Farm Labor

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September Work Progress Slow
Fewer Farm Workers - Wage Rates Up Sharply

Harvesting field crops was slowed or nearly stopped by rains and cold weather in late September over much of the Nation. During the survey week of September 19-25 the number of persons doing farm work was 6,660,000 - 8 percent below a year earlier and a record low for the date. Weather hindrances to harvesting of cotton, small grains, silage crops, soybeans, and many other crops gave a further downward push to the continuing downtrend in farm employment that has resulted from labor-saving methods.

Considerably fewer hired farm workers were employed in some leading seasonal activities. The total of 1,982,000 persons was 7 percent under the 1964 total for the date and a record low for this normally busy season.

Farm family worker numbers also reached a new September low of 4,678,000 persons 8 percent under 1964. Despite the recurring chores of tending milk cows, other livestock, and poultry on many farms, fewer family workers were needed because of the bad conditions for field work.

September's weather this year averaged cooler and wetter than usual over large areas and slowed maturity of cotton, corn, and other crops. Consequently, harvest progress on late-maturing crops lags behind last year in many sections. The harvest situation has been extremely unfavorable in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota where small grain crops in some fields have been lying in the windrow or swath since Labor Day. In North Dakota only about 10 percent of small grain combining could be done during the entire month.

Farm Wage Rates up Sharply from a Year Ago

The level of farm wage rates reported by farm operators on October 1, 1965, reached a new high for the month, 28 percent above the 1957-59 average. The average cash rate per hour, without board or room, at $1.09 per hour was 8 percent higher than October 1964. Monthly, weekly, and daily rates also showed gains up to 7 percent. October 1 State averages for 1965 on page 7 show the generally consistent trend in wage rates by States and regions for the different hiring arrangements. In index terms, the national average reached 746 percent of the historic base period 1910-14, up from the 1964 average of 694 percent.

Farm wage rates have been rising gradually since 1950, but this is the sharpest October-to-October rise since 1951 when the pressures of the Korean War pushed the hourly cash rate up 11 percent.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service
La 1 (10-65)
Crop Reporting Service
Washington, D. C.

Farm Workers Work Fewer Hours Than a Month Earlier

As generally unfavorable weather prevailed in many areas during the week, workers on reporting farms averaged 37.9 hours of farm work, 1.4 hours less than in the comparable week a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 44.6 hours, and other family members averaged 32.1 hours - down 1.8 and 1.9 hours respectively. Hired farm workers averaged 33.3 hours, down 0.8 hours from the survey week in August.

Hired farm workers averaged fewer hours during the survey week than a month earlier in all regions except the Middle Atlantic and South Atlantic, where rainfall was light and harvesting of potatoes, apples, cotton, and tobacco made good progress. In the Middle Atlantic States hired workers averaged 41.1 hours, up 3.9 hours. Hired workers in the South Atlantic States averaged 28.8 hours, an increase of 4.6 hours over the comparable week a month earlier.

Favorable Work Progress in Some Areas

The western and eastern extremes of the Nation had generally favorable weather in late September, and harvests of late crops made good progress. Maine potatoes were nearly two-thirds harvested. In New York the McIntosh apple crop was being picked at a rapid rate, and harvest was starting on early grape varieties in the Finger Lakes, Chautauqua, and Erie growing sections. Pennsylvania tobacco cutting neared completion, and apple and potato harvests increased. In Virginia, 85 percent or more of the tobacco crop was harvested. In North Carolina only scattered fields of tobacco remained uncut, and harvests of corn, peanuts, and cotton were active. Peanut digging and threshing neared completion in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. In Alabama about 38 percent of the cotton was harvested by October 1.

Harvests of vegetable and fruit crops in California this year have presented problems of obtaining adequate labor for the fast shifting demands. To meet the peak needs of harvesting tomatoes for processing, about 17,000 Mexican Nationals were being employed under special arrangement. Harvest of grapes for raisins was completed, and table and wine grape harvests continued. Apple harvest was very active in Washington. In Oregon, apple picking had started in the Hood River and Rogue River districts. The potato harvest was starting in both central Oregon and Klamath River areas.

