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AUGUST WORK FORCE ABOVE LAST YEAR

The farm labor force in the United States numbered 5.1 million workers during the week of August 19-25, which was 1 percent above a year ago. The work force consisted of 3.5 million farm operators and unpaid family members and 1.6 million hired workers.

Farm Workers averaged 38.7 hours during the August survey week, compared with only 37.4 last year and 39.3 hours during the July survey period. Farm operators worked an average of 44.1 hours; unpaid family members, 33.6; and hired workers 34.7 hours.

VEGETABLE HARVEST ACTIVE

The northern vegetable harvest was active during the survey week and provided good supplies. Vegetable processors in Oregon were operating at volume levels. Seeding of fall vegetables was active in south Texas and Florida.

Peach harvest was active in northern orchards. Picking of early apples started in many areas. Harvest of fresh grapes continued in California as picking of raisin and wine varieties was just beginning. Valencia orange harvest was active in California. Blueberry harvest in Maine was active with good yields reported.

Showers delayed small grain harvest across the northern tier of States from Michigan to Idaho but progress continued to run about 1 week ahead of normal. Land preparation increased for winter wheat planting in the North Central States, but dry soil delayed this operation in the Dakotas and Colorado.

The corn crop remained in mostly good to excellent condition in the Corn Belt and developed favorably under near seasonal temperatures. Southern corn matured rapidly and looks good. Light harvesting started in Virginia and continued from North Carolina to Texas.

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.
See pages 5-7

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

La 1 (9-73)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Workers on Farms, August 1973

State	August 1971 week of 22-28			August 1972 week of 20-26			August 1973 week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	20	12	8.0	20.3	13	7.3	22	14	8.0
N. H.	6.8	4.5	2.3	6.0	4.0	2.0	5.7	3.7	2.0
Vt.	14.8	11	3.8	14.5	11	3.5	13.9	11	2.9
Mass.	23.6	9.6	14	21	10	11	22	11	11
R. I.	2.1	1.3	.8	1.7	.9	.8	1.6	.9	.7
Conn.	19.6	7.6	12	20.8	7.8	13	18.5	7.5	11
N. Y.	118	77	41	121	79	42	117	74	43
N. J.	30	9.0	21	30	10	20	27	8.0	19
Pa.	136	110	26	134	109	25	133	109	24
Ohio	154	127	27	159	129	30	154	127	27
Ind.	140	125	15	150	135	15	152	135	17
Ill.	168	139	29	163	137	26	175	144	31
Mich.	152	115	37	148	109	39	157	118	39
Wis.	204	176	28	194	168	26	191	164	27
Minn.	215	180	35	197	166	31	209	176	33
Iowa	242	196	46	223	180	43	227	185	42
Mo.	206	164	42	198	160	38	203	161	42
N. Dak.	91	66	25	91	68	23	86	63	23
S. Dak.	79	66	13	75	63	12	75	62	13
Nebr.	121	95	26	124	97	27	126	99	27
Kans.	130	102	28	124	98	26	134	102	32
Del.	10	5.0	5.0	10	5.0	5.0	10	5.0	5.0
Md.	41	29	12	39	28	11	38	27	11
Va.	138	87	51	135	88	47	125	89	36
W. Va.	43	36	7.0	40	35	5.0	37	32	5.0
N. C.	378	235	143	340	220	120	303	190	113
S. C.	95	69	26	100	68	32	95	69	26
Ga.	136	100	36	122	97	25	128	98	30
Fla.	84	31	53	81	30	51	88	33	55
Ky.	177	129	48	188	139	49	171	125	46
Tenn.	163	118	45	163	117	46	174	124	50
Ala.	84	64	20	74	58	16	72	54	18
Miss.	126	97	29	119	93	26	116	96	20
Ark.	170	86	84	145	76	69	168	79	89
La.	91	50	41	82	45	37	89	48	41
Okla.	120	95	25	122	100	22	122	98	24
Texas	308	199	109	295	193	102	320	218	102
Mont.	58	34	24	59	35	24	56	33	23
Idaho	59	38	21	55	37	18	56	38	18
Wyo.	19	12	7.0	18	11	7.0	18	11	7.0
Colo.	71	38	33	60	33	27	67	39	28
N. Mex.	21	14	7.0	22	13	9.0	23	14	9.0
Ariz.	30	5.0	25	30	5.0	25	32	6.0	26
Utah	30	19	11	27	18	9.0	27	20	7.0
Nev.	6.8	3.1	3.7	6.8	3.2	3.6	6.6	3.0	3.6
Wash.	104	59	45	95	56	39	91	55	36
Oreg.	88	48	40	71	40	31	90	41	49
Calif.	312	72	240	339	74	265	336	76	260
U. S.	5,235.7	3,565.1	1,670.6	5,053.1	3,471.9	1,581.2	5,108.3	3,496.1	1,612.2

