farm labor

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FARM LABOR FORCE DOWN SLIGHTLY

The farm labor force in the United States numbered 3,852,400 workers during the survey week of March 18-24, 1973. This was 48,000 less than a year earlier as wet fields continued to limit work in many areas. Farm operators and unpaid family workers totaled 2,983,100 and hired workers accounted for 869,300, both slightly less than March 1972.

Farm workers averaged 35.9 hours during the March survey week compared with 36.4 hours in March a year ago. Farm operators worked an average of 38.5 hours, other unpaid family workers 30.8, and hired workers 33.6 hours during the week.

WAGES CONTINUE UP

Farm wage rates rose to $1.97 per hour (without board and room), up 13 cents from the rate paid a year ago. Wages paid per month, per week, and per day were also higher. The seasonally adjusted index of Farm Wage rates came in at 157 (1967 base), an increase of 8 percent from a year ago.

WET SOILS MINIMIZE FIELD WORK

Spring planting was underway in the South Atlantic States and south Texas during the week of March 18-24. Farmers in Texas were busy planting corn, sorghum, and rice during the week but progress was far behind normal. Tobacco growers in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee were busy seeding plantbeds. Water damaged some tobacco beds in flue-cured areas of North Carolina. Potato planting was active on the Eastern Shore of Virginia with some sweetpotato beds started. Farmers as far north as Maryland made good progress planting the early vegetable crop. Tomato transplanting was active in South Carolina.

Wet soils further delayed field work and spring land preparation throughout the South Central Region and into the southern Corn Belt. Soils in Indiana and Ohio became progressively drier during the survey week with plowing and fertilizing taking place. However, farmers in the other Corn Belt States continue to wait for fields to dry so they can catch up on fall and spring plowing.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
La 1 (4-73) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

The Navel orange harvest in California continued at a moderate pace while lemon harvesting was active. Citrus picking remained active in Texas with trees reaching the full bloom stage. Citrus trees in Florida continued in excellent condition and were near the peak of blooming for oranges. Fruit growers in Oregon and California had to fire orchard heaters during the survey week to avoid frost damage to fruit trees. Tree spraying was active in California. Early varieties of apples, walnuts, cherries, and pears are beginning to bloom. Strawberry picking increased but rain caused some damage to southern California's crop. Strawberry harvest got a limited start in Louisiana.

Wet fields in Arizona delayed the lettuce and mixed vegetable harvest. In California, spring lettuce harvesting was in full swing at Riverside, while asparagus cutting was slowed by wet fields in the San Joaquin-Delta areas. Most Florida vegetables are in seasonal supply with volume increasing. Onion supplies in the Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley remain light and carrot digging in south Texas continued.

A few remaining fields of 1972 crop cotton, corn, and soybeans were harvested during the survey week, although wet fields continued to limit work in most areas. Nebraska farmers still waited to harvest the last of the corn and sorghum grain. Mississippi faced the same problem with cotton and soybeans.

Flooding during the survey week damaged some unharvested acreage in the southern Mississippi River Delta and caused losses to fences, crops and livestock in northern Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. Farmers in these States spent most of the survey week repairing fences and clearing debris left from the flood waters.

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, March 1973, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1971	Annual average 1972	March 21-27, 1971	March 19-25, 1972	March 18-24, 1973
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,436.3	4,373.4	3,885.8	3,900.4	3,852.4
Family labor	3,275.1	3,227.7	3,061.7	3,017.3	2,983.1
Hired labor	1,161.2	1,145.7	824.1	883.1	869.3
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	33	32	34	34	34
Family labor	32	32	33	33	32
Hired labor	34	34	36	39	38
(1967=100)					
Total	92	89	93	94	91
Family labor	89	89	92	92	89
Hired labor	89	89	95	103	100

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.

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Farm wage rates and indexes, April 1, 1973, United States

Item	Annual average 1972	April 1, 1971	April 1, 1972	April 1, 1973
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.58	$ 1.36	$ 1.44	$ 1.57
Per month with house	361	331	3/352	383
Per month with board and room	280	258	274	303
Per week with board and room	67.80	62.00	3/65.75	71.75
Per week without board or room	85.50	79.25	3/84.50	93.50
Per day with house	11.20	10.30	10.90	12.10
Per day with board and room	12.00	10.40	11.10	12.20
Per day without board or room	13.20	11.80	3/12.80	14.10
Per hour with house	1.65	1.45	1.55	1.67
Per hour without board or room	1.84	1.76	1.84	1.97
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,215	1,156	3/1,224	1,334
(1967=100)	143	136	3/145	157

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis. Composite rate does not include piece rate workers.
2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.
3/ Revised.

