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Farm Labor

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WORKER NUMBERS 4 PERCENT UNDER SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR
WAGE RATES CONTINUE MODERATE ADVANCE

Harvest timing and the daily weather were largely responsible for the size and deployment of the active working force on the Nation's farms in late September. There was much doing on farms in most areas, especially where cotton harvest was the main seasonal job. The total number of workers employed in the farm labor survey week of September 23-29 of 8,471,000 generally sufficed, despite local exceptions. This number was 4 percent under last year's former record low for this period. September usually has the peak employment among the monthly survey periods.

Rather consistent decreases by geographic regions from last year's estimates of both farm family workers and hired workers were indicated in the current September survey. Farm family workers totaled 5,782,000--a decrease of 3 percent from September 1961. Hired farm employment during the week included 2,689,000 persons, 5 percent less than a year earlier.

Compared with last year, worker numbers, both family and hired, showed largest decreases in the Northeast, (East North Central, Mid-Atlantic, and New England) and South Atlantic geographic regions. The eastern half of the Nation had some unseasonably cool weather and widespread rainfall, although crop damage was light. The peak of employment on tobacco was earlier this year. Also, rains in South Atlantic and some central areas caused some delays in cotton harvest, which generally was well advanced for the date. In contrast, the lateness of harvest work in some parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, and other West North Central States upheld the total of workers in these areas and caused sizable increases in the number of hired workers as compared with September last year. Detailed comparisons of estimates by States and areas on pages 4 and 5 reflect many other results of the shifting forces of weather and work needs.

October Wage Rates Above Last Year
Longtime Workers Rates Gain Most

The index of farm wage rates on October 1, 1962, seasonally adjusted, gained 4 percent over a year earlier. The index, which reached 658 (based on 1910-14=100), derives from a composite rate per hour of $.868, highest farm wage level of record for October 1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service
Crop Reporting Board
La 1 (10-62)
Washington, D.C.

Among the rates for the different hiring arrangements, as shown on pages 6 and 7, the largest increases over last year were made by workers at monthly and weekly rates. Monthly workers' cash wages rose about 5 percent while reports for hourly workers, without board and room, showed an average gain of only 2 percent. Strong demand for dependable longtime workers on highly productive commercial farms has been widely reported. The wage rates are averages paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for the hiring arrangements specified and do not include values of any perquisites furnished.

Drive to Finish Fall Harvest Increases

An early cold snap in September gave many of the Nation's farmers a stiff warning of winter's approach, spurring on the usual drive to complete fall harvests as soon as possible. Geographically the work ranged from the intensive harvest of potatoes in Aroostook County, Maine, to the picking of avocados and lemons in San Diego County, California. Most silos on livestock farms were already well packed with winter stores of chopped corn or other forage. Corn harvesting for grain gained speed in Gulf and Southeastern States as farmers finished work on cotton, peanuts, or other crops. Corn pickers and picker-shellers also were well started in most sections of the Corn Belt. Soybean harvest ranged from just starting in some areas to past the half-way mark in Illinois, the leading soybean State. Harvest of sorghum grain was over half completed in Texas but less than a tenth done in Kansas and Nebraska. Cotton harvest was more than half completed in the Southeast by October 1, and 40 percent finished in Mississippi, but only well started in Arizona and in California, where the crop is late. For the United States, about 32 percent of the crop was ginned by October 1, compared with 18.7 percent in 1961 and with a 5-year average of 28.8 percent.

Apple harvest made rapid progress in New York, New England, and other eastern sections but progressed slowly in Washington, as the crop awaited better coloring.

Work toward good crops next year also made progress. Seeding of winter grains for 1963 was well along by the end of September with generally good starts promised by September rainfall. Two-thirds of the winter wheat acreage had been seeded in Kansas, nine-tenths in Nebraska, and well over half in the remainder of the Central Great Plains. Fall plowing in the Corn Belt and seedings and other preparations for next year's crops generally were up to normal stages.

