

farm labor



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RAINS AND FLOODS LIMIT FIELD WORK

The Nation's farm labor force had an estimated 4,164,100 workers during the April 22-28, 1973 survey week, off 3 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent less than two years ago. The labor force consisted of 3,213,100 farm operators and other unpaid family members and 951,000 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 38.0 hours during the April survey week compared with 38.2 hours in April 1972. Most of the decline was in States near the Mississippi River where flooding permitted little or no field work. In April 1973, farm operators averaged 41.0 hours, 2.1 hours less than a year ago. Family workers at 31.6, and hired workers with 36.3 hours were each higher than a year ago.

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Farm employment and indexes, April 1973, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1971	: Annual : average : 1972	: April : 18-24, : 1971	: April : 23-29, : 1972	: April : 22-28, : 1973
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)					
Total	4,436.3	4,373.4	4,474.9	4,313.1	4,164.1
Family labor	3,275.1	3,227.7	3,437.0	3,296.8	3,213.1
Hired labor.	1,161.2	1,145.7	1,037.9	1,016.3	951.0
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total	33	32	34	33	31
Family labor	32	32	33	32	31
Hired labor.	34	34	36	36	33
(1967=100)					
Total	92	89	93	90	86
Family labor	89	89	92	89	86
Hired labor.	89	89	95	95	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.

Workers on farms, April 1973

State	April 1971			April 1972			April 1973		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	T h o u s a n d s								
Maine	16	12	4.0	15.2	12	3.2	14.8	12	2.8
N. H.	5.3	3.8	1.5	4.4	3.3	1.1	4.2	3.2	1.0
Vt.	14.1	11	3.1	12.7	9.8	2.9	13	9.9	3.1
Mass.	15.1	9.6	5.5	16.1	9.9	6.2	15.9	10	5.9
R. I.	2.0	1.3	.7	1.5	.8	.7	1.4	.8	.6
Conn.	11.6	6.8	4.8	12.6	7.4	5.2	12.4	6.8	5.6
N. Y.	88	68	20	84	65	19	85	65	20
N. J.	19	10	9.0	18	9.0	9.0	18	9.0	9.0
Pa.	114	99	15	107	93	14	107	94	13
Ohio	163	146	17	146	133	13	148	133	15
Ind.	136	125	11	132	122	10	141	131	10
Ill.	180	152	28	164	138	26	155	132	23
Mich.	128	109	19	124	105	19	123	107	16
Wis.	204	187	17	185	166	19	186	167	19
Minn.	187	173	14	175	162	13	185	167	18
Iowa	211	192	19	210	192	18	216	199	17
Mo.	199	172	27	181	164	17	162	145	17
N. Dak.	58	51	7.0	55	49	6.0	63	54	9.0
S. Dak.	68	62	6.0	64	59	5.0	64	59	5.0
Nebr.	116	102	14	116	98	18	116	98	18
Kans.	107	97	10	103	94	9.0	98	90	8.0
Del.	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	7.0	5.0	2.0
Md.	33	26	7.0	32	26	6.0	32	25	7.0
Va.	106	86	20	106	86	20	106	88	18
W. Va.	38	32	6.0	37	31	6.0	31	27	4.0
N. C.	203	165	38	191	153	38	180	146	34
S. C.	74	55	19	70	54	16	71	52	19
Ga.	95	77	18	94	76	18	90	75	15
Fla.	130	41	89	126	38	88	133	39	94
Ky.	143	120	23	135	114	21	130	112	18
Tenn.	147	122	25	141	121	20	125	109	16
Ala.	93	73	20	86	68	18	80	64	16
Miss.	124	88	36	115	86	29	89	71	18
Ark.	146	84	62	140	80	60	105	66	39
La.	75	48	27	73	45	28	68	44	24
Okla.	127	112	15	123	109	14	122	109	13
Texas	271	192	79	281	202	79	253	180	73
Mont.	46	35	11	45	33	12	42	31	11
Idaho	43	34	9.0	44	34	10	44	33	11
Wyo.	13	9.0	4.0	14	10	4.0	15	11	4.0
Colo.	48	37	11	48	37	11	47	37	10
N. Mex.	20	14	6.0	18	12	6.0	19	12	7.0
Ariz.	37	6.0	31	36	6.0	30	41	7.0	34
Utah	20	16	4.0	20	16	4.0	19	15	4.0
Nev.	4.8	2.5	2.3	4.6	2.6	2.0	4.4	2.4	2.0
Wash.	78	51	27	77	49	28	74	49	25
Oreg.	62	48	14	53	41	12	53	41	12
Calif.	249	69	180	271	71	200	255	70	185
U. S.	4,474.9	3,437.0	1,037.9	4,313.1	3,296.8	1,016.3	4,164.1	3,213.1	951.0

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker
Average for reporting farms, week of April 22-28, 1973

