Farm Labor

Release
April 11, 1966
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Farm Work Force Shows Seasonal Gain

The farm work force totaled 4,653,000 persons during the survey week of March 20-26, a seasonal increase of 13 percent over the corresponding period in February 1966. By the end of March spring farm work was underway and making good progress on farms over much of the Nation. Land preparation and crop seeding were generally further advanced than usual for this time of the year. Even though weather conditions were much more favorable and farm work more advanced than a year earlier, 1 percent fewer workers managed to get the jobs done.

With the increase in farm activity, 10 percent more family workers were doing farm work than a month earlier. The family work force totaled 3,660,000, a decline of 1 percent from the March 1965 survey week.

The number of hired workers during the March survey week totaled 993,000, a 25-percent increase over the February 1966 survey week. This larger work force was busy preparing seedbeds, planting crops, and harvesting fruits and vegetables. Plowing for corn and soybeans was ahead of last year in the Corn Belt and was at or near 50 percent of completion in Ohio, Iowa, and Indiana. Corn planting had started in many areas of the South. In Texas 61 percent of the intended acreage had been planted with early planted fields up to a good stand. About half the cotton acreage in the Yuma area of Arizona had been planted by April 1. Planting was also active in Texas and California, and underway in South Carolina, Alabama, and Louisiana. Rice growers in Texas and Louisiana had started planting. California growers were still busy preparing rice seedbeds. Tobacco transplanting was active in Georgia, and a few fields in South Carolina had been set. Florida growers were setting flue-cured and shade tobacco.

Florida and California strawberry harvest progressed, and light picking started in early Louisiana fields. In California, lemon picking increased, Desert Valley grapefruit harvest continued, and navel orange harvest reached the three-quarter mark by April 1. Arizona grapefruit and Valencia orange harvest was slow. Vegetable harvest was on the increase in Florida and California.

April Farm Wage Rates 10 Percent Above Last Year

The level of farm wage rates reported by operators on April 1, 1966 was 38 percent above the 1957-59 average and 10 percent over a year earlier. The average cash rate per hour, without board or room, increased 8 percent over April 1, 1965, to $1.28 per hour. Monthly, weekly, and daily rates also showed gains of

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8 to 10 percent. Comparisons of April 1 State averages for 1965 and 1966 on pages 6 and 7 show the consistent trend in States and regions of wage increases for different hiring arrangements. Alaska continued topping averages for all other States with hourly rates at $2.10 per hour without board or room, on April 1, 1966.

Hours Worked Reflect Seasonal Gain In Farm Activity

The seasonal gain in farm activity was also reflected in the average hours worked by farm workers on reporting farms. Farm operators set the work pace during the survey week with an average of 41.7 hours, up 4.7 hours from the survey week in February 1966. Other family workers averaged 30.6 hours, an increase of 1.6 hours. All farm workers averaged a work week of 38.3 hours.

Hired farm workers averaged 36.7 hours, up 3.5 hours from a month earlier. In the East South Central and West South Central States where weather was favorable and field work active, the hired worker's work week was lengthened by 8.5 and 9.2 hours, respectively. The work week was also lengthened by 4.2 hours in South Atlantic States and 3.9 hours in the Pacific States. Changes from a month earlier were small in all other regions.

Farm employment and indexes, March 1966, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1960-64 1/	Annual average 1965 1/	March average 1960-64 1/	March 21-27, 1965	March 20-26, 1966
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,662	5,610	5,708	4,677	4,653
Family labor	4,862	4,128	4,495	3,705	3,660
Hired labor	1,800	1,482	1,213	972	993
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	49	41	50	41	40
Family labor	48	41	49	40	40
Hired labor	53	44	53	43	44
(1957-59=100)					
Total	89	75	90	74	73
Family labor	88	75	90	74	73
Hired labor	92	76	93	74	76

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, 1966, United States

	Annual average 1965	April average 1960-64	April 1, 1965	April 1, 1966
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.951	$ 0.783	$ 0.860	$ 0.945
Per month with house	223	194	215	237
Per month with board and room	171	151	164	180
Per week with board and room	40.25	36.00	39.00	42.00
Per week without board or room	51.50	47.25	50.75	55.25
Per day with house	6.20	5.50	6.00	6.60
Per day with board and room	7.40	6.20	6.70	7.30
Per day without board or room	7.60	6.70	7.30	8.00
Per hour with house	1.03	.82	.93	1.01
Per hour without board or room	1.14	1.08	1.18	1.28
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	732	670	731	803
(1957-59=100)	126	115	126	138