Workers on farms, March 1973

State	March 1971 week of 21-27			March 1972 week of 19-25			March 1973 week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	15	11	4.0	14.1	11	3.1	14	11	3.0
N. H.	4.7	3.5	1.2	4.1	3.1	1.0	4.1	3.1	1.0
Vt.	14	11	3.0	12.6	9.8	2.8	12.2	9.2	3.0
Mass.	13.9	9.0	4.9	14.2	8.4	5.8	14.8	8.9	5.9
R. I.	1.9	1.3	.6	1.5	.9	.6	1.4	.9	.5
Conn.	10.3	6.8	3.5	11.1	6.9	4.2	11.2	6.9	4.3
N. Y.	82	65	17	80	62	18	80	63	17
N. J.	14	9.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0	13	9.0	4.0
Pa.	104	93	11	100	90	10	104	92	12
Ohio	134	125	9.0	129	119	10	145	132	13
Ind.	125	118	7.0	133	124	9.0	134	124	10
Ill.	138	119	19	146	125	21	150	127	23
Mich.	119	102	17	107	91	16	102	86	16
Wis.	178	162	16	169	154	15	174	158	16
Minn.	146	137	9.0	139	131	8.0	143	130	13
Iowa	176	165	11	183	168	15	177	163	14
Mo.	171	151	20	168	147	21	153	137	16
N. Dak.	48	44	4.0	50	46	4.0	50	45	5.0
S. Dak.	60	57	3.0	56	52	4.0	59	55	4.0
Nebr.	91	84	7.0	104	94	10	100	90	10
Kans.	100	91	9.0	101	93	8.0	97	88	9.0
Del.	5.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0
Md.	30	24	6.0	29	23	6.0	27	22	5.0
Va.	97	79	18	96	79	17	95	81	14
W. Va.	29	26	3.0	30	27	3.0	29	26	3.0
N. C.	166	142	24	156	134	22	139	121	18
S. C.	61	45	16	58	45	13	59	44	15
Ga.	88	70	18	90	72	18	89	70	19
Fla.	117	31	86	133	41	92	135	36	99
Ky.	124	104	20	127	108	19	124	106	18
Tenn.	126	107	19	129	109	20	123	105	18
Ala.	65	52	13	69	54	15	63	49	14
Miss.	135	104	31	114	87	27	111	83	28
Ark.	129	80	49	129	78	51	137	77	60
La.	67	45	22	68	42	26	67	42	25
Okla.	120	112	8.0	119	109	10	118	109	9.0
Texas	237	180	57	247	172	75	244	186	58
Mont.	35	29	6.0	36	29	7.0	35	28	7.0
Idaho	35	30	5.0	36	30	6.0	35	28	7.0
Wyo.	11	8.0	3.0	11	8.0	3.0	12	9.0	3.0
Colo.	41	32	9.0	41	33	8.0	38	30	8.0
N. Mex.	17	12	5.0	16	11	5.0	18	11	7.0
Ariz.	37	6.0	31	38	6.0	32	34	6.0	28
Utah	17	13	4.0	18	14	4.0	15	12	3.0
Nev.	4.0	2.1	1.9	3.8	2.2	1.6	3.7	2.1	1.6
Wash.	64	47	17	65	45	20	67	46	21
Oreg.	55	45	10	50	40	10	52	42	10
Calif.	228	68	160	250	70	180	239	69	170
U.S.	3,885.8	3,061.7	824.1	3,900.4	3,017.3	883.1	3,852.4	2,983.1	869.3

Farm work: Weekly hours worked per worker: Average for reporting farms, week of March 18-24, 1973

