Farm Labor

Release
April 10, 1967
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

Farm Work Force Up Seasonally

The farm work force totaled 4,380,000 persons during the survey week of March 19-25. This represents a seasonal increase of 14 percent over the February 1967 survey week, but was 4 percent less than in the comparable period a year ago. The family work force, at 3,462,000, was down 3 percent from March 1966.

The number of hired workers totaled 918,000, a 24 percent increase over the February 1967 week. This larger work force was kept busy as the tempo of farm work stepped up on farms across the Nation. Land preparation was active in many areas, especially in the South Atlantic and South Central States where spring planting was on the increase. Citrus and vegetable harvest was active in California, Florida, Texas, and Arizona.

The seasonal gain in farm activity was also reflected in the hours worked by farm workers on reporting farms. Farm operators set the pace with an average of 40.9 hours of work, up 4.7 hours from the February 1967 survey week. Other family workers averaged working 29.4 hours. All farm workers averaged a work week of 37.6 hours, up 2.8 hours from a month earlier.

Hired farm workers averaged 37.1 hours, up 1.8 hours from a month earlier. Most of this increase was contributed by hired workers in the south where field work was active. The work week was 4.2 hours longer in the South Atlantic, 5.2 hours longer in the East South Central, and 4.1 hours longer in the West South Central States.

Farm Wage Rates Up 6 Percent

Wage rates as reported by farm operators on April 1, 1967 were up 6 percent from a year earlier and 46 percent higher than the 1957-59 average. The average cash rate per hour without board or room, increased to $1.34 per hour, 5 percent over April 1, 1966. Monthly, weekly, and daily rates showed advances of 6 or more percent. The monthly rates, at $253 with house furnished, and $192 with board and room furnished, were up 7 percent each. Comparisons of April 1 State averages for 1966 and 1967 on pages 6 and 7 show the consistent trend in wage increases for the various hiring arrangements.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service
La 1 (4-67)
Crop Reporting Board
Washington, D. C.

Average farm wage rates in Alaska were as follows: Per hour without board or room, $2.20; per day without board or room, $16.00; per month with board and room, $290; and per month with house, $390.

Corn planting was active in Texas and was 36 percent complete, however, progress was behind a year earlier when 50 percent had been planted by this date. About 15 percent of the Louisiana crop was planted with early corn up to a stand. Planting was slow in Oklahoma because of dry soils. Corn planting was getting underway in other areas of the South.

Texas cotton with 13 percent of the crop planted, was slightly ahead of last year. Cotton planting was active in Arizona with some replanting in the Yuma area due to moisture loss and root rot. Planting made normal progress in California and was just beginning in Georgia.

In California, harvest of navel oranges, lemons, and avocados continued active. However, Desert grapefruit picking continued slow as harvest was beginning in other areas of the State. Arizona Valencia orange and grapefruit picking was moderately active in Maricopa and Yuma counties. Florida grapefruit harvest was on the increase as the orange harvest declined. Citrus harvest was active in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Vegetable harvest was active in California with the volume of asparagus, cauliflower, and celery increasing. Lettuce harvest reached peak volume at Blythe and was getting underway in Kern county, Santa Maria, and Salinas-Watsonville areas. Planting of processing tomatoes was active in the Central Valley area. Florida vegetable harvest was active, however, shipments were down from the previous week. Harvest volume of sweet corn, cucumbers, and radishes increased during the week while beans, cabbage, eggplant, potatoes, and squash remained steady while other Florida vegetable crops decreased in harvest volume.

Other activities included seeding tobacco beds in the Appalachian states with setting of plants in Georgia and Florida. In the northeastern part of the country, maple sap gathering was active. Rice planting continued during the week with completion reaching one-third in Texas and one-fourth in Louisiana.

