

farm labor



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Wet Weather Delays Field Work

The Nation's farm labor force had an estimated 4,780,800 workers during the October 22-28 survey week, 2 percent fewer than a year ago. Included were 3,571,400 working farm operators and unpaid family members, and 1,209,400 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 38.3 hours during the October survey week compared with 38.9 hours a year earlier. Farm operators averaged 43.0 hours and other unpaid family members worked 32.0 hours. Hired workers averaged 35.1 hours.

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

Item	: Annual : average : 1970	: Annual : average : 1971	: October : 18-24, : 1970	: October : 24-30, : 1971	: October : 22-28, : 1972
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 4,522.6	: 4,445.9	: 5,030.9	: 4,896.1	: 4,780.8
Family labor	: 3,348.1	: 3,281.4	: 3,747.9	: 3,642.5	: 3,571.4
Hired labor	: 1,174.5	: 1,164.5	: 1,283.0	: 1,253.6	: 1,209.4
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 33	: 33	: 32	: 31	: 30
Family labor	: 33	: 32	: 33	: 32	: 31
Hired labor	: 35	: 34	: 30	: 29	: 28
(1967=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 92	: 92	: 89	: 86	: 83
Family labor	: 92	: 89	: 92	: 89	: 86
Hired labor	: 92	: 89	: 79	: 76	: 74

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 1972 1/

State and division	October 1970			October 1971			October 1972		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	19.2	12	7.2	19.5	13	6.5	18	12	6.0
New Hampshire	6.3	4.6	1.7	6.6	4.6	2.0	7.2	4.7	2.5
Vermont	14.5	11	3.5	14.5	11	3.5	15	11	4.0
Massachusetts	17.4	9.0	8.4	16.9	9.5	7.4	16.8	9.4	7.4
Rhode Island	1.9	1.2	.7	1.9	1.2	.7	1.8	1.1	.7
Connecticut	11.5	7.1	4.4	11.1	6.6	4.5	11	6.7	4.3
N. England	70.8	44.9	25.9	70.5	45.9	24.6	69.8	44.9	24.9
New York	104	78	26	104	75	29	100	74	26
New Jersey	15	10	5.0	18	9.0	9.0	18	9.0	9.0
Pennsylvania	117	98	19	120	101	19	105	91	14
M. Atlantic	236	186	50	242	185	57	223	174	49
Ohio	166	142	24	166	145	21	164	144	20
Indiana	139	126	13	138	125	13	132	119	13
Illinois	182	150	32	182	150	32	170	146	24
Michigan	150	117	33	130	102	28	136	105	31
Wisconsin	186	166	20	178	156	22	176	152	24
E. N. Central	823	701	122	794	678	116	778	666	112
Minnesota	186	169	17	176	163	13	174	158	16
Iowa	224	199	25	233	204	29	219	192	27
Missouri	221	177	44	217	168	49	206	160	46
North Dakota	58	48	10	57	47	10	58	48	10
South Dakota	66	59	7.0	66	59	7.0	64	57	7.0
Nebraska	104	93	11	105	93	12	115	100	15
Kansas	115	103	12	109	99	10	111	100	11
W. N. Central	974	848	126	963	833	130	947	815	132
Delaware	8.0	5.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Maryland	32	25	7.0	31	24	7.0	29	23	6.0
Virginia	119	91	28	110	83	27	114	86	28
West Virginia	40	35	5.0	38	34	4.0	36	32	4.0
North Carolina	234	194	40	206	174	32	209	174	35
South Carolina	87	69	18	82	65	17	81	66	15
Georgia	133	108	25	124	103	21	125	106	19
Florida	113	42	71	104	39	65	106	39	67
S. Atlantic	766	569	197	702	526	176	707	530	177
Kentucky	210	175	35	194	168	26	186	156	30
Tennessee	219	178	41	208	176	32	206	173	33
Alabama	133	108	25	132	108	24	137	113	24
Mississippi	169	131	38	172	128	44	163	118	45
E. S. Central	731	592	139	706	580	126	692	560	132
Arkansas	164	90	74	167	102	65	160	97	63
Louisiana	101	58	43	106	63	43	112	58	54
Oklahoma	144	118	26	134	112	22	136	114	22
Texas	341	214	127	312	194	118	300	193	107
W. S. Central	750	480	270	719	471	248	708	462	246
Montana	40	29	11	36	27	9.0	37	28	9.0
Idaho	51	38	13	49	38	11	47	40	7.0
Wyoming	15	10	5.0	15	10	5.0	14	9.0	5.0
Colorado	69	37	32	65	39	26	66	38	28
New Mexico	32	19	13	30	15	15	28	15	13
Arizona	38	7.0	31	36	6.0	30	36	6.0	30
Utah	23	17	6.0	23	17	6.0	22	17	5.0
Nevada	5.1	3.0	2.1	4.6	2.6	2.0	5.0	2.5	2.5
Mountain	273.1	160.0	113.1	258.6	154.6	104	255.0	155.5	99.5
Washington	71	48	23	71	48	23	70	48	22
Oregon	58	46	12	61	47	14	60	45	15
California	278	73	205	309	74	235	271	71	200
Pacific	407	167	240	441	169	272	401	164	237
United States	5,030.9	3,747.9	1,283.0	4,896.1	3,642.5	1,253.6	4,780.8	3,571.4	1,209.4

