farm labor

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Harvest Slowed by Wet Conditions

The Nation's farm labor force for the survey week of September 19-25 is estimated at 5,120,000 workers, down 4 percent from a year ago. The farm work force consisted of 3,675,500 farm operators and unpaid family members and 1,444,500 hired workers.

Farmworkers averaged 37.6 hours during the September survey week compared with 37.9 hours in August. Farm operators worked an average of 43.1 hours; other unpaid family members, 31.5; and hired hands worked 33.4 hours during the September week.

Farm operators reported wage rates on October 1, 1971, were up about 5 1/2 percent from a year earlier. The average cash rate without board and room rose to $1.70 per hour from $1.61 on October 1, 1970. Monthly, weekly, and daily rates were up similarly. The seasonally adjusted national index reached 133 on the 1967 base, an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier.

Rains in late September curbed field activity on farms over much of the Nation. The cotton harvest was slowed in Texas and throughout all of the South except Georgia and South Carolina where picking gained momentum. Picking was active in the California desert area and defoliation started in the San Joaquin Valley. Wet weather and high moisture also tied up the grain corn harvest. Activity will increase with dryer weather because most of the corn is ready for the crib. Soybean harvest was underway. Wet weather and weeds were causing a delay in the South. In much of the Corn Belt rain kept the combines out of the fields although harvest is ahead of a year ago in Illinois.

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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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
La 1 (10-71) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

QUARTERLY PROBABILITY FARM LABOR SURVEY

The selected wage rate items presented below were derived from a probability farm labor survey conducted in July 1971 by the Statistical Reporting Service. This continues the series of published farm wage rates from Quarterly probability surveys started in April 1970. These data do not replace the farm wage rate series regularly published in Farm Labor, but supplement them.

The inputs for making the following wage rate computations were supplied by employers of farm labor in the mainland 48 States. The sample was not large enough to provide wage rates for all States, but was of sufficient size to provide indicators for California and the United States.

Quarterly Probability Farm Labor Survey
Farm Wage Rates, July 11-17, 1971, California and United States

Item	July 11-17 1971	
	California	United States
	Dollars	
Farm Wage Rates 1/		
All Hired Farm Workers	2.07	1.69
Workers Paid by Piece-Rate	2.18	1.85
Workers Paid by Hour, Day, Week and Month	2.07	1.67
Workers Paid by Hour only	2.00	1.61
Workers Receiving Cash Wages only	1.98	1.77
Workers Paid by Hour Receiving Cash Wages only	1.93	1.67
Type of Work Performed:		
Field and Livestock workers	2.01	1.63
Packinghouse workers	2.23	2.03
Machine Operators	2.07	1.71
Maintenance and Bookkeeping workers	2.57	2.08
Supervisors	3.12	3.02
Other Agricultural workers	1.91	1.61

1/ Averages of wage rates for all methods of payment are on a per-hour basis.

Farm employment and indexes, September 1971, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1969	Annual average 1970	September 21-27, 1969	September 20-26, 1970	September 19-25, 1971
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,595.8	4,522.6	5,394.0	5,310.5	5,120.0
Family labor	3,419.4	3,348.1	3,894.2	3,765.1	3,675.5
Hired labor	1,176.4	1,174.5	1,499.8	1,545.4	1,444.5
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	34	33	32	31	30
Family labor	34	33	32	31	31
Hired labor	35	35	30	31	29
(1967=100)					
Total	94	92	86	85	83
Family labor	94	92	89	86	86
Hired labor	92	92	79	82	76

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.

Farm wage rates and indexes, October 1, 1971, United States

Item	Annual average 1970	October 1, 1969	October 1, 1970	October 1, 1971
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.42	$ 1.37	$ 1.46	$ 1.54
Per month with house	328	305	325	338
Per month with board and room	251	235	250	262
Per week with board and room	60.75	58.25	61.25	67.00
Per week without board or room	78.00	73.00	76.50	80.50
Per day with house	9.80	9.30	10.10	10.60
Per day with board and room	10.70	10.00	10.50	11.10
Per day without board or room	11.70	11.40	12.20	12.80
Per hour with house	1.50	1.54	1.65	1.72
Per hour without board or room	1.64	1.51	1.61	1.70
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,092	1,039	1,107	1,170
(1967=100)	129	123	131	138

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis. 2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, September 1971 1/