Farm employment and indexes, March 1967, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1961-65 1/	Annual average 1966 1/	March average 1961-65 1/	March 20-26, 1966	March 19-25, 1967
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,372	5,214	5,454	4,562	4,380
Family labor	4,655	3,854	4,297	3,584	3,462
Hired labor	1,717	1,360	1,157	978	918
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	47	38	47	40	38
Family labor	46	38	46	39	37
Hired labor	51	40	51	43	40
(1957-59=100)					
Total	85	70	86	72	69
Family labor	84	70	86	71	69
Hired labor	88	69	88	75	70

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, 1967, United States

	Annual average 1966	April average 1961-65	April 1, 1966	April 1, 1967
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.03	$ 0.804	$ 0.945	$ 0.998
Per month with house	243	200	237	253
Per month with board and room	185	155	180	192
Per week with board and room	43.50	36.75	42.00	45.75
Per week without board or room	55.75	48.25	55.25	58.75
Per day with house	6.70	5.60	6.60	7.30
Per day with board and room	8.00	6.30	7.30	7.80
Per day without board or room	8.20	6.90	8.00	8.70
Per hour with house	1.10	.85	1.01	1.07
Per hour without board or room	1.23	1.11	1.28	1.34
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	792	686	803	849
(1957-59=100)	136	118	138	146

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

Workers on Farms, March 1967 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	March Average 1961-65			March 1966 Week of 20-26			March 1967 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	25	19	6	22	17	5	20	15	5
N. H.	9	7	2	8	6	2	7	5	2
Vt.	24	19	5	20	16	4	18	14	4
Mass.	24	17	7	19	14	5	18	13	5
R. I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	19	14	5	15	11	4	11	8	3
N. Eng.	104	78	26	86	65	21	76	56	20
N. Y.	123	88	35	95	74	21	92	72	20
N. J.	29	20	9	19	12	7	16	10	6
Pa.	151	131	20	122	108	14	118	105	13
M. Atl.	303	239	64	236	194	42	226	187	39
Ohio	204	182	22	161	148	13	157	144	13
Ind.	181	168	13	145	135	10	126	117	9
Ill.	197	161	36	165	140	25	154	133	21
Mich.	175	153	22	148	128	20	134	118	16
Wis.	244	222	22	201	185	16	192	175	17
E. N. Cent.	1001	886	115	820	736	84	763	687	76
Minn.	209	190	19	180	168	12	168	156	12
Iowa	239	222	17	202	187	15	201	186	15
Mo.	215	197	18	184	166	18	198	172	26
N. Dak.	70	63	7	59	54	5	57	52	5
S. Dak.	80	75	5	69	65	4	70	65	5
Nebr.	122	109	13	105	93	12	103	90	13
Kans.	133	121	12	121	109	12	119	109	10
W. N. Cent.	1068	977	91	920	842	78	916	830	86
Del.	9	6	3	7	5	2	5	4	1
Md.	45	33	12	37	29	8	32	25	7
Va.	147	118	29	121	96	25	116	94	22
W. Va.	51	43	8	39	33	6	38	32	6
N. C.	257	216	41	220	180	40	205	170	35
S. C.	118	82	36	77	56	21	68	52	16
Ga.	137	103	34	97	78	19	96	77	19
Fla.	148	49	99	136	38	98	135	34	101
S. Atl.	912	650	262	734	515	219	695	488	207
Ky.	189	157	32	166	127	39	167	131	36
Tenn.	178	145	33	164	132	32	154	123	31
Ala.	101	80	21	85	64	21	92	72	20
Miss.	176	134	42	144	106	38	135	106	29
E. S. Cent.	644	516	128	559	429	130	548	432	116
Ark.	154	98	56	123	79	44	124	83	41
La.	121	78	43	93	63	30	85	60	25
Okla.	131	117	14	117	107	10	114	104	10
Texas	308	222	86	263	189	74	266	187	79
W. S. Cent.	714	515	199	596	438	158	589	434	155
Mont.	43	36	7	42	33	9	42	32	10
Idaho	50	42	8	43	37	6	43	37	6
Wyo.	15	11	4	14	10	4	14	10	4
Colo.	48	40	8	43	33	10	42	34	8
N. Mex.	28	18	10	21	14	7	20	13	7
Ariz.	37	8	29	37	7	30	35	7	28
Utah	23	18	5	20	15	5	20	15	5
Nev.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Mount.	248	176	72	223	151	72	219	150	69
Wash.	91	66	25	73	55	18	64	48	16
Oreg.	83	66	17	66	52	14	59	49	10
Calif.	286	128	158	249	107	142	225	101	124
Pac.	460	260	200	388	214	174	348	198	150
U. S.	5454	4297	1157	4562	3584	978	4380	3462	918

