farm labor

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SPRING WORK GAINS MOMENTUM

The Nation's farm labor force for the survey week of March 19-25, 1972 was estimated at 3,912,000 workers or about 18,000 more than a year ago. The work force consisted of 3,033,000 farm operators and unpaid family members and 879,000 hired workers.

Farmworkers averaged 36.4 hours during the March survey week compared with 34.5 a month earlier. Farm operators worked an average of 38.8 hours, other unpaid family members 30.4, and hired workers 36.0 hours during the week.

Farm wages were generally higher on April 1, 1972 and the average cash rate per hour without board and room rose to $1.84 per hour from $1.76 a year earlier. Monthly, weekly, and daily rates increased similarly. The seasonally adjusted national index of Farm Wage Rates reached 144 on the 1967 base for an increase of 6 percent over a year ago.

Light rain showers did little to improve the topsoil moisture situation in the Great Plains. Grain growers from Texas to Nebraska would appreciate a slow soaking rain. More moisture is needed for a fast spring start. In the Northern Plains fall-planted grains are in good shape. Recent rains and snow have built up moisture reserves. Wheat and barley are headed in the Yuma, Arizona area. In New Mexico nonirrigated grains need rain badly. In the Southeastern States fall-sown grains are in good condition. Some grains in local areas of southern Alabama and Georgia are infected with rust.

Southern farmers took advantage of the favorable weather to work in the fields. Plowing, disking, fertilizing and applying chemicals, were the main activities. Further north, the fieldwork tapers off. In the northern Corn Belt farmers are anxious to put their tractors to work but snow, frozen soil, or mud dictate that they wait.

Corn planting was underway in the Deep South and a few fields were in as far north as Oklahoma and Kansas. Warm dry weather permitted cotton planting from California to Texas. Sorghum planting was in full swing in Texas.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
La 1 (4-72) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Tobacco growers were busy seeding plant beds in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Potato planting got underway in the Arkansas Valley of Colorado. Vegetables were seeded as far north as Maryland. Tomato transplanting was active in Alabama, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

Florida cabbage, celery, sweet corn, and tomato supplies were moving to market. Onions were being harvested in Texas. Lettuce cutting was active in Arizona and California. There was increasing activity in the strawberry harvest in Louisiana and California.

Frosts and cold temperatures nipped peach orchards in the Carolinas but damage is expected to be minor. Idaho fruit growers are concerned that cold temperatures may have caused bud and bloom damage. Colorado's peaches were in bloom, the earliest bloom of record, but were severely damaged by a cold wave late in the month. Utah's fruit was also hurt by the cold weather, as were pears in the Medford area of Oregon.

Snows from Montana to Minnesota created additional work in caring for animals. Regular winter rations are still being fed to herds in the north. Feed supplies should be adequate until pastures are ready for grazing. Supplemental feeding declined in the South where the stock are moving into pastures.

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 1972, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1970	Annual average 1971	March 22-28, 1970	March 21-27, 1971	March 19-25, 1972
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,522.6	4,445.9	3.908.8	3,894.0	3,912.0
Family labor	3,348.1	3,281.4	3,079.3	3,068.1	3,033.1
Hired labor	1,174.5	1,164.5	829.5	825.9	878.9
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	33	33	34	34	34
Family labor	33	32	33	33	33
Hired labor	35	34	37	36	39
(1967=100)					
Total	92	92	93	93	94
Family labor	92	89	92	92	92
Hired labor	92	89	97	95	103

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.
2/ Monthly indexes are adusted for seasonal variation.

