Farm Labor

Release
April 10, 1968
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

Spring Activities Dominate Farm Labor Activity

The Nation's farm labor force for the week of March 24-30 is estimated at 4,186,000 persons, 4 percent less than during the comparable period of 1967. Of these 3,341,000 were farm family members. Hired workers totaled 845,000 -- 8 percent below the corresponding period last year.

Farm workers averaged 37.1 hours during the March survey week compared with 34.2 hours a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 40.4 hours while unpaid family members worked 29.8 hours. Hired workers averaged 35.6 hours during the survey week.

Mild weather over much of the Nation during the survey week increased fieldwork activity. Seeding of spring grains made rapid progress in the Plains and the Corn Belt. Seeding of spring wheat was about 15 percent completed in South Dakota. Oat seeding was approximately 25 percent completed in Iowa, 40 percent completed in Illinois, and slightly over half of the oats had been seeded in Missouri. In Kansas, 80 percent of the oats were seeded, while in Oklahoma, seeding was virtually completed. Small grains were being seeded in the eastern Corn Belt and North Atlantic States.

Planting of corn was active in the southern one-third of the Nation. Cotton planting was gaining momentum in central Arizona with activity picking up in Texas and other Southern States. Tobacco setting was active in Georgia. Sugar beet planting was underway in many areas of the country.

In Florida, vegetable harvest was active on the southern Peninsula. Lettuce harvest reached volume proportion in the Salt River Valley of Arizona, but was nearing the end in the Yuma area. Asparagus cutting was near completion in the Imperial Valley.

Farm Wage Rates Continue Upward Trend

The level of farm wage rates reported by farm operators on April 1, 1968, was 7 percent higher than a year earlier. The average cash rate per hour without board or room increased to $1.43 per hour, 7 percent over April 1, 1967. Monthly,

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Statistical Reporting Service — Crop Reporting Board
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weekly, and daily rates showed similar gains. In index terms, seasonally adjusted, the national average reached 912 (1910-14=100), up from the 1967 average of 849.

Wage rates reported for farm workers in Alaska were as follows: per month with house, $400; per month with board and room, $300; per day without board or room, $16.00; 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 1968, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1962-66 1/	Annual average 1967 1/	March average 1962-66 1/	March 19-25, 1967	March 24-30, 1968
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,031	4,903	5,192	4,345	4,186
Family labor	4,420	3,650	4,090	3,430	3,341
Hired labor	1,611	1,253	1,102	915	845
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	44	36	45	38	36
Family labor	44	36	44	37	36
Hired labor	47	37	48	40	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total	81	66	82	69	66
Family labor	80	66	81	68	67
Hired labor	82	64	84	70	65

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, 1968, United States

	Annual average 1967	April average 1962-66	April 1, 1967	April 1, 1968
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 1.12	$ 0.842	$ 0.998	$ 1.07
Per month with house	262	210	253	270
Per month with board and room	199	161	192	206
Per week with board and room	47.50	38.25	45.75	50.00
Per week without board or room	60.50	50.00	58.75	63.50
Per day with house	7.50	5.90	7.30	8.00
Per day with board and room	8.60	6.60	7.80	8.50
Per day without board or room	9.00	7.20	8.70	9.40
Per hour with house	1.18	.89	1.07	1.17
Per hour without board or room	1.33	1.16	1.34	1.43
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	862	717	849	912
(1957-59=100)	148	123	146	157

