Farm Labor

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SEPTEMBER HIGH IN WORK FORCE, 4 PERCENT BELOW 1960

AVERAGE WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT

Work peaks in Southern States pushed the National farm work force in late September to the year's largest total of 8.8 million workers. This large number, however, was 4 percent less than the comparable week of 1960, and the smallest of record for this date. Compared with the average of September survey weeks in as recent a period as the years 1955-59, it represents a reduction in total workers of 11 percent --one worker in 9-employed in these years. The number of farm family workers, at 6.0 million, was 5 percent less than in September 1960, the previous September record low. The number of hired workers reached 2.8 million, almost the same as a year earlier.

Compared with the August survey week, an active period this year, the September total work force was up 6 percent. The number of family workers increased 7 percent over August which is less than the 5-year average increase. The number of hired workers increased 2 percent as compared with a slight average decrease during the past 5 years. These changes reflect the differing demands of fall harvests, ground preparation and seeding of fall grains, and livestock production.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service
Crop Reporting Board
La 1 (10-61)
Washington, D.C.

Wage Rates Increase in All Regions

Compared with same date last year, farm wage rates on October 1 showed moderate and consistent advances in all regions and almost all States. The composite average of rates of all hiring arrangements reached $0.843 per hour, cash wages only --an advance of 3 percent from October 1, 1960 to a new record for the date. The index of the composite rates adjusted for seasonal variation reached 635 percent of the 1910-14 base. Comparison of the averages for the different rates for October 1 this year and last year (pages 6 and 7) show that the increases were general. Increases in the composite rates amounted to 1 percent in Middle Atlantic and East North Central regions, 2 percent in the West North Central and South Atlantic regions, 3 percent in the Pacific, West South Central, New England, and Mountain regions, and 4 percent in the East South Central region.

Crop Timing Brings Differing Labor Peaks

Although September regularly is the month when the farm workers reach the largest National total, as indicated in these estimates over many years, this is not the case for all geographic regions. In the West North Central region, the total usually reaches its peak in July. However, late June haymaking, with other work, has required more workers in June than in July in the East North Central region in 4 years out of the past 10. In the South Atlantic region, the peak number of workers was reached in July in 1960 and 1961 although a September high is more common. The Middle Atlantic region has its largest force in August; New England may reach its peak in July, August or September. The Mountain region usually reaches its high point in September or August, and the Pacific region in either June or September. The East South Central and West South Central States usually have had largest work forces in September during the past 10 years owing to the cotton harvest demands together with demands of other work. Large numbers of field workers in these regions have contributed to making the September force the largest of the year for the Nation. These comparisons are for the monthly survey weeks upon which the estimates are based. The peak work forces required in different States and for different crops vary from year to year according to seasonal influences.

The September survey week activities this year included the usual jobs but in many sections continued to exhibit some of the lag in timing that has characterized the season during most of the planting and growing periods. Cotton harvest continues generally to lag as does the combining of soybeans and the substantial beginning of the harvest of corn for grain in the main Corn Belt. The proportion of the cotton crop harvested by October 1 was the lowest of record. Crops have prospered during the unhurried season and farm work forces reportedly have met the changing demands with fewer acute shortages than in some recent years.

Farm Employment and Indexes, September 1961, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1960	Annual average 1959	Annual average 1955-59	September average 1955-59 1/	September 18-24, 1960	September 17-23 1961
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total	7,118	7,384	7,734	9,832	9,120	8,796
Family labor	5,249	5,459	5,791	6,906	6,283	5,969
Hired labor	1,869	1,925	1,943	2,926	2,837	2,827
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	52	54	57	55	51	49
Family labor	52	54	57	56	51	48
Hired labor	55	57	57	54	52	52