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Farm wage rates and indexes, April 1, 1972, United States

Item	Annual average 1971	April 1, 1970	April 1, 1971	April 1, 1972
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.48	$ 1.29	$ 1.36	$ 1.44
Per month with house	340	319	331	351
Per month with board and room	263	245	258	274
Per week with board and room	64.50	59.25	62.00	65.50
Per week without board or room	81.00	76.50	79.25	83.75
Per day with house	10.30	9.60	10.30	10.90
Per day with board and room	11.20	9.90	10.40	11.10
Per day without board or room	12.20	11.30	11.80	12.70
Per hour with house	1.56	1.40	1.45	1.55
Per hour without board or room	1.73	1.66	1.76	1.84
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,138	1,096	3/1,156	1,221
(1967=100)	134	129	3/136	144

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 1972 1/

State and division	March 1970 Week of 22-28			March 1971 Week of 21-27			March 1972 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	16	11	5.0	16.3	11	5.3	15.4	11	4.4
N. H.	5.9	4.3	1.6	5.4	3.9	1.5	5.5	3.9	1.6
Vt.	14.3	11	3.3	14.2	11	3.2	13.6	10	3.6
Mass.	13.1	8.9	4.2	13.3	9.0	4.3	12.6	8.4	4.2
R. I.	1.8	1.2	.6	1.9	1.3	.6	1.6	1.0	.6
Conn.	9.9	7.0	2.9	9.9	6.8	3.1	9.5	6.6	2.9
N. Eng.	61	43.4	17.6	61	43	18	58.2	40.9	17.3
N. Y.	85	68	17	82	65	17	80	62	18
N. J.	13	8.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0	15	9.0	6.0
Pa.	108	96	12	104	93	11	99	89	10
M. Atl.	206	172	34	200	167	33	194	160	34
Ohio	135	125	10	134	125	9.0	129	119	10
Ind.	119	112	7.0	121	114	7.0	121	114	7.0
Ill.	142	121	21	138	119	19	146	125	21
Mich.	124	108	16	119	102	17	110	93	17
Wis.	186	170	16	178	162	16	172	156	16
E. N. Cent.	706	636	70	690	622	68	678	607	71
Minn.	147	137	10	146	137	9.0	141	132	9.0
Iowa	183	172	11	176	165	11	177	163	14
Mo.	160	144	16	171	151	20	168	147	21
N. Dak.	48	44	4.0	48	44	4.0	48	44	4.0
S. Dak.	47	43	4.0	60	57	3.0	56	52	4.0
Nebr.	95	87	8.0	91	84	7.0	104	94	10
Kans.	99	91	8.0	100	91	9.0	101	93	8
W. N. Cent.	779	718	61	792	729	63	795	725	70
Del.	5.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0
Md.	30	24	6.0	30	24	6.0	28	22	6.0
Va.	102	84	18	97	79	18	96	79	17
W. Va.	31	28	3.0	29	26	3.0	30	27	3.0
N. C.	172	150	22	172	148	24	168	145	23
S. C.	65	49	16	61	45	16	57	44	13
Ga.	90	72	18	88	70	18	89	71	18
Fla.	123	35	88	117	31	86	134	41	93
S. Atl.	618	446	172	599	427	172	607	433	174
Ky.	120	102	18	124	104	20	122	104	18
Tenn.	120	102	18	126	107	19	125	106	19
Ala.	69	55	14	65	52	13	71	56	15
Miss.	128	101	27	135	104	31	121	92	29
E. S. Cent.	437	360	77	450	367	83	439	358	81
Ark.	121	75	46	129	80	49	135	83	52
La.	67	47	20	67	45	22	69	44	25
Okla.	114	105	9.0	120	112	8.0	120	110	10
Texas	231	168	63	237	180	57	247	172	75
W. S. Cent.	533	395	138	553	417	136	571	409	162
Mont.	33	27	6.0	35	29	6.0	36	29	7.0
Idaho	38	30	8.0	35	30	5.0	36	30	6.0
Wyo.	12	9.0	3.0	11	8.0	3.0	11	8.0	3.0
Colo.	37	30	7.0	41	32	9.0	41	33	8.0
N. Mex.	19	14	5.0	17	12	5.0	17	12	5.0
Ariz.	37	6.0	31	37	6.0	31	38	6.0	32
Utah	19	15	4.0	17	13	4.0	18	14	4.0
Nev.	3.8	1.9	1.9	4.0	2.1	1.9	3.8	2.2	1.6
Mount.	198.8	132.9	65.9	197	132.1	64.9	200.8	134.2	66.6
Wash.	73	51	22	67	49	18	70	48	22
Oreg.	63	51	12	57	47	10	59	48	11
Calif.	234	74	160	228	68	160	240	70	170
Pac.	370	176	194	352	164	188	369	166	203
U. S.	3,908.8	3,079.3	829.5	3,894.0	3,068.1	825.9	3,912.0	3,033.1	878.9

