

farm labor



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TOTAL FARM WORK FORCE SMALLER THAN YEAR AGO

The Nation's farm labor force during the week of November 17-23 totaled 3,953,200 workers, 2 percent smaller than last year. Farm operators and unpaid family workers numbered 2,977,300, down 3 percent from 1973. Hired workers totaled 975,900, or 3 percent greater than a year earlier and 10 percent more than 1972.

Farm workers averaged 37.4 hours during the survey week, compared with 35.9 hours during 1973. Farm operators worked an average of 40.9 hours; unpaid family members 31.6 hours; and hired workers 34.2 hours.

ROW CROP HARVEST NEAR NORMAL

Rain interrupted cotton and soybean harvest in many Southern States but overall, the row crop harvest made near average advancement. Soybean combining continued near normal while corn harvest was slightly ahead of normal progress. Rain slowed harvest in the Eastern Corn Belt, and high moisture content was causing the need for more drying in most areas. Corn harvesting was also curtailed in many South Atlantic States, but good progress was made in South Central States.

Precipitation interfered with soybean harvest in most South Central and South Atlantic States and progress was at a near standstill in Indiana. Nationally, harvest progress was near normal but behind 1973.

Wheat seeding in Texas was virtually completed but slightly behind normal. Oklahoma farmers were busy seeding and reseeding in fields previously too wet.

Rain interrupted cotton harvest in many of the Delta and South Atlantic States, but farmers made good progress in many areas when fields dried. Cotton harvesting in the 11 Southern States was behind both the 1973 and average levels. Harvest made the best progress in Tennessee during the week and slowest in Oklahoma. Harvesting also progressed well in California, New Mexico, and Arizona; however, there were some ginning delays in Arizona.

Special in This Issue

Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey Farm Wage Rates, By States,
Standard Federal Regions & United States pages 5-7.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
La 1 (12-74) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

WORKERS ON FARMS: November 1974

State	November 1972			November 1973			November 1974		
	week of 19-25			week of 18-24			week of 17-23		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Thousands									
ALA	91	72	19	98	76	22	99	81	18
ARIZ	40	4.0	35	35	5.0	30	33	5.0	28
ARK	124	82	42	117	78	39	120	67	53
CALIF	225	60	165	237	57	180	238	61	177
COLO	48	32	16	53	35	18	50	33	17
CONN	11.6	6.6	5.0	10.9	5.9	5.0	10.7	6.0	4.7
DEL	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
FLA	116	32	84	117	36	81	121	42	79
GA	90	71	19	92	68	24	90	67	23
IDAHO	36	29	7.0	35	28	7.0	37	27	10
ILL	164	143	21	163	137	26	158	132	26
IND	138	126	12	135	124	11	139	125	14
IOWA	203	179	24	189	163	26	185	160	25
KANS	91	85	6.0	96	87	9.0	97	85	12
KY	159	139	20	159	131	28	165	136	29
LA	66	47	19	62	40	22	57	38	19
MAINE	14.7	12	2.7	13.9	10	3.9	12.5	9.6	2.9
MD	28	22	6.0	30	23	7.0	29	21	8.0
MASS	15.2	9.4	5.8	14.7	8.1	6.6	14.9	8.4	6.5
MICH	110	94	16	108	91	17	106	89	17
MINN	153	140	13	169	155	14	150	136	14
MISS	98	82	16	102	80	22	99	74	25
MO	164	145	19	175	157	18	189	167	22
MONT	33	26	7.0	32	24	8.0	33	22	11
NEBR	104	93	11	107	94	13	99	86	13
NEV	3.7	1.7	2.0	4.4	2.3	2.1	4.4	2.3	2.1
N H	5.0	3.6	1.4	4.6	3.3	1.3	4.4	3.2	1.2
N J	14	9.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0	13	9.0	4.0
N MEX	21	12	9.0	19	12	7.0	20	13	7.0
N Y	87	68	19	95	70	25	93	68	25
N C	154	130	24	152	122	30	136	110	26
N DAK	43	37	6.0	44	39	5.0	45	39	6.0
OHIO	142	128	14	146	131	15	145	129	16
OKLA	107	93	14	110	92	18	116	95	21
OREG	43	35	8.0	38	31	7.0	36	30	6.0
PA	99	87	12	107	92	15	112	94	18
R I	1.4	.8	.6	1.4	.9	.5	1.5	.9	.6
S C	62	50	12	55	42	13	47	36	11
S DAK	51	45	6.0	57	51	6.0	53	48	5.0
TENN	177	151	26	170	146	24	163	130	33
TEX	242	167	75	264	189	75	246	173	73
UTAH	16	14	2.0	18	15	3.0	16	14	2.0
VT	13	10	3.0	13	10	3.0	12.8	9.9	2.9
VA	95	77	18	89	73	16	92	75	17
WASH	56	41	15	51	35	16	54	36	18
W VA	30	28	2.0	34	30	4.0	33	30	3.0
WIS	172	157	15	159	144	15	161	142	19
WYO	13	8.0	5.0	12	8.0	4.0	11	8.0	3.0
U S	3,975.6	3,089.1	886.5	4,013.9	3,064.5	949.4	3,953.2	2,977.3	975.9

