, May 1972 1/

State and division	May 1970 Week of 24-30			May 1971 Week of 23-29			May 1972 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
T h o u s a n d s									
Maine	18.8	13	5.8	17.7	12	5.7	17.6	13	4.6
N. H.	6.3	4.6	1.7	6.1	4.4	1.7	6.0	4.5	1.5
Vt.	14.4	11	3.4	14.6	11	3.6	14.7	11	3.7
Mass.	17	9.9	7.1	17.1	9.8	7.3	16.3	9.8	6.5
R. I.	2.0	1.3	.7	2.1	1.3	.8	1.7	1.0	.7
Conn.	12.5	7.5	5.0	11.8	6.9	4.9	12.2	7.3	4.9
N. Eng.	71	47.3	23.7	69.4	45.4	24.0	68.5	46.6	21.9
N. Y.	93	70	23	95	70	25	92	68	24
N. J.	24	10	14	23	10	13	22	9.0	13
Pa.	120	103	17	117	101	16	114	96	18
M. Atl.	237	183	54	235	181	54	228	173	55
Ohio	168	148	20	163	145	18	189	162	27
Ind.	151	138	13	142	131	11	164	148	16
Ill.	185	153	32	178	150	28	203	164	39
Mich.	155	134	21	144	121	23	168	140	28
Wis.	212	194	18	206	188	18	198	177	21
E. N. Cent.	871	767	104	833	735	98	922	791	131
Minn.	198	178	20	195	174	21	199	173	26
Iowa	244	219	25	222	200	22	239	210	29
Mo.	204	164	40	195	164	31	202	163	39
N. Dak.	68	57	11	68	55	13	68	54	14
S. Dak.	74	67	7.0	68	62	6.0	63	58	5.0
Nebr.	122	104	18	121	100	21	132	110	22
Kans.	120	103	17	115	99	16	119	103	16
W. N. Cent.	1,030	892	138	984	854	130	1,022	871	151
Del.	8.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md.	35	26	9.0	35	27	8.0	32	25	7.0
Va.	129	98	31	123	95	23	118	90	28
W. Va.	42	34	8.0	38	32	6.0	39	32	7.0
N. C.	240	190	50	229	186	43	215	175	40
S. C.	79	60	19	77	57	20	69	53	16
Ga.	101	80	21	100	79	21	97	78	19
Fla.	123	36	87	122	36	86	119	33	86
S. Atl.	757	529	228	732	517	215	696	490	206
Ky.	155	116	39	142	113	29	161	125	36
Tenn.	161	119	42	148	116	32	157	124	33
Ala.	107	85	22	109	85	24	109	86	23
Miss.	164	111	53	157	105	52	148	97	51
E. S. Cent.	587	431	156	556	419	137	575	432	143
Ark.	164	85	79	159	84	75	171	92	79
La.	80	52	28	74	50	24	85	53	32
Okla.	136	116	20	137	118	19	137	116	21
Texas	302	203	99	274	194	80	294	197	97
W. S. Cent.	682	456	226	644	446	198	687	458	229
Mont.	43	31	12	46	31	15	44	28	16
Idaho	47	35	12	45	33	12	47	35	12
Wyo.	15	10	5.0	16	10	6.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	63	43	20	59	39	20	61	41	20
N. Mex.	20	14	6.0	21	14	7.0	20	13	7.0
Ariz.	37	6.0	31	37	6.0	31	35	6.0	29
Utah	26	19	7.0	25	18	7.0	22	16	6.0
Nev.	5.0	2.6	2.4	5.0	2.7	2.3	5.0	2.8	2.2
Mount.	256	160.6	95.4	254	153.7	100.3	249	151.8	97.2
Wash.	96	56	40	92	59	33	96	59	37
Oreg.	68	49	19	71	47	24	66	47	19
Calif.	292	77	215	289	74	215	313	73	240
Pac.	456	182	274	452	180	272	475	179	296
U. S.	4,947.0	3,647.9	1,299.1	4,759.4	3,531.1	1,228.3	4,922.5	3,592.4	1,330.1

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: Average for reporting farms, week of May 21-27, 1972