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker
Average for reporting farms, week of August 19-25, 1973

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
H o u r s					
Maine	61.7	34.8	50.8	30.5	42.1
N. H.	59.2	38.6	52.4	35.7	45.1
Vt.	62.6	36.6	51.9	39.5	47.1
Mass.	64.4	39.2	53.1	38.2	46.6
R. I.	65.6	38.0	54.5	39.8	46.7
Conn.	61.2	44.2	55.2	45.0	51.4
N. Y.	57.9	34.1	49.4	41.0	46.3
N. J.	38.3	30.6	36.9	30.4	34.8
Pa.	51.8	33.4	45.4	33.8	42.6
Ohio	40.5	33.2	38.5	26.4	35.3
Ind.	38.7	32.0	36.9	25.9	34.5
Ill.	39.6	33.4	38.2	27.3	35.9
Mich.	47.9	34.9	43.5	34.3	41.1
Wis.	54.5	33.2	45.9	37.4	44.2
Minn.	54.5	31.1	45.5	30.7	42.8
Iowa	49.2	32.3	44.0	28.6	40.6
Mo.	41.3	30.5	38.7	29.0	36.2
N. Dak.	62.8	45.1	55.4	43.3	52.8
S. Dak.	54.4	37.3	48.5	35.8	46.3
Nebr.	54.9	40.1	49.9	35.5	46.6
Kans.	51.4	39.4	48.0	35.3	44.8
Del.	36.3	32.6	35.1	34.9	35.0
Md.	44.3	34.6	41.1	33.3	38.6
Va.	40.7	35.8	39.2	30.0	35.6
W. Va.	39.9	28.7	36.7	21.2	32.7
N. C.	36.4	31.5	34.6	22.8	27.8
S. C.	37.2	35.4	36.7	31.0	33.8
Ga.	36.8	29.1	34.6	29.8	32.6
Fla.	36.5	28.9	34.3	31.5	32.7
Ky.	35.6	31.9	34.6	21.5	29.3
Tenn.	34.6	30.1	33.5	21.7	29.3
Ala.	28.3	29.2	28.5	29.9	29.0
Miss.	32.7	28.1	31.6	33.3	32.5
Ark.	36.3	34.9	36.0	35.8	35.9
La.	36.1	36.5	36.2	35.9	36.1
Okla.	46.9	33.1	42.7	34.4	40.8
Tex.	45.5	32.9	41.9	38.8	40.7
Mont.	58.2	45.6	52.9	41.6	49.0
Idaho	52.0	44.9	49.5	42.9	47.8
Wyo.	61.0	37.1	51.4	46.7	49.6
Colo.	54.9	41.4	50.2	39.6	47.5
N. Mex.	53.8	34.4	47.2	39.3	43.7
Ariz.	53.7	41.7	52.1	52.4	52.3
Utah	50.2	30.6	41.1	26.8	36.9
Nev.	50.0	34.9	45.1	50.0	47.1
Wash.	47.8	34.2	43.5	33.6	38.2
Oreg.	42.9	32.3	39.3	34.5	37.5
Calif.	49.5	44.1	47.9	44.1	44.9
U. S.	44.1	33.6	40.7	34.7	38.7

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

Cotton continued setting bolls in fair to mostly good condition throughout the southern area. Drying conditions allowed Texas cotton farmers to resume harvest in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Western cotton progressed adequately. California cotton continued setting blooms and bolls, and some bolls opened.

Soybean development lags behind last year's crop in most North Central States. South Atlantic soybeans were setting pods ahead of 1972, but progress lags in the South Central Region.

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, August 1973, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1971	Annual average 1972	August 22-28, 1971	August 20-26, 1972	August 19-25, 1973
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,436.3	4,373.4	5,235.7	5,053.1	5,108.3
Family labor	3,275.1	3,227.7	3,565.1	3,471.9	3,496.1
Hired labor	1,161.2	1,145.7	1,670.6	1,581.2	1,612.2
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	33	32	33	32	32
Family labor	32	32	32	31	31
Hired labor	34	34	34	32	33
(1967=100)					
Total	92	89	89	85	86
Family labor	89	89	89	86	86
Hired labor	89	89	89	84	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 Survey of Farm Wage Rates

The selected wage rate items presented below were derived from a probability farm labor survey conducted in July by the Statistical Reporting Service. This continues the series of published farm wage rates from quarterly probability surveys which 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 July 1, while the new probability series measures wage rates for the week including July 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 July 1, 1973 were published on page 7 of the July issue of Farm Labor. Comparisons can be made between these wage rates based on the nonprobability 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 July 1972 and 1973, United States

