Farm Labor

Release
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Late Winter Weather Delays Field Work

The Nation's farm labor force for the survey week of March 23-29 dipped 5 percent from the March 1968 survey week. The Crop Reporting Board estimated 3,996,000 workers on farms during the March 1969 survey week with 3,181,000 farm operators and unpaid family members, and 815,000 hired persons.

Farm workers averaged 35.5 hours during the March survey week, up 2.2 hours from a month earlier. Farm operators worked an average of 37.7 hours, other unpaid family members 29.0 hours, and hired workers 35.2 hours during the week.

In the North Central States the final blast of winter held most spring farm work to a minimum. In most of the West, however, the first good weather of the year allowed spring farm activities to rise sharply.

In the Great Plains and Corn Belt States seeding of spring grains remained far behind normal. Only 27 percent of the Kansas oat crop had been sown. In Texas and some other Southern States, corn and sorghum planting had begun.

In California and Arizona, cotton planting was beginning and was 9 percent complete in Texas. Most tobacco plantbeds had been seeded in Kentucky and some transplanting was underway in parts of Georgia. The North Carolina tobacco growers were fumigating and preparing fields. Sugar beet seeding was beginning in several Western States.

Spring vegetable planting had advanced as far north as the Carolinas. In Florida, vegetable harvest continued on most crops except melons. Lettuce harvest was increasing in the Salt River Valley of Arizona and was heavy in the Palo Verde Valley of California. Asparagus cutting near peak in California's Stockton Delta Area.

Florida's citrus harvest was slow. The California Navel orange harvest was declining but lemon picking remained heavy.

Farm Wage Rates Jump

Farm wage rates reported by farm operators on April 1, 1969, jumped 11 percent above a year earlier. The average cash rate per hour without board or room climbed to $1.59 from $1.44 on April 1, 1968. Comparable gains were recorded

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in monthly, weekly, and daily rates. The seasonally adjusted national average index reached 1028 (1910-14=100) up from the 1968 average of 914.

Alaska's Farm Wage Rates

Wage rates reported for farm workers in Alaska were as follows: per month with house, $420; per month with board and room, $320; per day without board or room, $17.50; and per hour without board or room, $2.30.

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, March 1969, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1967	Annual average 1968	March 19-25, 1967	March 24-30, 1968	March 23-29, 1969
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,903	4,745.8	4,345	4,198.8	3,995.8
Family labor	3,650	3,532.4	3,430	3,323.1	3,181.0
Hired labor	1,253	1,213.4	915	875.7	814.8
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	36	35	38	36	35
Family labor	36	35	37	36	34
Hired labor	37	36	40	39	36
(1957-59=100)					
Total	66	63	69	66	58
Family labor	66	64	68	66	63
Hired labor	64	62	70	67	62

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, 1969, United States

	Annual average 1968	April 1, 1967	April 1, 1968	April 1, 1969
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.21	$ 0.998	3/$ 1.08	$ 1.21
Per month with house	283	253.	270	296
Per month with board and room	3/216	192	206	228
Per week with board and room	52.50	45.75	50.00	54.25
Per week without board or room	3/66.50	58.75	63.50	70.00
Per day with house	8.20	7.30	8.00	8.70
Per day with board and room	9.30	7.80	8.50	9.20
Per day without board or room	9.90	8.70	3/9.50	10.30
Per hour with house	1.28	1.07	1.17	1.34
Per hour without board or room	3/1.44	1.34	3/1.44	1.59
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	931	849	3/914	1028
(1957-59=100)	160	146	157	177

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.
3/ Revised March 1969.