Farm employment and indexes, September 1965, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1959-63 1/	Annual average 1964	September average 1959-63 1/	September 20-26, 1964	September 19-25, 1965
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)					
Total	6,907	6,110	8,653	7,208	6,660
Family labor	5,040	4,506	5,913	5,072	4,678
Hired labor	1,867	1,604	2,740	2,136	1,982
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)					
Total	51	45	51	42	39
Family labor	50	44	49	42	39
Hired labor	55	47	55	43	40
(1957-59=100)					
Total	91	81	92	77	71
Family labor	91	82	91	78	72
Hired labor	95	82	95	74	69

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, 1965, United States

	Annual average 1964	October average 1959-63	October 1, 1964	October 1, 1965
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.904	$ 0.847	$ 0.915	$ 0.984
Per month with house	212	192	206	220
Per month with board and room	162	150	161	172
Per week with board and room	38.50	36.25	38.00	40.25
Per week without board or room	49.50	44.75	47.25	50.25
Per day with house	5.90	5.50	6.00	6.40
Per day with board and room	7.10	6.40	6.90	7.20
Per day without board or room	7.30	7.10	7.60	8.00
Per hour with house	.97	1.02	1.09	1.16
Per hour without board or room	1.08	.93	1.01	1.09
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	695	638	694	746
(1957-59=100)	119	110	119	128

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

Workers on Farms, September 1965
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	Sept. average 1959-63 1/			Sept. 1964 Week of 20-26			Sept. 1965 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	60	24	36	60	22	38	56	22	34
N. H.	15	10	5	11	7	4	12	8	4
Vt.	28	20	8	25	19	6	23	17	6
Mass.	26	23	19	34	18	16	32	16	16
R. I.	5	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	26	16	10	24	16	8	21	13	8
N. Eng.	176	96	80	157	84	73	147	78	69
N. Y.	195	120	75	164	101	63	152	95	57
N. J.	53	27	26	43	21	22	40	18	22
Pa.	208	162	46	169	138	31	151	121	30
M. Atl.	456	309	147	376	260	116	343	234	109
Ohio	250	192	58	208	166	42	193	153	40
Ind.	220	176	44	183	157	26	172	146	26
Ill.	261	206	55	223	180	43	201	169	32
Mich.	224	174	50	191	150	41	180	145	35
Wisc.	291	246	45	261	224	37	248	210	38
E. N. Cent.	1246	994	252	1066	877	189	994	823	171
Minn.	282	236	46	256	221	35	227	197	30
Iowa	311	266	45	272	236	36	261	224	37
Mo.	356	282	74	306	252	54	282	232	50
N. Dak.	112	83	29	93	76	17	87	71	16
S. Dak.	103	88	15	89	78	11	82	72	10
Nebr.	165	139	26	136	116	20	129	112	17
Kans.	175	149	26	164	140	24	142	126	16
W. N. Cent.	1504	1243	261	1316	1119	197	1210	1034	176
Del.	16	8	8	12	7	5	13	7	6
Md.	62	42	20	55	39	16	53	38	15
Va.	214	144	70	186	127	59	170	118	52
W. Va.	80	68	12	59	49	10	56	48	8
N. C.	543	427	116	458	343	115	419	326	93
S. C.	249	176	73	182	123	59	159	99	60
Ga.	276	195	81	226	161	65	199	143	56
Fla.	111	55	56	108	55	53	103	50	53
S. Atl.	1551	1115	436	1286	904	382	1172	829	343
Ky.	299	221	78	262	209	53	246	196	50
Tenn.	350	247	103	300	231	69	247	193	54
Ala.	248	174	74	211	152	59	192	150	42
Miss.	421	260	161	317	197	120	279	174	105
E. S. Cent.	1318	902	416	1090	789	301	964	713	251
Ark.	308	156	152	206	112	94	195	102	93
La.	258	138	120	225	120	105	196	102	94
Okla.	185	134	51	126	102	24	121	100	21
Texas	554	280	274	391	215	176	396	216	180
W. S. Cent.	1305	708	597	948	549	399	908	520	388
Mont.	59	44	15	52	39	13	50	38	12
Idaho	84	56	28	82	56	26	82	55	27
Wyo.	23	16	7	23	14	9	21	14	7
Colo.	87	54	33	70	46	24	67	43	24
N. Mex.	48	25	23	36	21	15	36	18	18
Ariz.	49	11	38	37	9	28	35	8	27
Utah	47	32	15	41	28	13	32	22	10
Nev.	7	4	3	7	3	4	6	3	3
Mount.	404	242	162	348	216	132	329	201	128
Wash.	122	78	44	111	72	39	107	66	41
Oreg.	98	65	33	92	66	26	89	58	31
Calif.	473	161	312	418	136	282	397	122	275
Pac.	693	304	389	621	274	347	593	246	347
U. S.	8653	5913	2740	7208	5072	2136	6660	4678	1982

