farm labor

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SPRING WORK UNDERWAY AS WEATHER PERMITS

The Nation's farm labor force for the survey week of March 21-27 is estimated at 3,904,000 workers or about 5,000 fewer than a year earlier. The work force consisted of 3,073,000 farm operators and unpaid family members and 831,000 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 35.1 hours during the March survey week compared with 34.3 a month earlier. Farm operators worked an average of 37.9 hours, other unpaid family members 29.8, and hired hands, 33.1 hours during the week.

Light precipitation in the form of snow provided limited moisture to the winter wheat crop in the Great Plains. However, drying winds depleted top soil moisture in western parts of Kansas and Oklahoma. Grain crops in western Oklahoma and Texas badly need rain. In the Northern Plains, winter wheat and rye are greening, but cold weather and snow have halted development. Fall seedings in the Northwest are growing slowly, but fields in Southern California and Arizona are starting to head.

Seeding of spring grains is underway as far north as Pennsylvania and Illinois. Wet conditions in the South have restricted land preparation. Cold and snow have limited tillage activity and damaged some tobacco plants in the Middle Atlantic States. Field work is increasing in the Southern Corn Belt and in the West where conditions are dryer. However, in the extremely dry South Texas area planting is behind a year ago.

Corn planting was underway in the Deep South and cotton planting activity was in full swing in Texas, California, and Arizona. Texas and Louisiana's rice seedings are ahead of last year. Potatoes were being seeded in the Middle Atlantic States and in Washington State.

Cold dry weather is causing erratic blooming of Florida citrus. Citrus picking is active in Texas and Arizona but rains have curtailed activities in California's orchards and vineyards. Frost nipped some peach orchards in the South. Peach buds were swelling as far north as Maryland.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
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Florida vegetable shipments remain steady, with most commodities except melons available. The March 21st frost damaged some corn and beans in northern areas. Irrigated spring vegetables are growing well in South Texas, but dryland crops are suffering from drought. Onion pulling increased in the Lower Valley. Arizona cantaloupes made good growth in the Yuma area; with lettuce harvest active in the Salt River Valley. California growers were busy planting sweet corn and tomatoes. Wet fields slowed vegetable seeding in the South and Pacific Northwest. Some spinach was cut in west Arkansas, and some strawberries picked in Louisiana.

Farm Wage Rates

Farm operators reported that wage rates on April 1, 1971 were up 5 percent from a year earlier. The average cash rate per hour without board and room rose to $1.76 from $1.66 on April 1, 1970. Monthly, weekly, and daily rates were up similarly. The seasonally adusted national average index reached 1,157 on the 1910-14=100 base and 137 on the 1967 base. This is an increase of 6 percent.

Alaska Farm Wage Rates

Wage rates reported for farm workers in Alaska were: per month with house $430; per month with board and room $330; per day without board and room $20; and per hour with board and room $2.30. Alaska has about 200 hired farm workers.

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 nours 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 survwy week.

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

Item	Annual average 1969	Annual average 1970	March 23-29, 1969	March 22-28, 1970	March 21-27, 1971
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,595.8	4,522.6	3,983.8	3,908.8	3,904.3
Family labor	3,419.4	3,348.1	3,177.2	3,079.3	3,073.4
Hired labor	1,176.4	1,174.5	806.6	829.5	830.9
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	34	33	35	34	34
Family labor	34	33	34	33	33
Hired labor	35	35	35	37	37
(1967=100)					
Total	94	92	94	93	93
Family labor	94	92	94	92	92
Hired labor	92	92	92	97	97

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, 1971, United States

Item	Annual average 1970	April 1, 1969	April 1, 1970	April 1, 1971
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.42	$ 1.21	$ 1.29	$ 1.36
Per month with house	328	297	319	331
Per month with board and room	251	228	245	258
Per week with board and room	60.75	54.25	59.25	62.00
Per week without board or room	78.00	70.00	76.50	79.25
Per day with house	9.80	8.70	9.60	10.30
Per day with board and room	10.70	9.20	9.90	10.40
Per day without board or room	11.70	10.30	11.30	11.80
Per hour with house	1.50	1.34	1.40	1.45
Per hour without board or room	1.64	1.59	1.66	1.76
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,092	1,029	1,096	1,157
(1967=100)	129	121	129	137

