

farm labor



Release:
December 10, 1973
3:00 P.M. ET

WORK FORCE LARGER THAN YEAR AGO

The Nation's farm labor force during the week of November 18-24 totaled 4,066,800 workers, 2 percent above the comparable period last year. The work force consisted of 3,143,500 operators and unpaid family members and 923,300 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 35.9 hours during the survey week, compared with 41.3 hours during October 1973 and 35.0 hours a year ago. Farm operators worked an average of 40.3 hours; unpaid family members 30.7; and hired workers 31.7 hours.

Farmers made good progress harvesting corn during the week of November 18-24, despite the abundant precipitation which slowed field operations. Corn harvest neared completion in all of the Corn Belt States except in Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. Lack of adequate storage space and transportation facilities were problems in some areas and a few elevators have had to pile corn on the ground. The Southern corn harvest neared completion, but cotton and soybean harvesting took priority in most areas.

Good progress was made in picking cotton in all Southern States until halted by mid-week rains. Rains delayed the cotton harvest in the San Joaquin Valley of California and in Central Arizona. Rains also interrupted cotton harvesting in the Delta, Oklahoma, and East Texas. Continued dry weather over the Texas High Plains permitted good progress and harvest was nearly half completed.

Precipitation interfered with soybean combining in the South Central States and in Missouri and Kansas, the only Corn Belt States not yet finished. Good progress was accomplished in most States before the moisture arrived. The Nation's soybean harvest is far ahead of last year.

SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Wage Rates from the Quarterly Probability Agricultural Labor Survey, including data for 26 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 (12-73)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Workers on Farms, November 1973

State	November 1971 week of 21-27			November 1972 week of 19-25			November 1973 week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	14	10	4.0	14.7	12	2.7	13.9	11	2.9
N. H.	5.3	3.7	1.6	5.0	3.6	1.4	4.5	3.2	1.3
Vt.	13.2	10	3.2	13	10	3.0	12.7	9.7	3.0
Mass.	14.1	9.0	5.1	15.2	9.4	5.8	15.3	8.7	6.6
R. I.	1.8	1.2	.6	1.4	.8	.6	1.4	.9	.5
Conn.	10.3	6.3	4.0	11.6	6.6	5.0	11	6.0	5.0
N. Y.	90	71	19	87	68	19	88	69	19
N. J.	14	9.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0
Pa.	96	85	11	99	87	12	96	84	12
Ohio	138	127	11	142	128	14	144	131	13
Ind.	126	115	11	138	126	12	135	124	11
Ill.	156	136	20	164	143	21	163	137	26
Mich.	109	93	16	110	94	16	115	97	18
Wis.	169	154	15	172	157	15	168	153	15
Minn.	150	141	9.0	153	140	13	164	153	11
Iowa	185	167	18	203	179	24	198	172	26
Mo.	164	146	18	164	145	19	165	148	17
N. Dak.	41	36	5.0	43	37	6.0	41	36	5.0
S. Dak.	51	46	5.0	51	45	6.0	54	48	6.0
Nebr.	93	84	9.0	104	93	11	106	94	12
Kans.	91	85	6.0	91	85	6.0	95	87	8.0
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	29	23	6.0
Va.	96	78	18	95	77	18	99	83	16
W. Va.	34	30	4.0	30	28	2.0	32	28	4.0
N. C.	175	145	30	154	130	24	155	129	26
S. C.	64	51	13	62	50	12	60	49	11
Ga.	95	73	22	90	71	19	94	73	21
Fla.	117	35	82	116	32	84	120	37	83
Ky.	157	137	20	159	139	20	161	139	22
Tenn.	170	147	23	177	151	26	182	160	22
Ala.	100	80	20	91	72	19	96	74	22
Miss.	111	90	21	98	82	16	103	84	19
Ark.	121	79	42	124	82	42	117	76	41
La.	64	49	15	66	47	19	62	45	17
Okla.	113	97	16	107	93	14	118	98	20
Texas	256	170	86	242	167	75	290	202	88
Mont.	33	25	8.0	33	26	7.0	32	24	8.0
Idaho	39	31	8.0	36	29	7.0	35	28	7.0
Wyo.	13	8.0	5.0	13	8.0	5.0	12	8.0	4.0
Colo.	44	33	11	48	32	16	51	34	17
N. Mex.	25	14	11	21	12	9.0	18	10	8.0
Ariz.	38	5.0	33	40	5.0	35	39	5.0	34
Utah	17	15	2.0	16	14	2.0	18	15	3.0
Nev.	3.7	1.9	1.8	3.7	1.7	2.0	4.0	2.0	2.0
Wash.	54	42	12	56	41	15	54	39	15
Oreg.	43	37	6.0	43	35	8.0	40	33	7.0
Calif.	250	65	185	225	60	165	235	60	175
U. S.	3,998.4	3,099.1	899.3	3,975.6	3,089.1	886.5	4,066.8	3,143.5	923.3