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, 1961, United States

	Annual average 1960	October average 1955-59	October 1, 1960	October 1, 1961
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.818	$ 0.759	$ 0.820	$ 0.843
Per month with house	$192.00	$168.00	$186.00	$189.00
Per month with board and room	149.00	133.00	147.00	148.00
Per week with board and room	35.50	33.00	35.50	35.75
Per week without board or room	45.75	40.50	43.75	44.00
Per day with house	5.30	4.80	5.30	5.50
Per day with board and room	6.50	5.70	6.20	6.30
Per day without board or room	6.60	6.30	6.90	7.00
Per hour with house	.88	.93	1.00	1.03
Per hour without board or room	.97	.84	.90	.93
INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Farm wage rates (Adjusted for seasonal variation)	629	566	613	635
Prices received by farmers 2/	238	239	237	242

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
2/ Index for 15th of previous month.

Workers on Farms, September 1961

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	September average 1955-59 1/			September 1960 Week of 18 - 24			September 1961 Week of 17 - 23		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	213	114	99	195	102	93	179	94	85
New York	228	140	88	197	121	76	195	123	72
New Jersey	69	35	34	66	33	33	53	31	22
Pennsylvania	254	191	63	221	170	51	211	165	46
Middle Atlantic	551	366	185	484	324	160	459	319	140
Ohio	291	226	65	265	208	57	266	200	66
Indiana	254	206	48	227	182	45	226	175	51
Illinois	291	231	60	261	206	55	257	204	53
Michigan	251	197	54	230	180	50	230	177	53
Wisconsin	329	277	52	298	253	45	291	242	49
East North Central	1,416	1,137	279	1,281	1,029	252	1,270	998	272
Minnesota	312	261	51	285	239	46	279	236	43
Iowa	327	279	48	302	264	38	314	272	42
Missouri	401	312	89	378	293	85	346	281	65
North Dakota	126	96	30	119	84	35	107	84	23
South Dakota	116	99	17	108	92	16	104	88	16
Nebraska	174	148	26	171	148	23	174	144	30
Kansas	192	166	26	182	154	28	173	149	24
West North Central	1,648	1,361	287	1,545	1,274	271	1,497	1,254	243
Delaware-Maryland	94	59	35	84	53	31	78	52	26
Virginia	252	177	75	233	163	70	245	172	73
West Virginia	94	80	14	85	71	14	82	69	13
North Carolina	606	499	107	560	451	109	538	422	116
South Carolina	302	233	69	299	233	66	249	178	71
Georgia	323	233	90	280	202	78	262	181	81
Florida	111	66	45	102	55	47	105	55	50
South Atlantic	1,782	1,347	435	1,643	1,228	415	1,559	1,129	430
Kentucky	295	234	61	301	223	78	321	237	84
Tennessee	364	270	94	364	260	104	318	233	85
Alabama	315	228	87	268	186	82	220	159	61
Mississippi	558	396	162	489	328	161	453	278	175
East South Central	1,532	1,128	404	1,422	997	425	1,312	907	405
Arkansas	368	211	157	309	162	147	304	146	158
Louisiana	272	157	115	265	151	114	276	142	134
Oklahoma	214	153	61	208	140	68	190	134	56
Texas	637	337	300	647	314	333	643	305	338
West South Central	1,491	858	633	1,429	767	662	1,413	727	686
Montana	61	47	14	59	45	14	53	42	11
Idaho	87	59	28	84	54	30	88	57	31
Colorado	98	63	35	94	59	35	91	51	40
N.Mex.-Ariz.	136	42	94	110	40	70	96	37	59
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	87	58	29	78	54	24	76	52	24
Mountain	469	269	200	425	252	173	404	239	165
Washington	130	85	45	124	82	42	115	77	38
Oregon	108	70	38	96	65	31	97	67	30
California	492	171	321	476	163	313	491	158	333
Pacific	730	326	404	696	310	386	703	302	401
UNITED STATES	9,832	6,906	2,926	9,120	6,283	2,837	8,796	5,969	2,827

