farm labor

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Work Force Larger Than Year Ago

The Nation's farm labor force for the survey week of September 23-29 numbered 5,068,500 workers, slightly larger than a year ago. The work force consisted of 3,635,600 farm operators and unpaid family members and 1,432,900 hired workers.

Farm workers averaged 38.5 hours during the September survey week, compared with 38.7 hours in August and 38.3 hours in September 1972. Farm operators worked an average of 43.5 hours; other unpaid family members 32.3; and hired workers 35.0 hours during the survey week.

Wages Continue To Climb

Farm wage rates on October 1, 1973 were up about 9 percent from a year earlier. The average cash rate without board and room was $1.97 per hour, up 15 cents from October 1, 1972. Wages paid by the month, week, or day were also higher. The seasonally adjusted index of Farm Wage Rates was 161 on October 1, 1973, about 10 percent higher than a year ago.

Wet Weather Hampers Harvest

Wet weather hampered harvest activities during the week of September 23-29 in many areas. Soybean combining gained momentum in the Eastern Corn Belt, but rains hampered harvest in the Western Corn Belt. In the South, soybean harvest was just getting started.

Mild temperatures and wet weather prevailed over the Corn Belt as the corn crop matured rapidly. Picking was underway in Corn Belt States, although very limited in Wisconsin and Nebraska.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
La 1 (10-73) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Cotton is opening rapidly in the South. Moderate to heavy rains stopped cotton harvesting in Texas at mid-week and held up harvesting in Arkansas. Defoliation was active in most cotton producing areas.

Potato digging in Idaho resumed at mid-week after being delayed by rain. The potato harvest in Aroostook County, Maine was active during the week. Rice harvesting continued behind schedule in Texas and was delayed by rain in Louisiana and Arkansas.

Harvesting weather was favorable in the Northeast fruit orchards. The New York apple harvest made good progress and the Concord grape harvest got underway in the Finger Lakes area. Apple picking was in full swing in the Pacific States. The California grape harvest remained active. Picking of Valencia oranges, grapefruit, and lemons continued in California.

The vegetable harvest moved along normally in the Pacific States. Fall lettuce harvesting increased in New Jersey, the Texas High Plains, and Arizona. Frequent rains and wet fields delayed seeding and land preparation in the Texas lower Rio Grande Valley.

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 1973, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1971	Annual average 1972	September 19-25, 1971	September 17-23, 1972	September 23-29, 1973
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,436.3	4,373.4	5,103.9	5,066.6	5,068.5
Family labor	3,275.1	3,227.7	3,669.0	3,641.3	3,635.6
Hired labor	1,161.2	1,145.7	1,434.9	1,425.3	1,432.9
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	33	32	30	30	30
Family labor	32	32	31	30	30
Hired labor	34	34	29	29	29
(1967=100)					
Total	92	89	83	81	81
Family labor	89	89	86	83	83
Hired labor	89	89	76	76	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, October 1, 1973, United States

Item	Annual average 1972	October 1, 1971	October 1, 1972	October 1, 1973
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.58	$ 1.54	$ 1.65	$ 1.80
Per month with house	361	338	363	395
Per month with board and room	280	262	282	308
Per week with board and room	67.80	66.50	69.00	74.50
Per week without board or room	85.50	80.50	86.25	94.50
Per day with house	11.20	10.60	3/11.60	12.80
Per day with board and room	12.00	11.10	12.00	13.10
Per day without board or room	13.20	12.80	13.90	15.30
Per hour with house	1.65	1.72	1.81	1.99
Per hour without board or room	1.84	1.70	1.82	1.97
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	1,215	1,170	1,249	1,361
(1967=100)	143	138	147	161

