farm labor

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Work Force Smaller Than Year Ago

The Nation's farm labor force for the week of September 22-28 totaled 4.8 million workers, slightly smaller than last year. The work force consisted of 3.4 million farm operators and unpaid family members and 1.4 million hired workers.

All farm workers averaged 38.3 hours during the September survey week, the same as last month and compares to 38.5 hours last year. Farm operators worked an average of 43.3 hours while other unpaid family workers averaged 32.5 hours and hired workers averaged 34.2 hours.

Wages Continue To Increase

The average cash rate per hour without board and room on October 1, 1974 was $2.22, up 24 cents from last year and 40 cents greater than two years ago. Wages paid by the month, week, or day were also higher. The seasonally adjusted index of Farm Wage Rates based on 1967 was 180 on October 1, 1974, about 12 percent larger than a year earlier.

Corn And Soybean Harvest Underway

Corn harvest started in most North Central States during the week of September 22-28. The rate of harvest was behind average in Illinois, Ohio and some southern States but slightly ahead of normal in Nebraska and about average in Indiana.

Soybean harvest got underway in most North Central States but progress was much behind normal in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Combining was in the early stages in the South.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
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Dry weather in the Northern Plains enabled farmers to make good harvesting progress of small grains and combining is nearly complete. Rains slowed winter wheat seeding in much of Texas and Oklahoma, but progress advanced rapidly elsewhere in the Great Plains.

Cotton picking had started in Oklahoma, Arkansas and North Carolina; gaining momentum as weather permitted in Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina. Harvest made little progress in Texas as cool, wet weather prevailed.

Potato digging continued active in most of the fall producing States. Sugar beet lifting had started in Michigan, Minnesota and North Dakota. Cool, wet weather stalled sorghum harvest in Texas while harvest was active in Kansas and Nebraska. Tobacco harvest was nearing completion in the major areas and peanut digging was well along in Georgia.

Apple harvest continued active in western New York, Michigan and Wisconsin. Harvest of Red and Golden Delicious apples was gaining in Washington. Wine grape harvest was underway in California while raisin-drying conditions remained favorable but boxing had been slow.

Frost ended most vegetable growth in many of the North Central and North Atlantic States. Fall vegetable harvest was picking up in Florida and California. Vegetable planting was curtailed in most areas of Texas as moderate to heavy rains fell.

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 hours 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 survey week.

Farm employment and indexes, September 1974, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1972	Annual average 1973	September 17-23, 1972	September 23-29, 1973	September 22-28, 1974
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,373.4	4,336.7	5,066.6	4,939.2	4,810.0
Family labor	3,227.7	3,169.0	3,641.3	3,521.7	3,379.2
Hired labor	1,145.7	1,167.7	1,425.3	1,417.5	1,430.8
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	32	32	30	29	28
Family labor	32	31	30	29	28
Hired labor	34	34	29	28	29
(1967=100)					
Total	89	89	81	79	77
Family labor	89	86	83	81	78
Hired labor	89	89	76	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.

Farm wage rates and indexes, October 1, 1974, United States

Item	Annual average 1973	October 1, 1972	October 1, 1973	October 1, 1974
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.73	$ 1.65	$ 1.80	$ 2.01
Per month with house	393	363	395	428
Per month with board and room	309	282	308	339
Per week with board and room	74.00	69.00	74.50	81.25
Per week without board or room	94.75	86.25	94.50	103.00
Per day with house	12.30	11.60	3/12.90	14.30
Per day with board and room	13.10	12.00	13.10	14.50
Per day without board or room	14.50	13.90	15.30	17.00
Per hour with house	1.81	1.81	1.99	2.20
Per hour without board or room	2.00	1.82	3/1.98	2.22
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,331	1,249	3/1,364	1,521
(1967=100)	157	147	161	180

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.
3/ Revised.

