

# farm labor



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## OCTOBER WORK FORCE BELOW LAST YEAR

The farm labor force in the United States numbered 4,651,000 workers during the week of October 20-26, down 3 percent from a year ago. Farm operators and unpaid family workers totaled 3,331,400 while hired workers numbered 1,319,600.

Farm workers averaged 39.8 hours during the October survey week, compared with 41.3 last year and 38.3 hours during the September survey period. Farm operators worked an average of 45.2 hours; unpaid family members 33.2 hours; and hired workers 35.3 hours.

### FARM EMPLOYMENT AND INDEXES, OCTOBER 1974, WITH COMPARISONS, UNITED STATES

ITEM	: ANNUAL : AVERAGE : 1972	: ANNUAL : AVERAGE : 1973	: OCTOBER : 22-28, : 1972	: OCTOBER : 21-27, : 1973	: OCTOBER : 20-26, : 1974
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/ (THOUSANDS)	:	:	:	:	:
TOTAL	: 4,373.4	: 4,336.7	: 4,745.1	: 4,792.3	: 4,651.0
FAMILY LABOR	: 3,227.7	: 3,169.0	: 3,556.7	: 3,499.3	: 3,331.4
HIRED LABOR	: 1,145.7	: 1,167.7	: 1,188.4	: 1,293.0	: 1,319.6
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
TOTAL	: 32	: 32	: 30	: 30	: 30
FAMILY LABOR	: 32	: 31	: 31	: 30	: 29
HIRED LABOR	: 34	: 34	: 28	: 30	: 31
(1967=100)	:	:	:	:	:
TOTAL	: 89	: 89	: 83	: 82	: 81
FAMILY LABOR	: 89	: 86	: 86	: 83	: 81
HIRED LABOR	: 89	: 89	: 74	: 79	: 82

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 1974

STATE	OCTOBER 1972			OCTOBER 1973			OCTOBER 1974		
	WEEK OF 22-28			WEEK OF 21-27			WEEK OF 20-26		
	TOTAL	FAMILY	HIRED	TOTAL	FAMILY	HIRED	TOTAL	FAMILY	HIRED
THOUSANDS									
ALA	132	109	23	122	101	21	103	85	18
ARIZ	36	6.0	30	34	7.0	27	33	6.0	27
ARK	152	92	60	155	88	67	131	73	58
CALIF	271	71	200	284	64	220	323	63	260
COLO	66	38	28	75	40	35	63	37	26
CONN	12.9	7.0	5.9	12	6.7	5.3	14.1	7.3	6.8
DEL	8.0	5.0	3.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
FLA	106	39	67	103	33	70	99	35	64
GA	126	107	19	127	104	23	128	99	29
IDAHO	47	40	7.0	47	34	13	44	30	14
ILL	170	146	24	188	155	33	178	144	34
IND	143	129	14	146	131	15	152	134	18
IOWA	225	197	28	219	182	37	212	180	32
KANS	111	100	11	124	110	14	108	97	11
KY	194	163	31	181	151	30	177	140	37
LA	100	55	45	87	48	39	74	45	29
MAINE	16.9	12	6.9	16.8	12	4.8	25	12	13
MD	30	24	6.0	34	25	9.0	35	24	11
MASS	16.7	9.4	7.3	18.7	9.2	9.5	18.3	9.3	9.0
MICH	132	102	30	122	100	22	127	105	22
MINN	173	157	16	186	160	26	182	159	23
MISS	155	112	43	154	112	42	155	109	46
MO	206	160	46	237	183	54	223	175	48
MONT	37	28	9.0	38	28	10	38	25	13
NEBR	115	100	15	115	100	15	111	95	16
NEV	5.0	2.5	2.5	4.8	2.4	2.4	5.2	2.6	2.6
N H	5.8	3.8	2.0	5.8	3.5	2.3	5.9	3.6	2.3
N J	18	9.0	9.0	19	9.0	10	19	9.0	10
N MEX	27	15	12	27	15	12	24	15	9.0
N Y	100	74	26	106	75	31	110	77	33
N C	193	161	32	201	155	46	169	131	38
N DAK	60	50	10	59	48	11	66	51	15
OHIO	164	144	20	168	146	22	167	144	23
OKLA	135	113	22	133	113	20	128	104	24
OREG	50	38	12	49	34	15	46	34	12
PA	107	92	15	127	104	23	137	111	26
R I	1.7	1.0	.7	1.5	.9	.6	1.6	.9	.7
S C	83	68	15	72	55	17	62	45	17
S DAK	64	57	7.0	70	61	9.0	65	58	7.0
TENN	211	177	34	195	160	35	186	150	36
TEX	300	193	107	290	190	100	273	177	96
UTAH	22	17	5.0	23	17	6.0	22	16	6.0
VT	14.1	11	3.1	12.7	9.6	3.1	12.9	9.7	3.2
VA	114	86	28	108	82	26	99	74	25
WASH	64	44	20	66	40	26	70	37	33
W VA	36	32	4.0	38	34	4.0	39	36	3.0
WIS	175	151	24	170	147	23	170	144	26
WYO	14	9.0	5.0	15	10	5.0	14	9.0	5.0
U S	4,745.1	3,556.7	1,188.4	4,792.3	3,499.3	1,293.0	4,651.0	3,331.4	1,319.6