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month. Alaska not included above: Family, 500 persons; hired, 100.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms – week of March 19-25, 1967				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	47.8	30.1	43.2	34.4	39.9
N. H.	50.6	36.4	47.8	38.4	44.9
Vt.	62.3	41.2	55.4	40.6	49.7
Mass.	53.8	31.8	47.7	41.5	45.1
R. I.	55.7	27.0	45.7	43.7	45.1
Conn.	48.4	40.1	46.3	38.6	43.9
N. Eng.	52.8	34.7	47.7	38.9	44.6
N. Y.	52.4	31.5	45.8	38.8	43.6
N. J.	39.5	25.0	36.0	36.2	36.0
Pa.	47.3	27.7	41.0	32.6	39.3
M. Atl.	49.0	29.1	42.7	36.3	40.8
Ohio	40.2	30.2	37.8	26.5	35.6
Ind.	35.5	29.1	34.3	25.7	32.7
Ill.	37.2	31.6	36.2	34.0	35.8
Mich.	41.3	33.9	39.5	38.4	39.2
Wis.	53.4	30.3	44.1	32.1	42.1
E. N. Cent.	41.5	30.9	38.3	32.2	37.4
Minn.	44.1	28.8	39.3	31.1	38.2
Iowa	51.4	29.3	45.2	32.4	43.0
Mo.	41.8	25.7	38.2	34.8	37.3
N. Dak.	40.8	30.8	38.0	37.5	37.9
S. Dak.	47.0	30.1	42.1	36.8	41.5
Nebr.	47.7	33.7	44.2	29.4	42.0
Kans.	42.1	30.1	39.1	33.9	38.3
W. N. Cent.	45.3	29.2	40.9	33.2	39.7
Del.	27.7	36.2	29.5	41.0	32.7
Md.	41.6	31.7	38.8	37.1	38.3
Va.	40.2	33.0	38.4	33.8	36.7
W. Va.	35.4	25.7	33.1	27.8	32.0
N. C.	35.2	29.6	33.8	28.5	31.8
S. C.	35.7	30.5	34.4	26.2	30.7
Ga.	35.6	29.5	34.0	30.9	32.7
Fla.	37.4	22.4	35.3	40.3	38.2
S. Atl.	36.5	29.6	34.9	35.2	34.2
Ky.	37.7	26.9	34.9	25.2	31.8
Tenn.	33.9	28.7	32.9	27.7	31.4
Ala.	36.9	27.4	35.0	32.4	34.1
Miss.	40.2	21.6	36.1	39.3	38.0
E. S. Cent.	36.9	26.4	34.6	30.6	33.6
Ark.	35.8	30.1	34.7	38.9	36.1
La.	36.7	31.1	35.5	35.8	35.6
Okla.	34.1	25.3	31.9	30.8	31.7
Texas	38.5	29.7	36.7	41.0	38.4
W. S. Cent.	36.9	29.1	35.2	38.9	36.2
Mont.	43.7	33.1	40.8	41.5	40.9
Idaho	45.0	27.7	39.7	34.2	38.9
Wyo.	49.0	35.5	44.2	40.4	43.0
Colo.	45.7	32.7	41.6	39.7	41.2
N. Mex.	43.8	27.2	40.1	39.9	40.0
Ariz.	40.4	29.3	37.6	40.5	39.2
Utah	38.0	24.8	34.0	30.7	33.7
Nev.	39.6	29.7	37.0	46.5	39.9
Mount.	44.0	30.1	39.9	39.3	39.6
Wash.	42.6	29.5	39.4	39.2	39.3
Oreg.	38.0	28.0	35.5	33.7	35.1
Calif.	41.9	35.2	40.3	48.2	46.2
Pac.	41.2	31.8	38.9	46.3	43.0
U. S.	40.9	29.4	37.8	37.1	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, April 1, 1967 1/