Farm employment and indexes, September 1962, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1961	Annual average 1960	Annual average 1956-60 1/	Sept. average 1956-60 1/	Sept. 20-26 1961	Sept. 23-29 1962
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total	6,990	7,118	7,485	9,493	8,796	8,471
Family labor	5,104	5,249	5,572	6,617	5,969	5,782
Hired labor	1,886	1,869	1,913	2,876	2,827	2,689
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	52	52	55	53	49	48
Family labor	50	52	55	53	48	47
Hired labor	55	55	56	53	52	49
(1957-59=100)						
Total	94	95	99	95	89	85
Family labor	91	94	100	97	87	85
Hired labor	96	96	98	93	91	86

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, October 1, 1962, United States

	Annual average 1961	October average 1956-60	Oct. 1, 1961	Oct. 1, 1962
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.834	$ 0.783	$ 0.843	$ 0.868
Per month with house	$195.00	$174.00	$189.00	$198.00
Per month with board and room	151.00	138.00	148.00	155.00
Per week with board and room	35.75	34.00	35.75	37.25
Per week without board and room	46.50	41.75	44.00	46.00
Per day with house	5.30	5.00	5.50	5.70
Per day with board and room	6.50	5.90	6.30	6.50
Per day without board or room	6.60	6.50	7.00	7.20
Per hour with house	.90	.95	1.03	1.04
Per hour without board or room	.99	.87	.93	.95
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	642	585	635	658
(1957-59=100)	110	101	109	113

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

Workers on Farms, September 1962

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	September average 1956-60 1/			September 1961 Week of 17 - 23			September 1962 Week of 23 - 29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	206	110	96	179	94	85	169	92	77
New York	219	131	88	195	123	72	184	117	67
New Jersey	67	34	33	53	31	22	48	30	18
Pennsylvania	242	183	59	211	165	46	193	152	41
Middle Atlantic	528	348	180	459	319	140	425	299	126
Ohio	283	220	63	266	200	66	251	197	54
Indiana	246	198	48	226	175	51	204	163	41
Illinois	282	223	59	257	204	53	257	203	54
Michigan	244	191	53	230	177	53	211	162	49
Wisconsin	321	269	52	291	242	49	281	237	44
East North Central	1,376	1,101	275	1,270	998	272	1,204	962	242
Minnesota	303	251	52	279	236	43	278	229	49
Iowa	318	272	46	314	272	42	310	260	50
Missouri	393	305	88	346	281	65	343	267	76
North Dakota	124	92	32	107	84	23	119	84	35
South Dakota	113	96	17	104	88	16	101	85	16
Nebraska	171	146	25	174	144	30	167	139	28
Kansas	189	162	27	173	149	24	166	141	25
West North Central	1,611	1,324	287	1,497	1,254	243	1,484	1,205	279
Delaware	18	9	9	15	7	8	15	8	7
Maryland	74	49	25	63	45	18	67	46	21
Virginia	243	170	73	245	172	73	207	151	56
West Virginia	90	76	14	82	69	13	74	65	9
North Carolina	580	471	109	538	422	116	493	398	95
South Carolina	291	224	67	249	178	71	263	189	74
Georgia	302	219	83	262	181	81	230	164	66
Florida	107	62	45	105	55	50	100	50	50
South Atlantic	1,705	1,280	425	1,559	1,129	430	1,449	1,071	378
Kentucky	291	226	65	321	237	84	266	204	62
Tennessee	357	261	96	318	233	85	325	242	83
Alabama	288	207	81	220	159	61	234	157	77
Mississippi	527	368	159	453	278	175	452	287	165
East South Central	1,463	1,062	401	1,312	907	405	1,277	890	387
Arkansas	344	192	152	304	146	158	297	146	151
Louisiana	266	149	117	276	142	134	248	137	111
Oklahoma	209	148	61	190	134	56	181	126	55
Texas	614	320	294	643	305	338	637	294	343
West South Central	1,433	809	624	1,413	727	686	1,363	703	660
Montana	61	47	14	53	42	11	60	45	15
Idaho	86	57	29	88	57	31	84	58	26
Colorado	94	61	33	91	51	40	86	56	30
N.Mex.-Ariz.	132	41	91	96	37	59	95	36	59
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	84	57	27	76	52	24	76	51	25
Mountain	457	263	194	404	239	165	401	246	155
Washington	128	83	45	115	77	38	113	77	36
Oregon	103	68	35	97	67	30	103	66	37
California	483	169	314	491	158	333	483	171	312
Pacific	714	320	394	703	302	401	699	314	385
UNITED STATES	9,493	6,617	2,876	8,796	5,969	2,827	8,471	5,782	2,689