State and division	Farm Operators	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
Maine	62.1	29.3	49.9	35.7	44.3
N. H.	61.2	32.9	54.1	35.7	47.2
Vt.	63.2	35.8	52.8	45.1	49.9
Mass.	58.4	36.8	50.6	37.5	45.5
R. I.	61.5	39.7	56.9	40.2	49.5
Conn.	59.2	37.5	51.4	39.0	47.2
N. Eng.	61.1	34.0	51.5	38.7	46.7
N. Y.	61.6	34.2	51.9	37.3	47.0
N. J.	44.6	32.2	41.5	29.1	37.7
Pa.	54.2	31.6	46.7	31.5	43.1
M. Atl.	56.7	32.7	48.5	33.5	44.2
Ohio	57.1	35.1	49.0	30.9	44.3
Ind.	53.9	35.5	47.5	30.3	43.4
Ill.	61.0	37.1	53.9	34.5	49.2
Mich.	59.3	39.7	52.2	35.4	47.7
Wis.	64.3	35.3	52.5	36.1	49.1
E. N. Cent.	59.3	36.4	51.1	33.7	46.9
Minn.	61.8	35.2	52.2	33.2	48.4
Iowa	65.0	35.4	54.7	35.3	50.4
Mo.	49.8	36.9	46.6	32.9	42.4
N. Dak.	61.8	41.8	54.5	40.4	51.9
S. Dak.	53.5	36.5	48.4	35.9	46.6
Nebr.	57.5	38.4	50.5	40.6	48.6
Kans.	49.2	36.6	45.5	31.6	42.6
W. N. Cent.	57.1	36.7	50.3	35.2	47.2
Del.	43.9	32.4	41.0	30.4	35.9
Md.	49.1	33.8	44.0	29.4	40.2
Va.	42.5	31.8	39.6	27.9	34.6
W. Va.	41.2	30.2	38.0	22.2	34.6
N. C.	34.6	30.4	33.5	24.8	30.4
S. C.	35.9	28.7	34.1	29.6	32.1
Ga.	40.7	28.8	37.6	30.8	35.0
Fla.	36.1	30.0	34.9	28.9	30.1
S. Atl.	38.3	30.3	36.2	28.0	32.6
Ky.	42.9	29.7	38.4	23.4	32.5
Tenn.	39.4	29.8	36.7	22.4	32.0
Ala.	39.9	29.8	37.3	29.7	34.7
Miss.	38.7	33.9	37.6	43.2	41.0
E. S. Cent.	40.4	30.7	37.5	31.2	35.0
Ark.	43.9	37.6	42.1	42.3	42.2
La.	40.3	32.1	38.0	37.9	37.9
Okla.	46.2	31.5	42.1	34.4	40.3
Texas	45.9	35.7	43.4	32.5	38.1
W. S. Cent.	44.9	34.7	42.2	36.8	39.5
Mont.	57.8	37.0	51.5	43.1	48.7
Idaho	57.7	38.9	50.2	31.1	45.1
Wyo.	58.5	38.2	51.9	31.2	44.0
Colo.	55.2	37.3	49.3	41.4	47.2
N. Mex.	50.1	32.9	45.4	46.7	45.9
Ariz.	45.7	33.9	42.8	49.2	46.7
Utah	47.5	33.8	43.1	31.0	39.6
Nev.	52.1	32.6	44.3	44.9	44.5
Mount.	54.7	36.6	48.7	42.0	46.0
Wash.	50.1	29.1	44.4	36.5	40.7
Oreg.	43.2	28.5	39.1	33.4	37.5
Calif.	45.7	44.6	45.4	39.9	41.0
Pac.	46.4	35.2	43.4	39.1	40.5
U. S.	49.9	34.2	44.8	35.1	41.7

^{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 April 1972 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, April 9-15, 1972 California and United States

Item	April 9-15 1972	
	California	United States
	Dollars	
Farm Wage Rates 1/		
All Hired Farm Workers	2.27	1.88
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.98	2.60
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week and Month	2.20	1.84
Workers Paid by Hour only	2.08	1.84
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.29	2.04
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	2.11	1.92
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	2.13	1.76
Packinghouse workers	2.28	2.10
Machine Operators	2.30	1.80
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.57	2.42
Supervisors	3.14	3.19
Other Agricultural workers	2.31	1.76

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

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