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

Workers on Farms, March 1971 1/

State and division	March 1969 Week of 23-29			March 1970 Week of 22-28			March 1971 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	16.7	12	4.7	16	11	5.0	16.3	11	5.3
N. H.	6.1	4.2	1.9	5.9	4.3	1.6	5.4	3.9	1.5
Vt.	14.3	11	3.3	14.3	11	3.3	14.2	11	3.2
Mass.	12.9	9.0	3.9	13.1	8.9	4.2	13.5	9.2	4.3
R. I.	2.1	1.3	.8	1.8	1.2	.6	1.9	1.3	.6
Conn.	10	7.4	2.6	9.9	7.0	2.9	10	6.9	3.1
N. Eng.	62.1	44.9	17.2	61	43.4	17.6	61.3	43.3	18
N. Y.	87	67	20	85	68	17	82	65	17
N. J.	14	9.0	5.0	13	8.0	5.0	14	9.0	5.0
Pa.	107	96	11	108	96	12	104	93	11
M. Atl.	208	172	36	206	172	34	200	167	33
Ohio	150	138	12	135	125	10	134	125	9.0
Ind.	121	113	8.0	119	112	7.0	120	113	7.0
Ill.	145	124	21	142	121	21	138	119	19
Mich.	121	107	14	124	108	16	123	106	17
Wis.	190	174	16	186	170	16	178	162	16
E. N. Cent.	727	656	71	706	636	70	693	625	68
Minn.	154	145	9.0	147	137	10	146	137	9.0
Iowa	185	174	11	183	172	11	176	165	11
Mo.	172	154	18	160	144	16	171	151	20
N. Dak.	50	46	4.0	48	44	4.0	47	43	4.0
S. Dak.	59	56	3.0	47	43	4.0	60	57	3.0
Nebr.	97	90	7.0	95	87	8.0	90	83	7.0
Kans.	96	89	7.0	99	91	8.0	100	91	9.0
W. N. Cent.	813	754	59	779	718	61	790	727	63
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	30	24	6.0
Va.	98	82	16	102	84	18	98	80	18
W. Va.	33	29	4.0	31	28	3.0	29	26	3.0
N. C.	178	156	22	172	150	22	174	150	24
S. C.	66	51	15	65	49	16	61	45	16
Ga.	92	73	19	90	72	18	88	70	18
Fla.	125	33	92	123	35	88	119	31	88
S. Atl.	627	452	175	618	446	172	604	430	174
Ky.	129	108	21	120	102	18	121	102	19
Tenn.	124	106	18	120	102	18	126	107	19
Ala.	75	59	16	69	55	14	67	53	14
Miss. 2/	116	92	24	128	101	27	135	104	31
E. S. Cent.	444	365	79	437	360	77	449	366	83
Ark.	118	80	38	121	75	46	130	81	49
La.	76	52	24	67	47	20	68	44	24
Okla.	115	107	8.0	114	105	9.0	120	112	8.0
Texas	234	182	52	231	168	63	237	180	57
W. S. Cent.	543	421	122	533	395	138	555	417	138
Mont.	34	27	7.0	33	27	6.0	35	29	6.0
Idaho	35	30	5.0	38	30	8.0	35	30	5.0
Wyo.	12	9.0	3.0	12	9.0	3.0	11	8.0	3.0
Colo.	42	33	9.0	37	30	7.0	41	32	9.0
N. Mex.	18	13	5.0	19	14	5.0	17	12	5.0
Ariz.	39	7.0	32	37	6.0	31	37	6.0	31
Utah	20	15	5.0	19	15	4.0	18	14	4.0
Nev.	3.7	2.3	1.4	3.8	1.9	1.9	4.0	2.1	1.9
Mount.	203.7	136.3	67.4	198.8	132.9	65.9	198	133.1	64.9
Wash.	72	52	20	73	51	22	67	49	18
Oreg.	60	50	10	63	51	12	60	49	11
Calif.	224	74	150	234	74	160	227	67	160
Pac.	356	176	180	370	176	194	354	165	189
U. S.	3,983.8	3,177.2	806.6	3,908.8	3,079.3	829.5	3,904.3	3,073.4	830.9

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month. 2/ Mississippi corrected annual average on total workers and hired workers 1970, Farm Labor Report March 1971 (In thousands) Total 133, Hired 32.