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker
Average for reporting farms, week of November 18-24, 1973

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
H o u r s					
Maine	58.1	36.6	51.3	31.1	43.2
N. H.	55.9	30.6	49.2	34.9	42.9
Vt.	60.5	32.7	50.8	40.8	47.0
Mass.	58.3	41.7	52.7	35.8	45.4
R. I.	59.5	33.2	50.7	41.9	46.4
Conn.	58.0	44.7	54.1	43.8	50.3
N. Y.	54.2	32.4	46.9	36.4	43.6
N. J.	36.7	32.4	35.7	28.6	33.8
Pa.	49.6	29.2	43.3	35.1	41.5
Ohio	41.4	30.0	38.3	26.9	35.9
Ind.	38.1	32.0	36.7	27.7	35.2
Ill.	40.8	32.4	38.9	32.9	37.7
Mich.	44.1	36.8	42.2	36.0	40.7
Wis.	53.4	29.6	44.2	36.7	42.8
Minn.	51.7	29.3	43.8	29.8	41.8
Iowa	50.8	30.8	44.9	30.0	41.8
Mo.	39.1	32.0	37.6	28.3	35.9
N. Dak.	36.3	33.3	35.5	31.9	35.1
S. Dak.	45.0	33.1	41.6	26.6	39.3
Nebr.	47.1	28.1	40.6	34.6	39.6
Kans.	40.3	36.3	39.4	32.8	38.1
Del.	33.0	30.1	32.2	24.2	29.9
Md.	43.3	31.4	39.7	33.8	38.2
Va.	37.4	31.3	35.9	34.3	35.4
W. Va.	35.2	29.9	33.9	23.0	32.1
N. C.	32.9	29.4	32.1	24.8	29.7
S. C.	34.1	28.9	32.9	29.0	31.3
Ga.	37.5	29.6	35.5	28.0	32.7
Fla.	40.5	31.6	38.1	26.5	29.8
Ky.	35.2	31.8	34.2	27.5	31.7
Tenn.	32.0	28.3	31.1	27.0	30.1
Ala.	31.7	29.2	31.2	25.4	29.3
Miss.	29.7	27.1	29.1	30.0	29.6
Ark.	30.5	32.7	30.9	28.4	29.9
La.	28.3	30.6	28.7	33.3	30.4
Okla.	39.2	28.0	36.1	25.9	34.1
Tex.	41.0	26.9	37.4	32.4	35.9
Mont.	39.1	32.9	37.6	37.1	37.5
Idaho	37.1	28.6	34.7	33.8	34.5
Wyo.	42.4	34.6	40.1	39.8	40.0
Colo.	43.3	33.0	40.3	35.2	39.1
N. Mex.	40.8	27.0	38.2	44.8	40.3
Ariz.	43.4	34.7	42.3	47.7	45.6
Utah	37.9	26.4	33.7	25.5	32.0
Nev.	48.7	32.9	44.0	40.6	42.9
Wash.	34.2	30.9	33.6	31.3	32.7
Oreg.	29.1	26.6	28.5	33.1	29.7
Calif.	41.1	41.2	41.1	33.0	34.9
U. S.	40.3	30.7	37.5	31.7	35.9

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

The California Navel orange harvest increased as color and size of the fruit improved. Citrus harvest continued in the Salt River Valley of Arizona and increased in Texas. Pecan harvest continued in Georgia but was delayed in Mississippi.

