

farm labor



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October Work Force Above Last Year

The U.S. farm labor force numbered 5 million during the survey week of October 21-27, up 5 percent from a year ago. Farm operators and unpaid family workers totaled 3.7 million, up 4 percent from a year ago, while hired workers accounted for 1.3 million, up 9 percent.

Farm workers averaged 41.3 hours during the survey week, compared to 38.3 last year and 38.5 hours during the September period. Farm operators worked an average of 47.2 hours; unpaid family members, 34.0; and hired workers 37.4 hours.
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Farm employment and indexes, October 1973, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1971	: Annual : average : 1972	: October : 24 - 30, : 1971	: October : 22 - 28, : 1972	: October : 21 - 27, : 1973
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 4,436.3	: 4,373.4	: 4,891.4	: 4,745.1	: 4,989.7
Family labor	: 3,275.1	: 3,227.7	: 3,639.1	: 3,556.7	: 3,688.6
Hired labor	: 1,161.2	: 1,145.7	: 1,252.3	: 1,188.4	: 1,301.1
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 33	: 32	: 31	: 30	: 32
Family labor	: 32	: 32	: 32	: 31	: 32
Hired labor	: 34	: 34	: 29	: 28	: 30
(1967=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 92	: 89	: 86	: 83	: 86
Family labor	: 89	: 89	: 89	: 86	: 89
Hired labor	: 89	: 89	: 76	: 74	: 79

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 1973

State	October 1971 week of 24-30			October 1972 week of 22-28			October 1973 week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	18.6	13	5.6	16.9	12	4.9	15.8	11	4.8
N. H.	5.9	4.2	1.7	5.8	3.8	2.0	5.7	3.4	2.3
Vt.	14.3	11	3.3	14.1	11	3.1	12.4	9.3	3.1
Mass.	17.5	9.5	8.0	16.7	9.4	7.3	18.6	9.1	9.5
R. I.	1.9	1.2	.7	1.7	1.0	.7	1.5	.9	.6
Conn.	11.6	6.6	5.0	12.9	7.0	5.9	11.8	6.5	5.3
N. Y.	104	75	29	100	74	26	99	74	25
N. J.	18	9.0	9.0	18	9.0	9.0	19	9.0	10
Pa.	120	101	19	107	92	15	117	98	19
Ohio	166	145	21	164	144	20	168	146	22
Ind.	140	127	13	143	129	14	157	138	19
Ill.	182	150	32	170	146	24	188	155	33
Mich.	130	102	28	132	102	30	136	106	30
Wis.	178	156	22	175	151	24	180	157	23
Minn.	176	163	13	173	157	16	189	168	21
Iowa	233	204	29	225	197	28	240	203	37
Mo.	217	168	49	206	160	46	236	182	54
N. Dak.	57	47	10	60	50	10	59	48	11
S. Dak.	66	59	7.0	64	57	7.0	67	58	9.0
Nebr.	105	93	12	115	100	15	114	100	14
Kans.	109	99	10	111	100	11	124	110	14
Del.	7.0	4.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md.	31	24	7.0	30	24	6.0	32	25	7.0
Va.	110	83	27	114	86	28	113	87	26
W. Va.	38	34	4.0	36	32	4.0	35	31	4.0
N. C.	206	174	32	193	161	32	202	162	40
S. C.	82	65	17	83	68	15	75	62	13
Ga.	124	103	21	126	107	19	128	108	20
Fla.	104	39	65	106	39	67	98	33	65
Ky.	194	168	26	194	163	31	191	165	26
Tenn.	208	176	32	211	177	34	216	181	35
Ala.	132	108	24	132	109	23	128	108	20
Miss.	172	128	44	155	112	43	160	118	42
Ark.	167	102	65	152	92	60	181	107	74
La.	106	63	43	100	55	45	111	59	52
Okla.	134	112	22	135	113	22	152	119	33
Texas	312	194	118	300	193	107	328	215	113
Mont.	36	27	9.0	37	28	9.0	38	28	10
Idaho	49	38	11	47	40	7.0	51	38	13
Wyo.	15	10	5.0	14	9.0	5.0	15	10	5.0
Colo.	65	39	26	66	38	28	74	40	34
N. Mex.	30	15	15	27	15	12	29	15	14
Ariz.	36	6.0	30	36	6.0	30	38	7.0	31
Utah	23	17	6.0	22	17	5.0	23	17	6.0
Nev.	4.6	2.6	2.0	5.0	2.5	2.5	4.9	2.4	2.5
Wash.	68	46	22	64	44	20	67	44	23
Oreg.	58	44	14	50	38	12	54	39	15
Calif.	309	74	235	271	71	200	280	72	208
U. S.	4,891.4	3,639.1	1,252.3	4,745.1	3,556.7	1,188.4	4,989.7	3,688.6	1,301.1