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

Workers on Farms, March 1966
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	March average 1960-64 1/			March 1965 Week of 21-27			March 1966 Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	25	18	7	24	19	5	22	17	5
N.H.	9	7	2	9	7	2	8	6	2
Vt.	26	21	5	21	17	4	20	16	4
Mass.	28	19	9	21	15	6	19	14	5
R.I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	20	15	5	16	12	4	15	11	4
N.Eng.	111	82	29	93	71	22	86	65	21
N.Y.	131	93	38	102	75	27	100	73	27
N.J.	32	22	10	23	15	8	20	13	7
Pa.	160	139	21	126	112	14	122	108	14
M.Atl.	323	254	69	251	202	49	242	194	48
Ohio	216	192	24	173	158	15	165	148	17
Ind.	190	177	13	154	142	12	152	142	10
Ill.	204	167	37	166	141	25	167	140	27
Mich.	184	161	23	150	131	19	150	129	21
Wis.	255	232	23	214	195	19	211	195	16
E.N.Cent.	1049	929	120	857	767	90	845	754	91
Minn.	218	198	20	180	165	15	184	169	15
Iowa	247	229	18	211	196	15	210	196	14
Mo.	222	203	19	191	179	12	194	176	18
N.Dak.	73	65	8	60	55	5	59	54	5
S.Dak.	83	78	5	68	64	4	69	65	4
Nebr.	129	115	14	104	94	10	108	98	10
Kans.	138	126	12	113	104	9	121	109	12
W.N.Cent.	1110	1014	96	927	857	70	945	867	78
Del.	9	6	3	7	5	2	7	5	2
Md.	47	34	13	38	29	9	37	29	8
Va.	154	123	31	121	99	22	121	96	25
W.Va.	55	46	9	43	37	6	40	34	6
N.C.	265	224	41	218	182	36	220	180	40
S.C.	130	88	42	84	63	21	90	63	27
Ga.	147	111	36	111	85	26	109	85	24
Fla.	146	50	96	148	47	101	138	38	100
S.Atl.	953	682	271	770	547	223	762	530	232
Ky.	194	162	32	166	140	26	170	136	34
Tenn.	186	150	36	154	129	25	157	132	25
Ala.	106	83	23	91	74	17	81	65	16
Miss.	184	142	42	147	110	37	144	106	38
E.S.Cent.	670	537	133	558	453	105	552	439	113
Ark.	164	106	58	125	78	47	123	79	44
La.	128	82	46	102	66	36	102	63	39
Okla.	138	123	15	106	95	11	114	104	10
Texas	326	233	93	241	176	65	255	183	72
W.S.Cent.	756	544	212	574	415	159	594	429	165
Mont.	45	37	8	39	33	6	40	33	7
Idaho	51	42	9	45	38	7	43	37	6
Wyo.	16	12	4	13	9	4	15	11	4
Colo.	50	42	8	37	32	5	40	33	7
N.Mex.	30	19	11	23	15	8	21	14	7
Ariz.	39	9	30	36	7	29	37	7	30
Utah	24	19	5	21	16	5	20	15	5
Nev.	4	3	1	5	3	2	3	2	1
Mount.	259	183	76	219	153	66	219	152	67
Wash.	95	68	27	81	58	23	86	64	22
Oreg.	84	67	17	82	65	17	73	59	14
Calif.	298	135	163	265	117	148	249	107	142
Pac.	477	270	207	428	240	188	408	230	178
U.S.	5708	4495	1213	4677	3705	972	4653	3660	993