State and division	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour		Composite rate per hour	Indexes of composite rates 1910-14=100 2/
	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		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	259	185	48.00	69.00	—	—	11.10	—	1.42	1.15	736
N. H.	278	197	55.00	71.00	—	—	11.40	—	1.47	1.20	839
Vt.	261	195	50.00	70.00	—	—	11.50	—	1.47	1.18	819
Mass.	315	210	57.00	80.00	—	—	12.40	—	1.60	1.31	901
R. I.	315	210	57.00	80.00	—	—	12.40	—	1.60	1.31	948
Conn.	315	210	57.00	80.00	—	—	12.40	—	1.63	1.32	957
N. Eng.	288	200	53.50	74.75	—	—	11.80	—	1.53	1.24	853
N. Y.	263	188	50.00	68.25	—	—	11.20	—	1.37	1.01	690
N. J.	305	225	57.00	69.00	—	—	12.00	—	1.49	1.11	874
Pa.	252	179	46.50	60.50	—	—	10.00	—	1.29	.938	840
M. Atl.	267	191	50.00	65.75	—	—	10.90	—	1.36	1.00	771
Ohio	239	174	—	—	—	8.00	10.20	—	1.26	.861	758
Ind.	238	171	—	—	—	8.20	10.70	—	1.32	.877	803
Ill.	279	209	—	—	—	9.70	11.70	—	1.37	.992	835
Mich.	292	206	—	—	—	9.70	11.90	—	1.36	.994	822
Wis.	268	199	—	—	—	8.90	10.80	—	1.34	.947	746
E. N. Cent.	269	197	—	—	—	9.10	11.20	—	1.34	.950	803
Minn.	260	200	—	—	—	9.60	11.30	—	1.32	.990	704
Iowa	302	234	—	—	—	10.50	12.80	—	1.40	1.11	761
Mo.	224	160	—	—	—	*8.00*	*9.70*	—	*1.21*	*.853*	*856*
N. Dak.	254	210	—	—	—	9.30	11.60	—	1.29	.994	627
S. Dak.	249	197	—	—	—	8.80	10.80	—	1.25	.947	631
Nebr.	298	220	—	—	—	9.90	12.10	—	1.33	1.06	783
Kans.	264	198	—	—	—	9.20	11.40	—	1.32	.990	900
W. N. Cent.	265	200	—	—	—	9.30	11.30	—	1.31	.989	758
Del.	250	—	—	—	—	—	9.50	—	1.25	1.04	1049
Md.	235	165	43.00	62.00	—	—	9.70	—	1.20	1.01	1126
Va.	—	—	—	—	7.00	—	8.20	.87	1.06	.822	992
W. Va.	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.40	—	.96	.762	665
N. C.	—	—	—	—	6.90	—	8.10	.85	1.01	.802	1002
S. C.	—	—	—	—	5.80	—	6.60	.78	.87	.681	989
Ga.	—	—	—	—	6.00	—	6.70	.81	.98	.715	883
Fla.	—	—	—	—	7.70	—	8.40	.98	1.15	.878	974
S. Atl.	—	—	—	—	7.10	—	8.00	.91	1.07	.827	1010
Ky.	—	—	—	—	5.80	—	7.20	.83	1.05	.704	790
Tenn.	—	—	—	—	5.80	—	7.10	.79	.97	.690	801
Ala.	—	—	—	—	5.60	—	6.60	.80	.92	.652	796
Miss.	—	—	—	—	6.90	—	7.50	.92	.93	.752	889
E. S. Cent.	—	—	—	—	6.10	—	7.20	.84	.97	.706	827
Ark.	—	—	—	—	8.10	—	8.90	.95	1.08	.906	931
La.	—	—	—	—	7.10	—	7.60	.94	1.02	.811	928
Okla.	—	—	—	—	8.90	—	9.20	1.12	1.22	.988	838
Texas	—	—	—	—	8.30	—	9.10	.97	1.10	.926	841
W. S. Cent.	—	—	—	—	8.10	—	8.80	.97	1.09	.903	878
Mont.	277	214	—	—	—	—	10.80	—	1.32	1.05	581
Idaho	320	250	—	—	—	—	12.00	—	1.45	1.19	733
Wyo.	271	187	—	—	—	—	10.80	—	1.32	1.02	574
Colo.	279	198	—	—	—	—	11.40	—	1.35	1.06	768
N. Mex.	250	182	—	—	—	—	9.50	—	1.10	.909	827
Ariz.	325	190	—	—	—	—	10.70	—	1.19	1.02	725
Utah	270	235	—	—	—	—	11.00	—	1.38	1.09	734
Nev.	290	230	—	—	—	—	11.00	—	1.42	1.11	649
Mount.	297	201	—	—	—	—	10.80	—	1.26	1.04	693
Wash.	353	263	—	—	—	—	—	1.53	1.58	1.53	763
Oreg.	315	225	—	—	—	—	—	1.42	1.45	1.40	704
Calif.	370	270	—	—	—	—	—	1.47	1.54	1.50	716
Pac.	364	266	—	—	—	—	—	1.47	1.54	1.50	717
U. S.	253	192	45.75	58.75	7.30	7.80	7.80	1.07	1.34	.998	849