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

Workers on farms: Comparative estimates, annual average 1961, July and August 1962

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average 1961			July 1962 Week of 22-28			August 1962 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	143	88	55	171	98	73	165	89	76
New York	160	105	55	172	107	65	188	106	82
New Jersey	44	27	17	52	26	26	54	29	25
Pennsylvania	185	152	33	197	163	34	208	167	41
Middle Atlantic	389	284	105	421	296	125	450	302	148
Ohio	242	206	36	262	212	50	246	197	49
Indiana	213	187	26	226	192	34	213	182	31
Illinois	246	197	49	275	212	63	233	180	53
Michigan	217	175	42	257	187	70	245	187	58
Wisconsin	273	244	29	303	270	33	310	270	40
East North Central	1,191	1,009	182	1,323	1,073	250	1,247	1,016	231
Minnesota	262	225	37	368	271	97	315	251	64
Iowa	289	252	37	361	271	90	320	260	60
Missouri	269	232	37	303	248	55	321	251	70
North Dakota	87	70	17	127	84	43	132	93	39
South Dakota	89	78	11	107	85	22	116	90	26
Nebraska	157	132	25	194	153	41	179	138	41
Kansas	154	130	24	189	141	48	184	139	45
West North Central	1,307	1,119	188	1,649	1,253	396	1,567	1,222	345
Delaware	12	7	5	16	8	8	18	9	9
Maryland	56	38	18	74	44	30	74	46	28
Virginia	203	149	54	243	136	107	234	152	82
West Virginia	69	56	13	74	61	13	76	62	14
North Carolina	413	309	104	693	379	314	629	422	207
South Carolina	190	124	66	235	132	103	228	145	83
Georgia	175	127	48	165	115	50	189	132	57
Florida	104	46	58	73	39	34	86	43	43
South Atlantic	1,222	856	366	1,573	914	659	1,534	1,011	523
Kentucky	236	190	46	254	173	81	284	191	93
Tennessee	236	188	48	205	152	53	236	172	64
Alabama	142	109	33	114	90	24	131	98	33
Mississippi	246	182	64	208	165	43	277	214	63
East South Central	860	669	191	781	580	201	928	675	253
Arkansas	203	118	85	195	89	106	228	106	122
Louisiana	156	92	64	134	71	63	173	88	85
Oklahoma	165	129	36	155	104	51	163	103	60
Texas	444	250	194	492	242	250	527	260	267
West South Central	968	589	379	976	506	470	1,091	557	534
Montana	48	37	11	61	37	24	61	41	20
Idaho	68	48	20	94	57	37	91	58	33
Colorado	68	49	19	86	52	34	92	64	28
N.Mex.-Ariz.	85	31	54	84	32	52	83	32	51
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	57	40	17	71	45	26	70	47	23
Mountain	326	205	121	396	223	173	397	242	155
Washington	111	74	37	170	96	74	153	89	64
Oregon	95	68	27	132	70	62	118	68	50
California	378	143	235	370	134	236	410	138	272
Pacific	584	285	299	672	300	372	681	295	386
UNITED STATES	6,990	5,104	1,886	7,962	5,243	2,719	8,060	5,409	2,651