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 1973

State	September 1971 week of 19-25			September 1972 week of 17-23			September 1973 week of 23-29		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	Thousands								
Maine	35	12	23	34	13	21	35	12	23
N. H.	7.1	4.2	2.9	6.2	3.9	2.3	6.5	3.8	2.7
Vt.	14.6	11	3.6	13.3	10	3.3	12.9	9.4	3.5
Mass.	21	10	11	18.3	9.1	9.2	21	10	11
R. I.	2.0	1.3	.7	1.7	.9	.8	1.6	.9	.7
Conn.	13.8	6.8	7.0	15.7	7.7	8.0	14.7	7.6	7.1
N. Y.	122	83	39	116	80	36	116	79	37
N. J.	23	9.0	14	26	10	16	22	9.0	13
Pa.	122	103	19	124	103	21	123	102	21
Ohio	157	127	30	161	128	33	150	123	27
Ind.	141	125	16	149	132	17	145	129	16
Ill.	169	142	27	170	143	27	177	149	28
Mich.	138	109	29	141	111	30	130	107	23
Wis.	195	168	27	185	156	29	189	161	28
Minn.	197	170	27	184	163	21	199	172	27
Iowa	234	197	37	215	188	27	208	181	27
Mo.	229	178	51	220	170	50	223	177	46
N. Dak.	73	58	15	76	61	15	68	55	13
S. Dak.	72	63	9.0	71	61	10	73	62	11
Nebr.	116	101	15	105	91	14	109	91	18
Kans.	120	107	13	126	111	15	117	105	12
Del.	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0
Md.	34	24	10	34	24	10	34	25	9.0
Va.	128	90	38	127	91	36	125	87	38
W. Va.	40	35	5.0	38	34	4.0	38	33	5.0
N. C.	266	211	55	249	206	43	225	180	45
S. C.	91	71	20	89	68	21	87	69	18
Ga.	126	104	22	129	106	23	130	108	22
Fla.	97	42	55	102	47	55	99	45	54
Ky.	198	144	54	189	142	47	178	138	40
Tenn.	189	155	34	193	156	37	195	161	34
Ala.	112	91	21	107	89	18	108	90	18
Miss.	160	112	48	155	114	41	150	116	34
Ark.	164	98	66	152	95	57	158	95	63
La.	107	65	42	105	62	43	114	65	49
Okla.	130	110	20	138	113	25	135	111	24
Texas	286	188	98	338	206	132	364	230	134
Mont.	44	32	12	48	33	15	44	32	12
Idaho	57	41	16	57	40	17	55	40	15
Wyo.	18	12	6.0	19	13	6.0	19	12	7.0
Colo.	68	36	32	73	40	33	72	38	34
N. Mex.	26	16	10	24	14	10	22	13	9.0
Ariz.	34	7.0	27	34	7.0	27	35	7.0	28
Utah	30	21	9.0	26	20	6.0	29	22	7.0
Nev.	5.4	2.7	2.7	5.4	2.7	2.7	5.8	2.9	2.9
Wash.	85	53	32	78	49	29	88	51	37
Oreg.	60	44	16	53	39	14	55	39	16
Calif.	340	75	265	339	74	265	356	76	280
U. S.	5,103.9	3,669.0	1,434.9	5,066.6	3,641.3	1,425.3	5,068.5	3,635.6	1,432.9

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker
Average for reporting farms, week of September 23-29, 1973

State	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
			Hours		
Maine	64.2	33.5	52.7	33.2	45.5
N. H.	61.5	34.3	52.3	39.2	47.0
Vt.	66.2	41.9	58.2	41.6	51.2
Mass.	65.3	38.3	55.0	40.4	48.0
R. I.	70.1	40.0	60.1	23.3	52.7
Conn.	63.3	39.9	55.0	41.8	49.1
N. Y.	51.9	33.5	45.5	37.9	43.2
N. J.	39.4	37.9	39.1	28.1	35.6
Pa.	50.9	32.0	44.7	32.8	42.0
Ohio	42.5	33.1	39.9	29.1	37.8
Ind.	41.2	33.2	39.5	27.0	37.2
Ill.	45.2	35.1	42.9	35.1	41.3
Mich.	47.9	33.3	43.8	36.3	42.3
Wis.	55.4	29.8	45.4	36.1	43.7
Minn.	55.5	30.6	46.5	32.5	44.0
Iowa	49.4	32.0	45.1	32.5	42.8
Mo.	38.8	29.9	36.8	32.8	36.0
N. Dak.	50.9	36.4	46.5	38.8	45.2
S. Dak.	52.3	34.8	46.9	29.4	43.8
Nebr.	48.0	36.3	44.6	31.1	42.0
Kans.	40.9	35.2	39.6	36.8	39.1
Del.	47.3	30.3	41.9	35.5	40.2
Md.	44.6	36.6	42.4	28.1	38.6
Va.	42.3	34.2	40.1	31.4	36.4
W. Va.	37.6	29.9	35.7	21.5	32.7
N. C.	36.1	32.1	35.0	23.2	30.4
S. C.	34.9	31.5	34.1	32.4	33.4
Ga.	37.1	30.2	35.4	34.5	35.1
Fla.	37.5	28.8	35.2	25.6	28.8
Ky.	36.8	31.7	35.6	25.1	31.7
Tenn.	34.2	29.3	33.0	25.0	30.8
Ala.	37.9	28.8	35.7	31.3	34.3
Miss.	33.2	28.1	31.9	32.6	32.3
Ark.	35.4	33.5	35.0	36.5	35.7
La.	34.1	33.8	34.1	34.8	34.4
Okla.	46.7	31.8	42.1	31.4	39.8
Tex.	42.3	28.2	38.7	31.6	36.2
Mont.	53.9	38.8	49.1	46.1	48.4
Idaho	46.0	35.4	42.6	36.0	41.1
Wyo.	56.1	31.9	47.0	44.0	46.0
Colo.	52.2	38.7	48.3	39.1	45.9
N. Mex.	47.8	31.9	44.5	45.6	44.9
Ariz.	42.3	33.1	40.9	48.9	45.5
Utah	44.9	22.7	35.5	25.8	32.4
Nev.	44.1	49.7	45.5	47.5	46.1
Wash.	45.4	31.3	41.5	34.4	37.5
Oreg.	41.1	32.3	38.7	34.9	37.4
Calif.	50.8	44.4	49.0	43.7	44.8
U. S.	43.5	32.3	40.2	35.0	38.5