FARM WORK: WEEKLY HOURS WORKED PER WORKER
 AVERAGE FOR REPORTING FARMS, WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17-23, 1974

STATE	FARM OPERATORS	OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS 1/	ALL FAMILY MEMBERS 1/	HIRED WORKERS	ALL WORKERS 1/
HOURS					
ALA	33.5	28.1	32.4	27.2	30.8
ARIZ	40.4	38.3	40.0	52.2	46.7
ARK	33.3	37.0	34.0	35.4	34.7
CALIF	44.0	39.8	42.9	41.9	42.2
COLO	43.7	33.9	41.3	37.1	40.3
CONN	59.5	35.8	50.9	38.0	46.4
DEL	34.3	27.0	32.4	30.7	31.9
FLA	48.6	21.5	37.9	21.7	35.7
GA	36.3	29.6	34.7	30.6	33.3
IDAHO	39.4	32.5	37.7	39.0	38.0
ILL	43.5	38.0	42.3	37.2	41.2
IND	38.9	29.5	36.6	30.3	35.3
IOWA	52.4	33.2	46.7	33.3	44.0
KANS	41.7	37.5	40.7	28.7	38.1
KY	36.0	31.2	34.5	27.2	31.7
LA	25.4	30.2	26.2	36.0	29.5
MAINE	56.1	30.8	48.4	35.8	43.7
MD	39.4	32.2	37.6	28.8	35.0
MASS	60.1	35.6	50.9	35.3	43.9
MICH	43.6	31.6	40.2	37.7	39.6
MINN	45.0	32.3	41.3	30.3	39.7
MISS	31.4	27.5	30.5	32.0	31.3
MO	42.9	31.7	40.2	35.6	39.2
MONT	40.4	33.2	38.3	38.4	38.3
NEBR	46.4	35.4	43.4	31.7	41.1
NEV	36.7	25.8	34.4	35.6	34.8
N H	58.1	34.1	51.1	37.7	45.9
N J	37.1	34.1	36.3	34.7	36.0
N MEX	40.7	27.1	37.9	40.8	38.8
N Y	52.8	32.5	46.3	37.8	43.5
N C	31.9	28.4	31.1	27.4	30.0
N DAK	36.9	33.4	35.9	31.2	35.3
OHIO	41.0	34.4	39.2	31.1	37.7
OKLA	42.9	28.1	38.6	32.7	37.3
OREG	32.6	30.4	32.1	31.2	31.9
PA	48.7	31.5	43.5	36.2	42.0
R I	65.0	30.0	55.7	33.8	45.1
S C	32.8	26.4	31.6	27.2	29.9
S DAK	42.3	31.6	39.5	31.2	38.5
TENN	33.2	29.5	32.3	26.7	30.7
TEX	41.2	30.4	38.8	33.6	37.1
UTAH	32.6	26.3	30.7	23.5	29.3
VT	58.9	28.2	47.8	41.3	45.2
VA	36.5	31.9	35.2	31.4	34.0
WASH	36.1	28.5	34.3	35.4	34.8
W VA	34.2	30.7	33.3	24.9	32.1
WIS	58.0	30.1	46.4	33.1	43.9
WYO	44.7	38.0	42.9	36.9	41.4
U S	40.9	31.6	38.2	34.2	37.4

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

Sorghum grain combining was nearing completion in Nebraska, and making good progress in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Tobacco stripping continued active in Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. Sugarcane harvest was getting underway in Florida and was more than half completed in Louisiana. Peanut harvest in Texas was past the three quarter mark but behind last year and normal.

Citrus movement picked up rapidly in Texas with favorable weather. Florida citrus volume has been increasing seasonally. Growers were beginning seasonal cultural practices in California, pruning nut and deciduous fruit orchards and applying dormant sprays and fertilizers. Irrigation was active in all areas of Florida to maintain adequate soil moisture.