State and division	September 1969 Week of 21-27			September 1970 Week of 20-26			September 1971 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	39	13	26	38	13	25	37	12	25
N. H.	9.1	5.3	3.8	8.5	4.9	3.6	7.9	4.6	3.3
Vt.	15.2	11	4.2	15.7	11	4.7	14.8	11	3.8
Mass.	21	10	11	21	10	11	20.4	10	10.4
R. I.	2.1	1.3	.8	2.0	1.3	.7	2.0	1.3	.7
Conn.	15.2	8.7	6.5	14.3	7.9	6.4	12.5	6.9	5.6
N. Eng.	101.6	49.3	52.3	99.5	48.1	51.4	94.6	45.8	48.8
N. Y.	124	83	41	123	84	39	122	83	39
N. J.	23	10	13	24	10	14	23	9.0	14
Pa.	129	106	23	128	104	24	122	103	19
M. Atl.	276	199	77	275	198	77	267	195	72
Ohio	156	127	29	159	125	34	157	127	30
Ind.	129	114	15	134	119	15	135	119	16
Ill.	175	146	29	164	140	24	169	142	27
Mich.	147	122	25	143	117	26	149	117	32
Wis.	214	185	29	204	178	26	195	168	27
E. N. Cent.	821	694	127	804	679	125	805	673	132
Minn.	201	184	17	191	172	19	197	170	27
Iowa	240	210	30	217	190	27	234	197	37
Mo.	239	188	51	226	179	47	229	178	51
N. Dak.	73	61	12	73	60	13	72	57	15
S. Dak.	78	67	11	76	66	10	72	63	9.0
Nebr.	106	92	14	104	91	13	114	99	15
Kans.	129	114	15	114	103	11	120	107	13
W. N. Cent.	1,066	916	150	1,001	861	140	1,038	871	167
Del.	9.0	5.0	4.0	9.0	5.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md.	35	25	10	35	25	10	34	24	10
Va.	138	99	39	135	97	38	129	91	38
W. Va.	43	38	5.0	42	37	5.0	38	35	3.0
N. C.	294	242	52	288	229	59	270	214	56
S. C.	96	71	25	102	76	26	91	71	20
Ga.	136	108	28	137	109	28	126	104	22
Fla.	92	39	53	97	42	55	96	42	54
S. Atl.	843	627	216	845	620	225	791	585	206
Ky.	202	148	54	195	144	51	195	142	53
Tenn.	198	163	35	199	154	45	189	155	34
Ala.	141	111	30	125	97	28	113	92	21
Miss.	177	129	48	187	130	57	160	112	48
E. S. Cent.	718	551	167	706	525	181	657	501	156
Ark.	185	98	87	163	96	67	164	98	66
La.	128	72	56	111	65	46	110	64	46
Okla.	138	115	23	130	110	20	130	110	20
Texas	328	207	121	355	210	145	286	188	98
W. S. Cent.	779	492	287	759	481	278	690	460	230
Mont.	44	33	11	44	32	12	44	32	12
Idaho	61	42	19	59	40	19	57	41	16
Wyo.	19	12	7.0	18	11	7.0	18	12	6.0
Colo.	77	38	39	75	39	36	68	36	32
N. Mex.	32	18	14	26	16	10	26	16	10
Ariz.	33	6.0	27	34	7.0	27	34	7.0	27
Utah	34	23	11	34	23	11	30	21	9.0
Nev.	5.4	2.9	2.5	6.0	3.0	3.0	5.4	2.7	2.7
Mount.	305.4	174.9	130.5	296	171	125	282.4	167.7	114.7
Wash.	92	57	35	105	57	48	88	55	33
Oreg.	69	51	18	63	48	15	69	49	20
Calif.	323	83	240	357	77	280	338	73	265
Pac.	484	191	293	525	182	343	495	177	318
U. S.	5,394.0	3,894.2	1,499.8	5,310.5	3,765.1	1,545.4	5,120.0	3,675.5	1,444.5

