

farm labor



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FARM WORK FORCE SMALLER THAN A YEAR AGO

The farm labor force in the United States was 5,053,000 workers during the week of August 20-26, 4 percent below the survey week a year earlier. The work force consisted of 3,460,700 farm operators and unpaid family members and 1,592,300 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 37.4 hours during the August survey week, compared with 38.7 hours in July. Farm operators worked an average of 42.8 hours; unpaid family members, 33.3 hours; and hired workers, 32.6 hours.

Truck crop harvest continued active in the Pacific Northwest and the Northeast during the August survey week. Harvest in Wisconsin and Michigan was slowed by wet fields and late crops. Harvest in California and Texas was at a seasonally slow pace. Potato digging was in full swing in southwestern counties of Idaho. Vines were dying early in many fields in eastern counties. Apple and peach picking was increasing in northern U. S. orchards. The Papershell almond harvest was well underway in California and the grape harvest was also increasing.

Washington and North Dakota farmers made good progress combining small grains. However, rain delayed harvest from Minnesota east to Michigan. Favorable weather in the Corn Belt maintained excellent growing conditions for the Nation's corn crop. Corn harvest was underway in the southern area of the Gulf Coast States and started to move northward.

Cotton was beginning to open from the bootheel of Missouri to Louisiana and eastward to Georgia. Spraying to protect the late fruit was at a peak. Thunder-showers hampered harvest in Texas.

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.

Workers on Farms, August 1972 1/

State and division	August 1970			August 1971			August 1972		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	T h o u s a n d s								
Maine	23.2	14	9.2	21.0	12	9.0	21.6	13	8.6
N. H.	7.9	4.9	3.0	7.6	4.9	2.7	7.7	5.1	2.6
Vt.	14.8	11	3.8	15.0	11	4.0	15.4	11	4.4
Mass.	26	11	15	22.6	9.6	13	21	10	11
R. I.	2.2	1.4	.8	2.1	1.3	.8	1.8	1.0	.8
Conn.	21.4	8.4	13	18.5	7.6	10.9	17.7	7.4	10.3
N. Eng.	95.5	50.7	44.8	86.8	46.4	40.4	85.2	47.5	37.7
N. Y.	119	78	41	118	77	41	120	78	42
N. J.	34	10	24	30	9.0	21	30	10	20
Pa.	142	115	27	136	110	26	132	108	24
M. Atl.	295	203	92	284	196	88	282	196	86
Ohio	158	129	29	154	127	27	159	129	30
Ind.	137	121	16	133	118	15	137	123	14
Ill.	174	141	33	168	139	29	163	137	26
Mich.	163	125	38	152	115	37	144	104	40
Wis.	211	185	26	204	176	28	197	170	27
E. N. Cent.	843	701	142	811	675	136	800	663	137
Minn.	201	171	30	215	180	35	199	168	31
Iowa	243	200	43	242	196	46	217	175	42
Mo.	215	173	42	206	164	42	198	160	38
N. Dak.	91	66	25	91	66	25	87	65	22
S. Dak.	80	68	12	79	66	13	75	63	12
Nebr.	127	104	23	121	95	26	124	97	27
Kans.	120	98	22	130	102	28	124	98	26
W. N. Cent.	1,077	880	197	1,084	869	215	1,024	826	198
Del.	10	5.0	5.0	10	5.0	5.0	10	5.0	5.0
Md.	42	28	14	41	29	12	38	27	11
Va.	126	94	32	138	87	51	135	88	47
W. Va.	43	37	6.0	43	36	7.0	40	35	5.0
N. C.	420	254	166	383	240	143	349	219	130
S. C.	97	70	27	95	69	26	99	67	32
Ga.	127	95	32	136	100	36	120	95	25
Fla.	84	31	53	84	31	53	83	30	53
S. Atl.	949	614	335	930	597	333	874	566	308
Ky.	181	132	49	177	129	48	180	133	47
Tenn.	166	123	43	163	118	45	159	114	45
Ala.	92	69	23	84	64	20	78	61	17
Miss.	152	123	29	126	97	29	125	98	27
E. S. Cent.	591	447	144	550	408	142	542	406	136
Ark.	176	84	92	170	86	84	153	80	73
La.	86	49	37	91	50	41	86	47	39
Okla.	116	98	18	120	95	25	124	101	23
Texas	291	196	95	308	199	109	295	193	102
W. S. Cent.	669	427	242	689	430	259	658	421	237
Mont.	55	34	21	58	34	24	59	35	24
Idaho	60	38	22	59	38	21	55	37	18
Wyo.	19	12	7.0	19	12	7.0	17	11	6.0
Colo.	85	44	41	71	38	33	60	33	27
N. Mex.	25	15	10	21	14	7.0	23	14	9.0
Ariz.	30	6.0	24	30	5.0	25	30	5.0	25
Utah	31	20	11	30	19	11	26	18	8.0
Nev.	7.2	3.3	3.9	6.8	3.1	3.7	6.8	3.2	3.6
Mount.	312.2	172.3	139.9	294.8	163.1	131.7	276.8	156.2	120.6
Wash.	103	60	43	108	62	46	103	61	42
Oreg.	90	46	44	98	53	45	82	44	38
Calif.	320	75	245	312	72	240	326	74	252
Pac.	513	181	332	518	187	331	511	179	332
U. S.	5,344.7	3,676.0	1,668.7	5,247.6	3,571.5	1,676.1	5,053.0	3,460.7	1,592.3

