

farm labor



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FARM WORKERS UP FROM A YEAR AGO

The farm labor force in the United States numbered 4.3 million workers during the week of April 21-27, up 4 percent from the comparable week a year ago. There were 3.2 million working farm operators and unpaid family workers and 1.1 million hired farm laborers. Each total was above a year ago.

Farm workers averaged 40.4 hours during the April survey week, compared with 36.3 hours during the March week and 38.0 hours in April a year ago. Farm operators averaged 45.8 hours, unpaid family members 32.0 and hired workers 36.6 hours during the week.

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

Item	: Annual : average : 1972	: Annual : average : 1973	: April : 23-29, : 1972	: April : 22-28, : 1973	: April : 21-27, : 1974
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,373.4	4,336.7	4,313.1	4,128.7	4,290.1
Family labor	3,227.7	3,169.0	3,296.8	3,152.6	3,222.4
Hired labor	1,145.7	1,167.7	1,016.3	976.1	1,067.7
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	32	32	33	31	33
Family labor	32	31	32	30	31
Hired labor	34	34	36	34	37
(1967=100)					
Total	89	89	90	84	89
Family labor	89	86	89	83	86
Hired labor	89	89	95	89	97

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

La 1 (5-74)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Workers on Farms: April 1974

State	April 1972			April 1973			April 1974		
	week of 23-29			week of 22-28			week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	T h o u s a n d s								
Alabama	86	68	18	83	66	17	79	65	14
Arizona	36	6.0	30	34	7.0	27	31	6.0	25
Arkansas	140	80	60	99	63	36	120	70	50
California	271	71	200	266	66	200	270	70	200
Colorado	48	37	11	48	37	11	50	39	11
Connecticut	12.6	7.4	5.2	12.6	7.0	5.6	12.5	6.8	5.7
Delaware	6.0	4.0	2.0	7.0	5.0	2.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Florida	126	38	88	133	38	95	129	36	93
Georgia	94	76	18	93	75	18	92	75	17
Idaho	44	34	10	42	31	11	40	29	11
Illinois	164	138	26	155	132	23	179	146	33
Indiana	132	122	10	141	131	10	149	135	14
Iowa	210	192	18	205	188	17	204	177	27
Kansas	103	94	9.0	98	90	8.0	105	94	11
Kentucky	135	114	21	126	105	21	128	103	25
Louisiana	73	45	28	63	39	24	60	38	22
Maine	15.2	12	3.2	15.8	12	3.8	14.8	12	2.8
Maryland	32	26	6.0	33	25	8.0	34	25	9.0
Massachusetts	16.1	9.9	6.2	17	10	7.0	15.7	10	5.7
Michigan	124	105	19	125	107	18	124	103	21
Minnesota	175	162	13	195	177	18	195	173	22
Mississippi	115	86	29	92	72	20	113	80	33
Missouri	181	164	17	163	146	17	202	178	24
Montana	45	33	12	42	31	11	37	27	10
Nebraska	116	98	18	111	93	18	116	98	18
Nevada	4.6	2.6	2.0	4.5	2.5	2.0	4.4	2.2	2.2
New Hampshire	4.4	3.3	1.1	4.3	3.3	1.0	4.5	3.5	1.0
New Jersey	18	9.0	9.0	18	9.0	9.0	17	9.0	8.0
New Mexico	18	12	6.0	21	14	7.0	20	13	7.0
New York	84	65	19	91	66	25	93	69	24
North Carolina	191	153	38	175	140	35	174	136	38
North Dakota	55	49	6.0	63	54	9.0	60	53	7.0
Ohio	146	133	13	148	133	15	170	148	22
Oklahoma	123	109	14	116	104	12	116	104	12
Oregon	53	41	12	48	36	12	50	36	14
Pennsylvania	107	93	14	116	98	18	121	103	18
Rhode Island	1.5	.8	.7	1.4	.8	.6	1.5	.9	.6
South Carolina	70	54	16	63	45	18	60	43	17
South Dakota	64	59	5.0	64	59	5.0	64	58	6
Tennessee	141	121	20	120	103	17	136	114	22
Texas	281	202	79	246	180	66	259	184	75
Utah	20	16	4.0	19	15	4.0	20	15	5.0
Vermont	12.7	9.8	2.9	13.1	10	3.1	12.7	10	2.7
Virginia	106	86	20	96	78	18	93	74	19
Washington	77	49	28	76	50	26	73	45	28
West Virginia	37	31	6.0	32	28	4.0	34	30	4.0
Wisconsin	185	166	19	179	160	19	184	161	23
Wyoming	14	10	4.0	15	11	4.0	16	11	5.0
United States	4,313.1	3,296.8	1,016.3	4,128.7	3,152.6	976.1	4,290.1	3,222.4	1,067.7

