farm labor

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WORK FORCE LARGER THAN YEAR AGO

The Nation's farm labor force for the survey week of June 17-23, 1973 totaled 5,177,400 workers, 78,000 more than a year ago. The work force was made up of 3,545,100 operators and unpaid family members and 1,632,300 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 41.5 hours during the survey week compared with 40.0 hours last year and 41.9 hours during the May survey week. Farm operators worked 49.6 hours, other unpaid family members 36.3, and hired workers 35.0 hours.

Wages Continue To Climb

Farm wage rates rose to $2.02 per hour (without board or room) on July 1, 1973, an increase of 17 cents from last year. Wages paid by the month, week and day were also higher. The seasonally adjusted index of Farm Wage Rates was 156 on July 1, 1973, about 10 percent higher than a year ago.

Harvest Gains Momentum

Winter wheat harvest on the southern Great Plains gained momentum during the week of June 17-23. Good progress was made in Texas on the High and Low Plains but rains stopped combining elsewhere in the State. In Oklahoma, the wheat harvest moved briskly but combine shortages were developing. In Kansas, wheat harvest was active but progress was behind normal. Combining of small grains was active in the South when weather permitted and was in full swing in the Southwest.

Planting of corn was virtually complete in the Corn Belt although it had continued about 2 weeks later than usual in most States. Cultivation for weed control was active.

Soybean planting advanced in the Corn Belt. It was a good week with much planting accomplished in most areas. In the South, soybeans were 80 percent planted, somewhat behind last year's progress in most States.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
La 1 (7-73) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Planting of cotton was completed in most areas. The crop was generally in fair to good condition in the South with development ranging from fruiting on schedule in south Texas to early stages of squaring in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Georgia. In California, cotton is blooming with some bolls showing.

Cherry harvesting was active in Oregon despite a shortage of cherry pickers. Sweet cherry harvest was underway in Pennsylvania and New York. Tart cherries are turning color in southwest Michigan. Harvest of early type stone fruits continued active in California. Peach harvest became more active in the South. Valencia harvest in Florida remained active, but grapefruit harvest was near completion. In California, picking of valencia oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and avocadoes, continued. Harvest of strawberries and bush fruits was active in Northern areas of the United States.

Excessive rainfall damaged vegetable crops in South Carolina and lowered conditions in Georgia. Rain delayed harvest in extreme south Texas. Vegetable harvesting progressed normally in California and Arizona. Light harvest of some vegetables was getting underway in New York, Michigan and other northern vegetable producing States.

Cutting and baling hay was active in areas where weather permitted. Sorghum planting continued in Texas, Kansas, and Missouri. Planting of peanuts in Texas was ahead of last year. Rains delayed normal cultivation for Georgia peanuts.

Farm employment and indexes, June 1973, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1971	Annual average 1972	June 20-26, 1971	June 18-24, 1972	June 17-23, 1973
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,436.3	4,373.4	5,267.0	5,099.4	5,177.4
Family labor	3,275.1	3,227.7	3,590.2	3,491.2	3,545.1
Hired labor	1,161.2	1,145.7	1,676.8	1,608.2	1,632.3
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	33	32	33	32	33
Family labor	32	32	32	32	32
Hired labor	34	34	35	33	34
(1967=100)					
Total	92	89	90	88	89
Family labor	89	89	89	89	89
Hired labor	89	89	92	87	89

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, July 1, 1973, United States

Item	Annual average 1972	July 1, 1971	April 1, 1972	July 1, 1973
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.58	$ 1.44	$ 1.54	$ 1.69
Per month with house	361	348	369	409
Per month with board and room	280	260	276	313
Per week with board and room	67.80	66.50	70.25	77.00
Per week without board or room	85.50	84.50	89.75	101.00
Per day with house	11.20	10.20	11.00	12.00
Per day with board and room	12.00	11.50	12.40	13.60
Per day without board or room	13.20	12.10	13.10	14.40
Per hour with house	1.65	1.61	1.70	1.86
Per hour without board or room	1.84	1.75	1.85	2.02
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,215	1,128	1,203	1,321
(1967=100)	143	133	142	156

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.