Item	: July 9-15, 1972	: July 8-14, 1973
	: Dollars per hour	
Farm Wage Rates		
All Hired Farm Workers	1.75	1.91
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.15	2.36
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week, and Month	1.72	1.87
Workers Paid by Hour only	1.71	1.88
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	1.90	2.09
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	1.75	2.00
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	1.66	1.82
Packinghouse workers	1.92	2.11
Machine Operators	1.80	1.94
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.11	2.52
Supervisors	2.88	3.32
Other Agricultural workers	1.72	1.94

Farm Wage Rates by Method of Pay, July 8-14, 1973, selected States, standard Federal regions and United States

State -and region 1/	All hired farm workers	Farm wage rates method of pay				
		By piece-rate	By hour, day, week or month	By hour: only wages	By cash only	By hour receiving cash wages only
D o l l a r s p e r h o u r						
Region I	1.87	*	1.91	1.89	2.00	1.87
Region II	1.87	2.54	1.85	1.84	2.09	2.09
Region III	1.78	2.21	1.77	1.76	1.99	1.90
Region IV:						
Alabama	1.85	*	1.84	2.08	2.17	2.16
Florida	2.25	3.34	2.06	1.96	2.32	2.02
Georgia	1.74	2.38	1.68	1.94	1.78	1.93
Kentucky	1.65	*	1.64	1.51	1.54	1.42
Mississippi	1.51	*	1.52	1.49	1.66	1.72
North Carolina	1.62	*	1.61	1.63	1.66	1.65
South Carolina	1.41	*	1.41	1.44	1.44	1.44
Tennessee	1.53	*	1.52	1.54	1.61	1.70
Total	1.72	2.53	1.67	1.67	1.80	1.73
Region V	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.73	1.91	1.86
Region VI:						
Arkansas	1.62	2.14	1.60	1.45	1.53	1.42
Louisiana	1.71	2.02	1.70	1.71	1.73	1.71
New Mexico	1.58	*	1.63	1.51	1.60	1.66
Oklahoma	1.89	2.28	1.83	1.74	1.86	1.73
Texas	1.84	2.56	1.81	1.83	1.92	1.84
Total	1.77	2.33	1.74	1.70	1.81	1.73
Region VII	1.99	2.58	1.94	2.00	2.24	2.18
Region VIII	1.87	2.16	1.83	2.05	2.36	2.23
Region IX:						
Arizona	2.08	2.57	2.05	1.84	2.15	1.84
California	2.44	2.95	2.37	2.30	2.54	2.41
Nevada	1.65	-	1.65	*	*	*
Total	2.41	2.94	2.34	2.28	2.52	2.39
Region X	2.06	2.16	2.01	1.91	2.24	2.12
United States	1.91	2.36	1.87	1.88	2.09	2.00

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

1/ Region I: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. Region II: New Jersey, New York. Region III: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia. Region V: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin. Region VII: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska. Region VIII: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming. Region X: Idaho, Oregon, Washington.

Farm Wage Rates by Type of Work, July 8-14, 1973, selected States, standard
Federal regions and United States

State and region 1/	Farm wage rates - Type of work performed				
	Field & livestock workers	Packing- house workers	Machine operators	Maintenance & bookkeeping workers	Supervisors
D o l l a r s p e r h o u r					
Region I	1.70	2.08	2.03	3.03	4.09
Region II	1.85	1.91	2.37	2.76	3.11
Region III	1.67	2.29	2.02	2.69	3.20
Region IV:					
Alabama	1.59	1.54	1.66	2.78	*
Florida	2.05	1.97	2.40	2.85	3.52
Georgia	1.65	1.66	1.78	2.32	*
Kentucky	1.54	1.78	1.51	*	*
Mississippi	1.35	*	1.42	2.46	3.29
North Carolina	1.62	1.42	1.63	2.72	3.06
South Carolina	1.32	1.29	1.66	2.21	3.14
Tennessee	1.46	*	1.58	*	3.22
Total	1.63	1.48	1.68	2.61	3.56
Region V	1.61	1.99	1.99	2.32	3.28
Region VI:					
Arkansas	1.49	*	1.75	2.43	*
Louisiana	1.59	*	1.61	*	3.05
New Mexico	1.41	*	1.80	2.46	2.91
Oklahoma	1.89	*	1.69	*	3.02
Texas	1.78	1.84	1.89	2.39	3.02
Total	1.71	1.81	1.76	2.27	3.10
Region VII	2.00	*	1.85	*	2.98
Region VIII	1.63	*	2.26	2.24	3.24
Region IX:					
Arizona	1.97	*	2.04	2.66	3.33
California	2.29	2.95	2.67	2.87	3.25
Nevada	1.63	-	*	*	*
Total	2.26	2.93	2.60	2.85	3.24
Region X	2.04	2.60	1.82	2.56	3.34
United States	1.82	2.11	1.94	2.52	3.32

* Insufficient data for this category - data included in all hired farm workers and in United States wage rates. 1/ See page 6.

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