

# farm labor



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## FARM LABOR FORCE BELOW LAST YEAR

The Nation's farm labor force numbered 5,162,100 during the survey week of July 21-27, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Farm operators and unpaid family workers totaled 3,417,300 while hired workers numbered 1,744,800.

Farm workers averaged 39.5 hours during the July survey week almost the same as the 39.3 hours during July 1973 and 41.7 hours a month ago. Farm operators worked 45.7 hours, other unpaid family members 34.5, and hired workers 34.4 hours.

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### Farm employment and indexes, July 1974, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1972	: Annual : average : 1973	: July : 23-29, : 1972	: July : 22-28, : 1973	: July : 21-27, : 1974
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 4,373.4	: 4,336.7	: 5,234.9	: 5,270.2	: 5,162.1
Family labor	: 3,227.7	: 3,169.0	: 3,519.2	: 3,476.9	: 3,417.3
Hired labor	: 1,145.7	: 1,167.7	: 1,715.7	: 1,793.3	: 1,744.8
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 32	: 32	: 33	: 33	: 32
Family labor	: 32	: 31	: 32	: 32	: 31
Hired labor	: 34	: 34	: 34	: 36	: 35
(1967=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 89	: 89	: 89	: 91	: 88
Family labor	: 89	: 86	: 89	: 89	: 86
Hired labor	: 89	: 89	: 89	: 95	: 92

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: July 1974

State	July 1972			July 1973			July 1974		
	week of 23-29			week of 22-28			week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Thousands									
Ala.	67	51	16	77	59	18	70	56	14
Ariz.	32	5.0	27	31	7.0	24	31	6	25
Ark.	145	72	73	151	75	76	137	72	65
Calif.	308	73	235	316	66	250	341	66	275
Colo.	71	39	32	78	40	38	68	39	29
Conn.	21	8.0	13	20.9	7.9	13	20.7	7.7	13
Del.	10	5.0	5.0	9.0	5.0	4.0	8.0	5.0	3.0
Fla.	86	30	56	95	34	61	90	35	55
Ga.	92	73	19	110	76	34	105	71	34
Idaho	64	40	24	60	39	21	55	36	19
Ill.	187	147	40	180	144	36	182	145	37
Ind.	158	141	17	152	135	17	151	134	17
Iowa	254	202	52	247	188	59	259	196	63
Kan.	134	104	30	133	103	30	131	100	31
Ky.	156	124	32	157	121	36	161	119	42
La.	75	42	33	72	45	27	67	43	24
Maine	21.2	14	7.2	20.2	14	6.2	19.4	13	6.4
Md.	41	29	12	39	28	11	39	27	12
Mass.	21	11	10	22	11	11	20.6	11	9.6
Mich.	163	119	44	153	116	37	155	113	42
Minn.	214	171	43	236	185	51	241	190	51
Miss.	127	93	34	130	90	40	117	80	37
Mo.	218	175	43	212	165	47	212	172	40
Mont.	51	31	20	55	30	25	53	29	24
Nebr.	142	108	34	139	107	32	136	99	37
Nev.	6.3	3.2	3.1	6.3	3.2	3.1	6.0	2.9	3.1
N. H.	6.0	4.1	1.9	5.8	3.9	1.9	5.7	3.8	1.9
N. J.	32	10	22	29	9.0	20	28	10	18
N. Mex.	21	12	9.0	26	15	11	26	16	10
N. Y.	121	79	42	120	76	44	116	76	40
N. C.	375	203	172	363	178	185	315	155	160
N. Dak.	82	62	20	84	62	22	87	66	21
Ohio	165	141	24	167	143	24	172	149	23
Okla.	143	107	36	132	103	29	124	99	25
Oreg.	86	42	44	96	41	55	90	39	51
Pa.	137	111	26	140	110	30	143	115	28
R. I.	1.7	.9	.8	1.6	.9	.7	1.6	.9	.7
S. C.	96	63	33	92	55	37	95	46	49
S. Dak.	76	61	15	81	66	15	79	61	18
Tenn.	154	116	38	162	131	31	161	135	26
Tex.	327	213	114	323	207	116	284	187	97
Utah	26	18	8.0	26	19	7.0	27	20	7.0
Vt.	12.7	10	2.7	14.4	11	3.4	14.1	11	3.1
Va.	143	81	62	144	86	58	138	88	50
Wash.	110	61	49	110	55	55	109	51	58
W. Va.	40	33	7.0	41	35	6.0	40	33	7.0
Wis.	197	170	27	193	166	27	212	177	35
Wyo.	19	11	8.0	18	10	8.0	19	11	8.0
U.S.	5,234.9	3,519.2	1,715.7	5,270.2	3,476.9	1,793.3	5,162.1	3,417.3	1,744.8