Workers on Farms: September 1974

State	September 1972 week of 17-23			September 1973 week of 23-29			September 1974 week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
ALA	107	89	18	100	81	19	83	67	16
ARIZ	34	7.0	27	31	7.0	24	29	6.0	23
ARK	152	95	57	150	90	60	131	80	51
CALIF	339	74	265	334	69	265	340	65	275
COLO	73	40	33	74	39	35	74	37	37
CONN	15.7	7.7	8.0	14.9	7.8	7.1	15.6	7.7	7.9
DEL	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
FLA	102	47	55	92	39	53	89	37	52
GA	129	106	23	129	104	25	122	97	25
IDAHO	57	40	17	51	36	15	51	34	17
ILL	170	143	27	169	141	28	160	135	25
IND	149	132	17	145	129	16	154	133	21
IOWA	215	188	27	199	172	27	209	175	34
KANS	126	111	15	117	105	12	117	100	17
KY	189	142	47	184	139	45	214	145	69
LA	105	62	43	93	54	39	79	48	31
MAINE	34	13	21	36	13	23	35	12	23
MD	34	24	10	36	25	11	37	25	12
MASS	18.3	9.1	9.2	20.7	9.7	11	19.1	10	9.1
MICH	141	111	30	134	102	32	131	104	27
MINN	184	163	21	204	173	31	207	171	36
MISS	155	114	41	144	110	34	136	97	39
MO	220	170	50	224	178	46	217	181	36
MONT	48	33	15	44	32	12	40	25	15
NEBR	105	91	14	109	91	18	110	89	21
NEV	5.4	2.7	2.7	5.2	2.7	2.5	5.6	2.9	2.7
N H	6.2	3.9	2.3	6.6	3.9	2.7	5.5	3.3	2.2
N J	26	10	16	22	9.0	13	20	9.0	11
N MEX	24	14	10	23	14	9.0	23	14	9.0
N Y	116	80	36	117	80	37	118	80	38
N C	249	206	43	234	182	52	218	159	59
N DAK	76	61	15	68	55	13	77	60	17
OHIO	161	128	33	165	138	27	168	139	29
OKLA	138	113	25	128	105	23	115	95	20
OREG	53	39	14	51	35	16	49	33	16
PA	124	103	21	128	104	24	139	108	31
R I	1.7	.9	.8	1.6	.9	.7	1.6	.9	.7
S C	89	68	21	78	58	20	68	49	19
S DAK	71	61	10	76	65	11	79	69	10
TENN	193	156	37	179	148	31	175	135	40
TEX	338	206	132	321	202	119	238	164	74
UTAH	26	20	6.0	29	22	7.0	26	19	7.0
VT	13.3	10	3.3	13.2	9.7	3.5	12.6	9.4	3.2
VA	127	91	36	120	82	38	116	82	34
WASH	78	49	29	84	47	37	86	44	42
W VA	38	34	4.0	40	35	5.0	40	35	5.0
WIS	185	156	29	189	161	28	206	172	34
WYO	19	13	6.0	19	12	7.0	18	12	6.0
U S	5,066.6	3,641.3	1,425.3	4,939.2	3,521.7	1,417.5	4,810.0	3,379.2	1,430.8

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker,
Average for reporting farms, week of September 22-28, 1974

State	Farm operators	Other family member 1/	All family members 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
	Hours				
ALA	27.1	32.2	28.0	22.8	26.5
ARIZ	47.0	37.3	45.2	45.0	45.1
ARK	31.7	31.6	31.7	33.7	32.6
CALIF	48.8	41.8	47.0	42.0	43.0
COLO	49.5	37.1	46.0	39.0	44.0
CONN	62.0	42.4	55.0	39.8	49.0
DEL	40.1	37.9	39.5	39.3	39.5
FLA	36.3	23.2	33.0	36.6	34.2
GA	37.4	31.0	35.9	32.4	34.7
IDAHO	45.0	37.1	42.7	42.6	42.7
ILL	42.5	34.8	40.9	35.9	39.9
IND	37.8	29.4	35.7	25.5	33.5
IOWA	51.1	31.6	45.6	31.2	42.5
KANS	49.0	39.8	46.8	32.1	43.6
KY	38.9	30.8	36.5	23.6	30.4
LA	30.4	33.8	31.1	33.1	31.9
MAINE	62.0	40.9	55.0	37.0	48.3
MD	44.9	29.8	40.1	33.8	38.3
MASS	60.5	40.0	51.9	38.4	46.7
MICH	50.2	32.6	44.9	30.5	41.2
MINN	55.9	32.3	47.4	35.4	45.1
MISS	31.5	26.8	30.4	30.6	30.5
MO	42.2	34.1	40.4	31.7	38.8
MONT	51.4	40.9	48.2	42.8	46.6
NEBR	52.2	36.8	48.0	35.8	45.2
NEV	52.2	39.6	47.9	45.6	47.2
N H	60.3	37.0	54.3	45.5	50.4
N J	39.0	33.0	37.5	34.3	36.7
N MEX	36.3	33.8	35.6	32.8	34.6
N Y	58.1	34.3	49.7	37.6	45.6
N C	35.2	32.5	34.5	22.9	29.7
N DAK	58.0	42.0	52.2	40.7	49.8
OHIO	42.7	32.3	39.8	27.3	37.2
OKLA	41.9	30.6	38.6	29.9	36.7
OREG	37.5	33.9	36.6	33.3	35.5
PA	52.4	32.6	45.7	35.7	43.4
R I	58.5	41.0	54.5	18.6	35.9
S C	34.2	29.7	33.3	28.8	31.6
S DAK	51.5	30.3	44.3	35.4	42.8
TENN	35.0	29.4	33.5	22.3	29.9
TEX	38.7	28.0	36.3	31.6	34.9
UTAH	42.4	28.3	37.5	30.1	35.7
VT	61.5	32.6	52.3	42.4	48.4
VA	42.1	35.9	40.3	31.7	36.9
WASH	47.2	33.6	43.3	38.0	40.4
W VA	37.5	29.0	35.3	21.6	32.6
WIS	60.2	31.8	47.8	30.5	44.4
WYO	53.4	36.1	47.2	39.0	45.2
U S	43.3	32.5	40.0	34.2	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, October 1, 1973