Workers on Farms, March 1969 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	March 1967 Week of 19-25			March 1968 Week of 24-30			March 1969 Week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	18	13	5	17	12	5.0	17	12	5.0
N. H.	7	5	2	7.0	5.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	2.0
Vt.	17	13	4	16	13	3.0	14	11	3.0
Mass.	16	11	5	16	11	5.0	13	9.0	4.0
R. I.	2	1	1	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.1	1.3	0.8
Conn.	11	8	3	11	8.0	3.0	10.0	7.4	2.6
N. Eng.	71	51	20	69	50	19	62.1	44.7	17.4
N. Y.	90	71	19	86	68	18	85	66	19
N. J.	16	10	9	16	10	6.0	14	9.0	5.0
Pa.	118	105	13	112	101	11	107	96	11
M. Atl.	224	186	38	214	179	35	206	171	35
Ohio 2/	157	144	13	152	139	13	150	138	12
Ind.	122	113	9	125	117	8.0	118	110	8.0
Ill.	156	134	22	156	134	22	147	125	22
Mich.	132	116	16	135	119	16	121	107	14
Wis.	192	175	17	194	176	18	190	174	16
E. N. Cent.	759	682	77	762	685	77	726	654	72
Minn.	168	156	12	168	157	11	154	145	9.0
Iowa	201	186	15	192	179	13	185	174	11
Mo.	195	170	25	173	154	19	172	154	18
N. Dak.	57	52	5	53	49	4.0	50	46	4.0
S. Dak.	70	65	5	66	62	4.0	59	56	3.0
Nebr.	103	90	13	106	97	9.0	97	90	7.0
Kans.	116	106	10	109	101	8.0	96	89	7.0
W. N. Cent.	910	825	85	867	799	68	813	754	59
Del.	5	4	1	5.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0
Md.	32	25	7	31	26	5.0	30	24	6.0
Va.	116	94	22	111	93	18	98	82	16
W. Va.	38	32	6	35	31	4.0	33	29	4.0
N. C.	199	165	34	186	158	28	180	158	22
S. C.	68	52	16	65	49	16	65	50	15
Ga.	96	77	19	98	78	20	92	73	19
Fla.	129	34	95	128	35	93	128	33	95
S. Atl.	683	483	200	659	474	185	631	453	178
Ky.	167	131	36	134	111	23	132	110	22
Tenn.	149	119	30	128	109	19	124	106	18
Ala.	91	71	20	75	60	15	76	60	16
Miss.	135	106	29	143	109	34	116	92	24
E. S. Cent.	542	427	115	480	389	91	448	368	80
Ark.	128	86	42	123	81	42	118	80	38
La.	85	60	25	85	56	29	80	52	28
Okla.	123	113	10	117	109	8.0	116	108	8.0
Texas	266	187	79	237	179	58	234	182	52
W. S. Cent.	602	446	156	562	425	137	548	422	126
Mont.	40	31	9	37	29	8.0	34	27	7.0
Idaho	38	32	6	38	32	6.0	35	30	5.0
Wyo.	14	10	4	14	10	4.0	12	9.0	3.0
Colo.	47	35	12	43	35	8.0	42	33	9.0
N. Mex.	20	13	7	21	14	7.0	18	13	5.0
Ariz.	37	7	30	39	6.0	33	39	7.0	32
Utah	20	15	5	20	15	5.0	20	15	5.0
Nev.	3	2	1	3.8	2.1	1.7	3.7	2.3	1.4
Mount.	219	145	74	215.8	143.1	72.7	203.7	136.3	67.4
Wash.	63	47	16	73	52	21	72	52	20
Oreg.	60	50	10	62	52	10	61	51	10
Calif.	212	88	124	235	75	160	225	75	150
Pac.	335	185	150	370	179	191	358	178	180
U. S.	4345	3430	915	4198.8	3323.1	875.7	3995.8	3181.0	814.8

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.