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Farm work: Weekly hours worked per worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of October 19-25, 1971				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
	Hours				
Maine	50.6	36.2	46.4	38.2	43.4
N. H.	58.7	33.1	53.4	41.8	48.0
Vt.	57.5	32.7	48.5	42.1	46.3
Mass.	56.1	33.5	47.7	37.5	43.5
R. I.	51.8	27.5	44.9	44.4	44.6
Conn.	50.6	45.0	48.8	37.5	43.9
N. Eng.	54.1	35.6	48.2	38.6	44.4
N. Y.	56.8	33.0	48.9	40.0	46.1
N. J.	42.0	31.4	39.4	34.7	38.0
Pa.	50.1	27.8	43.1	32.8	41.0
M. Atl.	52.4	30.2	45.3	37.1	43.1
Ohio	45.2	33.1	41.7	27.5	38.5
Ind.	40.2	31.3	38.1	26.4	36.0
Ill.	44.9	32.5	42.3	33.3	40.6
Mich.	47.8	34.1	43.8	25.9	38.9
Wis.	54.4	31.2	45.5	33.5	43.4
E. N. Cent.	46.6	32.4	42.3	29.4	39.8
Minn.	53.3	31.7	45.9	32.8	43.9
Iowa	52.2	30.3	45.5	24.2	40.8
Mo.	44.1	31.8	41.5	36.1	40.1
N. Dak.	56.2	38.6	50.4	38.2	48.0
S. Dak.	54.0	35.4	48.6	32.9	46.3
Nebr.	54.6	27.3	45.4	31.8	43.2
Kans.	48.2	35.6	45.3	32.8	43.0
W. N. Cent.	50.8	32.2	45.2	32.3	42.6
Del.	36.1	35.5	35.9	38.6	36.4
Md.	45.9	38.2	43.9	36.5	42.1
Va.	42.9	31.5	40.0	33.9	37.4
W. Va.	37.1	26.7	34.5	24.6	33.0
N. C.	40.6	29.4	37.0	26.6	32.5
S. C.	35.8	28.2	34.1	32.2	33.3
Ga.	36.4	30.6	35.1	27.5	32.3
Fla.	35.3	30.4	34.4	39.3	36.7
S. Atl.	39.2	30.1	36.7	32.5	34.3
Ky.	38.5	30.8	36.5	23.2	30.5
Tenn.	32.0	27.8	31.2	24.1	29.2
Ala.	30.5	29.3	30.3	24.7	28.5
Miss.	32.0	27.8	31.3	30.4	30.7
E. S. Cent.	33.5	29.0	32.5	25.8	29.8
Ark.	35.0	32.8	34.5	33.4	34.0
La.	29.3	30.0	29.4	29.9	29.6
Okla.	38.5	31.3	36.7	29.7	35.4
Texas	32.3	28.2	31.5	30.6	31.2
W. S. Cent.	33.8	30.0	32.9	31.2	32.4
Mont.	53.0	37.7	48.8	45.5	47.9
Idaho	50.7	35.5	45.5	26.0	40.3
Wyo.	49.0	31.0	43.3	46.7	44.5
Colo.	49.9	39.8	47.4	39.2	45.2
N. Mex.	44.0	28.3	40.2	45.1	42.1
Ariz.	42.3	38.6	41.4	48.5	45.6
Utah	40.8	28.5	37.0	31.5	35.2
Nev.	46.1	35.6	43.8	48.7	44.8
Mount.	48.6	35.3	44.7	40.7	43.3
Wash.	47.6	37.0	45.2	29.0	35.7
Oreg.	42.0	31.7	39.0	39.4	39.1
Calif.	45.4	44.8	45.3	38.3	39.8
Pac.	45.1	38.6	43.5	37.4	39.0
U. S.	43.1	31.5	39.7	33.4	37.6

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

Farm Wage Rates, October 1, 1971 1/

State and division	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	330	280	80.00	95.00			15.50		1.80
N. H.	370	290	80.00	100.00			16.50		2.00
Vt.	370	280	75.00	100.00			16.00		2.00
Mass.	420	310	80.00	105.00			17.50		2.00
R. I.	410	290	80.00	105.00			17.50		2.05
Conn.	410	300	80.00	100.00			17.00		2.00
N. Eng.	367	290	79.50	98.75			16.30		1.90
N. Y.	380	260	75.00	95.00			15.20		1.87
N. J.	375	275	70.00	90.00			16.00		1.95
Pa.	308	235	65.00	78.50			12.90		1.69
M. Atl.	357	255	71.00	89.00			14.60		1.83
Ohio	323	240				11.50	13.20		1.71
Ind.	312	231				11.00	13.90		1.79
Ill.	350	266				12.40	15.30		1.87
Mich.	385	280	75.00	95.00			15.00		1.86
Wis.	364	274				12.10	14.80		1.87
E. N. Cent.	348	259				11.80	14.40		1.82
Minn.	349	275				13.10	15.70		1.85
Iowa	380	307				14.20	16.50		1.90
Mo.	292	222				11.00	13.50		1.75
N. Dak.	341	278				12.70	15.80		1.77
S. Dak.	331	259				11.30	14.20		1.59
Nebr.	382	292				12.70	16.10		1.80
Kans.	354	273				11.80	14.90		1.74
W. N. Cent.	337	264				12.30	15.00		1.79
Del.	270						12.00		1.66
Md.	275	200	57.00	73.00			12.10		1.72
Va.					10.00		11.70		1.45
W. Va.							9.80		1.35
N. C.					9.90		11.30		1.44
S. C.					8.70		10.00		1.30
Ga.					9.30		10.50		1.42
Fla.					10.50		12.00		1.42
S. Atl.					9.80		11.30		1.43
Ky.					8.50		12.00		1.79
Tenn.					8.50		10.40		1.39
Ala.					8.70		9.80		1.33
Miss.					9.10		9.90		1.30
E. S. Cent.					8.70		10.60		1.46
Ark.					11.95		12.70		1.46
La.					10.20		10.90		1.36
Okla.					11.50		13.10		1.59
Texas					12.40		13.10		1.50
W. S. Cent.					11.90		12.60		1.47
Mont.	360	285					15.00		1.75
Idaho	390	310					15.30		1.84
Wyo.	352	250					13.00		1.72
Colo.	346	259					14.80		1.76
N. Mex.	320	240					12.30		1.40
Ariz.	415	280					14.70		1.60
Utah	375	315					14.00		1.80
Nev.	350	270					14.00		1.80
Mount.	370	277					14.50		1.71
Wash.	450	350						1.95	2.05
Oregon	393	287						1.81	1.86
Calif.	455	340						1.90	1.99
Pac.	452	339						1.90	1.99
U. S.	338	262	67.00	80.50	10.60	11.10	12.80	1.72	1.70

