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Farm Labor

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FARM EMPLOYMENT UNDER LAST YEAR
WAGE RATES HIGHER

About 8.9 million people were at work on farms during the week of June 17-23, the Crop Reporting Board announced today. Of this total, 6.5 million were operators and unpaid members of their families and 2.4 million were hired workers. The number of family workers was 4 percent less than a year earlier and the number of hired workers was 3 percent less.

In comparison with a month earlier, the number of family workers was down 3 percent while the number of hired workers was up about a fifth or about 400,000. The change in the number of family workers was about usual for the season but the increase in the hired workers was less than usual.

Farm wage rates on about July 1 averaged 5 percent more than a year earlier for the country as a whole. The seasonally adjusted index of farm wage rates was 535 percent of the 1910-14 average compared with 510 July 1, 1955. All types of rates for the Nation were higher than a year ago.

On a regional basis, wage rates averaged higher than a year ago in all regions. Increases varied from 2 percent to 7 percent with the largest increase in the New England States. Increases in industrial wage rates probably had the greatest effect in this area. Individual rates were also mostly higher than a year earlier.

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Individual types of wage rates for the country as a whole were up from April 1 but the average was up less than usual as indicated by the drop of 1 percent in the seasonally adjusted index. The index indicates that by regions, changes from April were mixed. The index was down in the Middle Atlantic, East and West North Central, East South Central, and the Mountain States but higher in all other regions. The largest changes were the increase in the New England States and the decrease in the West North Central States. Changes in the other regions were about 1 percent or less.

For individual types of rates practically all rates in all regions were up seasonally except in the South Atlantic States. In this region changes were mixed and some individual rates were lower, however, the seasonally adjusted index for this region increased 1 percent.

Weather during the week of June 17-23 was generally favorable for farm work. Temperatures averaged above normal throughout most of the Central and Mountain States and below normal in the rest of the country. Showers in varying amounts were generally well distributed over the Great Lakes Region, over the Gulf and southern Atlantic coastal areas, and along the Canadian Border from western Montana through Minnesota. Rain fell in the extreme Northwest and showers occurred in most of the Great Plains States; however, the dry weather continued in the Southwest.

The major jobs for the country as a whole were harvesting small grains, making hay, and cultivating various crops. Small grain harvest was about over in the southern part of the country and was starting in the southern areas of the East North Central States. Winter wheat harvest was finished in the earlier areas of Texas and well advanced in the Northern High Plains. The wheat harvest is practically completed in the

south central portion of Kansas and has now extended to eastern Colorado, extreme southern Nebraska, northern Missouri, and central portions of Illinois and Virginia. Hay making and crop cultivation were in progress practically everywhere. Cotton hoeing and chopping were proceeding well in the South and the Southwest.

Farmers were harvesting vegetables and fruit in many parts of the country. The peach harvest was in progress in Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina. Strawberries were being picked in Michigan, Washington, and Oregon. In California, citrus, peaches, apricots, cherries, berries, and grapes were being harvested.

The total number of persons working on farms in late June was down from a year earlier in all geographic regions except the New England, Mountain, and Pacific States. Each of these regions showed small increases. Decreases in the remaining regions ranged from 2 to 8 percent. The largest drops occurred in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central States. The decline in these regions amounted to 45,000 persons in the Middle Atlantic States and 125,000 persons in the East North Central States.

The decrease in the total number of person doing farm work in late June from a year earlier was due to a decrease in both family and hired workers although the greatest decline occurred in family workers. Decreases in numbers of family workers by regions ranged from 1 to 10 percent except in the New England and Mountain States where slight increases were reported. The decrease was largest in the West South Central States. Most of the decrease was accounted for by this region and the East and West North Central and Middle Atlantic States.

The number of hired workers was down from last year in all regions except the New England, West South Central, and Pacific States where small increases were reported. The decrease in the number of hired workers was greatest in the East North Central States. The decline there amounted to 19 percent or about 54,000 workers. Decreases in the remaining regions ranged from 1 to 10 percent.

For the country as a whole, the number of persons at work on farms increased 3 percent from May to June. This is slightly less than the usual percentage increase. Changes by regions also departed somewhat from the usual seasonal change. In the New England and Pacific States there was a larger than usual seasonal increase while in the Middle Atlantic, East and West North Central, and South Atlantic States, the increase was less than usual. Changes in the East South Central and Mountain States were about the same as usual.

The number of family workers ordinarily declines during June mainly because of decreases in the Southern, the West North Central, and Mountain States. This year the change in the number of family workers for the country as a whole from May to June showed about the usual decline even though the number of workers in the East South Central States showed a slight increase.