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

Farm Wage Rates, October 1, 1972 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	340	290	70.00	100.00			16.00		1.90
N. H.	370	300	80.00	105.00			17.50		2.10
Vt.	400	310	80.00	95.00			16.50		2.05
Mass.	410	300	85.00	110.00			18.50		2.15
R. I.	410	300	85.00	110.00			18.00		2.10
Conn.	410	300	85.00	110.00			18.00		2.10
N. Y.	395	285	75.00	2/98.50			15.50		1.95
N. J.	385	285	75.00	95.00			17.00		2.09
Pa.	332	252	63.75	81.25			13.90		1.78
Ohio	333	250				11.40	14.30		1.79
Ind.	320	230				10.90	15.50		1.85
Ill.	380	280				13.30	16.30		2.00
Mich.	420	320	82.00	105.00			17.50		1.99
Wis.	398	305				12.70	16.20		1.96
Minn.	369	292				13.90	16.70		1.92
Iowa	412	333				15.10	18.10		2.02
Mo.	320	230				11.00	15.00		1.80
N. Dak.	359	306				14.20	17.30		1.84
S. Dak.	347	275				12.70	15.40		1.72
Nebr.	402	301				13.40	16.30		1.93
Kans.	382	293				13.20	16.10		1.88
Del.	275						12.90		1.79
Md.	265	210	57.00	81.00			12.90		1.79
Va.					10.40		12.40		1.59
W. Va.	199	156				8.00	10.90		1.37
N. C.					10.90		12.60		1.59
S. C.					9.50		10.70		1.40
Ga.					10.00		11.80		1.56
Fla.					2/12.40		13.50		1.60
Ky.					9.10		12.60		1.89
Tenn.					9.70		11.80		1.50
Ala.					9.50		10.60		1.45
Miss.					10.50		11.20		1.42
Ark.					12.80		13.20		1.55
La.					10.90		11.60		1.46
Okla.					12.70		14.00		1.69
Texas					12.20		13.20	1.50	1.60
Mont.	385	300					16.80		1.93
Idaho	430	345					16.40		1.98
Wyo.	400	275					14.90		1.83
Colo.	381	273					16.00		1.90
N. Mex.	335	271					12.90		1.51
Ariz.	450	335					15.50		1.70
Utah	365	290					14.30		1.83
Nev.	350	260					14.00		1.85
Wash.	475	375						2.05	2.20
Oregon	400	321						1.88	1.96
Calif.	480	340						1.99	2.10
U. S.	363	282	69.00	86.25	2/11.60	12.00	13.90	1.81	1.82

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, 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	390	290	75.00	105.00			17.50		2.00
N. H.	420	320	80.00	115.00			18.50		2.20
Vt.	430	310	80.00	105.00			17.00		2.15
Mass.	450	350	90.00	120.00			20.50		2.20
R. I.	450	340	90.00	120.00			19.00		2.20
Conn.	460	330	90.00	120.00			19.00		2.25
N. Y.	430	309	80.25	105.25			16.30		2.01
N. J.	400	300	80.00	110.00			18.50		2.20
Pa.	392	291	70.00	97.00			16.00		1.96
Ohio	375	270				11.70	15.60		1.96
Ind.	353	258				11.60	16.30		2.07
Ill.	425	315				14.50	18.00		2.15
Mich.	440	325	90.00	110.00			18.00		2.09
Wis.	430	333				14.10	17.40		2.08
Minn.	403	322				14.90	17.70		2.10
Iowa	450	362				16.00	18.70		2.26
Mo.	350	255				12.00	16.00		1.95
N. Dak.	395	335				15.00	18.20		2.02
S. Dak.	397	316				13.60	16.60		1.90
Nebr.	446	341				14.90	18.00		2.12
Kans.	426	333				14.40	17.90		2.07
Del.	293						13.50		1.88
Md.	293	220	59.00	84.00			13.40		1.88
Va.					11.80		13.70		1.75
W. Va.	240	166				9.30	12.30		1.59
N. C.					12.30		14.10		1.80
S. C.					10.50		12.20		1.58
Ga.					11.00		12.70		1.68
Fla.					13.50		14.50		1.70
Ky.					10.10		13.30		1.94
Tenn.					10.20		12.60		1.67
Ala.					10.70		12.20		1.60
Miss.					11.40		12.20		1.53
Ark.					14.40		14.60		1.69
La.					11.80		12.90		1.58
Okla.					14.90		16.40		1.89
Texas					13.70		14.90	1.67	1.77
Mont.	429	342					17.80		2.08
Idaho	477	375					18.90		2.10
Wyo.	426	319					17.90		2.08
Colo.	418	299					16.90		2.05
N. Mex.	379	247					14.10		1.62
Ariz.	500	375					18.40		1.91
Utah	400	315					15.20		2.00
Nev.	450	330					17.50		2.15
Wash.	495	400						2.25	2.30
Oreg.	444	347						2.06	2.12
Calif.	495	380						2.19	2.30
U. S.	395	308	74.50	94.50	12.80	13.10	15.30	1.99	1.97

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.