FARM WORK: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of March 21-27, 1971				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours				
Maine	43.0	31.9	40.1	34.5	37.8
N. H.	46.1	35.6	44.3	40.0	42.7
Vt.	61.9	30.9	50.4	43.6	48.3
Mass.	52.4	40.0	48.3	34.0	41.9
R. I.	41.0	21.0	33.5	41.7	35.7
Conn.	48.5	36.0	44.7	40.4	43.5
N. Eng.	50.1	33.9	44.9	37.7	42.4
N. Y.	50.3	31.8	44.6	36.5	42.1
N. J.	33.5	29.3	32.4	25.2	31.1
Pa.	44.7	29.0	40.2	31.7	38.5
M. Atl.	46.3	30.2	41.5	33.2	39.5
Ohio	35.7	30.0	34.2	31.3	33.8
Ind.	34.8	27.5	33.4	23.2	31.9
Ill.	34.5	30.1	33.9	31.2	33.5
Mich.	39.4	33.7	38.1	29.0	35.8
Wis.	52.3	28.1	41.2	32.4	39.8
E. N. Cent.	39.3	29.8	36.1	30.1	35.3
Minn.	41.5	28.0	37.5	31.9	36.9
Iowa	45.3	27.5	40.8	30.1	39.2
Mo.	38.7	34.6	37.8	34.5	37.1
N. Dak.	36.4	31.0	35.0	36.7	35.2
S. Dak.	43.5	30.5	40.0	32.5	39.3
Nebr.	39.9	31.0	37.9	32.2	37.3
Kans.	40.2	33.3	38.8	31.4	37.6
W. N. Cent.	41.2	30.7	38.5	32.7	37.7
Del.	38.5	22.5	34.8	45.2	38.6
Md.	43.6	33.1	40.4	33.9	38.6
Va.	36.8	30.2	35.4	34.5	35.0
W. Va.	33.0	28.0	31.9	26.5	31.0
N. C.	31.8	28.0	31.0	26.7	29.6
S. C.	32.8	28.2	32.1	28.8	30.7
Ga.	33.2	29.8	32.4	29.0	31.1
Fla.	34.3	25.2	32.8	28.9	30.0
S. Atl.	33.8	28.6	32.7	29.4	31.5
Ky.	32.3	30.5	32.0	24.3	29.7
Tenn.	29.8	27.8	29.4	26.8	28.8
Ala.	26.7	26.2	26.6	28.8	27.2
Miss.	32.0	26.7	30.7	24.3	27.1
E. S. Cent.	30.4	28.0	29.9	25.6	28.3
Ark.	34.9	29.1	33.5	33.0	33.3
La.	30.1	29.3	30.0	34.1	31.6
Okla.	37.9	29.5	35.8	30.8	35.0
Texas	40.3	29.0	37.8	39.4	38.4
W. S. Cent.	37.4	29.2	35.5	35.7	35.6
Mont.	43.0	32.5	39.9	42.9	40.5
Idaho	38.3	25.5	34.3	26.8	33.0
Wyo.	49.0	34.1	45.6	45.1	45.5
Colo.	46.8	32.4	43.6	39.4	42.7
N. Mex.	42.1	30.5	39.3	62.7	45.9
Ariz.	48.7	37.8	46.9	44.5	45.4
Utah	38.4	24.9	34.7	28.0	33.1
Nev.	35.8	26.1	33.2	42.7	36.3
Mount.	42.8	30.1	39.4	42.6	40.5
Wash.	39.0	35.8	38.3	35.7	37.3
Oreg.	35.0	29.5	33.5	29.5	32.3
Calif.	41.5	39.1	40.9	36.0	37.3
Pac.	38.9	35.3	38.0	35.6	36.5
U. S.	37.9	29.8	35.7	33.1	35.1

