

farm labor



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NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWN 3 PERCENT, LONGER WORK WEEK

The U. S. farm labor force numbered 4,764,000 during the survey week of May 20-26, 1973, down 3 percent from a year earlier, but about the same as 2 years ago. Farm operators and unpaid family workers totaled 3,490,500, off 2 percent from a year ago, while hired workers accounted for 1,273,500, down 4 percent.

Farm workers averaged 41.9 hours during the May survey week compared with 38.0 hours a month earlier. Farm operators worked 48.5 hours, other unpaid family members 34.2, and hired workers 36.6.

Wheat Progress

Wheat harvest, underway in South Texas, was behind a year ago. Winter wheat in the Southern Great Plains made good progress. Small grains in California were maturing and combining was increasing.

Corn and Cotton Planting Makes Headway

In the Corn Belt States, corn planting progressed well as farmers tried to catch up from delays caused by wet fields. Rains over the Memorial Day weekend halted progress once again. Corn in the North Central States was 77 percent planted as of May 27 compared to 58 percent a week earlier. Planting was still behind last year and average. Iowa farmers capitalized on 6 days of corn planting and pushed completion to 83 percent. Illinois corn was 80 percent in, Nebraska 95 percent, Minnesota 91 percent, Indiana 70 percent, Ohio and Wisconsin 55 percent, South Dakota 87 percent, and Missouri 54 percent. In the South Atlantic and South Central Regions, corn was 85 percent planted, about on par with a year ago.

SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Wage Rates from the Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey including data for 16 individual States, each of the 10 Standard Federal Regions and the United States. Pages 5-7

Southern cotton growers gained ground rapidly in spite of thunderstorms. Planting advanced to 78 percent compared to 85 percent a year earlier. Texas cotton was 75 percent planted, the same as a year ago. Planting was almost complete in the South Atlantic States, but the Delta States were only 82 percent planted. Cotton was 90 percent planted in Mississippi, 87 percent in Arkansas, but only 75 percent in Louisiana. In California, cotton planting was virtually complete and the crop was making good growth. The Arizona crop was 85 percent emerged and making satisfactory growth.

Soybean planting gained momentum in the Corn Belt and South during the survey week, but fell behind the usual pace because most growers concentrated on corn and cotton. In the North Central States, planting advanced 18 points during the week to 33 percent complete, well behind last year's 52 percent. Southern soybean planting reached 22 percent complete compared to 38 percent last year.

Sorghum planting moved ahead of last year's pace in Texas but continued to lag in Kansas at 15 percent. Nebraska was 59 percent planted and Oklahoma 33 percent.

Tobacco harvest had begun in Georgia. Transplanting was complete in South Carolina and just starting in Kentucky. Cool, wet weather halted potato planting in Aroostook County, Maine. Idaho potatoes were 80 percent planted.

Cool wet weather interrupted fruit spraying schedules in the North Atlantic Region. Georgia peach harvest had just started while picking of stone fruit in California was active. Lack of labor was slowing the Valencia orange harvest in Florida; Southern California's Valencia harvest was active. Wet weather interrupted vegetable planting in the North Atlantic Region. Harvest was underway on in-season vegetables along the East Coast from New Jersey south, across the Southern States, and in Arizona and California.

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 1973, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1971	: Annual : average : 1972	: May : 23-29, : 1971	: May : 21-27, : 1972	: May : 20-26, : 1973
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 4,436.3	: 4,373.4	: 4,751.5	: 4,894.6	: 4,764.0
Family labor	: 3,275.1	: 3,227.7	: 3,528.7	: 3,573.7	: 3,490.5
Hired labor	: 1,161.2	: 1,145.7	: 1,222.8	: 1,320.9	: 1,273.5
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 33	: 32	: 33	: 34	: 33
Family labor	: 32	: 32	: 32	: 32	: 32
Hired labor	: 34	: 34	: 34	: 37	: 35
(1967=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 92	: 89	: 89	: 91	: 90
Family labor	: 89	: 89	: 89	: 89	: 89
Hired labor	: 89	: 89	: 89	: 97	: 92