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month. Alaska not included above: Family, 500 persons; hired, 100.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of March 20-26, 1966				
	Farm Operator	Other Family 1/ members	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	53.4	33.8	48.0	38.8	44.4
N. H.	58.7	35.2	53.1	39.0	48.2
Vt.	58.1	40.1	52.4	46.4	50.2
Mass.	54.2	26.8	45.1	38.7	42.6
R. I.	43.1	38.7	42.3	41.2	41.9
Conn.	58.3	31.0	49.8	45.6	48.5
N. Eng.	55.6	33.7	49.1	41.7	46.4
N. Y.	55.7	32.3	48.9	41.3	46.4
N. J.	44.1	31.6	41.8	40.2	41.2
Pa.	49.8	29.6	43.5	32.7	41.2
M. Atl.	51.9	30.9	45.6	38.6	43.3
Ohio	41.5	30.2	38.4	30.8	37.1
Ind.	37.9	29.4	36.2	32.4	35.5
Ill.	38.7	33.0	37.7	32.7	36.8
Mich.	44.6	34.0	41.5	34.6	39.9
Wis.	56.5	29.4	45.9	38.1	44.7
E. N. Cent.	43.7	31.2	39.9	33.7	39.1
Minn.	46.8	29.7	41.2	34.5	40.4
Iowa	48.5	29.6	43.4	30.4	41.2
Mo.	42.1	31.5	39.7	31.2	38.2
N. Dak.	40.1	34.3	38.4	34.0	37.9
S. Dak.	46.3	30.1	41.9	34.9	41.1
Nebr.	45.5	35.1	42.8	31.0	41.2
Kans.	42.5	30.9	39.7	30.3	37.9
W. N. Cent.	45.0	31.1	41.2	31.9	39.8
Del.	36.4	36.2	36.3	24.7	31.7
Md.	43.4	30.9	39.8	38.6	39.4
Va.	41.5	32.7	39.4	35.3	37.8
W. Va.	34.7	25.9	32.6	24.8	31.0
N. C.	34.2	28.6	32.8	28.0	30.9
S. C.	36.7	28.1	34.3	32.1	33.2
Ga.	37.8	29.4	35.8	35.0	35.4
Fla.	37.6	31.1	36.4	27.5	30.3
S. Atl.	37.0	29.5	35.1	30.0	33.2
Ky.	37.8	28.8	35.8	28.0	32.9
Tenn.	33.8	29.3	32.9	26.9	31.2
Ala.	31.8	30.0	31.5	28.8	30.6
Miss.	37.8	27.8	35.4	44.7	40.8
E. S. Cent.	35.4	29.0	34.0	33.5	34.1
Ark.	33.7	28.1	32.6	40.9	35.5
La.	36.6	29.3	35.0	35.3	35.1
Okla.	38.7	29.3	36.3	28.4	34.7
Texas	41.3	32.8	39.6	38.2	39.1
W. S. Cent.	38.7	30.7	37.0	37.6	36.8
Mont.	43.9	34.7	41.5	38.1	40.7
Idaho	43.1	29.0	39.3	30.8	37.9
Wyo.	47.6	28.6	41.1	37.7	39.8
Colo.	44.6	31.6	41.1	35.4	39.5
N. Mex.	44.5	29.5	40.7	42.5	41.4
Ariz.	47.3	28.4	42.3	45.1	44.0
Utah	39.3	27.7	35.7	32.5	34.9
Nev.	46.1	31.8	42.1	42.9	42.5
Mount.	43.9	30.7	40.2	40.4	40.0
Wash.	42.8	27.0	38.2	35.9	37.4
Oreg.	39.7	31.8	37.6	34.0	36.6
Calif.	49.9	38.3	47.1	50.9	50.0
Pac.	45.5	33.6	42.4	47.7	44.9
U. S.	41.7	30.6	38.7	36.7	38.3