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: Average for reporting farms, week of March 19-25, 1972

State and division	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
Maine	51.4	30.5	45.2	33.0	40.6
N. H.	51.6	35.1	47.3	34.9	42.6
Vt.	58.3	35.3	50.3	41.4	46.9
Mass.	53.8	33.3	47.5	34.9	42.2
R. I.	63.1	35.0	57.8	38.7	47.8
Conn.	58.6	36.9	51.5	39.1	46.8
N. Eng.	54.7	33.6	48.2	36.6	43.8
N. Y.	50.8	32.6	45.4	37.1	42.7
N. J.	37.0	35.3	36.6	39.3	37.4
Pa.	44.7	28.7	40.0	32.4	38.6
M. Atl.	46.7	30.7	42.0	36.1	40.2
Ohio	33.8	29.1	32.8	29.3	32.2
Ind.	34.6	27.0	33.1	29.1	32.5
Ill.	36.8	32.6	36.1	30.9	35.2
Mich.	35.0	30.7	34.0	30.7	33.1
Wis.	48.5	30.3	41.7	33.8	40.4
E. N. Cent.	37.9	30.0	35.7	31.1	35.1
Minn.	41.6	28.7	37.9	33.7	37.5
Iowa	43.9	28.2	39.7	28.2	37.6
Mo.	40.3	32.6	38.8	34.7	37.9
N. Dak.	37.0	33.8	36.1	30.3	35.5
S. Dak.	42.4	31.4	39.9	28.9	38.3
Nebr.	48.0	33.9	43.7	37.7	42.7
Kans.	41.5	33.5	39.5	32.3	38.4
W. N. Cent.	42.3	31.2	39.4	32.8	38.3
Del.	42.4	23.1	36.3	26.7	33.2
Md.	44.4	33.3	41.5	34.5	39.4
Va.	36.9	31.9	35.7	34.0	35.1
W. Va.	35.8	26.0	33.2	22.9	31.6
N. C.	32.4	28.5	31.6	28.6	30.6
S. C.	34.6	27.3	33.1	29.7	31.7
Ga.	37.4	28.9	35.3	30.7	33.6
Fla.	39.6	27.6	35.4	31.7	33.0
S. Atl.	35.6	28.9	33.9	31.2	32.9
Ky.	31.5	27.1	30.6	24.8	29.0
Tenn.	29.0	28.3	28.9	24.9	27.9
Ala.	31.2	28.5	30.6	30.4	30.6
Miss.	33.1	27.2	31.8	36.3	34.3
E. S. Cent.	31.1	27.7	30.4	30.0	30.4
Ark.	38.3	34.2	37.4	36.7	37.1
La.	32.3	28.8	31.7	34.7	33.0
Okla.	38.0	27.5	35.2	29.4	34.1
Texas	41.2	31.4	39.2	33.0	36.8
W. S. Cent.	38.8	30.7	37.0	34.2	35.8
Mont.	47.8	33.5	43.7	42.8	43.4
Idaho	45.9	30.6	40.9	37.7	40.3
Wyo.	50.4	34.1	46.0	37.9	43.2
Colo.	45.2	36.6	42.7	41.7	42.5
N. Mex.	44.5	49.1	45.2	47.0	45.9
Ariz.	47.1	29.0	42.0	48.0	45.4
Utah	40.4	27.0	36.0	25.6	33.8
Nev.	42.2	37.1	40.8	46.1	42.3
Mount.	45.7	34.4	42.2	43.8	42.4
Wash.	43.5	32.5	40.8	36.7	39.1
Oreg.	36.1	27.3	33.5	32.5	33.2
Calif.	45.6	43.2	45.0	45.8	45.6
Pac.	42.3	35.4	40.5	44.1	42.4
U. S.	38.8	30.4	36.6	36.0	36.4