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

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
Hours					
Ala.	27.7	30.1	28.2	27.7	28.1
Ariz.	46.7	54.1	49.3	49.2	48.9
Ark.	36.6	36.8	36.7	34.9	35.7
Calif.	49.8	46.2	48.7	45.6	46.1
Colo.	54.1	38.5	48.8	42.2	47.0
Conn.	60.4	38.1	51.6	45.8	49.5
Del.	37.6	37.5	37.6	25.7	33.3
Fla.	41.8	31.0	38.1	25.7	31.3
Ga.	36.7	32.2	35.3	24.6	30.7
Idaho	52.0	40.7	48.0	36.5	44.5
Ill.	45.3	34.0	42.4	32.8	40.2
Ind.	42.6	31.9	39.8	26.2	36.7
Iowa	52.5	30.5	44.8	26.5	39.6
Kans.	45.9	39.1	44.0	34.9	41.8
Ky.	37.3	32.9	36.2	26.3	32.9
La.	34.2	31.2	33.4	39.1	35.6
Maine	69.6	41.8	59.1	30.1	43.8
Md.	47.1	36.4	43.3	33.4	40.7
Mass.	63.3	37.5	50.2	38.7	46.1
Mich.	50.9	36.6	45.9	33.7	42.4
Minn.	57.4	35.8	49.0	30.9	45.1
Miss.	33.6	31.9	33.1	31.8	32.4
Mo.	43.4	34.4	41.1	33.1	39.2
Mont.	59.1	45.6	53.9	45.7	50.8
Nebr.	56.1	41.9	51.0	33.6	46.0
Nev.	55.8	30.5	47.4	49.1	47.9
N. H.	63.9	37.4	55.0	32.1	43.9
N. J.	41.6	30.6	38.6	30.7	36.1
N. Mex.	49.9	34.0	44.7	39.7	42.7
N. Y.	59.8	34.3	49.8	35.3	44.4
N. C.	38.1	33.4	36.5	22.6	28.2
N. Dak.	59.7	37.4	49.8	46.7	49.2
Ohio	48.3	34.7	43.8	27.5	39.9
Okla.	45.3	32.3	41.1	34.3	39.2
Oreg.	43.4	36.6	40.5	36.6	39.0
Pa.	53.4	32.7	45.7	35.3	43.0
R. I.	62.1	37.1	53.4	25.9	42.5
S. C.	37.3	33.8	36.3	25.8	30.1
S. Dak.	57.8	44.4	53.2	31.0	48.1
Tenn.	35.4	30.2	33.9	28.7	32.7
Tex.	42.1	32.8	39.7	35.5	37.9
Utah	50.2	31.1	42.8	22.5	35.7
Vt.	64.3	34.8	53.0	45.6	49.9
Va.	43.3	33.8	40.2	30.5	36.4
Wash.	51.2	35.6	46.7	41.3	43.4
W. Va.	41.5	32.7	38.8	23.8	35.2
Wis.	61.6	34.3	48.8	34.3	45.6
Wyo.	61.9	43.1	54.5	48.8	52.4
U. S.	45.7	34.5	41.8	34.4	39.5

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

HOT DRY WEATHER SLOWS GROWTH BUT  
FAVORS HARVESTING

Small grain harvest was active in most northern States as hot dry weather continued to force development and maturity, generally ahead of normal. Winter wheat harvest moved into the home stretch with harvest underway in the northern tier of States. Combining started in New York, North Dakota, Oregon and Washington. Harvest was virtually complete in Ohio, Indiana and South Dakota and neared the halfway point in Michigan and Wyoming. Spring wheat harvest was gaining momentum in North Dakota and Minnesota. Oat harvest made good advancement during the week and was running well ahead of normal in most States.

Cotton harvest in southern Texas got underway. Hot dry weather was rapidly pushing crop maturity from the Low Plains southward.

Corn progress was slow because of limited soil moisture while soybean development was running ahead of last year in nearly all Corn Belt States.

The hot dry conditions enabled farmers in most States to progress rapidly with haymaking but regrowth had been slow in many areas. Sorghum grain harvesting made excellent progress in the southern half of Texas. Flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina was one-third harvested, South Carolina two-thirds and Georgia three-fourths completed.

Early varieties of peaches and apples were being marketed in southern New England and New York. Pennsylvania and New Jersey apple harvest was active. Picking of early peaches and apricots began in Washington.

Vegetable supplies increased in the northeastern States while sweet corn, cucumber and zucchini harvest was active in Washington. Broccoli, carrot and cauliflower harvest continued in California while volume of fresh market and processing tomatoes gained. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden area of Texas, irrigation was underway on early fields of spinach, cucumbers, cabbage and bell peppers. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, early fields of tomatoes and peppers were being planted.

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 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.