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
			Hours		
Maine	57.6	33.2	50.0	31.1	42.5
N. H.	57.2	29.2	49.6	36.9	44.2
Vt.	61.1	34.6	52.5	36.7	46.0
Mass.	60.7	38.4	52.4	34.9	45.4
R. I.	60.5	36.7	56.3	38.9	47.8
Conn.	58.3	35.5	50.5	36.8	45.3
N. Y.	50.7	31.9	44.8	34.7	41.6
N. J.	34.7	28.2	32.9	34.4	33.3
Pa.	45.9	30.1	41.2	33.7	39.6
Ohio	36.0	28.0	33.9	28.6	32.9
Ind.	35.1	29.0	34.0	24.2	32.1
Ill.	38.5	31.9	37.1	32.0	36.2
Mich.	39.0	35.7	38.3	33.1	37.1
Wis.	51.7	30.3	43.5	35.2	42.1
Minn.	43.3	30.1	39.6	30.5	38.3
Iowa	45.5	30.2	41.5	29.3	39.6
Mo.	34.3	31.4	33.8	36.2	34.2
N. Dak.	39.1	32.5	37.2	30.2	36.4
S. Dak.	45.4	32.8	42.0	31.2	40.4
Nebr.	45.9	36.6	43.2	42.3	43.1
Kans.	36.4	31.4	35.3	33.6	35.0
Del.	36.6	25.5	34.2	30.7	32.9
Md.	40.9	36.1	39.6	34.8	38.5
Va.	35.3	32.5	34.6	33.9	34.4
W. Va.	38.7	29.1	36.2	24.8	34.3
N. C.	30.3	30.7	30.4	30.1	30.3
S. C.	36.2	32.2	35.4	33.0	34.3
Ga.	36.7	28.1	34.7	34.1	34.5
Fla.	39.1	29.9	36.6	25.8	27.3
Ky.	32.1	28.4	31.3	26.2	30.0
Tenn.	28.1	28.3	28.1	23.5	27.1
Ala.	30.6	28.2	30.2	29.4	29.9
Miss.	31.8	26.7	30.6	32.3	31.6
Ark.	35.0	31.7	34.3	36.6	35.4
La.	27.1	27.6	27.2	37.3	31.1
Okla.	38.3	28.2	35.7	33.1	35.2
Texas	41.7	32.8	39.7	38.2	39.2
Mont.	47.5	35.0	43.8	42.4	43.4
Idaho	43.1	30.4	39.4	33.9	38.2
Wyo.	49.5	40.5	46.7	50.6	47.9
Colo.	39.5	29.8	37.0	36.1	36.8
N. Mex.	42.2	34.3	40.3	47.1	43.4
Ariz.	42.3	23.5	39.5	47.3	44.4
Utah	35.9	25.8	33.3	29.9	32.5
Nev.	37.0	44.0	39.1	37.6	38.6
Wash.	47.0	34.0	43.6	38.4	41.3
Oreg.	37.4	30.3	35.3	35.4	35.3
Calif.	38.7	37.3	38.4	35.2	36.0
U. S.	38.5	30.8	36.4	33.6	35.9

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

Farm Wage Rates, April 1, 1973 1/

State	Per month			Per week		Per day			Per hour	
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room
	Dollars								
Maine	370	270	70.00	105.00			17.50		2.05
N. H.	410	310	80.00	110.00			17.50		2.15
Vt.	420	310	80.00	105.00			17.00		2.15
Mass.	430	320	90.00	120.00			19.50		2.25
R. I.	430	310	85.00	120.00			19.00		2.20
Conn.	440	310	85.00	120.00			19.00		2.20
N. Y.	409	306	80.25	102.00			16.20		1.99
N. J.	395	290	77.00	100.00			17.50		2.16
Pa.	373	271	69.75	90.50			15.00		1.87
Ohio	352	260				11.30	14.70		1.86
Ind.	348	261				12.50	16.50		1.98
Ill.	404	306				14.30	17.70		2.10
Mich.	430	320	87.00	110.00			18.00		2.05
Wis.	411	313				13.10	16.60		2.02
Minn.	395	315				14.20	17.30		1.97
Iowa	459	394				16.00	18.80		2.12
Mo.	340	255				12.00	16.00		1.90
N. Dak.	384	326				13.80	16.40		1.86
S. Dak.	374	304				12.80	15.60		1.80
Nebr.	434	333				13.90	17.00		1.95
Kans.	410	319				13.30	16.60		1.95
Del.	283						12.00		1.89
Md.	283	220	55.00	81.00			13.00		1.88
Va.					11.00		13.20	1.44	1.68
W. Va.	240	175				8.50	11.10		1.54
N. C.					11.30		12.90	1.45	1.64
S. C.					9.80		10.90	1.31	1.48
Ga.					10.80		12.20	1.38	1.60
Fla.					13.00		14.50	1.50	1.65
Ky.					9.40		11.70	1.33	1.64
Tenn.					9.60		11.50	1.28	1.50
Ala.					10.10		11.20	1.34	1.53
Miss.					10.50		11.40	1.40	1.52
Ark.					13.20		13.50	1.50	1.60
La.					11.50		12.20	1.44	1.59
Okla.					13.20		14.90	1.61	1.79
Texas					13.50		14.50	1.55	1.70
Mont.	400	325					16.20		2.00
Idaho	430	345					16.80		2.01
Wyo.	433	323					15.80		1.99
Colo.	406	302					16.30		1.97
N. Mex.	320	277					13.00		1.47
Ariz.	475	365					16.80		1.78
Utah	385	310					15.60		2.02
Nev.	400	290					16.00		2.00
Wash.	490	390						2.15	2.20
Oreg.	423	340						1.93	1.99
Calif.	500	370						2.04	2.14
U. S.	383	303	71.75	93.50	12.10	12.20	14.10	1.67	1.97

