

farm labor



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FEWER WORKERS THAN A YEAR AGO

The Nation's farm labor force totaled 3,309,000 workers during the January 20-26, 1974 survey week, 1 percent below the comparable period last year. The work force consisted of 2,621,000 operators and unpaid family members plus 688,000 hired workers.

Farmworkers averaged 33.7 hours during the January survey week, compared with 33.2 hours the same week a year ago. Farm operators averaged 34.6 hours, unpaid family members 29.1, and hired workers 34.5 hours.

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Farm employment and indexes, January 1974, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1972	: Annual : average : 1973	: January : 23 - 29, : 1972	: January : 21 - 27, : 1973	: January : 20 - 26, : 1974
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)					
Total.....	4,373.4	4,395.1	3,271.1	3,327.8	3,309.3
Family labor.....	3,227.7	3,232.1	2,608.3	2,639.7	2,621.1
Hired labor.....	1,145.7	1,163.0	662.8	688.1	688.2
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total.....	32	32	34	35	35
Family labor.....	32	32	33	33	33
Hired labor.....	34	34	40	41	41
(1967=100)					
Total.....	89	89	95	95	95
Family labor.....	89	89	92	92	92
Hired labor.....	89	89	105	108	108

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: January 1974

State	January 1972			January 1973			January 1974		
	week of 23-29			week of 21-27			week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
T h o u s a n d s									
Alabama	51	41	10	53	42	11	54	43	11
Arizona	37	6.0	31	38	6.0	32	39	6.0	33
Arkansas	80	59	21	82	61	21	73	55	18
California	234	69	165	255	80	175	250	70	180
Colorado	28	23	5.0	29	24	5.0	33	26	7.0
Connecticut	9.2	6.2	3.0	8.8	6.2	2.6	9.4	6.5	2.9
Delaware	4.0	3.0	1.0	4.0	3.0	1.0	4.0	3.0	1.0
Florida	132	33	99	130	32	98	129	32	97
Georgia	71	60	11	70	59	11	73	62	11
Idaho	30	25	5.0	28	24	4.0	27	23	4.0
Illinois	119	106	13	124	109	15	122	105	17
Indiana	121	116	5.0	120	114	6.0	118	112	6.0
Iowa	152	141	11	144	131	13	145	133	12
Kansas	79	74	5.0	81	76	5.0	84	78	6.0
Kentucky	104	96	8.0	101	93	8.0	101	93	8.0
Louisiana	45	37	8.0	44	34	10	44	36	8.0
Maine	12.9	10	2.9	13.3	9.3	4.0	14	11	3.0
Maryland	23	19	4.0	22	18	4.0	21	17	4.0
Massachusetts	14.1	8.7	5.4	13.0	8.7	4.3	12.9	8.1	4.8
Michigan	81	71	10	94	80	14	91	76	15
Minnesota	125	118	7.0	133	124	9.0	144	135	9.0
Mississippi	77	59	18	71	54	17	69	56	13
Missouri	140	129	11	149	137	12	145	134	11
Montana	27	23	4.0	26	22	4.0	27	22	5.0
Nebraska	82	76	6.0	81	74	7.0	85	76	9.0
Nevada	3.2	2.0	1.2	3.1	1.8	1.3	3.3	2.0	1.3
New Hampshire	3.7	2.6	1.1	4.9	3.3	1.6	4.0	3.0	1.0
New Jersey	13	9.0	4.0	13	8.0	5.0	13	9.0	4.0
New Mexico	15	11	4.0	15	11	4.0	13	9.0	4.0
New York	79	64	15	78	63	15	78	63	15
North Carolina	136	120	16	124	109	15	127	112	15
North Dakota	34	31	3.0	35	32	3.0	35	32	3.0
Ohio	113	107	6.0	129	122	7.0	123	117	6.0
Oklahoma	107	99	8.0	105	97	8.0	114	105	9.0
Oregon	36	31	5.0	39	33	6.0	38	32	6.0
Pennsylvania	91	79	12	86	75	11	86	75	11
Rhode Island	1.6	1.0	.6	1.4	.9	.5	1.4	.9	.5
South Carolina	49	39	10	49	39	10	44	37	7.0
South Dakota	43	40	3.0	43	40	3.0	45	41	4.0
Tennessee	107	97	10	108	98	10	104	95	9.0
Texas	223	171	52	222	177	45	218	170	48
Utah	14	11	3.0	13	11	2.0	12	10	2.0
Vermont	12.4	9.8	2.6	13.3	9.5	3.8	12.3	9.6	2.7
Virginia	76	63	13	88	73	15	81	67	14
Washington	46	37	9.0	51	38	13	49	37	12
West Virginia	25	22	3.0	25	22	3.0	25	22	3.0
Wisconsin	156	146	10	159	148	11	159	147	12
Wyoming	9.0	7.0	2.0	9.0	7.0	2.0	10	7.0	3.0
United States	3,271.1	2,608.3	662.8	3,327.8	2,639.7	688.1	3,309.3	2,621.1	688.2