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, March 1968 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	March Average 1962-66			March 1967 Week of 19-25			March 1968 Week of 24-30		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	24	18	6	18	13	5	17	12	5
N. H.	9	7	2	7	5	2	7	5	2
Vt.	22	18	4	17	13	4	16	13	3
Mass.	23	16	7	16	11	5	16	11	5
R. I.	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Conn.	18	13	5	11	8	3	11	8	3
N. Eng.	99	74	25	71	51	20	69	50	19
N. Y.	114	83	31	90	71	19	86	68	18
N. J.	27	18	9	16	10	9	16	10	6
Pa.	141	126	18	118	105	13	112	101	11
M. Atl.	282	224	58	224	186	38	214	179	35
Ohio	192	172	20	157	144	13	152	139	13
Ind.	171	159	12	122	113	9	126	118	8
Ill.	187	155	32	156	134	22	156	134	22
Mich.	167	146	21	132	116	16	135	119	16
Wis.	231	211	20	192	175	17	194	176	18
E. N. Cent.	948	843	105	759	682	77	763	686	77
Minn.	199	182	17	168	156	12	168	157	11
Iowa	230	213	17	201	186	15	192	179	13
Mo.	205	188	17	195	170	25	176	157	19
N. Dak.	66	60	6	57	52	5	53	49	4
S. Dak.	77	72	5	70	65	5	66	62	4
Nebr.	116	104	12	103	90	13	106	97	9
Kans.	130	118	12	116	106	10	109	101	8
W. N. Cent.	1023	937	86	910	825	85	870	802	68
Del.	8	6	2	5	4	1	5	4	1
Md.	43	32	11	32	25	7	31	26	5
Va.	139	111	28	116	94	22	111	93	18
W. Va.	48	40	8	38	32	6	35	31	4
N. C.	248	207	41	199	165	34	186	158	28
S. C.	105	74	31	68	52	16	65	49	16
Ga.	125	96	29	96	77	19	98	78	20
Fla.	147	47	100	129	34	95	128	35	93
S. Atl.	863	613	250	683	483	200	659	474	185
Ky.	182	149	33	167	131	36	147	124	23
Tenn.	173	141	32	149	119	30	128	109	19
Ala.	96	75	21	91	71	20	76	61	15
Miss.	165	125	40	135	106	29	143	109	34
E. S. Cent.	616	490	126	542	427	115	494	403	91
Ark.	145	92	53	128	86	42	123	81	42
La.	113	74	39	85	60	25	85	56	29
Okla.	126	113	13	123	113	10	117	109	8
Texas	296	214	82	266	187	79	237	179	58
W. S. Cent.	680	493	187	602	446	156	562	425	137
Mont.	42	35	7	40	31	9	37	29	8
Idaho	48	40	8	38	32	6	38	32	6
Wyo.	15	11	4	14	10	4	14	10	4
Colo.	46	38	8	47	35	12	41	33	8
N. Mex.	26	17	9	20	13	7	21	14	7
Ariz.	37	8	29	37	7	30	39	6	33
Utah	22	17	5	20	15	5	20	15	5
Nev.	4	3	1	3	2	1	4	2	2
Mount.	240	169	71	219	145	74	214	141	73
Wash.	86	63	23	63	47	16	73	52	21
Oreg.	80	63	17	60	50	10	65	54	11
Calif.	275	121	154	212	88	124	203	75	128
Pac.	441	247	194	335	185	150	341	181	160
U. S.	5192	4090	1102	4345	3430	915	4186	3341	845

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 24-30, 1968				
	Farm Operators	Other Family Members 1/	All Family 1/	Hired Workers	All Workers 1/
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	50.3	33.0	45.9	35.1	41.5
N. H.	51.4	25.5	44.9	41.6	43.5
Vt.	65.7	35.2	53.3	43.5	50.0
Mass.	57.5	36.2	50.1	42.5	47.0
R. I.	44.6	39.5	43.4	52.3	46.0
Conn.	49.5	32.6	44.3	35.4	41.3
N. Eng.	55.0	33.4	48.0	40.0	45.0
N. Y.	54.2	31.4	47.2	41.0	45.4
N. J.	39.4	30.0	37.3	41.1	38.3
Pa.	48.4	29.2	42.1	34.4	40.6
M. Atl.	50.2	30.2	43.9	38.9	42.4
Ohio	40.1	28.4	37.2	29.1	35.8
Ind.	34.5	27.2	33.0	28.2	32.3
Ill.	41.2	34.0	39.9	36.2	39.3
Mich.	44.6	31.9	40.8	28.3	38.2
Wis.	55.1	29.6	45.1	36.2	43.6
E. N. Cent.	43.2	30.3	39.3	32.5	38.3
Minn.	47.7	30.1	42.0	33.6	41.1
Iowa	52.5	28.2	46.0	32.7	43.9
Mo.	40.6	30.8	38.8	32.1	37.4
N. Dak.	40.9	34.1	39.1	33.6	38.6
S. Dak.	49.1	32.9	44.7	35.3	43.6
Nebr.	49.8	31.1	44.7	34.4	43.4
Kans.	44.0	31.0	41.0	35.0	40.1
W. N. Cent.	46.6	30.5	42.3	33.4	41.2
Del.	32.9	32.0	32.8	38.7	34.1
Md.	42.3	34.9	39.9	42.0	40.3
Va.	42.9	32.2	40.1	35.2	38.5
W. Va.	34.9	26.3	32.7	25.7	31.5
N. C.	35.0	30.4	33.9	28.2	32.0
S. C.	36.5	33.1	35.9	29.5	33.1
Ga.	35.1	28.0	33.5	29.4	31.9
Fla.	39.3	21.9	35.7	37.7	36.8
S. Atl.	37.1	29.9	35.4	34.3	34.5
Ky.	31.7	27.3	30.8	27.2	29.7
Tenn.	27.4	27.1	27.4	22.5	26.2
Ala.	29.3	28.3	29.1	25.3	27.9
Miss.	32.4	25.4	30.7	20.8	25.2
E. S. Cent.	30.1	27.0	29.5	23.5	27.2
Ark.	32.6	28.1	31.8	32.3	32.0
La.	32.2	31.2	32.1	28.8	31.0
Okla.	33.9	24.4	31.6	28.4	31.1
Tex.	37.2	30.9	36.0	37.5	36.5
W. S. Cent.	35.0	29.0	33.7	33.5	33.6
Mont.	45.1	37.7	43.3	43.5	43.3
Idaho	43.8	31.9	39.7	30.6	37.7
Wyo.	49.8	29.8	42.9	40.5	42.2
Colo.	44.2	32.3	40.8	42.3	41.1
N. Mex.	43.3	29.0	39.7	38.7	39.3
Ariz.	47.0	35.2	45.0	40.5	42.3
Utah	39.6	27.2	35.4	27.5	33.6
Nev.	45.2	23.7	40.9	45.7	43.3
Mount.	44.2	32.2	40.7	39.3	40.3
Wash.	42.7	29.5	39.0	35.8	37.8
Oreg.	37.5	30.5	35.5	34.3	35.2
Calif.	43.4	32.5	41.2	47.6	46.1
Pac.	41.6	31.0	39.0	45.1	42.2
U. S.	40.4	29.8	37.5	35.6	37.1