Workers on Farms, June 1973

State	June 1971 week of 20-26			June 1972 week of 18-24			June 1973 week of 17-23		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	19.8	13	6.8	19	13	6.0	17.2	12	5.2
N.H.	6.7	4.4	2.3	5.7	3.9	1.8	5.2	3.5	1.7
Vt.	14.3	11	3.3	12.8	9.8	3.0	12.6	9.3	3.3
Mass.	20.6	11	9.6	17.5	9.7	7.8	17.6	10	7.6
R.I.	2.2	1.4	.8	1.8	1.0	.8	1.6	.9	.7
Conn.	14.5	7.5	7.0	15.5	7.8	7.7	15.4	7.6	7.8
N.Y.	109	76	33	100	73	27	106	74	32
N.J.	25	10	15	23	9.0	14	24	9.0	15
Pa.	138	112	26	120	102	18	125	107	18
Ohio	170	142	28	162	143	19	176	154	22
Ind.	150	130	20	157	136	21	173	148	25
Ill.	195	156	39	193	157	36	202	161	41
Mich.	147	117	30	148	117	31	148	118	30
Wis.	203	182	21	195	170	25	194	171	23
Minn.	234	183	51	228	177	51	222	178	44
Iowa	274	204	70	261	202	59	267	203	64
Mo.	220	174	46	205	164	41	213	166	47
N. Dak.	69	54	15	69	55	14	64	53	11
S. Dak.	80	66	14	70	58	12	72	60	12
Nebr.	140	112	28	140	109	31	136	106	30
Kans.	143	105	38	137	104	33	139	104	35
Del.	9.0	5.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	9.0	5.0	4.0
Md.	39	28	11	32	24	8.0	36	26	10
Va.	138	78	60	123	78	45	127	82	45
W. Va.	47	36	11	38	32	6.0	44	33	11
N. C.	277	182	95	252	168	84	232	162	70
S. C.	93	63	30	86	61	25	84	62	22
Ga.	98	76	22	97	75	22	97	79	18
Fla.	103	32	71	109	32	77	105	31	74
Ky.	181	128	53	182	131	51	199	139	60
Tenn.	167	121	46	174	126	48	171	123	48
Ala.	82	61	21	75	56	19	72	55	17
Miss.	130	95	35	121	88	33	117	86	31
Ark.	148	80	68	148	86	62	151	85	66
La.	79	47	32	79	47	32	81	45	36
Okla.	158	125	33	150	120	30	156	129	27
Texas	309	212	97	317	210	107	322	217	105
Mont.	51	32	19	52	31	21	47	28	19
Idaho	61	39	22	62	38	24	50	35	15
Wyo.	20	10	10	21	11	10	22	12	10
Colo.	69	39	30	66	38	28	76	41	35
N. Mex.	21	13	8.0	22	12	10	22	13	9.0
Ariz.	38	7.0	31	36	6.0	30	38	7.0	31
Utah	29	19	10	25	16	9.0	26	18	8.0
Nev.	5.9	2.9	3.0	6.1	3.0	3.1	5.8	2.8	3.0
Wash.	122	62	60	111	59	52	111	56	55
Oreg.	102	51	51	101	46	55	104	46	58
Calif.	315	75	240	327	72	255	342	72	270
U. S.	5,267.0	3,590.2	1,676.8	5,099.4	3,491.2	1,608.2	5,177.4	3,545.1	1,632.3

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker
Average for reporting farms, week of June 17-23, 1973