The number of hired workers increased from May to June by a little over 400,000 persons. More than two-thirds of this increase was in the North Central and South Atlantic States. Increases were less than usual in the East North Central and South Atlantic States but slightly greater than usual in the West North Central States. There was less than the usual increases in the Middle Atlantic, East North Central, and Mountain States.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of June 17-23, 1956, United States, with comparisons

	June average 1951-55 1/	June 19-25, 1955	May 20-26, 1956	June 17-23, 1956
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons):				
Total	9,717	9,329	8,739	8,958
Family labor	7,171	6,832	6,734	6,547
Hired labor	2,546	2,497	2,005	2,411
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for Seasonal Variation, 1910-14=100)				
Total	64	61	60	59
Family labor	65	62	60	59
Hired labor	60	59	60	57

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

Farm wage rates: Wage rates, indexes, and related data, July 1, 1956, United States, with comparisons 1/

	April 1, 1955	July 1, 1955	April 1, 1956	July 1, 1956
FARM WAGE RATES				
Per month with house	$145.00	$163.00	$152.00	$170.00
Per month with board and room	118.00	125.00	123.00	129.00
Per week with board and room	28.50	30.75	29.75	32.75
Per week without board or room	38.00	39.50	39.00	40.50
Per day with house	4.05	4.15	4.30	4.40
Per day with board and room	4.75	5.90	5.00	6.10
Per day without board or room	5.10	5.30	5.40	5.50
Per hour with house	.63	.81	.66	.83
Per hour without board or room	.85	.88	.89	.91
Composite rate per hour 2/	.590	.669	.615	.696
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Adjusted for seasonal variation	516	510	538	535
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Prices received by farmers 3/	246	240	232	247*
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	48	47	43	46

1/ Wage rates on the average refer to a date two or three days before the first of the month.
2/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
3/ Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.
* June 15, 1956.

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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of June 17-23, 1956, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	June average 1951-55 1/	May 22-28, 1955	June 19-25, 1955	May 20-26, 1956	June 17-23, 1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
		TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT			
United States	9,717	8,921	9,329	8,739	8,958
New England	202	185	200	187	203
Middle Atlantic	608	499	578	483	533
East North Central	1,551	1,389	1,517	1,360	1,392
West North Central	1,778	1,633	1,712	1,565	1,611
South Atlantic	1,811	1,571	1,692	1,574	1,660
East South Central	1,432	1,354	1,371	1,330	1,346
West South Central	1,190	1,232	1,151	1,193	1,082
Mountain	415	390	396	396	403
Pacific	730	668	712	651	728
		FAMILY WORKERS 2/			
United States	7,171	6,947	6,832	6,734	6,547
New England	133	119	129	121	131
Middle Atlantic	430	390	417	374	388
East North Central	1,269	1,212	1,233	1,183	1,162
West North Central	1,446	1,427	1,401	1,385	1,321
South Atlantic	1,285	1,237	1,164	1,192	1,155
East South Central	1,177	1,116	1,106	1,067	1,084
West South Central	837	837	804	798	722
Mountain	240	259	224	262	234
Pacific	354	350	354	352	350
		HIRED WORKERS 3/			
United States	2,546	1,974	2,497	2,005	2,411
New England	69	66	71	66	72
Middle Atlantic	178	109	161	109	145
East North Central	282	177	284	177	230
West North Central	332	206	311	180	290
South Atlantic	526	334	528	382	505
East South Central	255	238	265	263	262
West South Central	353	395	347	395	360
Mountain	175	131	172	134	169
Pacific	376	318	358	299	378

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

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.

3/ Includes all persons doing one or more hours of farm work during the survey week for pay.

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Farm employment: Average number of persons employed per month, January through June 1956, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons 1/

Geographic division	1951-55	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT				
United States	7,894	7,918	7,851	7,518	7,232
New England	162	161	164	160	159
Middle Atlantic	498	500	499	479	452
East North Central	1,282	1,282	1,283	1,232	1,185
West North Central	1,478	1,495	1,457	1,416	1,337
South Atlantic	1,388	1,384	1,378	1,292	1,239
East South Central	1,156	1,168	1,157	1,091	1,040
West South Central	1,042	1,040	1,024	982	946
Mountain	332	335	331	316	327
Pacific	556	553	558	550	547
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/				
United States	6,322	6,341	6,246	5,989	5,714
New England	112	112	113	109	108
Middle Atlantic	377	377	379	368	349
East North Central	1,118	1,121	1,113	1,073	1,036
West North Central	1,305	1,320	1,285	1,256	1,189
South Atlantic	1,072	1,070	1,055	986	933
East South Central	984	982	970	916	863
West South Central	808	811	789	749	702
Mountain	228	231	227	216	221
Pacific	318	317	315	316	313
	HIRED WORKERS 3/				
United States	1,572	1,577	1,605	1,529	1,518
New England	50	49	51	51	51
Middle Atlantic	121	123	120	111	103
East North Central	164	161	170	159	149
West North Central	173	175	172	160	148
South Atlantic	316	314	323	306	306
East South Central	172	186	187	175	177
West South Central	234	229	235	233	244
Mountain	104	104	104	100	106
Pacific	238	236	243	234	234

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

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.