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, 1968 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	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	56.25	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.	316	222	---	---	---	10.50	12.90	---	1.47	1.07	889
Wis.	288	210	---	---	---	9.90	12.10	---	1.46	1.02	807
E. N. Cent.	287	210	---	---	---	9.70	12.00	---	1.45	1.02	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	1.13	.884	1104
S. C.	---	---	---	---	6.30	---	7.10	.85	.98	.743	1080
Ga.	---	---	---	---	6.70	---	7.70	.94	1.11	.816	1008
Fla.	---	---	---	---	8.60	---	8.50	1.10	1.25	.936	1038
S. Atl.	---	---	---	---	7.90	---	8.50	1.02	1.18	.899	1098
Ky.	---	---	---	---	6.20	---	8.00	.94	1.15	.770	864
Tenn.	---	---	---	---	6.50	---	7.70	.88	1.05	.758	880
Ala.	---	---	---	---	6.10	---	7.10	.89	1.05	.712	869
Miss.	---	---	---	---	6.80	---	7.20	.97	1.00	.741	876
E. S. Cent.	---	---	---	---	6.40	---	7.60	.92	1.07	.749	877
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	---	---	---	---	13.20	---	1.30	1.16	826
Utah	290	240	---	---	---	---	11.40	---	1.50	1.15	773
Nev.	320	230	---	---	---	---	12.30	---	1.65	1.22	715
Mount.	312	219	---	---	---	---	12.30	---	1.37	1.14	757
Wash.	382	300	---	---	---	---	---	1.61	1.70	1.65	821
Oreg.	342	253	---	---	---	---	---	1.44	1.52	1.47	739
Calif.	400	280	---	---	---	---	---	1.56	1.65	1.61	766
Pac.	394	280	---	---	---	---	---	1.56	1.65	1.60	768
U. S.	270	206	50.00	63.50	8.00	8.50	9.40	1.17	1.43	1.07	912