2/ Corrected number of hired workers on Ohio Farms, 1968, Farm Labor Report Feb. 1969 (In thousands): Feb.,9; Apr.,17; May, 21; June, 25; July, 26; Aug., 30; Sept., 33; and Nov., 14.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms – week of March 23-29, 1969				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	54.6	28.8	46.9	37.5	43.5
N. H.	50.1	39.2	48.0	44.5	46.6
Vt.	63.0	34.9	53.3	43.7	49.7
Mass.	56.3	33.9	49.9	39.4	46.0
R. I.	42.3	52.7	45.8	55.0	47.5
Conn.	56.9	32.3	48.9	43.3	47.1
N. Eng.	56.3	33.4	49.3	41.5	46.4
N. Y.	53.8	31.6	47.0	36.5	43.7
N. J.	35.0	29.0	33.6	30.0	32.7
Pa.	46.9	28.2	41.2	33.1	39.6
M. Atl.	49.0	29.6	43.1	34.5	40.8
Ohio	38.4	27.3	35.6	28.6	34.4
Ind.	34.2	27.7	33.0	25.4	31.7
Ill.	34.2	30.6	33.6	31.1	33.2
Mich.	40.2	31.7	38.2	26.2	35.9
Wis.	51.3	28.7	42.7	31.0	40.8
E. N. Cent.	39.7	29.2	36.6	29.1	35.6
Minn.	40.5	28.3	36.8	33.6	36.5
Iowa	43.6	27.6	39.3	28.7	37.9
Mo.	38.7	27.8	36.6	31.5	35.6
N. Dak.	35.5	31.7	34.6	36.1	34.7
S. Dak.	43.3	28.1	39.1	34.1	38.6
Nebr.	41.9	29.1	38.7	32.0	38.0
Kans.	36.8	29.4	35.4	30.4	34.7
W. N. Cent.	40.3	28.5	37.3	31.7	36.6
Del.	31.6	29.5	31.0	26.0	29.6
Md.	39.4	33.7	37.7	34.1	36.7
Va.	37.7	32.3	36.6	33.1	35.4
W. Va.	35.3	28.5	33.6	26.2	32.4
N. C.	30.2	26.6	29.4	27.0	28.7
S. C.	35.1	27.3	33.2	30.6	32.1
Ga.	33.6	22.6	30.8	31.6	31.1
Fla.	36.9	34.5	36.4	31.0	33.2
S. Atl.	33.8	27.9	32.4	30.7	31.9
Ky.	34.5	29.7	33.5	28.5	31.9
Tenn.	29.3	27.5	29.0	26.1	28.3
Ala.	30.5	27.7	30.0	26.7	29.0
Miss.	29.9	23.8	28.8	26.7	27.8
E. S. Cent.	31.2	27.4	30.5	27.1	29.4
Ark.	31.6	29.5	31.2	33.3	31.9
La.	27.0	27.1	27.0	30.2	28.2
Okla.	33.8	32.1	33.4	28.6	32.7
Tex.	36.3	29.3	35.2	40.6	36.9
W. S. Cent.	33.7	29.7	33.0	35.3	33.7
Mont.	42.1	34.6	40.3	42.5	40.8
Idaho	40.5	29.2	37.2	29.9	36.0
Wyo.	49.1	34.8	45.1	44.5	44.9
Colo.	43.1	34.9	41.0	37.2	40.2
N. Mex.	44.2	35.3	42.2	46.8	43.9
Ariz.	47.4	28.8	42.2	47.3	45.1
Utah	36.7	28.6	34.0	28.2	32.6
Nev.	42.9	25.4	38.1	50.9	43.4
Mount.	42.3	32.5	39.6	42.7	40.4
Wash.	42.4	28.3	38.5	31.5	35.8
Oreg.	40.1	31.7	37.7	35.2	37.0
Calif.	41.3	37.5	40.5	45.9	44.5
Pac.	41.3	33.0	39.1	43.7	41.5
U. S.	37.7	29.0	35.4	35.2	35.5