Farm Wage Rates October 1, 1961 1/

State and region	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		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	197.00	145.00	38.00	56.00	-	-	10.10	-	1.17	1.00	587
N.H.	217.00	157.00	45.00	59.00	-	-	9.60	-	1.17	1.02	674
Vt.	207.00	160.00	40.00	54.00	-	-	9.40	-	1.17	.989	638
Mass.	232.00	159.00	47.00	62.00	-	-	10.70	-	1.28	1.11	724
R.I.	234.00	159.00	47.00	64.00	-	-	10.90	-	1.25	1.11	769
Conn.	234.00	159.00	47.00	64.00	-	-	11.10	-	1.34	1.15	776
New Eng.	211.00	152.00	41.50	58.25	-	-	10.30	-	1.22	1.04	670
N.Y.	215.00	147.00	39.00	54.75	-	-	9.30	-	1.17	.929	577
N.J.	225.00	160.00	41.50	56.50	-	-	9.90	-	1.17	.952	673
Pa.	188.00	134.00	34.75	46.75	-	-	8.30	-	1.07	.837	668
Mid. Atl.	208.00	145.00	38.00	52.50	-	-	9.10	-	1.14	.903	625
Ohio	176.00	127.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.60	-	1.09	.872	606
Ind.	185.00	137.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.40	-	1.08	.877	634
Ill.	198.00	153.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.40	-	1.13	.935	648
Mich.	215.00	150.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.90	-	1.10	.916	616
Wis.	205.00	150.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.90	-	1.10	.912	579
E.N.Cent.	195.00	143.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.80	-	1.10	.901	613
Minn.	189.00	149.00	-	-	-	8.00	10.00	-	1.13	.888	562
Iowa	206.00	165.00	-	-	-	8.40	10.30	-	1.16	.930	573
Mo.	159.00	115.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.90	-	1.02	.755	681
N.Dak.	191.00	163.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.10	-	1.04	.849	469
S.Dak.	192.00	153.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.10	-	1.07	.851	521
Nebr.	213.00	164.00	-	-	-	8.00	9.90	-	1.15	.920	619
Kans.	200.00	155.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.80	-	1.15	.903	729
W.N.Cent.	188.00	146.00	-	-	-	7.50	9.30	-	1.10	.858	598
Del.	-	-	-	-	7.00	-	8.80	-	1.00	.930	853
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.50	-	8.10	-	1.06	.926	935
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.70	-	.86	.739	789
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	5.60	-	.77	.653	508
N.C.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	6.00	-	.74	.653	744
S.C.	-	-	-	-	3.75	-	4.35	-	.55	.480	649
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	4.90	-	.66	.560	617
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.40	-	.84	.724	746
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.80	-	.75	.646	719
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	6.50	-	.90	.828	640
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	5.00	-	.66	.619	543
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.20	-	4.55	-	.61	.577	561
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.25	-	.53	.509	488
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.20	-	4.90	-	.65	.609	551
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.50	-	6.10	-	.74	.719	611
La.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.40	-	.66	.641	619
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.40	-	8.80	-	1.02	.997	705
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.30	-	6.90	-	.81	.793	612
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	6.60	-	.78	.762	624
Mont.	224.00	177.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.16	.991	490
Idaho	252.00	201.00	-	-	-	-	10.40	-	1.22	1.07	599
Wyo.	234.00	167.00	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	1.16	.991	500
Colo.	229.00	164.00	-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.15	.985	638
N.Mex.	188.00	136.00	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.87	.761	625
Ariz.	253.00	175.00	-	-	-	-	8.60	-	1.01	.912	620
Utah	233.00	202.00	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	1.25	1.06	653
Nev.	260.00	180.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.20	1.03	529
Mount.	235.00	175.00	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.11	.965	593
Wash.	276.00	212.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.25	1.32	1.29	628
Oreg.	260.00	197.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.22	1.24	1.21	598
Calif.	303.00	230.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.21	1.29	1.27	586
Pac.	297.00	226.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.21	1.29	1.26	594
U. S.	189.00	148.00	35.75	44.00	5.50	6.30	7.00	1.03	.93	.843	635