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								
ALA	--	--	--	--	10.70	--	12.20	--	1.60
ARIZ	500	375	--	--	--	--	18.40	--	1.91
ARK	--	--	--	--	14.40	--	14.60	--	1.69
CALIF	495	380	--	--	--	--	--	2.19	2.30
COLO	418	299	--	--	--	--	16.90	--	2.05
CONN	460	330	90.00	120.00	--	--	19.00	--	2.25
DEL	293	--	--	--	--	--	13.50	--	1.88
FLA	--	--	--	--	13.50	--	14.50	--	2/1.75
GA	--	--	--	--	2/11.40	--	2/12.40	--	1.68
IDAHO	477	375	--	--	--	--	18.90	--	2.10
ILL	425	315	--	--	--	14.50	18.00	--	2.15
IND	353	258	--	--	--	11.60	16.30	--	2.07
IOWA	450	362	--	--	--	16.00	18.70	--	2.26
KANS	426	333	--	--	--	14.40	17.90	--	2.07
KY	--	--	--	--	10.10	--	13.30	--	1.94
LA	--	--	--	--	2/13.00	--	2/13.70	--	2/1.68
MAINE	390	290	75.00	105.00	--	--	17.50	--	2.00
MD	293	220	59.00	84.00	--	--	13.40	--	1.88
MASS	450	350	90.00	120.00	--	--	20.50	--	2.20
MICH	440	325	2/93.00	2/115.00	--	--	2/18.50	--	2.09
MINN	403	322	--	--	--	14.90	17.70	--	2.10
MISS	--	--	--	--	11.40	--	12.20	--	1.53
MO	350	255	--	--	--	12.00	16.00	--	1.95
MONT	429	342	--	--	--	--	17.80	--	2.08
NEBR	446	341	--	--	--	14.90	18.00	--	2.12
NEV	450	330	--	--	--	--	17.50	--	2.15
N H	420	320	80.00	115.00	--	--	18.50	--	2.20
N J	400	300	80.00	110.00	--	--	18.50	--	2.20
N MEX	379	247	--	--	--	--	14.10	--	1.62
N Y	430	309	80.25	105.25	--	--	16.30	--	2.01
N C	--	--	--	--	12.30	--	14.10	--	1.80
N DAK	395	335	--	--	--	15.00	18.20	--	2.02
OHIO	375	270	--	--	--	11.70	15.60	--	1.96
OKLA	--	--	--	--	14.90	--	16.40	--	1.89
OREG	444	347	--	--	--	--	--	2.06	2.12
PA	392	291	70.00	97.00	--	--	16.00	--	1.96
R I	450	340	90.00	120.00	--	--	19.00	--	2.20
S C	--	--	--	--	10.50	--	2/12.00	--	1.58
S DAK	397	316	--	--	--	13.60	16.60	--	1.90
TENN	--	--	--	--	10.20	--	12.60	--	1.67
TEX	--	--	--	--	13.70	--	14.90	1.67	1.77
UTAH	400	315	--	--	--	--	15.20	--	2.00
VT	430	310	80.00	105.00	--	--	17.00	--	2.15
VA	--	--	--	--	11.80	--	13.70	--	1.75
WASH	495	400	--	--	--	--	--	2.25	2.30
W VA	240	166	--	--	--	9.30	12.30	--	1.59
WIS	430	333	--	--	--	14.10	17.40	--	2.08
WYO	426	319	--	--	--	--	17.90	--	2.08
U S	395	308	74.50	94.50	2/12.90	13.10	15.30	1.99	2/1.98