1/ Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above. U. S. averages include estimates for unpublished State rates of small importance.

Farm Wage Rates, April 1, 1972 1/

State	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour	
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room
	Dollars								
Maine	360	280	70.00	95.00			15.50		1.90
N. H.	375	320	80.00	105.00			18.00		2.05
Vt.	390	300	75.00	95.00			16.00		2.05
Mass.	400	325	85.00	105.00			17.50		2.05
R. I.	410	325	85.00	110.00			17.50		2.05
Conn.	400	320	80.00	105.00			17.50		2.10
N. Y.	390	277	75.00	98.50			15.90		1.95
N. J.	375	275	70.00	90.00			15.50		1.92
Pa.	337	252	66.00	83.00			13.60		1.73
Ohio	330	250				10.60	13.40		1.74
Ind.	302	225				10.90	14.00		1.78
Ill.	374	282				13.00	15.90		1.93
Mich.	410	300	80.00	105.00			17.00		1.91
Wis.	383	293				11.60	15.20		1.87
Minn.	360	280				12.70	15.50		1.85
Iowa	410	330				14.30	17.30		1.96
Mo.	300	222				11.00	14.00		1.75
N. Dak.	362	293				12.20	15.10		1.73
S. Dak.	353	273				11.00	13.80		1.63
Nebr.	385	288				13.00	15.40		1.82
Kans.	368	286				12.30	15.00		1.76
Del.	280						12.50		1.67
Md.	271	210	56.00	78.00			12.40		1.64
Va.					10.30		12.00	1.33	1.50
W. Va.	205	170				7.80	9.50		1.37
N. C.					10.20		11.80	1.31	1.50
S. C.					9.20		10.60	1.24	1.41
Ga.					9.60		10.80	1.35	1.48
Fla.					11.40		2/12.50	1.37	1.47
Ky.					8.20		10.30	1.20	1.46
Tenn.					8.80		10.50	1.17	1.42
Ala.					8.90		9.90	1.21	1.36
Miss.					9.50		11.40	1.30	1.40
Ark.					12.60		13.10	1.40	1.52
La.					10.50		11.10	1.36	1.47
Okla.					11.40		13.50	1.43	1.66
Texas					12.10		13.10	1.40	1.55
Mont.	370	290					15.00		1.80
Idaho	410	325					15.90		1.90
Wyo.	360	255					13.00		1.70
Colo.	368	267					15.10		1.79
N. Mex.	317	250					13.30		1.43
Ariz.	440	325					15.70		1.71
Utah	375	300					13.60		1.80
Nev.	340	260					14.00		1.75
Wash.	460	355						2.00	2.05
Oregon	399	298						1.85	1.86
Calif.	470	345						1.94	2.03
U. S.	2/352	274	2/65.75	2/84.50	10.90	11.10	2/12.80	1.55	1.84

1/ Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above. U. S. averages include estimates for unpublished State rates of small importance.
2/ Revised.

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