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

Farm Wage Rates, October 1, 1970 1/

State and division	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	305	240	63.00	90.00			15.00		1.75
N. H.	330	255	67.00	91.00			15.50		1.86
Vt.	325	250	67.00	88.00			15.50		1.86
Mass.	365	265	70.00	96.00			15.80		1.88
R. I.	360	265	69.00	97.00			15.80		1.90
Conn.	360	265	69.00	97.00			15.80		1.89
N. Eng.	329	251	66.00	92.25			15.40		1.81
N. Y.	360	240	70.00	90.50			13.70		1.80
N. J.	375	275	70.00	90.00			15.50		1.88
Pa.	303	236	61.25	79.75			12.90		1.63
M. Atl.	345	245	67.50	87.25			13.80		1.76
Ohio	301	220				10.20	12.40		1.60
Ind.	300	225				10.90	13.30		1.68
Ill.	335	255				12.00	15.00		1.80
Mich.	381	278	73.00	94.25			16.00		1.75
Wis.	345	260				11.50	14.30		1.78
E. N. Cent.	334	249				11.50	14.20		1.73
Minn.	343	268				12.30	14.90		1.71
Iowa	380	300				12.90	15.80		1.80
Mo.	284	219				10.40	13.00		1.60
N. Dak.	323	271				12.10	15.20		1.65
S. Dak.	307	248				11.10	13.60		1.54
Nebr.	380	294				12.50	15.20		1.73
Kans.	338	256				11.30	14.60		1.65
W. N. Cent.	329	258				11.60	14.40		1.67
Del.	265						11.50		1.53
Md.	275	190	56.00	75.00			11.60		1.60
Va.					9.00		10.80		1.39
W. Va.							9.10		1.27
N. C.					9.40		10.90		1.38
S. C.					8.10		9.20		1.21
Ga.					8.60		9.70		1.32
Fla.					10.10		11.00		1.52
S. Atl.					9.20		10.60		1.40
Ky.					8.10		11.10		1.67
Tenn.					7.90		9.70		1.28
Ala.					7.90		9.00		1.25
Miss.					8.75		9.60		1.25
E. S. Cent.					8.20		10.00		1.39
Ark.					11.50		12.00		1.35
La.					9.80		10.40		1.32
Okla.					11.30		12.70		1.52
Texas					11.20		11.90		1.39
W. S. Cent.					11.00		11.70		1.37
Mont.	340	270					13.80		1.64
Idaho	380	293					14.80		1.72
Wyo.	365	248					12.90		1.60
Colo.	345	248					14.10		1.67
N. Mex.	290	220					11.50		1.30
Ariz.	410	270					14.50		1.55
Utah	345	270					13.20		1.70
Nev.	330	230					12.65		1.65
Mount.	358	259					13.80		1.61
Wash.	2/430	2/335						2/1.90	2.00
Oreg.	385	290						1.73	1.74
Calif.	450	315						1.85	1.94
Pac.	444	2/316						1.85	1.94
U. S.	325	250	61.25	76.50	10.10	10.50	12.20	1.65	1.61

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

(Continued from page 1.)

Apple harvest was widespread on northern fruit farms and cranberries were being harvested in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin. The Thompson seedless grape harvest for raisins was nearing completion. Fall shipments of vegetables were increasing from the Northeast where rain has slowed harvest. Harvest of the fall potato crop made good progress as favorable conditions existed in most of the major producing areas.

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