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
			Hours		
Maine	65.8	35.2	54.8	35.7	46.9
N. H.	64.9	31.4	54.8	40.3	48.7
Vt.	63.9	36.0	54.7	43.1	49.3
Mass.	63.9	36.0	52.6	41.3	47.5
R. I.	61.9	36.0	55.9	37.9	46.3
Conn.	62.2	37.2	52.6	38.6	47.4
N. Y.	60.8	34.5	50.8	36.9	45.8
N. J.	39.4	33.6	37.7	37.6	37.7
Pa.	52.7	33.0	45.6	33.1	42.6
Ohio	51.8	34.4	45.3	27.7	40.3
Ind.	49.2	34.5	44.5	25.4	39.2
Ill.	52.2	37.6	48.2	29.1	43.1
Mich.	51.0	36.8	46.5	35.8	43.5
Wis.	60.5	35.4	50.1	42.3	48.3
Minn.	61.1	36.4	51.6	29.8	46.9
Iowa	62.7	36.3	53.2	25.3	45.4
Mo.	51.5	36.2	47.3	37.4	44.3
N. Dak.	57.5	43.9	52.4	44.8	51.2
S. Dak.	60.7	39.9	53.3	36.3	50.0
Nebr.	60.2	40.9	53.4	38.4	49.7
Kans.	57.6	45.4	53.6	36.3	48.6
Del.	47.3	32.1	42.6	36.3	39.8
Md.	49.1	36.7	44.9	36.3	42.4
Va.	43.5	35.6	41.0	30.2	36.8
W. Va.	43.5	32.7	39.7	17.6	32.3
N. C.	37.2	33.0	35.8	34.2	35.2
S. C.	39.0	33.0	37.1	31.1	34.3
Ga.	41.6	33.3	39.1	30.3	35.5
Fla.	44.0	29.9	39.8	21.6	28.1
Ky.	41.8	35.7	39.7	22.4	31.9
Tenn.	38.0	30.9	36.0	21.3	30.8
Ala.	37.2	34.9	36.7	26.5	33.3
Miss.	37.8	31.4	36.0	36.0	36.0
Ark.	46.5	39.1	44.2	39.0	41.4
La.	39.7	34.8	38.3	42.5	40.0
Okla.	55.8	41.0	50.0	39.6	47.2
Tex.	43.5	35.8	41.5	29.8	36.5
Mont.	55.9	44.1	51.6	47.3	50.3
Idaho	55.7	42.6	50.7	42.9	49.0
Wyo.	61.6	41.9	53.1	48.7	51.4
Colo.	58.1	40.9	51.7	42.5	49.0
N. Mex.	56.7	40.3	51.1	38.3	45.3
Ariz.	54.1	38.3	50.0	50.6	50.4
Utah	51.1	33.7	43.4	32.0	39.8
Nev.	53.2	40.0	50.2	51.8	50.9
Wash.	51.1	37.5	47.1	36.1	40.7
Oreg.	44.0	31.0	39.7	35.7	38.1
Calif.	48.5	46.0	47.9	43.4	44.3
U. S.	49.6	36.3	45.0	35.0	41.5