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

Farm Wage Rates, April 1, 1969 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	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	290	215	57.00	82.00	—	—	13.00	—	1.60	1.33	855
N. H.	310	235	62.00	83.00	—	—	13.20	—	1.69	1.39	970
Vt.	305	230	60.00	80.00	—	—	13.00	—	1.68	1.36	940
Mass.	350	235	66.00	89.00	—	—	13.80	—	1.77	1.46	1,006
R. I.	345	235	65.00	89.00	—	—	13.80	—	1.77	1.46	1,056
Conn.	345	240	65.00	89.00	—	—	13.80	—	1.77	1.46	1,061
N. Eng.	322	230	62.00	85.00	—	—	13.40	—	1.70	1.40	966
N. Y.	315	220	60.25	83.50	—	—	12.90	—	1.62	1.20	822
N. J.	325	240	60.00	76.00	—	—	13.10	—	1.68	1.22	955
Pa.	301	246	58.50	72.50	—	—	11.40	—	1.48	1.14	1,017
M. Atl.	312	231	59.75	78.75	—	—	12.50	—	1.59	1.18	911
Ohio	280	209	—	—	—	9.20	11.30	—	1.46	1.00	884
Ind.	276	200	—	—	—	10.40	12.70	—	1.54	1.03	944
Ill.	317	239	—	—	—	10.80	13.50	—	1.62	1.14	964
Mich.	360	255	67.75	92.00	—	12.00	14.20	—	1.65	1.22	1,007
Wis.	320	235	—	—	—	10.50	12.80	—	1.60	1.12	885
E. N. Cent.	316	232	—	—	—	10.70	13.00	—	1.59	1.12	947
Minn.	300	235	—	—	—	10.40	13.00	—	1.53	1.14	812
Iowa	360	279	—	—	—	11.80	14.40	—	1.60	1.30	894
Mo.	254	186	—	—	—	9.60	11.60	—	1.41	1.00	1,007
N. Dak.	297	233	—	—	—	10.10	12.70	—	1.43	1.11	700
S. Dak.	281	220	—	—	—	9.70	11.60	—	1.35	1.04	692
Nebr.	352	260	—	—	—	11.00	13.50	—	1.53	1.22	902
Kans.	317	239	—	—	—	10.50	12.90	—	1.49	1.15	1,043
W. N. Cent.	306	232	—	—	—	10.50	12.80	—	1.49	1.14	871
Del.	270	—	—	—	—	—	11.30	—	1.38	1.18	1,190
Md.	260	195	52.00	67.00	—	—	11.60	—	1.50	1.22	1,355
Va.	—	—	—	—	8.10	—	9.60	1.06	1.24	.97	1,167
W. Va.	155	115	—	—	—	6.60	8.30	—	1.12	.87	757
N. C.	—	—	—	—	8.30	—	9.60	1.05	1.21	.96	1,203
S. C.	—	—	—	—	7.20	—	8.00	.97	1.08	.84	1,215
Ga.	—	—	—	—	7.40	—	8.40	1.03	1.18	.89	1,096
Fla.	—	—	—	—	9.50	—	9.50	1.25	1.45	1.06	1,174
S. Atl.	—	—	—	—	8.10	—	9.30	1.20	1.33	1.01	1,230
Ky.	—	—	—	—	6.60	—	8.50	1.00	1.24	.82	923
Tenn.	—	—	—	—	7.00	—	8.50	.95	1.14	.83	959
Ala.	—	—	—	—	7.20	—	7.80	1.00	1.11	.80	974
Miss.	—	—	—	—	7.90	—	8.90	1.15	1.20	.89	1,053
E. S. Cent.	—	—	—	—	7.30	—	8.50	1.04	1.18	.84	989
Ark.	—	—	—	—	9.80	—	10.50	1.17	1.28	1.08	1,111
La.	—	—	—	—	8.60	—	9.20	1.13	1.20	.98	1,115
Okla.	—	—	—	—	9.90	—	11.40	1.22	1.39	1.15	972
Texas	—	—	—	—	10.00	—	10.80	1.17	1.29	1.10	1,002
W. S. Cent.	—	—	—	—	9.60	—	10.40	1.16	1.27	1.07	1,043
Mont.	300	232	—	—	—	—	12.10	—	1.47	1.16	641
Idaho	350	260	—	—	—	—	13.20	—	1.60	1.29	794
Wyo.	296	223	—	—	—	—	12.20	—	1.52	1.17	657
Colo.	317	232	—	—	—	—	13.20	—	1.52	1.22	882
N. Mex.	262	210	—	—	—	—	10.30	—	1.25	1.02	931
Ariz.	353	250	—	—	—	—	13.10	—	1.41	1.23	874
Utah	325	260	—	—	—	—	12.00	—	1.52	1.22	819
Nev.	300	205	—	—	—	—	12.30	—	1.50	1.14	669
Mount.	327	241	—	—	—	—	12.60	—	1.44	1.20	800
Wash.	400	300	—	—	—	—	—	1.71	1.79	1.74	864
Oreg.	360	250	—	—	—	—	—	1.60	1.60	1.55	781
Calif.	410	304	—	—	—	—	—	1.68	1.79	1.74	828
Pac.	406	301	—	—	—	—	—	1.68	1.78	1.73	826
U. S.	296	228	54.25	70.00	8.70	9.20	10.30	1.34	1.59	1.21	1,028