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
Hours					
Maine	62.1	34.3	52.8	34.6	45.8
N. H.	57.1	32.0	49.9	39.1	45.7
Vt.	63.1	35.6	53.2	43.1	49.0
Mass.	59.9	38.6	51.6	30.6	42.8
R. I.	59.4	40.0	56.6	42.8	50.6
Conn.	59.8	35.6	52.2	39.9	47.3
N. Y.	56.9	35.8	49.8	39.6	46.2
N. J.	40.0	31.0	37.7	32.9	36.5
Pa.	50.4	30.2	44.0	34.5	42.0
Ohio	38.2	28.6	35.6	28.2	34.3
Ind.	35.8	28.8	34.2	24.0	32.5
Ill.	38.5	31.3	37.1	33.0	36.3
Mich.	47.9	37.7	45.3	34.1	42.9
Wis.	53.9	30.9	45.0	35.9	43.2
Minn.	58.6	32.9	49.6	38.1	47.5
Iowa	56.3	31.4	47.8	33.2	45.1
Mo.	34.8	29.8	33.8	29.4	33.0
N. Dak.	58.7	38.0	51.4	38.1	48.9
S. Dak.	58.8	35.0	51.4	34.8	48.6
Nebr.	54.2	37.4	49.2	38.1	47.0
Kans.	39.1	32.6	37.7	33.0	36.9
Del.	44.6	34.8	41.0	37.1	39.9
Md.	47.2	35.5	43.2	38.0	41.8
Va.	38.9	31.7	37.1	30.5	34.8
W. Va.	33.3	36.3	33.8	24.1	32.2
N. C.	37.0	32.4	35.8	27.4	32.2
S. C.	36.8	32.2	35.7	30.8	33.3
Ga.	37.3	30.6	35.7	33.7	35.0
Fla.	41.2	36.8	40.0	39.8	39.9
Ky.	29.0	26.1	28.3	25.5	27.6
Tenn.	26.7	26.9	26.7	20.5	25.4
Ala.	30.9	27.7	30.3	31.1	30.5
Miss.	22.7	28.3	23.8	26.4	25.0
Ark.	24.1	28.1	24.8	26.3	25.4
La.	25.0	32.5	26.4	28.9	27.4
Okla.	38.7	28.4	36.1	28.8	34.7
Texas	35.6	30.7	34.6	31.6	33.6
Mont.	48.6	39.2	45.7	38.8	43.8
Idaho	52.9	39.1	48.8	35.6	45.6
Wyo.	53.9	28.8	45.1	54.4	48.3
Colo.	45.3	36.3	42.7	35.7	41.1
N. Mex.	46.5	31.3	42.3	44.2	43.0
Ariz.	48.1	40.5	46.2	53.5	50.4
Utah	41.8	27.7	36.7	32.1	35.8
Nev.	49.6	41.5	47.3	40.4	45.0
Wash.	50.2	31.8	45.1	39.6	42.6
Oreg.	40.1	26.4	36.5	36.7	36.6
Calif.	47.3	47.8	47.4	45.1	45.7
U. S.	41.0	31.6	38.1	36.3	38.0

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

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FIELD WORK BEHIND IN MOST AREAS - AHEAD IN A FEW

Weather conditions permitted field work to progress across most of the northern areas and in the South Atlantic States, but rains and floods held field activity to a standstill in many areas along the Mississippi. Spring plowing of land for corn and soybeans in the North Central States was only 30 percent complete compared to 75 percent a year earlier. Corn planting was just getting underway where fields permit. Very few soybeans were planted. Farmers in the South Atlantic States made good progress planting corn.

Spring planting of small grains continued to make rapid progress in the heavy producing northern States of the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Small grain planting was well ahead of normal in these States, but progress was far behind average in other North Central States because of wet fields. Cotton land preparation and planting has been delayed, especially in the flooded areas of the Delta where time remaining to plant cotton is running out.

Sorghum planting in Texas was 38 percent planted compared to 46 percent last year. Texas rice was only 46 percent seeded compared to 97 percent last year, while Louisiana rice was 40 percent seeded compared with 80 percent last year. Potato planting was active in Idaho and the Eastern Shore, while transplanting of tobacco fell behind in South Carolina and peanut planting was just starting in the Virginia-North Carolina area.

Texas citrus harvest continues with some irrigation. Spring orchard spraying and cultivation practices continue in California. Irrigation is common in many valley areas. Valencia harvest is increasing. Florida growers were irrigating during the fruit set period.

Vegetable planting was off to a fast start in the Northeast with favorable weather. Planting and transplanting was active in the Mid and South Atlantic States. Onion harvest was peaking in the Texas Lower Valley and gaining momentum in the San Antonio area. Lettuce cutting was increasing in California and market tomato picking was underway in the Imperial Valley.

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.