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, 1971 1/

State and division	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour		Com- posite 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		
					Dollars						Percent
Maine	330	260	71.00	90.00			15.00		1.75	1.51	862
N. H.	360	270	75.00	95.00			16.00		1.87	1.60	1,122
Vt.	350	265	69.00	95.00			15.50		1.95	1.59	1,104
Mass.	395	295	75.00	100.00			16.50		1.95	1.67	1,148
R. I.	380	290	75.00	100.00			16.50		2.00	1.68	1,215
Conn.	385	290	80.00	98.00			16.50		2.00	1.68	1,222
N. Eng.	363	276	73.50	95.50			15.80		1.90	1.61	1,105
N. Y.	363	251	70.75	94.00			14.70		1.87	1.38	943
N. J.	370	270	69.00	90.00			15.00		1.87	1.39	1,087
Pa.	318	241	63.50	80.00			12.40		1.65	1.22	1,096
M. Atl.	348	250	68.00	88.50			13.90		1.79	1.33	1,020
Ohio	306	225				10.40	12.50		1.63	1.10	971
Ind.	294	232				10.80	13.90		1.76	1.16	1,058
Ill.	350	262				12.40	15.10		1.83	1.28	1,073
Mich.	400	290					16.00		1.85	1.36	1,128
Wis.	365	270				11.30	14.60		1.81	1.28	1,007
E. N. Cent.	353	262				11.80	14.70		1.80	1.26	1,064
Minn.	341	277				12.10	14.60		1.78	1.32	937
Iowa	383	305				13.30	16.40		1.84	1.44	983
Mo.	284	212				10.10	12.90		1.65	1.13	1,134
N. Dak.	333	268				11.90	14.50		1.64	1.27	800
S. Dak.	*327*	*261*				*10.60*	*13.20*		*1.56*	*1.20*	*800*
Nebr.	387	290				12.00	14.60		1.75	1.35	1,002
Kans.	348	262				11.20	14.10		1.68	1.27	1,151
W. N. Cent.	344	263				11.50	14.30		1.71	1.28	977
Del.	260						12.00		1.51	1.25	1,258
Md.	270	190	57.00	72.00			12.70		1.63	1.33	1,476
Va.					9.40		10.90	1.19	1.41	1.10	1,328
W. Va.							9.60		1.30	1.00	873
N. Car.					9.60		11.00	1.19	1.38	1.10	1,377
S. Car.					8.30		9.20	1.11	1.26	.97	1,402
Ga.					9.00		10.10	1.17	1.35	1.04	1,289
Fla.					10.50		10.50	1.25	1.50	1.13	1,251
S. Atl.					9.90		10.50	1.22	1.44	1.10	1,345
Ky.					7.80		9.80	1.14	1.42	.95	1,070
Tenn.					7.90		9.50	1.08	1.26	.93	1,074
Ala.					8.50		9.00	1.14	1.27	.93	1,133
Miss.					9.20		9.90	1.30	1.35	1.01	1,193
E. S. Cent.					8.40		9.60	1.18	1.33	.96	1,127
Ark.					11.50		12.00	1.34	1.43	1.24	1,273
La.					10.10		11.00	1.28	1.36	1.14	1,300
Okla.					*11.10*		*12.90*	1.34	*1.56*	1.29	*1,091*
Texas					11.60		12.50	1.35	1.46	1.27	1,152
W. S. Cent.					11.30		12.20	1.34	1.44	1.24	1,207
Mont.	340	275					13.50		1.69	1.33	735
Idaho	382	300					14.50		1.95	1.48	911
Wyo.	360	257					13.80		1.57	1.30	734
Colo.	351	259					14.50		1.74	1.36	985
N. Mex.	300	230					11.20		1.35	1.11	1,006
Ariz.	390	285					14.80		1.55	1.38	978
Utah	360	280					13.20		1.74	1.35	907
Nev.	330	250					14.00		2.00	1.39	809
Mount.	368	276					14.20		1.64	1.36	905
Wash.	430	330						1.90	2.00	1.93	962
Oreg.	388	313						1.77	1.83	1.77	891
Calif.	440	335						1.85	1.94	1.89	899
Pac.	436	333						1.85	1.94	1.88	901
U. S.	331	258	62.00	79.25	10.30	10.40	11.80	1.45	1.76	1.36	1,157