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 October 22-28, 1972

State and division	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
			Hours		
Maine	58.6	35.8	51.5	32.9	45.3
N. H.	57.4	29.6	49.1	33.1	42.9
Vt.	60.4	35.0	50.5	41.5	47.0
Mass.	62.8	38.3	54.3	34.9	45.6
R. I.	73.1	52.8	67.8	36.0	50.4
Conn.	56.3	33.9	49.0	32.8	43.1
N. Eng.	59.7	35.6	51.6	35.0	45.3
N. Y.	58.4	34.7	50.8	41.2	47.7
N. J.	38.5	32.9	37.1	39.7	37.8
Pa.	50.4	31.9	44.8	33.2	42.5
M. Atl.	53.0	33.1	46.8	38.6	44.5
Ohio	44.0	31.0	40.2	27.1	37.2
Ind.	41.0	32.7	39.1	28.8	37.4
Ill.	47.1	35.1	44.2	37.8	43.0
Mich.	47.4	36.6	44.4	29.5	40.5
Wis.	56.1	34.1	47.7	35.1	45.1
E. N. Cent.	47.2	33.8	43.2	32.0	40.9
Minn.	58.6	34.9	50.4	32.8	47.2
Iowa	57.5	32.0	49.8	30.8	45.9
Mo.	41.4	34.4	40.1	31.8	38.2
N. Dak.	48.2	37.8	45.0	38.1	44.0
S. Dak.	52.1	33.9	47.1	34.0	45.1
Nebr.	53.3	30.3	45.6	36.1	43.8
Kans.	45.2	33.6	42.6	33.5	40.8
W. N. Cent.	51.1	33.6	45.9	32.9	43.4
Del.	44.5	29.6	40.0	35.9	38.5
Md.	47.3	32.8	43.0	34.4	40.7
Va.	39.6	33.2	38.0	31.0	35.4
W. Va.	37.6	30.2	35.6	26.7	34.0
N. C.	32.5	30.0	31.9	23.6	29.2
S. C.	37.5	29.1	35.4	28.1	32.3
Ga.	36.3	29.1	34.7	31.8	33.8
Fla.	38.0	22.3	35.1	37.5	36.5
S. Atl.	36.4	29.8	34.8	31.9	33.3
Ky.	35.8	29.8	34.3	28.3	32.2
Tenn.	33.3	28.9	32.4	29.3	31.6
Ala.	34.0	27.7	32.6	29.8	31.6
Miss.	33.6	30.0	32.9	39.3	36.5
E. S. Cent.	34.2	29.2	33.1	32.6	32.9
Ark.	34.2	33.4	34.0	37.8	35.7
La.	31.3	24.7	30.0	37.8	33.3
Okla.	41.1	29.1	37.8	33.2	36.9
Texas	36.0	30.1	35.0	30.8	33.6
W. S. Cent.	36.2	29.8	34.8	34.3	34.7
Mont.	44.5	37.1	42.3	40.4	41.9
Idaho	48.3	33.6	43.1	34.1	41.8
Wyo.	49.2	32.2	44.7	48.1	46.0
Colo.	46.2	33.8	42.7	37.7	41.6
N. Mex.	40.4	36.2	39.6	39.5	39.6
Ariz.	42.2	27.3	40.6	45.2	43.5
Utah	37.9	27.8	34.8	25.9	32.9
Nev.	45.6	28.5	41.8	56.6	46.7
Mount.	44.8	33.5	41.6	40.6	41.3
Wash.	39.6	32.8	38.0	33.1	35.8
Oreg.	39.5	28.3	36.3	34.6	35.8
Calif.	42.3	45.6	43.0	40.4	41.1
Pac.	40.7	36.8	39.6	39.4	39.4
U. S.	43.0	32.0	39.9	35.1	38.3

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

Wet weather slowed harvest activities across most of the Nation during the week of October 22-28. Heavy rains across the South delayed cotton harvesting; however, the delay enabled the gins to work a heavy backlog of cotton waiting to be ginned. Unseasonably cool weather delayed the maturity of the Texas cotton crop.

Corn harvest was also delayed by the wet weather. Farmers were waiting for fields to dry in order to continue harvesting activities. The pace should pick up again with clearing weather. Soybean combining was also delayed by the weather, as was sorghum grain harvest.

Apple picking was in final stages throughout the Northeast. Harvest in the North Central States was in full swing. Citrus harvest gained momentum in Texas, where the quality of the early grapefruit is excellent. Filbert and walnut harvest continued in Oregon, but wet grounds delayed walnut picking in California. Georgia pecan harvest was getting underway with fair prospects.

Harvest of fall vegetables was active in Florida. Onion planting continued in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Lettuce harvest resumed in Arizona and broccoli and cauliflower were moving in good volume from *Salinas and Santa Maria areas in California.*

In Idaho, potato digging was in its final stages and sugarbeet harvest was in full swing. Peanut harvest was progressing well in Texas, North Carolina, and Virginia. Tobacco stripping in Kentucky was becoming active.

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.