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Workers on farms: Comparative estimates, annual average 1960, July and August 1961

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average 1960			July 1961 Week of 23-29			August 1961 Week of 20-26		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	150	91	59	179	103	76	183	108	75
New York	163	107	56	195	113	82	206	117	89
New Jersey	47	28	19	58	31	27	61	32	29
Pennsylvania	194	159	35	220	176	44	232	182	50
Middle Atlantic	404	294	110	473	320	153	499	331	168
Ohio	250	214	36	271	221	50	261	205	56
Indiana	219	192	27	242	209	33	219	184	35
Illinois	249	201	48	279	213	66	241	186	55
Michigan	220	178	42	269	204	65	275	196	79
Wisconsin	282	253	29	309	275	34	320	275	45
East North Central	1,220	1,038	182	1,370	1,122	248	1,316	1,046	270
Minnesota	266	228	38	357	278	79	319	254	65
Iowa	289	252	37	348	274	74	325	265	60
Missouri	276	237	39	299	254	45	334	267	67
North Dakota	92	71	21	125	89	36	125	90	35
South Dakota	92	81	11	108	85	23	109	89	20
Nebraska	160	135	25	204	157	47	183	147	36
Kansas	159	134	25	191	143	48	188	140	48
West North Central	1,334	1,138	196	1,632	1,280	352	1,583	1,252	331
Delaware-Maryland	70	45	25	89	49	40	90	54	36
Virginia	203	149	54	275	156	119	236	157	79
West Virginia	73	60	13	79	64	15	81	65	16
North Carolina	416	317	99	767	414	353	623	414	209
South Carolina	195	133	62	276	155	121	242	151	91
Georgia	185	135	50	177	117	60	185	135	50
Florida	98	46	52	79	41	38	81	42	39
South Atlandic	1,240	885	355	1,742	996	746	1,538	1,018	520
Kentucky	235	188	47	270	189	81	259	199	60
Tennessee	246	195	51	241	175	66	243	177	66
Alabama	149	116	33	115	93	22	142	104	38
Mississippi	252	195	57	223	191	32	271	192	79
East South Central	882	694	188	849	648	201	915	672	243
Arkansas	212	126	86	209	105	104	240	114	126
Louisiana	153	95	58	147	81	66	198	100	98
Oklahoma	165	131	34	172	110	62	175	113	62
Texas	442	261	181	538	259	279	592	268	324
West South Central	972	613	359	1,066	555	511	1,205	595	610
Montana	49	37	12	61	39	22	51	39	12
Idaho	67	47	20	98	59	39	87	59	28
Colorado	69	51	18	86	53	33	84	54	30
N.Mex.-Ariz.	90	32	58	85	33	52	87	32	55
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	59	41	18	73	47	26	70	48	22
Mountain	334	208	126	403	231	172	379	232	147
Washington	113	76	37	177	93	84	151	86	65
Oregon	92	66	26	138	74	64	111	64	47
California	377	146	231	406	137	269	437	153	284
Pacific	582	288	294	721	304	417	699	303	396
UNITED STATES	7,118	5,249	1,869	8,435	5,559	2,876	8,317	5,557	2,760