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

Workers on farms: Average January through September 1965 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	January through Sept. Av. 1959-63			January through Sept. 1964			January through Sept. 1965		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	34	21	13	33	20	13	31	20	11
N.H.	12	9	3	10	7	3	10	7	3
Vt.	28	21	7	23	18	5	22	17	5
Mass.	36	22	14	30	18	12	29	17	12
R.I.	4	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
Conn.	26	16	10	23	14	9	22	13	9
N.Eng.	140	92	48	122	79	43	117	76	41
N.Y.	161	104	57	135	90	45	122	82	40
N.J.	46	25	21	40	20	20	36	17	19
Pa.	191	156	35	159	133	26	142	119	23
M.Atl.	398	285	113	334	243	91	300	218	82
Ohio	238	199	39	207	176	31	188	162	26
Ind.	218	191	27	191	170	21	170	150	20
Ill.	246	194	52	224	180	44	201	164	37
Mich.	225	180	45	204	163	41	178	144	34
Wis.	284	254	30	255	228	27	238	214	24
E.N.Cent.	1211	1018	193	1081	917	164	975	834	141
Minn.	280	236	44	261	223	38	239	203	36
Iowa	297	254	43	273	236	37	254	218	36
Mo.	274	233	41	255	220	35	231	200	31
N.Dak.	95	74	21	84	68	16	80	63	17
S.Dak.	93	81	12	85	75	10	77	68	9
Nebr.	160	134	26	142	120	22	132	112	20
Kans.	163	135	28	153	127	26	141	118	23
W.N.Cent.	1362	1147	215	1253	1069	184	1154	982	172
Del.	13	7	6	10	6	4	10	6	4
Md.	58	39	19	52	36	16	49	34	15
Va.	190	132	58	166	118	48	151	106	45
W.Va.	69	56	13	55	45	10	51	42	9
N.C.	438	318	120	395	276	119	363	250	113
S.C.	194	125	69	153	102	51	128	82	46
Ga.	179	129	50	152	107	45	140	101	39
Fla.	123	47	76	116	43	73	123	42	81
S.Atl.	1264	853	411	1099	733	366	1015	663	352
Ky.	234	181	53	229	177	52	205	160	45
Tenn.	232	175	57	215	166	49	190	149	41
Ala.	138	104	34	123	95	28	117	95	22
Miss.	232	167	65	204	144	60	180	123	57
E.S.Cent.	836	627	209	771	582	189	692	527	165
Ark.	206	116	90	172	97	75	156	85	71
La.	152	90	62	136	78	58	122	70	52
Okla.	156	125	31	132	112	20	121	101	20
Texas	421	256	165	363	229	134	306	194	112
W.S.Cent.	935	587	348	803	516	287	705	450	255
Mont.	52	38	14	49	36	13	46	34	12
Idaho	71	49	22	69	48	21	67	46	21
Wyo.	20	14	6	20	13	7	17	10	7
Colo.	68	48	20	59	44	15	53	39	14
N.Mex.	36	21	15	30	18	12	27	16	11
Ariz.	42	10	32	37	8	29	37	9	28
Utah	34	24	10	32	22	10	29	20	9
Nev.	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2
Mount.	328	207	121	301	192	109	281	177	104
Wash.	125	80	45	115	74	41	102	66	36
Oreg.	102	67	35	101	65	36	94	60	34
Calif.	364	141	223	320	125	195	304	115	189
Pac.	591	288	303	536	264	272	500	241	259
U.S.	7065	5104	1961	6300	4595	1705	5739	4168	1571