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, 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	220	165	41.00	60.00	---	---	10.00	---	1.23	1.00	644
N.H.	240	178	46.00	61.00	---	---	10.30	---	1.26	1.04	730
Vt.	222	172	44.00	61.00	---	---	10.10	---	1.27	1.03	714
Mass.	260	181	48.00	68.00	---	---	11.00	---	1.38	1.13	778
R.I.	255	181	47.00	70.00	---	---	11.00	---	1.38	1.14	822
Conn.	255	181	47.00	70.00	---	---	11.90	---	1.42	1.17	848
N.Eng.	240	175	45.00	64.50	---	---	10.70	---	1.32	1.08	742
N.Y.	230	161	43.25	60.75	---	---	9.80	---	1.24	.894	610
N.J.	242	175	48.00	61.00	---	---	11.00	---	1.30	.947	743
Pa.	212	150	39.25	53.25	---	---	8.90	---	1.15	.815	730
M.Atl.	226	160	42.75	58.50	---	---	9.70	---	1.22	.876	674
Ohio	197	140	---	---	---	6.70	8.60	---	1.16	.733	645
Ind.	208	148	---	---	---	7.20	9.00	---	1.15	.759	695
Ill.	233	180	---	---	---	8.50	10.40	---	1.24	.868	731
Mich.	250	175	---	---	---	7.90	9.90	---	1.18	.842	697
Wis.	219	164	---	---	---	7.40	9.40	---	1.20	.807	636
E.N.Cent.	224	164	---	---	---	7.70	9.60	---	1.19	.812	686
Minn.	215	164	---	---	---	8.40	10.40	---	1.19	.864	615
Iowa	232	183	---	---	---	9.00	10.90	---	1.26	.927	635
Mo.	192	140	---	---	---	6.90	8.80	---	1.10	.758	761
N.Dak.	214	170	---	---	---	7.50	9.30	---	1.12	.825	521
S.Dak.	210	163	---	---	---	7.70	9.50	---	1.14	.825	549
Nebr.	243	179	---	---	---	8.50	10.40	---	1.22	.906	671
Kans.	234	180	---	---	---	8.40	10.50	---	1.24	.908	825
W.N.Cent.	219	167	---	---	---	8.10	10.00	---	1.19	.860	659
Del.	195	---	---	---	---	---	8.80	---	1.10	.916	923
Md.	205	155	41.00	53.00	---	---	8.60	---	1.10	.911	1011
Va.	---	---	---	---	6.00	---	7.20	.76	.93	.718	867
W.Va.	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.30	---	.86	.658	574
N.C.	---	---	---	---	5.80	---	6.70	.70	.84	.666	833
S.C.	---	---	---	---	4.35	---	5.00	.53	.62	.497	723
Ga.	---	---	---	---	4.90	---	5.60	.67	.81	.592	732
Fla.	---	---	---	---	6.40	---	7.20	.89	.97	.754	836
S.Atl.	---	---	---	---	5.80	---	6.70	.80	.88	.691	843
Ky.	---	---	---	---	4.95	---	6.10	.70	.91	.600	674
Tenn.	---	---	---	---	4.65	---	5.60	.60	.76	.547	636
Ala.	---	---	---	---	4.70	---	5.20	.62	.74	.528	644
Miss.	---	---	---	---	4.60	---	5.00	.58	.66	.505	597
E.S.Cent.	---	---	---	---	4.70	---	5.50	.62	.77	.546	640
Ark.	---	---	---	---	6.60	---	7.10	.77	.88	.733	753
La.	---	---	---	---	5.50	---	6.00	.69	.81	.634	725
Okla.	---	---	---	---	7.70	---	8.90	.96	1.10	.898	761
Texas	---	---	---	---	7.10	---	7.80	.83	.95	.795	722
W.S.Cent.	---	---	---	---	6.70	---	7.30	.79	.91	.752	731
Mont.	240	188	---	---	---	---	9.80	---	1.23	.950	523
Idaho	289	222	---	---	---	---	11.40	---	1.32	1.09	671
Wyo.	245	177	---	---	---	---	9.60	---	1.19	.925	521
Colo.	249	176	---	---	---	---	10.50	---	1.25	.967	700
N.Mex.	225	170	---	---	---	---	8.40	---	.98	.819	745
Ariz.	284	184	---	---	---	---	10.10	---	1.11	.953	675
Utah	260	220	---	---	---	---	10.80	---	1.34	1.06	707
Nev.	280	195	---	---	---	---	10.50	---	1.34	1.03	602
Mount.	265	188	---	---	---	---	10.00	---	1.16	.957	638
Wash.	300	236	---	---	---	---	---	1.32	1.38	1.34	666
Oreg.	280	202	---	---	---	---	---	1.28	1.29	1.25	627
Calif.	330	245	---	---	---	---	---	1.32	1.39	1.36	647
Pac.	322	240	---	---	---	---	---	1.32	1.38	1.34	643
U.S.	215	164	39.00	50.75	6.00	6.70	7.30	.93	1.18	.860	731