Tomato harvesting reached moderate volume in Florida while cucumbers and beans continued at peak levels. In the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, moderate supplies of cabbage, peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes were available. Lettuce harvest continued active in Arizona but rain in California hampered the central coast celery harvest and slowed lettuce harvesting at Palo Verde.

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 1973, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1971	: Annual : average : 1972	: November : 21-27, : 1971	: November : 19-25, : 1972	: November : 18-24, : 1973
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 4,436.3	: 4,373.4	: 3,998.4	: 3,975.6	: 4,066.8
Family labor	: 3,275.1	: 3,227.7	: 3,099.1	: 3,089.1	: 3,143.5
Hired labor	: 1,161.2	: 1,145.7	: 899.3	: 886.5	: 923.3
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 33	: 32	: 32	: 32	: 32
Family labor	: 32	: 32	: 32	: 32	: 32
Hired labor (1967=100)	: 34	: 34	: 32	: 32	: 33
Total	: 92	: 89	: 88	: 88	: 89
Family labor	: 89	: 89	: 89	: 89	: 89
Hired labor	: 89	: 89	: 84	: 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 October 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 October 1, while the new probability series measures wage rates for the week including October 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 26 individual States, each of the new Standard Federal Regions, and the United States. The wage rates for October 1, 1973 were published on page 7 of the October 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 October 1972 and 1973, United States

Item	October 8-14, 1972	October 7-13, 1973
	Dollars per hour	
Farm Wage Rates		
All Hired Farm Workers	1.97	2.20
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.37	2.71
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week, and Month	1.92	2.15
Workers Paid by Hour only	1.90	2.24
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	2.10	2.42
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	1.97	2.37
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	1.92	2.14
Packinghouse workers	1.93	2.12
Machine Operators	1.84	2.10
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.29	2.50
Supervisors	3.26	3.40
Other Agricultural workers	1.86	2.15

Farm Wage Rates by Method of Pay, October 7-13, 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	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	2.16	1.83	2.22	2.26	2.18	2.26
Region II						
New Jersey	2.31	2.64	2.29	2.08	2.79	2.56
New York	2.16	2.94	2.01	2.24	2.44	2.36
Total	2.19	2.91	2.08	2.19	2.52	2.39
Region III						
Delaware	2.13	2/	2.14	2.01	2.40	2.03
Maryland	2.05	2/	2.06	2.22	2.28	2.10
Pennsylvania	1.84	2.69	1.80	2.17	2.37	2.23
Virginia	2.00	3.14	1.93	1.68	2.22	2.02
West Virginia	1.66	2.57	1.44	1.72	1.78	1.81
Total	1.91	2.73	1.86	2.06	2.27	2.16
Region IV						
Alabama	1.82	2/	1.83	1.78	1.95	1.86
Florida	2.49	3.30	2.38	2.21	2.53	2.20
Georgia	1.83	2/	1.75	1.81	1.89	1.86
Kentucky	1.83	--	1.83	1.84	1.54	1.33
Mississippi	1.64	2/	1.69	1.54	1.65	1.61
North Carolina	1.67	1.29	1.68	1.63	1.67	1.68
South Carolina	1.61	1.23	1.70	1.67	1.68	1.78
Tennessee	1.70	2/	1.70	1.71	1.90	1.85
Total	1.87	2.18	1.85	1.80	1.98	1.87
Region V	2.02	2.36	2.01	2.12	2.23	2.17
Region VI						
Arkansas	1.89	2/	1.88	1.69	1.95	1.88
Louisiana	1.95	2/	1.96	1.92	1.93	1.92
New Mexico	1.86	2/	1.79	1.80	1.83	1.55
Oklahoma	2.12	2/	2.10	1.81	2.12	1.84
Texas	1.83	2/	1.83	1.83	1.96	1.86
Total	1.89	2.66	1.88	1.83	1.95	1.85
Region VII	2.10	2.43	2.08	2.32	2.45	2.41
Region VIII	1.98	2.61	1.96	2.00	2.17	2.09
Region IX						
Arizona	1.98	2/	2.00	1.89	2.03	1.91
California	2.86	3.11	2.82	2.83	2.92	2.92
Nevada	1.77	2/	1.78	2.15	2.18	2.11
Total	2.79	3.08	2.75	2.78	2.88	2.88
Region X						
Idaho	2.18	2.96	2.12	2.17	2.27	2.19
Oregon	2.34	2.59	2.32	2.23	2.36	2.25
Washington	2.66	2.73	2.62	2.53	2.80	2.58
Total	2.42	2.75	2.33	2.29	2.49	2.31
United States	2.20	2.71	2.15	2.24	2.42	2.37