1/ Average number during survey week of each month.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of September 19-25, 1965				
	Farm Operator	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	54.8	32.5	47.0	41.5	44.0
N. H.	60.2	31.8	51.2	34.8	45.1
Vt.	64.5	43.5	58.5	44.3	53.0
Mass.	61.4	35.8	53.1	40.3	49.1
R. I.	44.3	45.0	44.5	45.5	45.0
Conn.	55.6	38.8	51.0	34.5	44.7
N. Eng.	58.7	36.7	51.7	40.3	46.7
N. Y.	59.9	34.9	51.7	42.0	48.5
N. J.	48.2	35.5	44.4	44.4	44.4
Pa.	54.8	32.4	47.3	36.8	44.5
M. Atl.	56.4	33.7	48.9	41.1	46.3
Ohio	48.6	34.3	44.5	27.0	39.8
Ind.	42.2	31.9	40.1	29.1	37.7
Ill.	44.0	34.0	42.0	35.1	40.7
Mich.	52.2	36.2	47.4	30.3	43.7
Wis.	60.3	30.9	48.7	35.6	46.0
E. N. Cent.	49.3	33.4	44.4	31.4	41.9
Minn.	52.0	33.1	46.0	31.0	43.1
Iowa	51.8	32.3	46.6	28.9	42.8
Mo.	41.6	30.5	39.0	29.1	37.3
N. Dak.	47.6	33.1	42.4	33.3	40.9
S. Dak.	54.0	34.4	48.4	32.7	45.8
Nebr.	49.0	35.7	45.3	28.0	42.4
Kans.	46.1	33.9	43.3	31.5	41.1
W. N. Cent.	48.5	32.8	44.1	30.1	41.4
Del.	46.5	41.6	45.0	31.9	39.7
Md.	49.7	28.2	42.1	35.8	40.2
Va.	42.0	36.0	40.3	34.2	37.7
W. Va.	35.3	27.1	33.4	30.0	32.6
N. C.	38.6	31.0	35.7	24.0	30.8
S. C.	37.4	28.8	35.0	28.0	30.6
Ga.	37.4	31.7	36.0	27.4	31.8
Fla.	38.1	37.6	38.0	29.9	33.0
S. Atl.	39.1	31.8	36.8	28.8	32.7
Ky.	38.5	28.1	35.8	27.2	32.3
Tenn.	33.0	30.9	32.5	20.3	27.9
Ala.	35.1	26.3	32.4	26.0	29.5
Miss.	40.0	26.6	35.5	31.8	33.1
E. S. Cent.	36.5	28.3	34.1	27.4	30.8
Ark.	32.8	30.0	32.3	20.1	27.0
La.	31.8	29.8	31.3	26.1	29.2
Okla.	38.9	30.6	36.9	28.5	35.2
Texas	42.2	31.6	39.9	31.8	36.2
W. S. Cent.	38.3	30.8	36.6	27.4	32.6
Mont.	45.0	32.0	41.5	39.3	40.9
Idaho	57.0	29.8	47.6	35.3	44.4
Wyo.	49.5	40.0	46.4	37.6	43.1
Colo.	49.5	33.2	44.5	38.3	42.6
N. Mex.	49.2	32.3	45.0	31.5	38.3
Ariz.	41.1	39.9	40.9	40.9	40.9
Utah	43.8	31.0	39.5	31.0	36.8
Nev.	49.2	31.3	43.6	39.0	41.6
Mount.	49.4	32.5	44.1	36.8	41.6
Wash.	45.7	33.0	42.5	26.4	32.8
Oreg.	45.1	32.3	41.3	35.0	39.3
Calif.	48.5	39.6	46.3	50.5	49.7
Pac.	46.9	36.1	44.1	46.3	45.1
U. S.	44.6	32.1	40.9	33.3	37.9