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, May 1973

State	May 1971			May 1972			May 1973		
	week of 23-29			week of 21-27			week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	16.2	12	4.2	16.3	13	3.3	13.9	11	2.9
N.H.	5.4	4.0	1.4	4.6	3.6	1.0	4.4	3.4	1.0
Vt.	14.3	11	3.3	13.8	11	2.8	12.7	9.6	3.1
Mass.	17.6	9.8	7.8	16.6	9.8	6.8	16.0	9.8	6.2
R.I.	2.1	1.3	.8	1.6	.9	.7	1.6	1.0	.6
Conn.	12.9	6.9	6.0	14.7	7.6	7.1	13.5	7.1	6.4
N.Y.	95	70	25	92	68	24	89	67	22
N.J.	23	10	13	22	9.0	13	20	9.0	11
Pa.	117	101	16	116	98	18	103	89	14
Ohio	163	145	18	189	162	27	171	149	22
Ind.	152	141	11	180	162	18	173	157	16
Ill.	178	150	28	203	164	39	197	161	36
Mich.	144	121	23	155	131	24	147	122	25
Wis.	206	188	18	196	175	21	198	178	20
Minn.	195	174	21	196	171	25	188	167	21
Iowa	222	200	22	246	216	30	250	217	33
Mo.	195	164	31	202	163	39	192	161	31
N. Dak.	68	55	13	70	56	14	69	55	14
S. Dak.	68	62	6.0	63	58	5.0	67	61	6.0
Nebr.	121	100	21	132	110	22	130	108	22
Kans.	115	99	16	119	103	16	122	104	18
Del.	8.0	5.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0
Md.	35	27	8.0	34	26	8.0	34	26	8.0
Va.	123	95	28	118	90	28	113	91	22
W. Va.	38	32	6.0	39	32	7.0	35	30	5.0
N. C.	221	178	43	200	162	38	197	157	40
S. C.	77	57	20	70	54	16	74	56	18
Ga.	100	79	21	98	79	19	95	77	18
Fla.	122	36	86	118	33	85	130	39	91
Ky.	142	113	29	167	130	37	130	108	22
Tenn.	148	116	32	161	127	34	146	117	29
Ala.	109	85	24	105	83	22	105	84	21
Miss.	157	105	52	140	92	48	133	92	41
Ark.	159	84	75	162	87	75	163	86	77
La.	74	50	24	81	51	30	76	45	31
Okla.	137	118	19	134	114	20	139	118	21
Texas	274	194	80	294	197	97	291	191	100
Mont.	46	31	15	44	28	16	44	29	15
Idaho	45	33	12	47	35	12	48	34	14
Wyo.	16	10	6.0	15	10	5.0	16	11	5.0
Colo.	59	39	20	61	41	20	58	40	18
N. Mex.	21	14	7.0	19	12	7.0	21	14	7.0
Ariz.	37	6.0	31	35	6.0	29	36	6.0	30
Utah	25	18	7.0	22	16	6.0	23	17	6.0
Nev.	5.0	2.7	2.3	5.0	2.8	2.2	4.9	2.6	2.3
Wash.	90	57	33	89	55	34	88	54	34
Oreg.	64	45	19	58	42	16	60	41	19
Calif.	289	74	215	323	73	250	318	73	245
U.S.	4,751.5		1,222.8	4,894.6	3,573.7	1,320.9	4,764.0	3,490.5	1,273.5
		3,528.7							

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker
Average for reporting farms, week of May 20-26, 1973