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.

2/ Revised.

Farm Wage Rates, October 1, 1974

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								
ALA	--	--	--	--	12.20	--	14.00	--	1.90
ARIZ	545	380	--	--	--	--	20.80	--	2.07
ARK	--	--	--	--	15.50	--	16.60	--	1.88
CALIF	510	380	--	--	--	--	--	2.40	2.54
COLO	457	336	--	--	--	--	18.00	--	2.30
CONN	490	370	95.00	125.00	--	--	19.50	--	2.35
DEL	299	--	--	--	--	--	14.10	--	2.00
FLA	--	--	--	--	14.10	--	15.50	--	2.01
GA	--	--	--	--	13.50	--	14.70	--	1.90
IDAHO	495	390	--	--	--	--	21.20	--	2.50
ILL	455	340	--	--	--	15.50	19.50	--	2.40
IND	407	281	--	--	--	12.30	17.80	--	2.24
IOWA	503	427	--	--	--	18.00	21.70	--	2.51
KANS	465	365	--	--	--	15.60	19.40	--	2.32
KY	--	--	--	--	11.40	--	15.60	--	2.44
LA	--	--	--	--	14.10	--	15.20	--	1.82
MAINE	400	330	80.00	110.00	--	--	19.00	--	2.25
MD	299	227	68.00	90.00	--	--	14.10	--	1.98
MASS	480	370	95.00	130.00	--	--	20.50	--	2.35
MICH	500	370	102.50	131.25	--	--	20.90	--	2.38
MINN	445	344	--	--	--	17.50	20.60	--	2.41
MISS	--	--	--	--	13.40	--	14.90	--	1.76
MO	385	295	--	--	--	13.00	16.00	--	2.15
MONT	458	365	--	--	--	--	20.00	--	2.33
NEBR	488	389	--	--	--	16.70	20.10	--	2.32
NEV	480	365	--	--	--	--	19.00	--	2.45
N H	460	350	90.00	125.00	--	--	19.50	--	2.35
N J	425	315	86.00	115.00	--	--	20.50	--	2.48
N MEX	390	300	--	--	--	--	15.20	--	1.80
N Y	446	327	87.25	111.25	--	--	17.60	--	2.23
N C	--	--	--	--	13.70	--	15.50	--	1.95
N DAK	461	396	--	--	--	17.70	20.90	--	2.42
OHIO	410	310	--	--	--	13.60	16.90	--	2.19
OKLA	--	--	--	--	16.50	--	18.20	--	2.13
OREG	502	381	--	--	--	--	--	2.26	2.34
PA	400	300	78.00	106.00	--	--	17.10	--	2.10
R I	480	370	95.00	130.00	--	--	20.50	--	2.35
S C	--	--	--	--	11.80	--	13.90	--	1.78
S DAK	434	347	--	--	--	15.20	18.20	--	2.07
TENN	--	--	--	--	12.10	--	15.00	--	1.91
TEX	--	--	--	--	15.40	--	16.50	1.87	1.97
UTAH	445	375	--	--	--	--	18.50	--	2.25
VT	450	360	95.00	120.00	--	--	19.00	--	2.35
VA	--	--	--	--	12.50	--	15.30	--	1.93
WASH	545	450	--	--	--	--	--	2.45	2.55
W VA	265	196	--	--	--	10.40	13.70	--	1.77
WIS	477	360	--	--	--	15.30	19.10	--	2.34
WYO	454	328	--	--	--	--	19.20	--	2.30
U S	428	339	81.25	103.00	14.30	14.50	17.00	2.20	2.22

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.