

farm labor



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COLD, WET WEATHER HINDERS HARVEST

The farm labor force in the United States was 3,992,700 workers during the week of November 19-25, slightly below the total during the survey week last year. The work force consisted of 3,102,800 farm operators and unpaid family members and 889,900 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 35.0 hours during the November survey week, compared with 34.6 hours during the comparable week last year. Farm operators averaged 38.1 hours and other unpaid family members 30.3 hours. Hired workers averaged 32.5 hours.

Rain and cold weather stalled cotton harvesting in the South for the fourth straight week. Snow and freezing weather across the Texas High and Low Plains delayed harvest, while harvesting equipment was idled by rain and wet fields in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Harvest resumed in California after the previous week's rain hampered progress.

Harvesting of the Nation's corn crop moved ahead during the survey week in most of the Corn Belt States, under cold, cloudy skies. In the North Central States, fields remained wet and muddy, but precipitation was relatively light compared to the past several weeks. Farmers took advantage of the slight improvement in weather, especially where cold weather froze the top several inches of the ground sufficiently to support equipment for early morning harvesting.

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Farm Wage Rates from the Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey including State estimates for Texas, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California.

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Workers on farms, November 1972 1/

State and division	November 1970 week of 22-28			November 1971 week of 21-27			November 1972 week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	15.6	11	4.6	14.7	10	4.7	15.8	12	3.8
N. H.	6.0	4.4	1.6	5.8	3.9	1.9	6.6	4.5	2.1
Vt.	13.5	10	3.5	13.4	10	3.4	14.9	11	3.9
Mass.	13.7	8.9	4.8	13.6	9.0	4.6	14.2	9.4	4.8
R. I.	1.8	1.2	.6	1.8	1.2	.6	1.5	.9	.6
Conn.	8.5	6.3	2.2	9.8	6.3	3.5	10	6.3	3.7
N. Eng.	59.1	41.8	17.3	59.1	40.4	18.7	63	44.1	18.9
N. Y.	91	72	19	90	71	19	87	68	19
N. J.	14	9.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0
Pa.	97	85	12	96	85	11	98	86	12
M. Atl.	202	166	36	200	165	35	199	163	36
Ohio	137	125	12	138	127	11	142	128	14
Ind.	119	110	9.0	121	110	11	127	116	11
Ill.	153	133	20	156	136	20	164	143	21
Mich.	122	104	18	109	93	16	113	96	17
Wis.	177	162	15	169	154	15	175	159	16
E. N. Cent.	708	634	74	693	620	73	721	642	79
Minn.	158	147	11	150	141	9.0	155	142	13
Iowa	198	173	25	185	167	18	197	174	23
Mo.	186	162	24	164	146	18	164	145	19
N. Dak.	39	35	4.0	41	36	5.0	42	36	6.0
S. Dak.	54	49	5.0	51	46	5.0	51	45	6.0
Nebr.	96	87	9.0	93	84	9.0	104	93	11
Kans.	95	88	7.0	91	85	6.0	91	85	6.0
W. N. Cent.	826	741	85	775	705	70	804	720	84
Del.	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Md.	28	22	6.0	28	22	6.0	27	21	6.0
Va.	104	84	20	96	78	18	95	77	18
W. Va.	35	31	4.0	34	30	4.0	30	28	2.0
N. C.	181	154	27	180	150	30	166	140	26
S. C.	66	52	14	64	51	13	61	49	12
Ga.	92	71	21	95	73	22	88	70	18
Fla.	121	34	87	117	35	82	117	32	85
S. Atl.	633	452	181	620	443	177	590	421	169
Ky.	156	139	17	157	137	20	152	133	19
Tenn.	171	151	20	170	147	23	173	148	25
Ala.	105	84	21	100	80	20	95	75	20
Miss.	124	100	24	111	90	21	104	87	17
E. S. Cent.	556	474	82	538	454	84	524	443	81
Ark.	135	82	53	121	79	42	132	87	45
La.	70	52	18	64	49	15	69	49	20
Okla.	115	96	19	113	97	16	108	94	14
Texas	297	194	103	256	170	86	242	167	75
W. S. Cent.	617	424	193	554	395	159	551	397	154
Mont.	33	26	7.0	33	25	8.0	33	26	7.0
Idaho	36	28	8.0	39	31	8.0	36	29	7.0
Wyo.	13	8.0	5.0	13	8.0	5.0	13	8.0	5.0
Colo.	48	32	16	44	33	11	48	32	16
N. Mex.	24	13	11	25	14	11	22	13	9.0
Ariz.	39	6.0	33	38	5.0	33	40	5.0	35
Utah	18	15	3.0	17	15	2.0	16	14	2.0
Nev.	4.0	2.1	1.9	3.7	1.9	1.8	3.7	1.7	2.0
Mount.	215	130.1	84.9	212.7	132.9	79.8	211.7	128.7	83
Wash.	58	43	15	57	44	13	61	45	16
Oreg.	47	40	7.0	44	38	6.0	48	39	9.0
Calif.	221	61	160	250	65	185	220	60	160
Pac.	326	144	182	351	147	204	329	144	185
U. S.	4,142.1	3,206.9	935.2	4,002.8	3,102.3	900.5	3,992.7	3,102.8	889.9