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/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Farm Wage Rates, April 1, 1966 1/

State and division	Per month: With house	Per month: With board and room	Per week: With board and room	Per week: Without board or room	Per day: With house	Per day: With board and room	Per day: Without board or room	Per hour: With house	Per hour: Without board or room	Composite rate per hour	Indexes of composite rates 1910-14=100 2/
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	222	175	45.00	62.00	—	—	10.10	—	1.27	1.04	666
N. H.	245	185	49.00	66.00	—	—	10.40	—	1.36	1.10	771
Vt.	232	178	45.00	63.00	—	—	10.40	—	1.32	1.07	738
Mass.	265	185	50.00	70.00	—	—	11.60	—	1.49	1.19	818
R. I.	265	185	50.00	70.00	—	—	11.60	—	1.48	1.19	858
Conn.	265	185	50.00	70.00	—	—	11.60	—	1.52	1.20	868
N. Eng.	247	181	47.75	66.50	—	—	10.90	—	1.40	1.13	774
N. Y.	248	172	44.25	63.50	—	—	10.20	—	1.30	.937	641
N. J.	265	190	54.00	66.00	—	—	11.50	—	1.38	1.02	802
Pa.	232	169	43.50	58.50	—	—	9.50	—	1.22	.887	794
M. Atl.	246	174	45.50	62.50	—	—	10.20	—	1.29	.936	720
Ohio	217	159	—	—	—	7.40	9.60	—	1.22	.806	710
Ind.	223	169	—	—	—	8.30	10.40	—	1.24	.844	773
Ill.	259	190	—	—	—	9.20	11.40	—	1.31	.932	784
Mich.	275	194	—	—	—	9.00	11.20	—	1.29	.937	775
Wis.	249	184	—	—	—	8.50	10.20	—	1.29	.891	701
E. N. Cent.	248	182	—	—	—	8.60	10.70	—	1.28	.892	754
Minn.	230	180	—	—	—	8.80	11.00	—	1.25	.921	655
Iowa	272	210	—	—	—	9.80	12.00	—	1.32	1.02	701
Mo.	212	153	—	—	—	7.50	9.60	—	1.19	.827	829
N. Dak.	228	192	—	—	—	8.60	10.50	—	1.16	.901	569
S. Dak.	231	181	—	—	—	8.30	10.00	—	1.20	.887	591
Nebr.	270	204	—	—	—	9.10	11.10	—	1.28	.984	729
Kans.	252	196	—	—	—	8.80	11.10	—	1.27	.959	872
W. N. Cent.	245	188	—	—	—	8.80	10.90	—	1.25	.938	719
Del.	210	—	—	—	—	—	10.00	—	1.22	1.02	1030
Md.	220	175	44.00	57.00	—	—	9.30	—	1.16	.975	1082