Farm Wage Rates October 1, 1960 1/

State and region	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 and room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	198.00	148.00	37.50	55.00	-	-	9.90	-	1.10	.968	566
N. H.	214.00	156.00	45.00	58.00	-	-	9.40	-	1.11	.992	640
Vt.	196.00	154.00	39.50	53.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.12	.960	614
Mass.	220.00	156.00	45.00	61.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.22	1.06	682
R. I.	223.00	156.00	45.00	62.00	-	-	10.40	-	1.20	1.06	733
Conn.	223.00	156.00	44.00	63.00	-	-	10.80	-	1.31	1.12	757
New Eng.	206.00	152.00	40.50	57.25	-	-	10.00	-	1.16	1.01	646
N. Y.	211.00	146.00	38.25	53.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.14	.908	558
N. J.	214.00	155.00	38.00	54.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.15	.922	652
Pa.	189.00	134.00	35.50	47.75	-	-	8.40	-	1.08	.846	675
Mid. Atl.	205.00	144.00	37.25	51.50	-	-	9.00	-	1.12	.891	617
Ohio	178.00	138.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.30	-	1.09	.881	601
Ind.	182.00	134.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.30	-	1.06	.861	616
Ill.	202.00	156.00	-	-	-	7.60	9.30	-	1.11	.927	636
Mich.	205.00	142.00	-	-	-	7.20	9.00	-	1.07	.890	593
Wis.	200.00	148.00	-	-	-	7.20	8.90	-	1.09	.903	572
E.N.Cent.	193.00	144.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.80	-	1.08	.893	603
Minn.	186.00	146.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.80	-	1.11	.872	547
Iowa	202.00	162.00	-	-	-	8.20	10.10	-	1.14	.913	563
Mo.	153.00	117.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.70	-	1.00	.743	656
N.Dak.	199.00	162.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.30	-	1.07	.866	470
S.Dak.	187.00	150.00	-	-	-	7.20	9.00	-	1.05	.836	502
Nebr.	214.00	160.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.90	-	1.12	.902	601
Kans.	200.00	154.00	-	-	-	7.80	9.70	-	1.11	.883	699
W.N.Cent.	184.00	144.00	-	-	-	7.30	9.10	-	1.07	.838	578
Del.	-	-	-	-	7.00	-	8.70	-	1.05	.944	875
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.40	-	8.30	-	1.06	.924	924
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.50	-	.83	.718	782
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.90	-	5.70	-	.75	.648	499
N. C.	-	-	-	-	4.95	-	5.70	-	.71	.623	695
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.15	-	.52	.456	604
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.85	-	.65	.551	608
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.60	-	6.30	-	.80	.698	705
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	5.70	-	.73	.631	702
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.55	-	6.10	-	.84	.773	608
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.85	-	.63	.594	522
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.10	-	4.65	-	.60	.569	553
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.85	-	4.25	-	.52	.501	481
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.80	-	.62	.586	535
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	5.90	-	.74	.714	606
La.	-	-	-	-	4.70	-	5.10	-	.64	.618	566
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.10	-	8.20	-	.97	.946	656
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.10	-	6.70	-	.77	.758	580
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.40	-	.76	.743	604
Mont.	227.00	179.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.13	.978	474
Idaho	249.00	194.00	-	-	-	-	10.30	-	1.21	1.05	587
Wyo.	229.00	162.00	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.15	.973	477
Colo.	224.00	166.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.10	.956	613
N.Mex.	185.00	132.00	-	-	-	-	7.20	-	.85	.741	597
Ariz.	247.00	175.00	-	-	-	-	8.80	-	.97	.895	591
Utah	250.00	195.00	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.20	1.03	632
Nev.	265.00	170.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.25	1.05	554
Mountain	233.00	172.00	-	-	-	-	9.20	-	1.07	.940	572
Wash.	263.00	211.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.23	1.29	1.26	614
Oreg.	240.00	181.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	1.21	1.18	580
Calif.	298.00	216.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.18	1.24	1.22	570
Pacific	290.00	213.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.18	1.24	1.22	578
U. S.	186.00	147.00	35.50	43.75	5.30	6.20	6.90	1.00	.90	.820	613

1/ Certain wage rates are not published where they are relatively unimportant, but are estimated for use in computing U.S. averages. 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Farm Wage Rates October 1, 1961 1/