FARM WORK: WEEKLY HOURS WORKED PER WORKER  
 AVERAGE FOR REPORTING FARMS, WEEK OF OCTOBER 20-26, 1974

STATE	FARM OPERATORS	OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS 1/	ALL FAMILY MEMBERS 1/	HIRFD WORKERS	ALL WORKPOS 1/
HOURS					
ALA	31.0	30.3	30.9	29.9	30.6
ARIZ	50.2	40.6	48.5	47.1	47.6
ARK	37.2	39.2	37.7	43.5	40.5
CALIF	48.6	43.8	47.4	36.2	38.1
COLO	46.6	37.2	43.9	38.8	42.8
CONN	59.7	41.9	52.9	39.2	48.6
DEL	48.6	33.3	43.3	38.3	41.8
FLA	38.8	24.9	35.8	24.4	30.3
GA	37.3	28.2	35.1	31.9	33.8
IDAHO	44.6	31.5	40.5	37.9	39.7
ILL	50.2	39.7	47.5	39.8	45.7
IND	45.1	33.4	41.6	31.6	39.6
IOWA	60.2	36.3	52.4	34.8	48.5
KANS	43.3	35.2	41.5	32.2	39.5
KY	37.1	30.3	35.2	26.7	32.5
LA	33.6	30.8	32.8	39.3	35.4
MAINE	62.0	33.8	51.7	30.9	43.2
MD	47.5	32.2	42.5	32.7	39.2
MASS	60.3	39.5	52.6	46.1	49.7
MICH	53.1	38.2	48.0	39.8	46.3
MINN	59.6	34.7	51.0	35.6	48.2
MISS	36.4	30.4	34.6	41.8	38.7
MO	44.7	32.7	41.8	41.3	41.7
MONT	43.7	37.9	41.8	40.1	41.4
NEBR	52.8	35.1	47.2	38.3	45.4
NEV	46.8	26.1	40.9	43.2	41.8
N H	61.1	36.0	53.8	39.1	48.1
N J	39.8	31.1	37.5	39.4	38.0
N MEX	35.6	28.5	33.8	35.7	34.5
N Y	58.3	31.9	48.3	39.0	45.2
N C	34.0	33.5	33.9	25.8	31.2
N DAK	50.5	37.2	46.1	38.9	44.6
OHIO	47.1	36.8	44.0	31.7	41.3
OKLA	43.1	29.2	38.8	29.6	36.6
OREG	36.9	31.6	35.3	37.5	36.0
PA	54.4	33.5	47.2	34.8	44.7
R I	65.8	52.5	63.4	23.1	46.4
S C	34.2	29.7	33.2	28.7	31.5
S DAK	50.4	34.5	46.2	35.9	44.6
TENN	37.5	32.6	36.3	29.5	34.5
TEX	40.7	27.4	37.2	30.9	35.1
UTAH	40.7	31.5	37.7	25.9	34.7
VT	64.1	35.3	54.3	46.1	51.1
VA	41.6	34.8	39.8	33.4	37.5
WASH	42.6	26.1	38.3	39.7	39.0
W VA	36.7	29.4	34.7	31.6	34.3
WIS	61.0	31.5	48.3	33.7	45.5
WYO	46.9	32.0	43.9	51.4	46.2
U S	45.2	33.2	41.4	35.3	39.8

1/ INCLUDES AS "OTHER FAMILY" ONLY THOSE FARM HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WORKING 15 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK WITHOUT RECEIVING CASH WAGES.

## CROP HARVEST ACTIVE EXCEPT IN SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

Corn harvest progressed well in most major corn producing States as good drying weather continued over much of the Corn Belt and Southeastern States. Nationally, corn grain harvest neared the midway point, somewhat ahead of last year and normal. The Corn Belt harvest advanced 16 points during the week. Corn in the South Central States was nearly two-thirds picked, behind last year and normal, while harvest in the South Atlantic States was about on par with last year but much ahead of usual. High moisture content was slowing harvest in some northern States and rain in the Southern Great Plains stopped activity in most areas.

Cotton harvest rolled on at a rapid pace in most major States except where cool wet conditions slowed progress in Texas. Harvest in the 11 major States was nearly a third completed, slightly behind last year and behind normal in many of these States. In the West, rain interrupted activity in New Mexico and Arizona while harvest continued in full swing in California.

Nearly ideal autumn weather permitted soybean harvest. Progress trailed last year's pace but was ahead of normal. Corn Belt farmers harvested one-fifth of their crop during the survey week.

Harvest of sorghum grain made sl gains in Texas and Oklahoma as cool, wet weather delayed activity in most areas. Peanut digging was nearly complete in Virginia and North Carolina. Potato harvest in Maine was delayed by heavily frosted fields. Harvest in southern and eastern Idaho was slowed by rain, but over the State digging was nearly complete.

Apple harvest moved into the final stage in most States. The Navel orange harvest in California is expected to reach volume movement about mid-November. Citrus harvest has started in Texas and was progressing ahead of last year in Florida.

Harvest of hardy vegetables continued to decline in volume in the Northern States. Supplies of Florida and Texas vegetables were increasing. Harvest of mixed vegetables continued in good volume in 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.