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 October 1, 1962 1/

State and region	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	Without board and room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	205.00	155.00	40.00	55.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.17	1.05	613
N.H.	225.00	168.00	45.00	62.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.21	1.10	727
Vt.	208.00	162.00	40.00	56.00	-	-	9.70	-	1.18	1.04	675
Mass.	248.00	168.00	48.00	67.00	-	-	10.80	-	1.32	1.19	779
R.I.	248.00	168.00	48.00	68.00	-	-	10.90	-	1.28	1.18	820
Conn.	248.00	170.00	48.00	68.00	-	-	11.00	-	1.36	1.22	831
New Eng.	221.00	161.00	43.00	59.75	-	-	10.40	-	1.23	1.10	714
N. Y.	218.00	153.00	41.00	56.75	-	-	9.40	-	1.18	.950	590
N. J.	225.00	165.00	46.00	57.50	-	-	10.10	-	1.19	.980	700
Pa.	198.00	137.00	37.50	49.25	-	-	8.60	-	1.10	.871	688
Mid. Atl.	212.00	149.00	40.50	54.50	-	-	9.20	-	1.16	.928	643
Ohio	175.00	130.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.60	-	1.10	.881	612
Ind.	184.00	137.00	-	-	-	6.70	8.30	-	1.10	.887	640
Ill.	209.00	161.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.90	-	1.16	.968	670
Mich.	218.00	151.00	-	-	-	7.20	9.10	-	1.11	.924	621
Wis.	209.00	151.00	--	--	-	7.10	9.10	-	1.13	.933	592
E.N.Cent.	199.00	146.00	-	-	-	7.20	9.00	-	1.12	.919	626
Minn.	200.00	156.00	-	-	-	8.00	10.10	-	1.15	.909	575
Iowa	212.00	166.00	-	-	-	8.60	10.50	-	1.20	.954	588
Mo.	162.00	121.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.20	-	1.05	.780	703
N.Dak.	204.00	175.00	-	-	-	8.10	10.10	-	1.12	.918	513
S.Dak.	199.00	159.00	-	-	-	7.60	9.10	-	1.09	.870	527
Nebr.	224.00	174.00	-	-	-	8.40	10.50	-	1.19	.962	647
Kans.	214.00	167.00	-	-	-	8.10	10.10	-	1.18	.939	751
W.N.Cent.	196.00	154.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.60	-	1.13	.889	619
Del.	-	-	-	-	7.20	-	9.00	-	1.06	.992	910
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.70	-	8.40	-	1.06	.938	947
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.55	-	6.80	-	.86	.745	796
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	6.00	-	.80	.686	533
N. C.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	6.20	-	.76	.672	764
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.50	-	.54	.482	651
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.45	-	5.10	-	.68	.580	640
Fla.	-	-	-	-	6.10	-	6.50	-	.81	.718	733
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	5.10	-	6.00	-	.75	.657	731
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.65	-	6.10	-	.86	.789	605
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	5.10	-	.68	.637	564
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	4.85	-	.63	.597	586
Miss.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.60	-	.59	.562	549
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	5.00	-	.66	.621	566
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.50	-	.78	.759	645
La.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.50	-	.71	.681	664
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.70	-	8.60	-	1.02	.996	704
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.60	-	7.30	-	.84	.826	638
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	6.20	-	6.90	-	.82	.800	656
Mont.	233.00	188.00	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	1.20	1.02	506
Idaho	272.00	212.00	-	-	-	-	10.90	-	1.28	1.12	626
Wyo.	236.00	173.00	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.13	.976	492
Colo.	238.00	170.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	1.16	1.00	648
N.Mex.	198.00	138.00	-	-	-	-	7.70	-	.90	.786	646
Ariz.	281.00	185.00	-	-	-	-	8.90	-	1.01	.941	640
Utah	252.00	219.00	-	-	-	-	10.40	-	1.30	1.12	689
Nev.	270.00	190.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.25	1.06	546
Mount.	252.00	184.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.13	.994	605
Wash.	282.00	215.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.29	1.34	1.31	639
Oreg.	260.00	193.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.19	1.27	1.24	609
Calif.	320.00	240.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.22	1.30	1.28	598
Pac.	311.00	233.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.22	1.30	1.28	606
U. S.	198.00	155.00	37.25	46.00	5.70	6.50	7.20	1.04	.95	.868	658

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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