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 November 19-25, 1972

State and division	Farm operators	Other family members ^{1/}	All family ^{1/}	Hired workers	All workers ^{1/}
Maine	57.8	31.4	48.8	36.0	44.4
N. H.	57.4	31.6	49.8	36.8	44.5
Vt.	60.8	35.2	51.4	44.0	48.6
Mass.	60.5	35.4	51.6	31.0	42.7
R. I.	66.1	33.0	61.9	34.1	46.8
Conn.	55.7	37.5	49.6	37.6	44.7
N. Eng.	58.9	33.9	50.5	36.7	45.1
N. Y.	54.1	32.6	47.2	39.7	44.8
N. J.	38.1	31.0	36.4	31.8	35.2
Pa.	47.0	29.5	41.3	33.7	39.7
M. Atl.	49.4	30.9	43.4	36.6	41.6
Ohio	39.4	30.5	37.0	29.4	35.4
Ind.	36.2	29.9	34.7	24.2	32.9
Ill.	39.3	30.4	37.4	31.3	36.3
Mich.	44.2	32.5	41.1	32.6	39.3
Wis.	55.4	31.0	45.8	36.7	44.1
E. N. Cent.	42.9	30.8	39.1	31.3	37.9
Minn.	51.4	31.8	45.5	33.7	43.3
Iowa	53.4	33.1	47.2	32.3	44.3
Mo.	33.6	29.3	32.8	24.5	30.9
N. Dak.	38.6	32.8	37.2	29.3	36.1
S. Dak.	46.8	31.0	42.9	27.8	40.6
Nebr.	44.2	28.5	39.0	32.9	38.0
Kans.	36.3	30.4	35.0	31.5	34.5
W. N. Cent.	44.0	31.0	40.2	30.2	38.8
Del.	39.7	25.8	35.7	24.7	32.0
Md.	42.7	29.1	38.7	25.7	35.3
Va.	35.0	32.1	34.4	33.4	34.0
W. Va.	34.4	27.2	32.7	28.7	32.3
N. C.	30.1	29.4	29.9	24.2	28.2
S. C.	33.9	28.5	32.6	28.8	31.0
Ga.	34.9	25.8	32.7	27.7	31.0
Fla.	35.2	35.5	35.3	27.6	31.1
S. Atl.	33.5	29.4	32.5	27.7	31.0
Ky.	34.0	31.3	33.3	27.7	31.2
Tenn.	29.2	29.1	29.2	22.6	27.4
Ala.	29.4	26.7	28.9	27.6	28.5
Miss.	25.2	27.0	25.6	26.2	25.9
E. S. Cent.	29.8	28.8	29.5	25.8	28.4
Ark.	29.1	27.5	28.8	33.3	30.7
La.	26.1	29.5	26.8	35.1	30.0
Okla.	34.9	29.6	33.7	26.2	32.7
Tex.	31.1	30.0	30.9	29.6	30.5
W. S. Cent.	30.9	29.4	30.6	31.1	30.9
Mont.	39.1	33.1	37.4	37.1	37.3
Idaho	41.0	31.3	38.3	44.0	39.3
Wyo.	46.9	28.7	41.2	51.4	44.8
Colo.	39.8	32.6	37.9	35.0	37.3
N. Mex.	38.2	30.8	36.3	41.3	38.0
Ariz.	43.5	36.9	42.5	49.8	46.7
Utah	33.6	28.2	32.1	27.5	31.4
Nev.	41.1	30.0	39.2	52.9	44.2
Mount.	39.7	31.7	37.5	44.1	39.6
Wash.	34.8	27.6	33.2	32.3	32.9
Oreg.	33.8	26.8	32.1	31.3	31.9
Calif.	38.1	38.7	38.2	36.6	37.0
Pac.	35.9	31.9	34.9	36.0	35.5
U. S.	38.1	30.3	35.8	32.5	35.0