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 1974, with comparisons, United States

Item	: Annual : average : 1972	: Annual : average : 1973	: November : 19-25, : 1972	: November : 18-24, : 1973	: November : 17-23, : 1974
FARM EMPLOYMENT ^{1/}	:	:	:	:	:
(Thousands)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 4,373.4	: 4,336.7	: 3,975.6	: 4,013.9	: 3,953.2
Family labor	: 3,227.7	: 3,169.0	: 3,089.1	: 3,064.5	: 2,977.3
Hired labor	: 1,145.7	: 1,167.7	: 886.5	: 949.4	: 975.9
INDEX ^{2/}	:	:	:	:	:
(1910-14=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 32	: 32	: 32	: 32	: 32
Family labor	: 32	: 31	: 32	: 32	: 31
Hired labor	: 34	: 34	: 32	: 34	: 35
(1967=100)	:	:	:	:	:
Total	: 89	: 89	: 88	: 89	: 87
Family labor	: 89	: 86	: 89	: 89	: 86
Hired labor	: 89	: 89	: 84	: 89	: 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.

QUARTERLY PROBABILITY SURVEY OF FARM WAGE RATES

The selected wage rate items presented in this publication 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 expanded in January to provide wage rates for each of the Standard Federal Regions, the United States and all States except those in Region I. The wage rates for October 1, 1974 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 pages 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 1974 with comparisons, United States

Item	July 8-14, 1973	October 7-13, 1973	July 7-13, 1974	October 6-12 1974
	Dollars per hour			
Method of Pay:				
All Hired Farm Workers	1.91	2.20	2.19	2.57
Paid by Piece-Rate	2.36	2.71	2.36	3.47
Paid by other than piece rate	1.87	2.15	2.17	2.47
Paid by Hour only	1.88	2.24	2.22	2.50
Paid Cash Wages only	2.09	2.42	2.33	2.78
Paid by Hour Cash Wages Only	2.00	2.37	2.31	2.51
Type of Work Performed:				
Field and Livestock workers	1.82	2.14	2.04	2.40
Packinghouse workers	2.11	2.12	2.48	3.12
Machine Operators	1.94	2.10	2.23	2.41
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.52	2.50	2.95	3.14
Supervisors	3.32	3.40	3.50	4.19
Other Agricultural workers	1.94	2.15	2.33	2.58

Farm Wage Rates by Method of Pay, October 6-12, 1974 by States,
Standard Federal regions and United States

State and region	All hired farm workers	Farm wage rates method of pay				
		By piece-rate	By other than piece-rate	By hour only	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 1/	2.26	2.03	2.31	2.46	2.30	2.44
N J	2.66	2/	2.66	2.75	2/	2/
N Y	2.61	2/	2.47	2.49	2.68	2.55
Region II	2.62	2/	2.52	2.58	2.77	2.68
DEL	2.34	2/	2.28	2.29	2.41	2.36
MD	2.23	2/	2.21	2.39	2.65	2.42
PA	2.36	3.15	2.27	2.33	2.47	2.43
VA	2.14	2.79	2.10	2.01	2.21	2.13
W VA	2.05	2/	1.97	1.98	2.10	1.99
Region III	2.25	3.06	2.18	2.20	2.38	2.31
ALA	1.95	2/	1.91	1.99	2.24	2.13
FLA	2.76	3.10	2.74	2.44	2.73	2.37
GA	2.22	2/	2.22	2.33	2.25	2.09
KY	1.88	2/	1.82	1.91	2.15	2.03
MISS	1.81	2/	1.84	1.81	1.91	1.97
N C	2.00	2.42	1.99	1.97	2.15	2.11
S C	1.98	2/	1.95	1.91	2.03	1.96
TENN	1.76	2/	1.81	1.90	2.04	1.90
Region IV	2.11	2.33	2.10	2.05	2.28	2.13
ILL	2.41	3.55	2.29	2.33	2.43	2.29
IND	2.24	3.79	2.22	2.46	2.37	2.52
MICH	2.20	2.61	2.08	2.02	2.31	2.22
MINN	2.39	2/	2/	2.57	2.84	2.80
OHIO	2.23	2.89	2.18	2.18	2.30	2.31
WIS	2.13	2.96	2.11	2.48	2.76	2.54
Region V	2.26	2.90	2.21	2.35	2.50	2.47
ARK	2.25	2/	2.18	1.98	2/	2.07
LA	2.08	--	2.08	2.13	2.13	2.14
N MEX	1.98	2/	1.98	1.95	2.20	1.91
OKLA	1.96	1.77	1.96	2.07	2.20	2.09
TEX	2.15	2.32	2.14	1.93	2.16	2.00
Region VI	2.13	2.66	2.11	2.00	2.21	2.05
IOWA	2.46	2/	2.46	2.55	2.61	2.68
KANS	2.75	2/	2/	2.43	2.85	2.65
MO	2.12	2/	2.06	2.36	2.43	2.49
NEBR	2.22	2/	2.24	2.72	2.95	2.93
Region VII	2.38	2/	2.38	2.51	2.67	2.68
COLO	2.44	2/	2.44	2.46	2.65	2.53
MONT	2.35	2/	2.35	2.45	2.55	2.58
N DAK	2.79	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
S DAK	2.00	2/	1.99	2.01	2.16	2/
UTAH	2.27	--	2.27	2.24	2.42	2.27
WYO	1.93	--	1.93	2.39	2.39	2.38
Region VIII	2.33	2.54	2.33	2.46	2.64	2.52
ARIZ	2.34	2/	2.34	2.18	2.46	2.23
CALIF	3.42	4.33	3.23	3.05	3.44	2.84
NV	1.82	--	1.82	2.73	2.51	2.64
Region IX	3.36	4.32	3.17	3.01	3.41	2.82
IDAHO	2.43	2/	2.47	2.48	2.50	2.51
OREG	2.63	2/	2.61	2.72	2.70	2.72
WASH	3.04	2/	2.81	2.75	2/	2.69
Region X	2.73	3.08	2.61	2.62	2.82	2.61
U S	2.57	3.47	2.47	2.50	2.78	2.51