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, 1972 1/

State and division	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour	
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	W/out board or room	With house	With board and room	W/out board or room	With house	W/out 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. Eng.	385	306	77.50	100.50			16.70		2.01
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
M. Atl.	370	268	71.25	92.00			15.10		1.87
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
E. N. Cent.	372	279				12.30	15.50		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
W. N. Cent.	353	273				12.30	15.20		1.80
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		11.70	1.37	1.47
S. Atl.					10.60		11.50	1.35	1.48
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
E. S. Cent.					8.90		10.70	1.23	1.41
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
W. S. Cent.					12.00		12.80	1.40	1.53
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
Mount.	401	301					15.10		1.73
Wash.	460	355						2.00	2.05
Oreg.	399	298						1.88	1.85
Calif.	470	345						1.94	2.03
Pac.	465	344						1.94	2.02
U. S.	351	274	65.50	83.75	10.90	11.10	12.70	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.

Farm Wage Rates, April 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	260	71.00	90.00			15.00		1.75
N. H.	360	270	75.00	95.00			16.00		1.87
Vt.	350	265	69.00	95.00			15.50		1.95
Mass.	395	295	75.00	100.00			16.50		1.95
R. I.	380	290	75.00	100.00			16.50		2.00
Conn.	385	290	80.00	98.00			16.50		2.00
N. Eng.	363	276	73.50	95.50			15.80		1.90
N. Y.	363	251	70.75	94.00			14.70		1.87
N. J.	370	270	69.00	90.00			15.00		1.87
Pa.	318	241	63.50	80.00			12.40		1.65
M. Atl.	348	250	68.00	88.50			13.90		1.79
Ohio	306	225				10.40	12.50		1.63
Ind.	294	232				10.80	13.90		1.76
Ill.	350	262				12.40	15.10		1.83
Mich.	400	290					2/15.00		1.85
Wis.	365	270				11.30	14.60		1.81
E. N. Cent.	353	262				2/11.60	2/14.50		1.80
Minn.	341	277				12.10	14.60		1.78
Iowa	383	305				13.30	16.40		1.84
Mo.	284	212				10.10	12.90		1.65
N. Dak.	333	268				11.90	14.50		1.64
S. Dak.	327	261				10.60	13.20		1.56
Nebr.	387	290				12.00	14.60		1.75
Kans.	348	262				11.20	14.10		1.68
W. N. Cent.	344	263				11.50	14.30		1.71
Del.	260						12.00		1.51
Md.	270	190	57.00	72.00			12.70		1.63
Va.					9.40		10.90	1.19	1.41
W. Va.							9.60		1.30
N. C.					9.60		11.00	1.19	1.38
S. C.					8.30		9.20	1.11	1.26
Ga.					9.00		10.10	1.17	1.35
Fla.					10.50		10.50	1.25	1.50
S. Atl.					9.90		10.50	1.22	1.44
Ky.					7.80		9.80	1.14	1.42
Tenn.					7.90		9.50	1.08	1.26
Ala.					8.50		9.00	1.14	1.27
Miss.					9.20		9.90	1.30	1.35
E. S. Cent.					8.40		9.60	1.18	1.33
Ark.					11.50		12.00	1.34	1.43
La.					10.10		11.00	1.28	1.36
Okla.					11.10		12.90	1.34	1.56
Texas					11.60		12.50	1.35	1.46
W. S. Cent.					11.30		12.20	1.34	1.44
Mont.	340	275					13.50		1.69
Idaho	382	300					14.50		2/1.80
Wyo.	360	257					13.80		1.57
Colo.	351	259					14.50		1.74
N. Mex.	300	230					11.20		1.35
Ariz.	390	285					14.80		1.55
Utah	360	280					13.20		1.74
Nev.	330	250					14.00		2.00
Mount.	368	276					14.20		2/1.62
Wash.	430	330						1.90	2.00
Oreg.	388	313						1.77	1.83
Calif.	440	335						1.85	1.94
Pac.	436	333						1.85	1.94
U. S.	331	258	62.00	79.25	10.30	10.40	11.80	1.45	1.76

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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