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

The exceptionally late harvest of the Nation's soybean crop continued to lag further behind as wet, muddy fields made combining almost impossible. Rain and wet fields practically stopped harvest in the South Central and South Atlantic States.

Deciduous fruit and nut harvesting was complete in California as was the 1971-72 Valencia orange harvest, but navel orange picking was increasing. Citrus harvest in Texas was slowed because of the poor working conditions caused by bad weather. The Georgia pecan harvest was active although the crop is short. Pecan harvest in other southern States was slowed by the weather.

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 1972, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1970	: Annual : average : 1971	: November : 22-28, : 1970	: November : 21-27, : 1971	: November : 19-25, : 1972
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)					
Total	4,522.6	4,445.9	4,142.1	4,002.8	3,992.7
Family labor	3,348.1	3,281.4	3,206.9	3,102.3	3,102.8
Hired labor	1,174.5	1,164.5	935.2	900.5	889.9
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total	33	33	33	32	32
Family labor	33	32	33	32	32
Hired labor	35	34	33	32	32
(1967=100)					
Total	92	92	91	88	88
Family labor	92	89	92	89	89
Hired labor	92	89	87	84	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.

QUARTERLY PROBABILITY SURVEY OF FARM WAGE RATES

The selected wage rate items presented below were derived from a probability farm labor survey conducted in October 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.

There are differences between the two series. Major differences are: (1) the new probability series measures wage rates for the week including October 12, whereas, the regular series measures the prevailing wage as of October 1, (2) the regular series is a non-probability sample from about 25,000 farm operators that report the prevailing wages in their localities by various hiring arrangements, whereas the probability survey measures the actual payrolls of selected farms. These are then classified by type of work and hiring arrangements, (3) the probability survey includes wages for piece-rate workers while the regular series does not.

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 designed to provide wage rates for all States, but was of sufficient size to provide indicators for Texas, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, and the United States.

The wage rates for October 1, 1972, as published in the October issue of Farm Labor, are published on page 7 so that comparisons can be made with the data from the probability survey for the week of October 12. Tables showing the wage rates for the 6 selected States are located on page 6.

Farm Wage Rates October 1971 and 1972, United States

Item	October 10-16 1971	October 8-14 1972
	Dollars	
Farm Wage Rates 1/		
All Hired Farm Workers	1.93	1.97
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.51	2.37
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week and Month:	1.85	1.92
Workers Paid by Hour only	1.85	1.90
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.13	2.10
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages: only	1.92	1.97
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	1.85	1.92
Packinghouse workers	1.87	1.93
Machine Operators	1.91	1.84
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.37	2.29
Supervisors	3.07	3.26
Other Agricultural workers	2.02	1.86

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

Farm Wage Rates, October 8-14, 1972, Selected States and United States

State	All hired farm workers	Farm wage rates method of pay				
		By piece-rate	By hour, day, week or month	By hour	By cash wages only	By hour receiving cash wages only
D o l l a r s per h o u r						
Texas	1.66	2.25	1.65	1.65	1.74	1.64
Idaho	2.03	2.19	2.01	2.02	2.11	2.04
Washington	2.35	2.47	2.23	2.16	2.35	2.12
Oregon	2.09	2.88	2.03	2.01	2.10	2.02
California	2.44	2.91	2.36	2.22	2.47	2.22
United States	1.97	2.37	1.92	1.90	2.10	1.97