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker: Average for reporting farms, week of April 21-27, 1974

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family members 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
H o u r s					
Alabama	36.7	27.9	35.0	33.1	34.5
Arizona	45.8	31.0	42.3	44.7	43.7
Arkansas	37.8	31.0	36.4	33.8	35.2
California	48.0	44.5	47.1	44.6	45.1
Colorado	51.4	38.9	47.4	43.5	46.6
Connecticut	58.3	41.2	52.8	42.9	49.0
Delaware	45.5	33.0	41.7	29.2	37.3
Florida	44.7	23.7	38.8	33.7	35.4
Georgia	40.7	28.2	37.3	31.6	35.5
Idaho	49.6	39.5	46.5	39.1	44.6
Illinois	50.2	36.6	46.8	35.2	44.1
Indiana	47.8	34.8	44.4	28.4	41.0
Iowa	61.1	35.8	53.0	36.0	49.2
Kansas	45.0	37.0	43.1	29.1	40.2
Kentucky	35.1	28.6	33.8	29.7	32.4
Louisiana	35.6	29.3	34.4	34.3	34.4
Maine	55.9	29.5	47.5	31.7	41.2
Maryland	46.1	33.0	41.9	36.3	40.4
Massachusetts	59.5	33.9	49.4	36.5	44.4
Michigan	47.0	29.8	42.1	32.0	39.7
Minnesota	56.7	35.5	49.6	39.9	47.6
Mississippi	31.6	30.0	31.2	33.3	32.4
Missouri	45.2	32.3	41.5	33.2	39.8
Montana	54.6	41.2	50.6	46.9	49.6
Nebraska	57.8	36.4	50.7	39.0	48.5
Nevada	41.3	22.5	36.6	38.6	37.5
New Hampshire	56.5	35.1	48.6	37.2	44.4
New Jersey	40.9	32.3	38.6	35.8	37.9
New Mexico	47.0	24.7	41.4	45.3	42.9
New York	55.1	31.0	46.1	34.9	42.5
North Carolina	39.8	30.3	37.0	25.6	31.9
North Dakota	50.1	30.7	43.1	39.8	42.6
Ohio	48.2	31.4	43.1	30.7	40.4
Oklahoma	43.4	27.7	38.6	31.0	37.2
Oregon	38.8	28.9	36.0	33.9	35.4
Pennsylvania	51.2	32.4	45.6	33.7	42.9
Rhode Island	65.4	34.8	56.0	32.5	48.6
South Carolina	37.7	27.0	34.9	29.5	32.3
South Dakota	57.1	39.8	51.9	38.5	49.6
Tennessee	36.3	29.1	34.7	26.8	32.7
Texas	41.1	27.4	37.9	38.5	38.1
Utah	45.3	32.5	40.4	27.9	37.2
Vermont	62.5	36.6	52.6	43.3	49.1
Virginia	41.3	30.8	38.7	34.6	37.2
Washington	47.3	31.0	43.3	37.7	40.6
West Virginia	37.7	26.9	34.9	28.5	33.8
Wisconsin	56.8	32.8	47.4	37.2	45.3
Wyoming	58.3	43.7	53.0	45.6	50.8
United States	45.8	32.0	41.8	36.6	40.4

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

FAVORABLE WEATHER FOSTERS FARM WORK

Warm weather pushed winter wheat growth and development well ahead of average progress in the southern Great Plains. The crop in most other areas is in good condition except in the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles, southwest Kansas, southeast Colorado and in Montana where rain is needed.

Cotton planting gained momentum in most Southern States during the week of April 21-27. The Texas crop was a fourth planted, far ahead of a year ago while planting neared completion in Arizona and California.

Fieldwork was active in the major corn producing areas of the North Central Region and the crop was 7 percent planted in the Corn Belt, about a week ahead of a year ago. Corn planting was most advanced in Missouri where a fourth of the crop was planted during the survey week. Good progress was made in Kansas and Ohio where 10 to 15 percent of the intended acreage was put in and in Iowa and Illinois where corn was 8 percent planted. Most farmers concentrated on getting the corn in and very few soybeans were planted.

Sorghum planting made good progress in Texas and tobacco transplanting was active in North Carolina. Peanut planting was active in the major growing areas, while planting of potatoes made good progress in many areas.

Irrigation of citrus groves in southern Florida was intensified and harvest of the Valencia crop in all areas continued in full swing. Navel orange harvest was in the final stages in California as peach picking got underway.

Sweet corn shipments from Florida were up sharply while tomatoes remained in moderate supply. Spinach and green leafy crops were available in New Jersey and tomato planting started. Onions and lettuce were actively planted in New York while early vegetable planting started in Michigan and increased in Washington. Mixed vegetable harvesting continued actively in Texas, 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.