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

Farm Wage Rates, October 1, 1965 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	218	170	44.00	62.00	---	---	11.40	---	1.25	1.15	670
N.H.	241	180	47.00	63.00	---	---	10.60	---	1.28	1.15	759
Vt.	228	170	42.00	60.00	---	---	10.20	---	1.25	1.11	714
Mass.	260	180	48.00	69.00	---	---	11.40	---	1.46	1.27	832
R.I.	260	180	48.00	69.00	---	---	11.40	---	1.42	1.26	872
Conn.	260	180	48.00	69.00	---	---	11.60	---	1.42	1.26	861
N.Eng.	234	174	45.50	64.25	---	---	11.30	---	1.32	1.18	767
N.Y.	238	165	43.75	60.75	---	---	10.10	---	1.26	1.02	632
N.J.	260	190	48.00	62.00	---	---	10.50	---	1.38	1.11	790
Pa.	222	161	41.25	55.50	---	---	9.20	---	1.19	.957	757
M.Atl.	238	169	44.00	59.50	---	---	9.90	---	1.26	1.02	705
Ohio	200	147	---	---	---	7.30	9.20	---	1.17	.950	661
Ind.	222	160	---	---	---	8.10	9.80	---	1.20	.993	717
Ill.	235	180	---	---	---	8.90	10.80	---	1.25	1.05	730
Mich.	259	180	---	---	---	8.00	10.40	---	1.21	1.03	693
Wis.	230	165	---	---	---	8.00	10.00	---	1.25	1.03	653
E.N.Cent.	230	167	---	---	---	8.10	10.10	---	1.22	1.01	690
Minn.	218	168	---	---	---	9.00	10.80	---	1.23	.977	618
Iowa	245	189	---	---	---	9.40	11.40	---	1.28	1.04	641
Mo.	193	143	---	---	---	7.20	9.20	---	1.15	.876	790
N.Dak.	226	191	---	---	---	8.70	10.50	---	1.20	.985	550
S.Dak.	219	169	---	---	---	8.30	10.10	---	1.16	.936	567
Nebr.	252	184	---	---	---	8.80	11.00	---	1.26	1.02	688
Kans.	240	187	---	---	---	9.00	11.10	---	1.27	1.03	821
W.N.Cent.	223	171	---	---	---	8.50	10.50	---	1.22	.970	676
Del.	212	---	---	---	---	---	9.10	---	1.16	1.05	967
Md.	211	159	42.00	54.00	---	---	9.40	---	1.16	1.06	1068
Va.	---	---	---	---	6.10	---	7.40	---	.97	.828	885
W.Va.	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.70	---	.89	.755	587
N.C.	---	---	---	---	6.10	---	7.20	---	.88	.779	886
S.C.	---	---	---	---	4.70	---	5.30	---	.65	.576	778
Ga.	---	---	---	---	5.00	---	5.70	---	.82	.676	746
Fla.	---	---	---	---	6.00	---	7.10	---	.96	.810	827
S.Atl.	---	---	---	---	5.90	---	6.80	---	.87	.755	840
Ky.	---	---	---	---	5.40	---	7.00	---	1.00	.916	702
Tenn.	---	---	---	---	4.85	---	6.10	---	.83	.770	682
Ala.	---	---	---	---	4.85	---	5.60	---	.77	.719	705
Miss.	---	---	---	---	5.30	---	5.40	---	.70	.672	657
E.S.Cent.	---	---	---	---	5.10	---	5.90	---	.80	.748	682
Ark.	---	---	---	---	7.00	---	7.50	---	.93	.901	765
La.	---	---	---	---	5.90	---	6.20	---	.82	.785	765
Okla.	---	---	---	---	8.20	---	9.40	---	1.11	1.08	766
Texas	---	---	---	---	7.70	---	8.20	---	1.00	.980	757
W.S.Cent.	---	---	---	---	7.10	---	7.60	---	.94	.918	752
Mont.	252	204	---	---	---	---	11.00	---	1.29	1.11	550
Idaho	289	226	---	---	---	---	11.80	---	1.35	1.19	666
Wyo.	254	175	---	---	---	---	10.10	---	1.22	1.04	525
Colo.	252	187	---	---	---	---	11.00	---	1.28	1.10	710
N.Mex.	225	179	---	---	---	---	8.50	---	1.00	.894	735
Ariz.	313	200	---	---	---	---	10.10	---	1.14	1.05	717
Utah	260	225	---	---	---	---	10.90	---	1.37	1.17	721
Nev.	275	195	---	---	---	---	10.90	---	1.40	1.17	600
Mount.	271	202	---	---	---	---	10.60	---	1.24	1.09	664
Wash.	312	249	---	---	---	---	---	1.38	1.43	1.40	684
Oreg.	290	220	---	---	---	---	---	1.37	1.36	1.34	658
Calif.	342	255	---	---	---	---	---	1.39	1.45	1.43	666
Pac.	335	252	---	---	---	---	---	1.39	1.44	1.42	672
U.S.	220	172	40.25	50.25	6.40	7.20	8.00	1.16	1.09	.984	746

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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