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker: Average for reporting farms, week of January 20-26, 1974

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family members 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
			H o u r s		
Alabama	28.2	26.2	27.8	27.8	27.8
Arizona	45.9	36.4	44.0	51.6	48.8
Arkansas	25.8	31.4	26.6	30.6	28.3
California	40.3	39.3	40.0	41.6	41.2
Colorado	37.5	31.8	36.2	32.9	35.5
Connecticut	56.9	35.1	48.0	43.4	46.5
Delaware	30.6	25.9	29.5	34.0	30.6
Florida	38.7	20.0	33.3	29.7	31.0
Georgia	35.5	26.9	33.3	31.3	32.6
Idaho	30.7	27.4	29.9	30.2	29.9
Illinois	30.6	29.8	30.5	33.2	30.9
Indiana	31.2	30.4	31.1	25.6	30.2
Iowa	39.3	29.4	36.8	30.3	35.8
Kansas	35.1	33.3	34.8	31.9	34.3
Kentucky	27.5	28.1	27.6	25.1	26.9
Louisiana	23.5	28.1	24.4	26.7	25.1
Maine	54.8	32.0	46.9	36.2	43.3
Maryland	37.8	28.4	35.3	33.3	34.8
Massachusetts	53.6	41.1	49.7	37.2	44.6
Michigan	35.0	32.1	34.4	33.7	34.3
Minnesota	43.1	29.2	38.9	28.4	37.5
Mississippi	24.4	25.1	24.5	25.4	24.9
Missouri	33.2	28.8	32.4	29.6	32.0
Montana	37.7	32.5	36.5	40.5	37.5
Nebraska	38.7	31.1	36.7	31.3	35.9
Nevada	41.8	26.2	38.6	37.9	38.4
New Hampshire	53.1	33.2	47.5	37.0	43.3
New Jersey	32.6	30.4	32.0	35.9	32.9
New Mexico	35.1	27.9	34.0	45.9	37.8
New York	49.4	31.3	43.4	34.9	40.7
North Carolina	27.7	27.1	27.6	26.2	27.2
North Dakota	32.1	32.2	32.1	28.5	31.8
Ohio	32.7	30.8	32.3	29.9	31.9
Oklahoma	36.7	27.2	34.0	27.2	32.9
Oregon	30.1	30.1	30.1	29.6	30.0
Pennsylvania	45.2	29.4	40.5	32.9	39.0
Rhode Island	60.4	31.8	51.8	27.5	41.4
South Carolina	29.7	29.3	29.7	26.9	28.7
South Dakota	37.5	28.1	35.1	27.7	34.1
Tennessee	25.1	25.7	25.2	20.7	24.3
Texas	36.4	25.5	34.0	30.1	32.7
Utah	30.1	24.3	28.8	24.4	27.9
Vermont	59.4	35.4	51.2	45.3	49.1
Virginia	34.5	30.5	33.6	31.3	32.9
Washington	33.6	30.1	32.9	34.3	33.5
West Virginia	34.1	29.4	33.0	24.5	31.9
Wisconsin	51.1	31.5	43.8	34.5	41.9
Wyoming	36.4	34.3	35.8	40.5	37.2
United States	34.6	29.1	33.1	34.5	33.7

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

Citrus Harvest Active

The Florida citrus harvest progressed rapidly during the week of January 20-26. In Texas, citrus harvesting for fresh market and processing continued. Citrus trees defoliated by the December freeze showed new growth and were in partial bloom. Navel oranges were picked in the San Joaquin Valley and in southern California while lemon harvest increased. Arizona citrus groves were generally excellent and harvest conditions were good.

Cabbage continued in heavy supply from Florida while tomatoes neared a seasonal low and celery volume was steady. Cabbage and carrot harvesting remained active in the San Antonio-Winter Garden area of Texas. In the lower Rio Valley, lettuce and cabbage harvesting advanced while cantaloupe planting was active. In California, carrot harvesting at Imperial held steady and celery supplies near Orange were light. The winter lettuce harvest at Yuma, Arizona was active under excellent conditions.

Cotton was nearly harvested in Texas. Ginning ricked cotton was underway on the Texas High Plains while seedbed preparation continued in South Texas. Final picking of remaining cotton fields, and shredding-disking operations continued in California and Arizona.

Mild temperatures over most of the Nation melted snow cover and stimulated some growth of winter wheat in the southern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Small grain growth improved in California and some planting continued there and in Arizona.

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.