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
Hours					
Maine	62.4	31.7	52.5	32.2	44.8
N. H.	62.2	37.0	55.2	39.3	48.8
Vt.	64.7	39.7	55.9	43.6	51.2
Mass.	63.9	41.3	55.7	35.1	47.1
R. I.	57.0	43.0	52.5	47.0	50.6
Conn.	65.0	36.7	55.3	40.1	49.6
N. Y.	57.7	32.0	48.8	38.2	45.5
N. J.	40.3	26.4	36.2	32.0	35.2
Pa.	49.7	31.7	44.5	33.3	42.1
Ohio	45.2	30.6	40.8	30.4	38.5
Ind.	50.8	34.8	45.5	30.7	42.3
Ill.	58.7	38.7	52.6	39.9	49.6
Mich.	54.8	33.7	48.7	38.9	46.0
Wis.	60.0	33.9	49.1	36.7	46.7
Minn.	60.1	33.2	50.8	34.4	48.0
Iowa	68.8	39.4	58.1	37.4	53.3
Mó.	46.9	39.6	44.9	36.1	42.6
N. Dak.	60.3	38.6	52.5	43.0	50.7
S. Dak.	59.7	39.2	53.0	34.9	50.1
Nebr.	61.6	39.5	53.7	39.7	50.9
Kans.	52.9	39.4	48.9	37.0	46.1
Del.	41.9	28.5	36.9	40.4	38.0
Md.	48.3	35.6	44.4	31.5	41.1
Va.	39.7	32.4	37.7	26.6	33.5
W. Va.	37.2	27.4	34.5	26.9	33.3
N. C.	39.8	30.4	36.7	29.4	33.8
S. C.	42.0	33.2	39.6	30.9	35.5
Ga.	41.6	27.8	38.2	34.7	36.9
Fla.	43.2	36.1	41.5	26.7	31.7
Ky.	34.1	28.7	32.8	24.3	30.2
Tenn.	36.0	30.9	34.8	21.6	30.7
Ala.	37.6	30.0	35.6	29.3	33.5
Miss.	36.8	30.7	35.3	39.4	37.7
Ark.	41.6	33.2	39.2	41.2	40.3
La.	37.6	35.1	37.0	46.5	41.1
Okla.	46.3	30.5	41.4	31.3	39.1
Texas	43.9	34.7	41.9	33.3	38.4
Mont.	60.4	40.4	53.7	45.2	51.2
Idaho	52.9	37.4	47.1	34.6	43.9
Wyo.	61.1	37.6	52.9	49.2	51.7
Colo.	54.5	41.3	50.2	39.1	47.5
N. Mex.	55.9	38.0	50.6	42.2	47.5
Ariz.	51.1	34.8	48.0	45.9	46.7
Utah	53.7	25.5	42.4	34.7	40.4
Nev.	56.8	34.4	49.7	44.8	48.1
Wash.	48.6	33.1	44.6	36.8	40.8
Oreg.	40.6	28.0	37.2	33.4	35.9
Calif.	46.0	42.6	45.3	43.1	43.6
U. S.	48.5	34.2	43.9	36.6	41.9

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

The selected wage rate items presented below were derived from a probability farm labor survey conducted in April by the Statistical Reporting Service. This continues the series of published farm wage rates from quarterly probability surveys in started in April 1970. These data supplement but do not replace the farm wage rate series regularly published in Farm Labor.

The major differences between the two series follow: (1) The regular series measures the prevailing wage as of April 1, while the new probability series measures wage rates for the week including April 12; (2) The regular series is a nonprobability sample from about 22,000 farm operators that report the prevailing wages in their localities by various hiring arrangements. The probability survey measures the actual payrolls of selected farms which are then classified by hiring arrangements and type of work performed; (3) The regular series does not include wages for piece-rate workers while the probability survey does.

The inputs for making the following wage rates computations were supplied by employers of farm labor in the 48 contiguous States. The sample was not designed to provide wage rates for all States, but was of sufficient size to provide indicators for 16 individual States, each of the new Standard Federal Regions, and the United States. The wage rates for April 1, 1973 were published on page 6 of the April issue of Farm Labor. Comparisons can be made between these wage rates based on the non-probability survey and the ones shown on page 6 and 7 of this release based on the probability survey. However, in making these comparisons, the differences in the two surveys as described above must be kept in mind.