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, 1967 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	259	185	48.00	69.00	—	—	11.10	—	1.42	1.15	736
N.H.	278	197	55.00	71.00	—	—	11.40	—	1.47	1.20	839
Vt.	261	195	50.00	70.00	—	—	11.50	—	1.47	1.18	819
Mass.	315	210	57.00	80.00	—	—	12.40	—	1.60	1.31	901
R.I.	315	210	57.00	80.00	—	—	12.40	—	1.60	1.31	948
Conn.	315	210	57.00	80.00	—	—	12.40	—	1.63	1.32	957
N.Eng.	288	200	53.50	74.75	—	—	11.80	—	1.53	1.24	853
N.Y.	263	188	50.00	68.25	—	—	11.20	—	1.37	1.01	690
N.J.	305	225	57.00	69.00	—	—	12.00	—	1.49	1.11	874
Pa.	252	179	46.50	60.50	—	—	10.00	—	1.29	.938	840
M.Atl.	267	191	50.00	65.75	—	—	10.90	—	1.36	1.00	771
Ohio	239	174	—	—	—	8.00	10.20	—	1.26	.861	758
Ind.	238	171	—	—	—	8.20	10.70	—	1.32	.877	803
Ill.	279	209	—	—	—	9.70	11.70	—	1.37	.992	835
Mich.	292	206	—	—	—	9.70	11.90	—	1.36	.994	822
Wis.	268	199	—	—	—	8.90	10.80	—	1.34	.947	746
E.N.Cent.	269	197	—	—	—	9.10	11.20	—	1.34	.950	803
Minn.	260	200	—	—	—	9.60	11.30	—	1.32	.990	704
Iowa	302	234	—	—	—	10.50	12.80	—	1.40	1.11	761
Mo.	224	160	—	—	—	8.00	9.70	—	1.21	.853	856
N.Dak.	254	210	—	—	—	9.30	11.60	—	1.29	.994	627
S.Dak.	249	197	—	—	—	8.80	10.80	—	1.25	.947	631
Nebr.	298	220	—	—	—	9.90	12.10	—	1.33	1.06	783
Kans.	264	198	—	—	—	9.20	11.40	—	1.32	.990	900
W.N.Cent.	265	200	—	—	—	9.30	11.30	—	1.31	.989	758
Del.	250	—	—	—	—	—	9.50	—	1.25	1.04	1049
Md.	235	165	43.00	62.00	—	—	9.70	—	1.20	1.01	1126
Va.	—	—	—	—	7.00	—	8.20	.87	1.06	.822	992
W.Va.	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.40	—	.96	.762	665
N.C.	—	—	—	—	6.90	—	8.10	.85	1.01	.802	1002
S.C.	—	—	—	—	5.80	—	6.60	.78	.87	.681	989
Ga.	—	—	—	—	6.00	—	6.70	.81	.98	.715	883
Fla.	—	—	—	—	7.70	—	8.40	.98	1.15	.878	974
S.Atl.	—	—	—	—	7.10	—	8.00	.91	1.07	.827	1010
Ky.	—	—	—	—	5.80	—	7.20	.83	1.05	.704	790
Tenn.	—	—	—	—	5.80	—	7.10	.79	.97	.690	801
Ala.	—	—	—	—	5.60	—	6.60	.80	.92	.652	796
Miss.	—	—	—	—	6.90	—	7.50	.92	.93	.752	889
E.S.Cent.	—	—	—	—	6.10	—	7.20	.84	.97	.706	827
Ark.	—	—	—	—	8.10	—	8.90	.95	1.08	.906	931
La.	—	—	—	—	7.10	—	7.60	.94	1.02	.811	928
Okla.	—	—	—	—	8.90	—	9.80	1.12	1.22	1.03	851
Texas	—	—	—	—	8.30	—	9.10	.97	1.10	.926	841
W.S.Cent.	—	—	—	—	8.10	—	8.80	.97	1.09	.903	878
Mont.	277	214	—	—	—	—	10.80	—	1.32	1.05	581
Idaho	320	250	—	—	—	—	12.00	—	1.45	1.19	733
Wyo.	271	187	—	—	—	—	10.80	—	1.32	1.02	574
Colo.	279	198	—	—	—	—	11.40	—	1.35	1.06	768
N.Mex.	250	182	—	—	—	—	9.50	—	1.10	.909	827
Ariz.	325	190	—	—	—	—	10.70	—	1.19	1.02	725
Utah	270	235	—	—	—	—	11.00	—	1.38	1.09	734
Nev.	290	230	—	—	—	—	11.00	—	1.42	1.11	649
Mount.	297	201	—	—	—	—	10.80	—	1.26	1.04	693
Wash.	353	263	—	—	—	—	—	1.53	1.58	1.53	763
Oreg.	315	225	—	—	—	—	—	1.42	1.45	1.40	704
Calif.	370	270	—	—	—	—	—	1.47	1.54	1.50	716
Pac.	364	266	—	—	—	—	—	1.47	1.54	1.50	717
U.S.	253	192	45.75	58.75	7.30	7.80	7.80	1.07	1.34	.998	849

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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