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, 1970 1/

State and division	Per month				Per week				Per day				Per hour		Com- posite rate per hour	Indexes of composite rate 1910-14=100
	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															Percent
Maine	305	240	59.00	90.00			15.00						1.70	1.46	936	
N. H.	330	255	66.00	89.00			15.50						1.86	1.53	1,072	
Vt.	325	255	65.00	86.00			15.00						1.84	1.50	1,038	
Mass.	360	265	69.00	96.00			15.70						1.86	1.58	1,088	
R. I.	360	265	67.00	96.00			15.70						1.86	1.58	1,141	
Conn.	350	265	67.00	96.00			15.70						1.86	1.58	1,145	
N. Eng.	334	255	64.75	91.75			15.40						1.81	1.53	1,051	
N. Y.	353	230	68.50	90.25			13.50						1.70	1.30	884	
N. J.	370	270	69.00	88.00			15.00						1.85	1.38	1,079	
Pa.	309	233	64.00	78.25			13.10						1.57	1.20	1,072	
M. Atl.	342	236	67.25	86.25			13.60						1.68	1.28	980	
Ohio	287	210				9.50	12.10						1.53	1.04	914	
Ind.	292	217				10.40	13.20						1.65	1.10	1,003	
Ill.	335	255				11.70	14.60						1.74	1.23	1,032	
Mich.	382	273				12.00	14.40						1.76	1.29	1,064	
Wis.	351	253				10.90	13.50						1.74	1.21	953	
E. N. Cent.	335	246				11.10	13.70						1.70	1.19	1,005	
Minn.	340	254				11.10	13.50						1.65	1.23	876	
Iowa	380	305				13.30	15.80						1.75	1.40	960	
Mo.	275	205				9.70	12.40						1.52	1.07	1,076	
N. Dak.	310	253				10.90	13.70						1.56	1.19	754	
S. Dak.	313	245				10.60	13.10						1.51	1.16	774	
Nebr.	374	284				12.10	15.00						1.70	1.34	990	
Kans.	334	257				11.10	13.70						1.62	1.23	1,117	
W. N. Cent.	328	252				11.20	13.80						1.62	1.22	937	
Del.	260						11.30						1.47	1.20	1,212	
Md.	265	180	56.00	70.00			12.00						1.55	1.26	1,400	
Va.					9.00		10.40	1.13					1.35	1.05	1,267	
W. Va.							9.00						1.21	.93	814	
N. C.					9.10		10.60	1.16					1.32	1.06	1,323	
S. C.					7.80		8.70	1.03					1.19	.91	1,320	
Ga.					8.20		9.20	1.09					1.27	.96	1,188	
Fla.					10.50		11.10	1.30					1.36	1.13	1,258	
S. Atl.					9.60		10.60	1.22					1.33	1.08	1,318	
Ky.					7.10		9.10	1.05					1.31	.88	986	
Tenn.					7.30		8.90	1.01					1.19	.86	1,003	
Ala.					7.60		8.60	1.01					1.18	.86	1,052	
Miss.					8.20		9.30	1.20					1.25	.93	1,096	
E. S. Cent.					7.60		9.00	1.08					1.24	.89	1,038	
Ark.					11.00		11.70	1.27					1.33	1.19	1,219	
La.					9.40		9.80	1.19					1.27	1.04	1,193	
Okla.					11.00		12.30	1.35					1.47	1.24	1,056	
Texas					10.90		11.90	1.24					1.38	1.20	1,087	
W. S. Cent.					10.60		11.40	1.25					1.35	1.17	1,134	
Mont.	325	260					13.00						1.60	1.27	699	
Idaho	374	294					14.20						1.66	1.39	856	
Wyo.	350	255					13.60						1.57	1.29	726	
Colo.	335	249					13.80						1.63	1.29	936	
N. Mex.	290	210					11.00						1.40	1.08	985	
Ariz.	388	270					13.50						1.50	1.29	914	
Utah	340	270					12.40						1.63	1.28	858	
Nev.	320	220					12.00						1.50	1.17	682	
Mount.	359	262					13.20						1.54	1.29	858	
Wash.	430	325								1.85			1.90	1.85	919	
Oreg.	370	290								1.70			1.72	1.67	838	
Calif.	430	325								1.78			1.85	1.81	863	
Pac.	426	323								1.78			1.85	1.80	862	
U. S.	319	245	59.25	76.50	9.60	9.90	11.30	1.40					1.66	1.29	1,096	

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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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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