Farm Wage Rates, October 8-14, 1972, Selected States and United States

State	Farm wage rates - Type of work performed					
	Field & livestock workers	Packing-house workers	Machine operators	Maintenance & bookkeeping workers	Supervisors	Other Agricultural workers
D o l l a r s per h o u r						
Texas	1.64	1.71	1.51	1.90	2.93	1.50
Idaho	2.03	1.92	2.09	2.17	2.99	1.66
Washington	2.34	2.22	2.20	2.66	3.06	2.21
Oregon	2.00	2.06	2.15	2.35	2.92	2.13
California	2.33	2.31	2.47	2.62	3.51	2.13
United States	1.92	1.93	1.84	2.29	3.26	1.86

Farm Wage Rates, October 1, 1972 1/

State and division	Per month		Per week			Per day			Per hour	
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room	
D o l l a r s										
Maine	340	290	70.00	100.00			16.00		1.90	
N. H.	370	300	80.00	105.00			17.50		2.10	
Vt.	400	310	80.00	95.00			16.50		2.05	
Mass.	410	300	85.00	110.00			18.50		2.15	
R. I.	410	300	85.00	110.00			18.00		2.10	
Conn.	410	300	85.00	110.00			18.00		2.10	
N. Eng.	371	296	76.50	103.25			16.90		2.01	
N. Y.	395	285	75.00	97.00			15.50		1.95	
N. J.	385	285	75.00	95.00			17.00		2.09	
Pa.	332	252	63.75	81.25			13.90		1.78	
M. Atl.	377	276	72.00	92.50			15.40		1.93	
Ohio	333	250					11.40	14.30	1.79	
Ind.	320	230					10.90	15.50	1.85	
Ill.	380	280					13.30	16.30	2.00	
Mich.	420	320	82.00	105.00			17.50		1.99	
Wisc.	398	305					12.70	16.20	1.96	
E. N. Cent.	375	282					12.60	16.00	1.92	
Minn.	369	292					13.90	16.70	1.92	
Iowa	412	333					15.10	18.10	2.02	
Mo.	320	230					11.00	15.00	1.80	
N. Dak.	359	306					14.20	17.30	1.84	
S. Dak.	347	275					12.70	15.40	1.72	
Nebr.	402	301					13.40	16.30	1.93	
Kans.	382	293					13.20	16.10	1.88	
W. N. Cent.	365	283					13.10	16.40	1.89	
Del.	275						12.90		1.79	
Md.	265	210	57.00	81.00			12.90		1.79	
Va.					10.40		12.40		1.59	
W. Va.	199	156					10.90		1.37	
N. C.					10.90		12.60		1.59	
S. C.					9.50		10.70		1.40	
Ga.					10.00		11.80		1.56	
Fla.					12.00		13.50		1.60	
S. Atl.					10.80		12.50		1.58	
Ky.					9.10		12.60		1.89	
Tenn.					9.70		11.80		1.50	
Ala.					9.50		10.60		1.45	
Miss.					10.50		11.20		1.42	
E. S. Cent.					9.70		11.70		1.60	
Ark.					12.80		13.20		1.55	
La.					10.90		11.60		1.46	
Okla.					12.70		14.00		1.69	
Texas					12.20		13.20	1.50	1.60	
W. S. Cent.					12.20		13.00		1.57	
Mont.	385	300					16.80		1.93	
Idaho	430	345					16.40		1.98	
Wyo.	400	275					14.90		1.83	
Colo.	381	273					16.00		1.90	
N. Mex.	335	271					12.90		1.51	
Ariz.	450	335					15.50		1.70	
Utah	365	290					14.30		1.83	
Nev.	350	260					14.00		1.85	
Mount.	400	302					15.50		1.82	
Wash.	475	375						2.05	2.20	
Oregon	400	321						1.88	1.96	
Calif.	480	340						1.99	2.10	
Pac.	475	342						1.99	2.10	
U. S.	363	282	69.00	86.25	11.50	12.00	13.90	1.81	1.82	

1/ Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above. U.S. averages include estimates for unpublished State rates of small importance.

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