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, 1966 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	222	175	45.00	62.00	---	---	10.10	---	1.27	1.04	666
N.H.	245	185	49.00	66.00	---	---	10.40	---	1.36	1.10	771
Vt.	232	178	45.00	63.00	---	---	10.40	---	1.32	1.07	738
Mass.	265	185	50.00	70.00	---	---	11.60	---	1.49	1.19	818
R.I.	265	185	50.00	70.00	---	---	11.60	---	1.48	1.19	858
Conn.	265	185	50.00	70.00	---	---	11.60	---	1.52	1.20	868
N.Eng.	247	181	47.75	66.50	---	---	10.90	---	1.40	1.13	774
N.Y.	248	172	44.25	3/63.50	---	---	10.20	---	1.30	.938	641
N.J.	255	190	54.00	66.00	---	---	11.50	---	1.38	1.02	799
Pa.	232	169	43.50	58.50	---	---	9.50	---	1.22	.887	794
M.Atl.	244	174	45.50	62.50	---	---	10.20	---	1.29	.936	720
Ohio	217	159	---	---	---	7.40	9.60	---	1.22	.806	710
Ind.	223	169	---	---	---	8.30	10.40	---	1.24	.844	773
Ill.	259	190	---	---	---	9.20	11.40	---	1.31	.932	784
Mich.	275	194	---	---	---	9.00	11.20	---	1.29	.937	775
Wis.	249	184	---	---	---	8.50	10.20	---	1.29	.891	701
E.N.Cent.	248	182	---	---	---	8.60	10.70	---	1.28	.892	754
Minn.	230	180	---	---	---	8.80	11.00	---	1.25	.921	655
Iowa	272	210	---	---	---	9.80	12.00	---	1.32	1.02	701
Mo.	*212*	*153*	---	---	---	*7.50*	*9.60*	---	*1.19*	*.827*	*829*
N.Dak.	228	192	---	---	---	8.60	10.50	---	1.16	.901	569
S.Dak.	231	181	---	---	---	8.30	10.00	---	1.20	.887	591
Nebr.	270	204	---	---	---	9.10	11.10	---	1.28	.984	729
Kans.	252	196	---	---	---	8.80	11.10	---	1.27	.959	872
W.N.Cent.	245	188	---	---	---	8.80	10.90	---	1.25	.938	719
Del.	210	---	---	---	---	---	10.00	---	1.22	1.02	1030
Md.	220	175	44.00	57.00	---	---	9.30	---	1.16	.975	1082
Va.	---	---	---	---	6.20	---	7.50	.80	.98	.751	907
W.Va.	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.70	---	.92	.708	618
N.C.	---	---	---	---	6.10	---	7.20	.77	.91	3/.717	896
S.C.	---	---	---	---	5.00	---	5.40	.59	.69	.549	798
Ga.	---	---	---	---	5.40	---	6.00	.71	.87	.637	787
Fla.	---	---	---	---	7.00	---	8.10	.98	1.08	.838	929
S.Atl.	---	---	---	---	6.40	---	7.40	.86	.98	.763	932
Ky.	---	---	---	---	5.30	---	6.40	.78	.96	.635	713
Tenn.	---	---	---	---	5.10	---	6.20	.67	.83	.602	699
Ala.	---	---	---	---	5.10	---	5.80	.66	.81	.581	709
Miss.	---	---	---	---	5.50	---	5.80	.68	.76	.593	701
E.S.Cent.	---	---	---	---	5.30	---	6.00	.70	.83	.604	708
Ark.	---	---	---	---	7.20	---	7.80	.86	.98	.807	829
La.	---	---	---	---	6.10	---	6.50	.74	.85	.685	784
Okla.	---	---	---	---	8.30	---	9.70	1.00	1.18	.968	821
Texas	---	---	---	---	7.60	---	8.30	.89	1.02	.850	771
W.S.Cent.	---	---	---	---	7.20	---	7.80	.85	.98	.808	786
Mont.	262	200	---	---	---	---	10.30	---	1.25	.998	551
Idaho	292	229	---	---	---	---	12.30	---	1.38	1.14	701
Wyo.	266	182	---	---	---	---	10.60	---	1.26	.990	557
Colo.	260	185	---	---	---	---	10.90	---	1.26	.997	721
N.Mex.	229	160	---	---	---	---	8.80	---	1.02	.831	755
Ariz.	318	190	---	---	---	---	10.90	---	1.18	1.02	724
Utah	266	220	---	---	---	---	10.90	---	1.36	1.07	715
Nev.	280	205	---	---	---	---	11.40	---	1.43	1.09	637
Mount.	286	194	---	---	---	---	10.70	---	1.22	1.01	674
Wash.	329	247	---	---	---	---	---	1.41	1.49	1.44	717
Oreg.	305	225	---	---	---	---	---	1.34	1.41	1.36	684
Calif.	360	268	---	---	---	---	---	1.44	1.50	1.47	700
Pac.	351	262	---	---	---	---	---	1.43	1.49	1.45	696
U.S.	237	180	42.00	55.25	6.60	7.30	8.00	1.01	1.28	.945	803

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. 3/ Correct these rates on page 10 of the January 1966 Farm Labor report to read: New York, 61.00; North Carolina, .742.

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

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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