State and region	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	197.00	145.00	38.00	56.00	-	-	10.10	-	1.17	1.00	587
N. H.	217.00	157.00	45.00	59.00	-	-	9.60	-	1.17	1.02	674
Vt.	207.00	160.00	40.00	54.00	-	-	9.40	-	1.17	.989	638
Mass.	232.00	159.00	47.00	62.00	-	-	10.70	-	1.28	1.11	724
R. I.	234.00	159.00	47.00	64.00	-	-	10.90	-	1.25	1.11	769
Conn.	234.00	159.00	47.00	64.00	-	-	11.10	-	1.34	1.15	776
New Eng.	211.00	152.00	41.50	58.25	-	-	10.30	-	1.22	1.04	670
N. Y.	215.00	147.00	39.00	54.75	-	-	9.30	-	1.17	.929	577
N. J.	225.00	160.00	41.50	56.50	-	-	9.90	-	1.17	.952	673
Pa.	188.00	134.00	34.75	46.75	-	-	8.30	-	1.07	.837	668
Mic. Atl.	208.00	145.00	38.00	52.50	-	-	9.10	-	1.14	.903	625
Ohio	176.00	127.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.60	-	1.09	.872	606
Ind.	185.00	137.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.40	-	1.08	.877	634
Ill.	198.00	153.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.40	-	1.13	.935	648
Mich.	215.00	150.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.90	-	1.10	.916	616
Wis.	205.00	150.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.90	-	1.10	.912	579
E.N.Cent.	195.00	143.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.80	-	1.10	.901	613
Minn.	189.00	149.00	-	-	-	8.00	10.00	-	1.13	.888	562
Iowa	206.00	165.00	-	-	-	8.40	10.30	-	1.16	.930	573
Mo.	159.00	115.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.90	-	1.02	.755	681
N.Dak.	191.00	163.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.10	-	1.04	.849	469
S.Dak.	192.00	153.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.10	-	1.07	.851	521
Nebr.	213.00	164.00	-	-	-	8.00	9.90	-	1.15	.920	619
Kans.	200.00	155.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.80	-	1.15	.903	729
W.N.Cent.	188.00	146.00	-	-	-	7.50	9.30	-	1.10	.858	598
Del.	-	-	-	-	7.00	-	8.80	-	1.00	.930	853
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.50	-	8.10	-	1.06	.926	935
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.70	-	.86	.739	789
W. Va.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	5.60	-	.77	.653	508
N. C.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	6.00	-	.74	.653	744
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.75	-	4.35	-	.55	.480	649
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	4.90	-	.66	.560	617
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.40	-	.84	.724	746
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.80	-	.75	.646	719
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	6.50	-	.90	.828	640
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	5.00	-	.66	.619	543
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.20	-	4.55	-	.61	.577	561
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.25	-	.53	.509	488
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.20	-	4.90	-	.65	.609	551
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.50	-	6.10	-	.74	.719	611
La.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.40	-	.66	.641	619
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.40	-	8.80	-	1.02	.997	705
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.30	-	6.90	-	.81	.793	612
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	6.60	-	.78	.762	624
Mont.	224.00	177.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.16	.991	490
Idaho	252.00	201.00	-	-	-	-	10.40	-	1.22	1.07	599
Wyo.	234.00	167.00	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	1.16	.991	500
Colo.	229.00	164.00	-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.15	.985	638
N.Mex.	188.00	136.00	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.87	.761	625
Ariz.	253.00	175.00	-	-	-	-	8.60	-	1.01	.912	620
Utah	233.00	202.00	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	1.25	1.06	653
Nev.	260.00	180.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.20	1.03	529
Mountain	235.00	175.00	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.11	.965	593
Wash.	276.00	212.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.25	1.32	1.29	628
Oreg.	260.00	197.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.22	1.24	1.21	598
Calif.	303.00	230.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.21	1.29	1.27	586
Pacific	297.00	226.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.21	1.29	1.26	594
U. S.	189.00	148.00	35.75	44.00	5.50	6.30	7.00	1.03	.93	.843	635

1/ Certain wage rates are not published where they are relatively unimportant, but are estimated for use in computing U.S. averages. 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

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STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
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POSTAGE AND FEES PAID

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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