Farm Wage Rates April 1972 and 1973, United States

Item	: April 9-15, 1972	: April 8-14, 1973
	: Dollars per hour	
Farm Wage Rates		
All Hired Farm Workers	1.88	2.16
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.60	2.81
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week, and Month	1.84	2.12
Workers Paid by Hour only	1.84	2.15
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.04	2.35
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	1.92	2.22
Type of Worked Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	1.76	2.01
Packinghouse workers	2.10	2.29
Machine Operators	1.80	2.13
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.42	2.50
Supervisors	3.19	3.50
Other Agricultural workers	1.76	2.38

Farm wage rates by method of pay, April 8-14, 1973, selected States, standard Federal regions and United States

State and region	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 p e r h o u r						
Region I	2.06	2.01	2.06	1.92	2.26	1.93
Region II	2.36	*	2.35	2.18	2.68	2.22
Region III	2.01	1.83	2.02	2.44	2.27	2.34
Region IV:						
Alabama	1.55	1.62	1.54	1.59	1.84	1.73
Florida	2.52	3.27	2.34	2.20	2.59	2.20
Georgia	1.57	1.57	1.57	1.40	1.51	1.43
Kentucky	1.50	1.57	1.50	1.58	1.89	1.91
Mississippi	1.61	*	1.61	1.46	1.70	1.53
North Carolina	1.49	*	1.52	1.61	1.75	1.73
South Carolina	1.79	*	1.79	1.84	1.81	1.58
Tennessee	1.84	1.62	1.84	1.67	1.87	1.83
Total	1.96	2.91	1.86	1.85	2.19	1.92
Region V	2.04	3.30	2.01	2.18	2.07	2.24
Region VI:						
Arkansas	1.71	*	1.71	1.56	1.78	1.72
Louisiana	1.76		1.76	1.79	1.79	1.87
New Mexico	1.71	*	1.71	1.58	1.86	1.81
Oklahoma	1.71	*	1.71	1.91	1.98	1.88
Texas	1.84	*	1.83	1.76	1.94	1.79
Total	1.79	2.91	1.78	1.72	1.90	1.79
Region VII	2.21	1.72	2.21	2.24	2.31	2.33
Region VIII	1.79	*	1.79	2.06	2.00	2.18
Region IX:						
Arizona	2.37	*	2.12	2.00	2.62	2.18
California	2.57	2.74	2.56	2.41	2.62	2.44
Nevada	1.58	*	1.58	1.99	2.06	2.06
Total	2.54	2.86	2.52	2.38	2.62	2.43
Region X	2.19	2.55	2.18	2.19	2.24	2.13
United States	2.16	2.81	2.12	2.15	2.35	2.22

* Insufficient data for this category - data included in all hired farm workers and in United States wage rates.

Farm wage rates by type of work, April 8-14, 1973, selected States, standard Federal regions and United States

State and region	Farm wage rates - Type of work performed				
	Field & livestock workers	Packing-house workers	Machine operators	Maintenance and bookkeeping workers	Supervisors
D o l l a r s p e r h o u r					
Region I	1.85	1.96	2.45	2.63	3.60
Region II	2.27	1.86	2.90	3.33	4.10
Region III	1.58	1.93	2.18	*	3.65
Region IV:					
Alabama	1.51	1.77	1.36	*	2.86
Florida	2.38	2.63	2.29	2.74	3.72
Georgia	1.47	1.72	1.50	*	3.04
Kentucky	1.42	*	1.51	2.22	2.89
Mississippi	1.48		1.49	2.06	2.76
North Carolina	1.40	1.49	1.41	*	3.43
South Carolina	1.54	*	1.56	*	*
Tennessee	1.72	*	1.53	1.89	2.96
Total	1.86	2.36	1.64	2.27	3.54
Region V	1.85	2.69	2.08	2.47	3.87
Region VI:					
Arkansas	1.71	2.21	1.58	1.97	2.94
Louisiana	1.61		1.77	2.37	2.93
New Mexico	1.58	1.41	1.83	1.79	3.22
Oklahoma	1.64	*	*	2.56	3.30
Texas	1.69	1.70	1.81	1.89	3.77
Total	1.66	1.77	1.73	1.97	3.14
Region VII	2.13	*	2.29	2.85	3.42
Region VIII	1.71	1.70	2.00	1.95	2.84
Region IX:					
Arizona	2.22	2.89	2.20	2.41	3.23
California	2.40	2.60	2.76	2.69	3.70
Nevada	1.46	*	1.92	1.98	2.80
Total	2.38	2.62	2.72	2.65	3.65
Region X	2.06	2.51	2.35	2.62	3.08
United States	2.01	2.29	2.13	2.50	3.50

* Insufficient data for this category - data included in all hired farm workers and in United States wage rates.