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker
Average for reporting farms, week of October 21-27, 1973

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
Hours					
Maine	60.7	34.8	52.3	32.5	44.6
N. H.	58.8	35.2	52.7	34.9	45.1
Vt.	64.4	38.5	56.0	46.5	52.5
Mass.	62.1	35.9	53.1	35.8	45.9
R. I.	60.6	36.0	52.4	41.1	48.5
Conn.	61.0	41.2	54.7	46.4	52.0
N. Y.	56.5	32.2	48.2	37.4	44.8
N. J.	41.7	36.2	40.2	38.3	39.7
Pa.	52.1	31.5	45.1	31.5	42.0
Ohio	49.7	33.0	44.9	30.7	41.5
Ind.	49.7	36.2	46.0	31.2	43.0
Ill.	54.8	39.7	50.5	40.7	48.3
Mich.	50.7	34.2	46.0	42.2	45.0
Wis.	59.1	32.4	48.5	35.4	45.9
Minn.	61.8	36.2	52.1	34.5	48.3
Iowa	63.6	36.1	54.7	35.2	49.9
Mo.	47.9	31.6	43.5	39.8	42.7
N. Dak.	48.6	35.1	44.5	39.2	43.7
S. Dak.	53.8	36.4	48.6	32.5	45.8
Nebr.	57.1	38.1	50.4	40.8	48.7
Kans.	54.5	41.2	50.6	37.3	47.6
Del.	49.4	32.0	42.9	31.2	39.5
Md.	47.6	32.2	42.4	32.0	39.4
Va.	43.2	34.4	40.8	31.2	37.4
W. Va.	38.7	28.0	35.9	28.4	34.7
N. C.	35.6	28.6	33.7	28.2	31.6
S. C.	33.8	30.3	33.1	32.0	32.7
Ga.	38.5	33.3	37.2	33.2	35.9
Fla.	36.2	30.0	35.7	26.1	29.0
Ky.	37.8	32.2	36.4	27.5	33.7
Tenn.	35.7	31.0	34.6	30.3	33.5
Ala.	35.8	29.5	34.3	30.9	33.2
Miss.	37.3	29.4	35.3	47.4	41.9
Ark.	44.5	37.3	42.6	42.2	42.4
La.	36.2	35.7	36.1	44.4	39.6
Okla.	47.7	33.6	43.2	28.1	39.3
Texas	43.9	32.6	41.2	34.3	38.9
Mont.	46.8	38.4	44.6	40.8	43.6
Idaho	44.4	36.7	42.5	42.1	42.4
Wyo.	51.5	34.5	44.8	42.5	44.2
Colo.	48.9	38.3	45.4	37.9	43.5
N. Mex.	47.0	38.5	45.1	39.9	42.8
Ariz.	42.5	30.5	40.8	51.8	47.2
Utah	42.9	27.3	37.9	23.0	33.9
Nev.	42.0	44.3	42.5	48.9	44.4
Wash.	43.2	32.0	40.4	34.8	37.7
Oreg.	37.7	31.0	35.9	35.5	35.7
Calif.	48.1	44.4	47.3	43.9	44.6
U. S.	47.2	34.0	43.2	37.4	41.3

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

Ideal Weather, Excellent Harvesting Progress

A week of sunny, dry weather permitted field equipment to move swiftly through the fall harvest. Wheat seeding advanced rapidly in the southern Great Plains but dryness slowed progress in the Southeast.

Corn harvesting progressed well in the Corn Belt under sunny, dry weather and the national harvest advanced 14 percentage point during the week.

Cotton harvesting rolled along at a fast pace. Texas farmers returned to the fields after several weeks delay from wet weather. Cotton picking in 11 major States advanced 12 percentage points during the week but was still less than half complete. In the Delta, about one-fifth of the crop was picked during the survey week.

Excellent progress was made in the soybean harvest. Corn belt farmers harvested nearly a fourth of their crop during the week and ended the period with only a fifth of the acreage left to combine. Harvest in the southern States is running behind a year ago.

Farmers in the southern Great Plains made good progress seeding winter wheat and in the eastern Corn Belt, planting was nearly completed. Gains were not as rapid in the western Corn Belt. Dryness slowed small grain seeding in the South Atlantic and eastern South Central Regions.

Sorghum grain harvesting in the major producing States moved ahead rapidly. Peanut harvesting and potato digging areas made good progress.

Apple harvesting moved into the final stages in the northeast and northwest, while the California grape harvest continued. Vegetables continued to be harvested in the northern areas, and supplies in Florida increased. Drier weather in Texas permitted a return to harvesting and planting vegetables.

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.