1/ Region I: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

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 6-12, 1974 by States,
Standard Federal regions and United States

State and Region	Farm Wage Rates - Type of work performed				
	Field and livestock workers	Packing- house workers	Machine operators	Maintenance & Bookkeeping workers	Supervisors
	Dollars per hour				
Region I 1/	2.07	2.37	2.80	3.21	3.26
N J	2.24	2.48	2/	3.43	3.65
N Y	2.51	2.80	2/	3.11	3.97
Region II	2.46	2.71	2.67	3.26	3.87
DEL	2.21	2/	2.40	3.27	2/
MD	2.00	2/	2.41	3.17	3.82
PA	2.22	2.32	2.39	2.86	3.86
VA	2.07	1.97	2.00	2/	3.36
W VA	1.97	2/	2.35	2.60	3.02
Region III	2.12	2.13	2.20	2.79	3.71
ALA	1.74	2/	1.73	3.43	2/
FLA	2.38	2.17	2.83	3.39	2/
GA	1.97	2.11	1.82	2.75	3.36
KY	1.71	1.99	2/	2.74	3.56
MISS	1.69	2/	1.71	2/	2.78
N C	1.99	2.06	1.91	2.42	3.04
S C	1.75	1.74	2.16	2.66	3.10
TENN	1.78	2.25	2/	2.57	3.14
Region IV	1.95	2.04	1.94	2.91	3.80
ILL	2.37	2.06	2.30	2.94	4.19
IND	2.20	2.51	2.18	2/	4.25
MICH	2.14	2.00	2/	2.56	2/
MINN	2.11	2.24	2.53	2.83	2/
OHIO	2.06	2.37	2.61	3.06	4.36
WIS	2.04	2.50	2.97	3.46	4.20
Region V	2.14	2.23	2.43	2.80	4.03
ARK	2.13	1.99	2.16	2.40	2/
LA	1.98	1.84	2.02	2.64	3.34
N MEX	1.80	2/	2.28	2.29	2/
OKLA	1.86	2/	2.32	2.92	3.16
TEX	2.07	2.09	2.11	2/	3.13
Region VI	2.02	1.96	2.10	2.26	3.32
IOWA	2.32	2.39	2.47	3.29	2/
KANS	2/	2/	2/	2.57	3.06
MO	2.06	2.45	1.89	2.81	3.53
NEBR	2.11	2.48	2.31	3.30	2/
Region VII	2.25	2.44	2.54	2.85	3.73
COLO	2.22	2.42	2.42	2.86	3.22
MONT	2.25	2.43	2.08	2/	2/
N DAK	2/	2/	2/	2/	3.42
S DAK	1.97	--	2.07	2/	3.41
UTAH	2.17	2/	2.27	2/	2/
WYO	1.74	--	2.16	2.70	3.40
Region VIII	2.12	2.56	2.52	2.73	3.32
ARIZ	2.09	2/	2.41	2.98	3.44
CALIF	3.10	4.20	3.27	3.95	5.08
NEV	1.72	--	2/	2/	2.68
Region IX	3.04	4.19	3.19	3.88	4.97
IDAHO	2.30	2.61	2.73	2.72	2/
OREG	2.48	2.42	2.77	2/	3.43
WASH	2/	2.75	2.85	3.46	3.53
Region X	2.65	2.64	2.79	3.45	3.68
U S	2.40	3.12	2.41	3.14	4.19

1/ Region I: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

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

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