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

Farm Wage Rates, July 1, 1972 1/

State	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	340	280	70.00	95.00			15.50		1.90
N.H.	380	300	75.00	105.00			17.50		2.10
Vt.	400	300	75.00	95.00			16.00		2.00
Mass.	420	300	85.00	105.00			16.50		2.10
R.I.	420	300	85.00	115.00			18.00		2.10
Conn.	420	300	85.00	115.00			18.00		2.05
N.Y.	390	280	75.00	98.50			15.90		1.95
N.J.	380	280	72.00	92.00			16.50		1.97
Pa.	323	255	68.00	81.50			14.00		1.75
Ohio	330	250				11.00	14.10		1.75
Ind.	309	220				11.20	14.80		1.81
Ill.	370	270				13.10	15.90		2.00
Mich.	420	320	84.00	110.00			17.50		1.93
Wisc.	386	291				12.70	15.70		1.87
Minn.	353	285				13.40	16.40		1.86
Iowa	411	332				14.90	17.40		2.01
Mo.	305	225				11.00	14.00		1.75
N. Dak.	374	309				13.70	17.40		1.81
S. Dak.	343	283				12.40	14.60		1.67
Nebr.	395	295				13.00	16.30		1.86
Kans.	380	292				13.40	16.00		1.86
Del.	280						12.90		1.72
Md.	277	210	62.00	78.00			12.90		1.74
Va.					10.10		12.10		1.54
W. Va.	195	163				8.40	10.30		1.33
N. Car.					10.30		12.10		1.48
S. Car.					9.40		10.50		1.35
Ga.					10.10		11.30		1.48
Fla.					12.00		13.00		1.56
Ky.					8.50		10.70		1.53
Tenn.					9.00		10.90		1.41
Ala.					9.30		10.40		1.37
Miss.					10.50		11.50		1.40
Ark.					12.50		13.00		1.48
La.					10.70		11.60		1.43
Okla.					12.70		14.60		1.66
Texas					12.60		13.90		1.59
Mont.	375	300					15.30		1.80
Idaho	425	340					16.40		1.95
Wyo.	382	260					15.10		1.88
Colo.	376	289					16.10		1.88
N. Mex.	318	245					12.40		1.38
Ariz.	420	300					14.80		1.70
Utah	350	275					13.00		1.85
Nev.	350	260					14.00		1.80
Wash.	465	365						2.00	2.10
Oreg.	409	314						1.86	1.88
Calif.	455	330						1.95	2.05
U. S.	369	276	70.25	89.75	11.00	12.40	13.10	1.70	1.85

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, July 1, 1973 1/

State	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	380	270	75.00	105.00			16.50		2.00
N. H.	400	310	80.00	110.00			17.50		2.15
Vt.	410	305	85.00	105.00			17.50		2.10
Mass.	430	330	85.00	120.00			19.50		2.20
R. I.	430	320	85.00	120.00			19.00		2.20
Conn.	450	310	85.00	120.00			19.00		2.25
N. Y.	411	308	80.25	105.25			16.20		1.99
N. J.	400	300	80.00	105.00			18.00		2.21
Pa.	386	297	73.25	94.00			15.20		1.89
Ohio	360	270				11.40	15.00		1.90
Ind.	359	284				11.80	16.60		1.99
Ill.	395	306				14.10	18.20		2.15
Mich.	445	330	93.00	120.00			19.50		2.18
Wis.	411	310				13.70	17.20		2.05
Minn.	392	309				14.70	17.90		2.01
Iowa	448	375				16.20	19.20		2.20
Mo.	340	255				12.00	16.00		1.95
N. Dak.	390	350				14.70	18.20		1.90
S. Dak.	391	324				13.40	16.10		1.84
Nebr.	440	337				14.70	17.60		2.06
Kans.	417	327				14.80	17.90		2.02
Del.	293						12.00		1.81
Md.	293	220	59.00	84.00			13.00		1.88
Va.					11.50		13.20		1.68
W. Va.	215	170				10.10	11.80		1.56
N. C.					11.40		13.20		1.62
S. C.					9.80		10.80		1.47
Ga.					11.40		12.40		1.61
Fla.					13.00		14.00		1.65
Ky.					9.70		12.40		1.71
Tenn.					9.70		12.10		1.60
Ala.					10.50		11.50		1.54
Miss.					11.00		11.70		1.52
Ark.					13.60		14.20		1.63
La.					11.90		12.50		1.56
Okla.					14.30		16.60		1.84
Texas					13.00		14.50		1.70
Mont.	413	330					17.10		2.04
Idaho	460	375					18.50		2.10
Wyo.	420	319					16.80		1.97
Colo.	425	308					17.30		1.97
N. Mex.	330	273					13.80		1.55
Ariz.	500	380					16.80		1.82
Utah	395	310					15.10		2.00
Nev.	450	330					17.50		2.15
Wash.	490	400						2.20	2.25
Oregon	466	366						2.01	2.03
Calif.	509	389						2.13	2.24
U. S.	409	313	77.00	101.00	12.00	13.60	14.40	1.86	2.02

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.

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