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: Average for reporting farms, week of August 20-26, 1972

State and division	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours				
Maine	59.9	36.7	52.1	36.4	45.7
N. H.	52.2	35.6	46.5	36.9	42.0
Vt.	63.8	36.8	53.0	44.9	50.0
Mass.	63.2	36.9	52.2	39.1	46.9
R. I.	52.9	36.5	49.9	52.8	51.8
Conn.	53.8	38.4	48.5	41.7	46.2
N. Eng.	59.5	36.9	51.1	40.0	46.7
N. Y.	58.9	32.3	48.4	37.0	44.4
N. J.	39.5	30.0	36.8	33.9	35.9
Pa.	51.6	31.9	45.0	30.6	41.4
M. Atl.	53.9	31.9	45.9	34.5	42.1
Ohio	43.1	30.8	39.3	25.1	35.2
Ind.	38.9	30.1	36.5	23.5	34.0
Ill.	38.8	32.7	37.5	30.2	36.1
Mich.	44.3	40.1	43.2	34.5	40.8
Wis.	54.9	32.9	45.7	37.1	44.1
E. N. Cent.	43.9	33.0	40.3	31.0	38.4
Minn.	53.0	34.3	46.5	35.5	44.4
Iowa	47.3	32.3	42.8	24.8	38.8
Mo.	40.3	30.7	38.3	30.0	36.3
N. Dak.	65.7	46.4	57.2	46.0	54.9
S. Dak.	56.1	38.3	50.0	35.5	47.6
Nebr.	52.6	36.1	47.3	30.4	43.4
Kans.	47.0	37.9	44.7	32.4	42.0
W. N. Cent.	49.2	34.8	44.7	32.2	42.4
Del.	41.7	33.6	39.4	29.1	34.8
Md.	45.1	38.0	42.6	34.5	40.5
Va.	41.4	35.1	39.5	25.4	33.0
W. Va.	42.7	31.0	39.0	22.2	35.0
N. C.	35.4	31.9	34.2	25.2	29.0
S. C.	37.5	33.0	36.2	26.5	30.7
Ga.	36.5	31.7	35.3	29.7	33.1
Fla.	34.8	24.8	32.6	29.9	30.8
S. Atl.	37.7	32.2	36.0	26.9	31.4
Ky.	37.2	31.2	35.4	25.3	31.3
Tenn.	32.9	33.2	32.9	20.8	28.8
Ala.	29.9	30.6	30.1	29.8	30.0
Miss.	30.7	27.0	29.9	27.1	28.2
E. S. Cent.	33.1	30.8	32.4	24.7	29.7
Ark.	32.4	32.6	32.4	32.7	32.5
La.	33.0	38.5	34.3	34.9	34.5
Okla.	42.9	31.8	39.4	33.1	38.1
Tex.	41.7	32.4	39.5	34.6	37.5
W. S. Cent.	39.1	33.1	37.5	33.9	36.1
Mont.	54.8	41.7	49.2	38.0	45.3
Idaho	53.4	39.5	48.1	32.1	44.1
Wyo.	60.4	42.7	54.3	44.8	50.7
Colo.	44.3	38.2	42.5	36.7	41.1
N. Mex.	48.1	34.1	44.2	36.9	41.0
Ariz.	43.6	31.2	41.0	48.5	45.6
Utah	46.5	34.4	42.3	26.8	37.6
Nev.	46.5	31.8	42.5	52.0	45.7
Mount.	50.1	38.2	46.0	38.9	43.4
Wash.	46.7	32.4	42.3	34.6	38.0
Oreg.	39.2	30.6	36.6	33.5	35.7
Calif.	45.8	42.1	44.8	38.8	39.9
Pac.	44.3	35.9	41.8	37.7	38.8
U. S.	42.8	33.3	39.8	32.6	37.4

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

Farm employment and indexes, August 1972, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1970	Annual average 1971	August 23-29, 1970	August 22-28, 1971	August 20-26, 1972
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)					
Total	4,522.6	4,445.9	5,344.7	5,247.6	5,053.0
Family labor	3,348.1	3,281.4	3,676.0	3,571.5	3,460.7
Hired labor	1,174.5	1,164.5	1,668.7	1,676.1	1,592.3
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total	33	33	33	33	32
Family labor	33	32	33	32	31
Hired labor	35	34	34	34	33
(1967=100)					
Total	92	92	91	89	86
Family labor	92	89	92	89	86
Hired labor	92	89	89	89	87

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.

QUARTERLY PROBABILITY FARM LABOR SURVEY

The selected wage rate items presented below were derived from a probability farm labor survey conducted in July 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, July 9-15, 1972 California and United States

Item	July 9-15, 1972	
	California	United States
Dollars		
Farm Wage Rates 1/		
All Hired Farm Workers	2.23	1.75
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.53	2.15
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week and Month	2.20	1.72
Workers Paid by Hour only	2.07	1.71
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.26	1.90
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	2.06	1.75
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	2.06	1.66
Packinghouse workers	2.53	1.92
Machine Operators	2.34	1.80
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.61	2.11
Supervisors	3.21	2.88
Other Agricultural workers	3.11	1.72

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