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, 1968 1/

State and division	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	287	210	53.00	78.00	—	—	12.80	—	1.48	1.27	813
N. H.	295	210	57.00	77.00	—	—	11.90	—	1.53	1.26	884
Vt.	290	210	55.00	74.00	—	—	12.00	—	1.53	1.25	864
Mass.	335	220	62.00	87.00	—	—	13.40	—	1.62	1.39	956
R. I.	335	220	62.00	87.00	—	—	13.40	—	1.67	1.40	1015
Conn.	335	220	62.00	87.00	—	—	13.40	—	1.70	1.41	1023
N. Eng.	310	214	57.75	81.25	—	—	12.80	—	1.57	1.32	909
N. Y.	300	205	56.50	77.00	—	—	12.10	—	1.49	1.12	764
N. J.	330	250	61.00	76.00	—	—	12.70	—	1.57	1.20	941
Pa.	262	197	51.00	66.25	—	—	10.50	—	1.38	1.01	906
M. Atl.	292	209	55.25	73.25	—	—	11.70	—	1.47	1.10	842
Ohio	258	184	—	—	—	8.40	10.60	—	1.34	.913	805
Ind.	252	186	—	—	—	8.90	11.10	—	1.41	.936	857
Ill.	296	228	—	—	—	10.20	12.50	—	1.51	1.07	905
Mich.	320	230	—	—	—	10.75	12.20	—	1.45	1.07	889
Wis.	288	210	—	—	—	9.90	12.10	—	1.46	1.02	807
E. N. Cent.	288	212	—	—	—	9.80	11.90	—	1.45	1.01	862
Minn.	282	215	—	—	—	10.50	12.60	—	1.42	1.08	765
Iowa	324	251	—	—	—	11.20	13.60	—	1.50	1.19	813
Mo.	240	177	—	—	—	8.80	10.80	—	1.30	.931	934
N. Dak.	278	226	—	—	—	10.10	12.70	—	1.36	1.07	677
S. Dak.	270	209	—	—	—	9.40	11.50	—	1.30	1.00	668
Nebr.	322	238	—	—	—	10.50	12.90	—	1.44	1.14	843
Kans.	283	219	—	—	—	10.10	12.30	—	1.41	1.07	973
W. N. Cent.	283	215	—	—	—	10.00	12.20	—	1.39	1.06	811
Del.	270	—	—	—	—	—	10.50	—	1.30	1.12	1126
Md.	260	180	50.00	64.00	—	—	10.70	—	1.33	1.12	1241
Va.	—	—	—	—	7.50	—	8.60	.96	1.15	.880	1063
W. Va.	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.60	—	1.05	.803	700
N. C.	—	—	—	—	7.60	—	8.80	.95	1.10	.878	1097
S. C.	—	—	—	—	6.30	—	7.10	.85	.98	.743	1080
Ga.	—	—	—	—	6.70	—	7.70	.94	1.11	.816	1008
Fla.	—	—	—	—	8.60	—	9.50	1.10	1.35	.983	1090
S. Atl.	—	—	—	—	7.90	—	8.90	1.02	1.22	.919	1123
Ky.	—	—	—	—	6.20	—	8.00	.94	1.15	.770	864
Tenn.	—	—	—	—	6.50	—	7.70	.88	1.05	.758	880
Ala.	—	—	—	—	6.00	—	7.10	.89	1.05	.708	864
Miss.	—	—	—	—	6.80	—	7.20	.97	1.00	.741	876
E. S. Cent.	—	—	—	—	6.40	—	7.60	.92	1.07	.748	876
Ark.	—	—	—	—	9.00	—	9.60	1.06	1.19	.994	1021
La.	—	—	—	—	7.60	—	8.30	1.02	1.11	.880	1007
Okla.	—	—	—	—	9.30	—	10.80	1.15	1.30	1.08	916
Texas	—	—	—	—	9.00	—	9.90	1.07	1.18	1.00	912
W. S. Cent.	—	—	—	—	8.80	—	9.60	1.06	1.18	.986	959
Mont.	293	226	—	—	—	—	11.80	—	1.42	1.13	624
Idaho	330	250	—	—	—	—	12.90	—	1.50	1.23	760
Wyo.	310	216	—	—	—	—	11.40	—	1.41	1.12	628
Colo.	289	207	—	—	—	—	11.90	—	1.47	1.12	812
N. Mex.	260	180	—	—	—	—	10.10	—	1.10	.931	847
Ariz.	338	220	—	—	—	—	12.50	—	1.30	1.15	818
Utah	290	240	—	—	—	—	11.40	—	1.50	1.15	773
Nev.	320	230	—	—	—	—	12.30	—	1.65	1.22	715
Mount.	312	219	—	—	—	—	12.00	—	1.37	1.13	754
Wash.	380	290	—	—	—	—	—	1.61	1.70	1.65	820
Oreg.	342	253	—	—	—	—	—	1.44	1.52	1.47	739
Calif.	400	280	—	—	—	—	—	1.56	1.65	1.61	766
Pac.	394	279	—	—	—	—	—	1.56	1.65	1.60	767
U. S.	270	206	50.00	63.50	8.00	8.50	9.50	1.17	1.44	1.08	914

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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