1/ Region I: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. Region V: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin. Region VII: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska. Region VIII: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming.

2/ 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, October 7-13, 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	1.96	2.12	2.52	2.78	3.37
Region II					
New Jersey	2.07	2.50	2.78	3.18	3.49
New York	1.94	2.36	2.48	3.14	3.41
Total	1.97	2.40	2.54	3.15	3.43
Region III					
Delaware	1.90	2/	2.17	2/	3.86
Maryland	1.96	2.38	1.96	2/	2.57
Pennsylvania	1.66	2.32	2.26	2.52	3.32
Virginia	2.01	2/	1.78	2.17	2.42
West Virginia	1.60	2.01	1.81	2/	2.39
Total	1.80	2.10	1.99	2.45	3.13
Region IV					
Alabama	1.71	2/	1.94	2.39	3.40
Florida	2.34	2.37	2.41	2.90	3.57
Georgia	1.78	1.72	1.64	2.37	2/
Kentucky	1.80	1.86	1.41	2/	2/
Mississippi	1.39	2/	1.69	2.16	2.50
North Carolina	1.60	1.68	1.81	2/	2/
South Carolina	1.46	1.72	1.65	2.32	3.08
Tennessee	1.51	1.57	1.87	2/	2.80
Total	1.78	1.82	1.78	2.54	3.05
Region V	1.94	1.94	2.09	2.24	2/
Region VI					
Arkansas	1.79	2/	1.86	2/	2/
Louisiana	1.81	1.84	1.88	2/	3.08
New Mexico	1.82	2.30	1.74	2/	3.05
Oklahoma	1.78	2/	2.43	2.02	3.46
Texas	1.67	2.30	1.92	1.91	3.28
Total	1.73	2.22	1.92	1.90	3.18
Region VII	1.98	2.00	2.34	2.31	3.40
Region VIII	1.88	2/	2.15	2.61	3.03
Region IX					
Arizona	1.82	2/	1.96	2.53	3.35
California	2.82	2.75	2.71	3.25	3.76
Nevada	1.61	--	2/	2/	2.97
Total	2.75	2.70	2.60	3.17	3.71
Region X					
Idaho	2.13	2.08	2.26	2.08	2/
Oregon	2.22	2.27	2.36	2.82	3.27
Washington	2.68	2.37	2.65	2.88	3.68
Total	2.42	2.27	2.42	2.65	3.18
United States	2.14	2.12	2.10	2.50	3.40

^{1/} Region I: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. Region V: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin. Region VII: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska. Region VIII: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming.

^{2/} Insufficient data for this category - data included in all hired farm workers and in United States wage rates.