Va.	—	—	—	—	6.20	—	7.50	.80	.98	.751	907
W. Va.	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.70	—	.92	.708	618
N. C.	—	—	—	—	6.10	—	7.20	.77	.91	.717	896
S. C.	—	—	—	—	5.00	—	5.40	.59	.69	.549	798
Ga.	—	—	—	—	5.40	—	6.00	.71	.87	.637	787
Fla.	—	—	—	—	7.00	—	8.10	.98	1.08	.838	929
S. Atl.	—	—	—	—	6.40	—	7.40	.86	.98	.763	932
Ky.	—	—	—	—	5.30	—	6.40	.78	.96	.635	713
Tenn.	—	—	—	—	5.10	—	6.20	.67	.83	.602	699
Ala.	—	—	—	—	5.10	—	5.80	.66	.81	.581	709
Miss.	—	—	—	—	5.50	—	5.80	.68	.76	.593	701
E. S. Cent.	—	—	—	—	5.30	—	6.00	.70	.83	.604	708
Ark.	—	—	—	—	7.20	—	7.80	.86	.98	.807	829
La.	—	—	—	—	6.10	—	6.50	.74	.85	.685	784
Okla.	—	—	—	—	8.30	—	9.70	1.00	1.18	.968	821
Texas	—	—	—	—	7.60	—	8.30	.89	1.02	.850	771
W. S. Cent.	—	—	—	—	7.20	—	7.80	.85	.98	.808	786
Mont.	262	200	—	—	—	—	10.30	—	1.25	.998	551
Idaho	292	229	—	—	—	—	12.00	—	1.38	1.14	699
Wyo.	266	182	—	—	—	—	10.60	—	1.26	.990	557
Colo.	260	185	—	—	—	—	10.90	—	1.26	.997	721
N. Mex.	229	160	—	—	—	—	8.80	—	1.02	.831	755
Ariz.	318	190	—	—	—	—	10.90	—	1.18	1.02	724
Utah	266	220	—	—	—	—	10.90	—	1.36	1.07	715
Nev.	280	205	—	—	—	—	11.40	—	1.43	1.09	637
Mount.	286	194	—	—	—	—	10.70	—	1.22	1.01	673
Wash.	329	247	—	—	—	—	—	1.41	1.49	1.44	717
Oreg.	305	225	—	—	—	—	—	1.34	1.41	1.36	684
Calif.	360	268	—	—	—	—	—	1.44	1.50	1.47	700
Pac.	351	262	—	—	—	—	—	1.43	1.49	1.45	696
U. S.	237	180	42.00	55.25	6.60	7.30	8.00	1.01	1.28	.945	803

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/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

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IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Comments	1 - 2
Farm employment, wage rates, and indexes, United States	3
Workers on Farms, March 1967	4
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms March 19-25, 1967 by States and Divisions	5
Farm Wage Rates, April 1, 1967	6
Farm Wage Rates, April 1, 1966	7