3/ Includes all persons doing one or more hours of farm work during the survey week for pay.

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions, July 1, 1956, with comparisons

Geographic division	April 1, 1955	July 1, 1955	April 1, 1956	July 1, 1956
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
PER MONTH WITH HOUSE				
New England	166.00	172.00	174.00	180.00
Middle Atlantic	167.00	167.00	178.00	177.00
East North Central	159.00	161.00	166.00	170.00
West North Central	156.00	158.00	161.00	165.00
Mountain	197.00	198.00	206.00	202.00
Pacific	234.00	239.00	247.00	249.00
PER MONTH WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	123.00	130.00	130.00	143.00
Middle Atlantic	119.00	120.00	125.00	126.00
East North Central	119.00	124.00	124.00	128.00
West North Central	124.00	129.00	125.00	132.00
Mountain	149.00	153.00	155.00	157.00
Pacific	183.00	189.00	190.00	192.00
PER WEEK WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	32.75	34.25	35.00	38.50
Middle Atlantic	31.00	31.75	32.75	33.75
PER WEEK WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	48.00	47.50	49.75	51.25
Middle Atlantic	43.75	44.50	45.50	45.75
PER DAY WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	4.25	4.05	4.40	4.30
East South Central	3.30	3.35	3.50	3.50
West South Central	4.55	4.90	4.90	5.20
PER DAY WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
East North Central	5.90	6.30	6.20	6.50
West North Central	6.20	6.80	6.30	6.90
PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	8.00	8.30	8.40	8.80
Middle Atlantic	7.60	7.70	7.90	8.20
East North Central	7.30	7.70	7.80	8.10
West North Central	7.80	8.20	7.90	8.50
South Atlantic	4.95	4.75	5.10	5.10
East South Central	3.90	4.00	4.15	4.20
West South Central	5.10	5.40	5.40	5.70
Mountain	7.50	7.80	7.90	8.20
PER HOUR WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	.56	----	.57	----
East South Central	.46	----	.48	----
West South Central	.55	----	.58	----
Pacific	1.00	1.02	1.04	1.05
PER HOUR WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	1.02	1.03	1.08	1.10
Middle Atlantic	.97	.98	1.01	1.03
East North Central	.99	1.01	1.03	1.03
West North Central	.98	1.00	.99	1.02
South Atlantic	.65	.61	.68	.64
East South Central	.54	.54	.57	.55
West South Central	.64	.65	.67	.68
Mountain	.92	.96	.96	.97
Pacific	1.08	1.09	1.11	1.14

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, July 1, 1955 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 board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	160.00	120.00	33.00	45.50	-	-	7.60	-	.97	.810	488
N. H.	176.00	136.00	35.50	49.50	-	-	8.50	-	1.01	.874	575
Vt.	156.00	129.00	31.50	43.50	-	-	7.70	-	1.00	.810	528
Mass.	189.00	139.00	37.00	51.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.12	.938	613
R. I.	190.00	138.00	36.00	51.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.08	.928	638
Conn.	191.00	134.00	36.00	51.00	-	-	9.40	-	1.09	.933	630
New Eng.	172.00	130.00	34.25	47.50	-	-	8.30	-	1.03	.863	564
N. Y.	173.00	127.00	34.00	46.00	-	-	8.20	-	1.02	.864	484
N. J.	195.00	143.00	36.00	50.50	-	-	8.50	-	1.03	.892	590
Pa.	151.00	105.00	28.25	41.00	-	-	7.10	-	.92	.768	568
Mid. Atl.	167.00	120.00	31.75	44.50	-	-	7.70	-	.98	.825	525
Ohio	143.00	112.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.50	-	1.00	.756	536
Ind.	151.00	114.00	-	-	-	5.90	7.00	-	1.00	.749	546
Ill.	172.00	137.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.30	-	1.04	.825	571
Mich.	180.00	133.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.00	-	1.02	.805	541
Wis.	166.00	124.00	-	-	-	6.10	7.70	-	.98	.770	497
E.N.Cent.	161.00	124.00	-	-	-	6.30	7.70	-	1.01	.781	536
Minn.	152.00	126.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.40	-	1.02	.873	481
Iowa	166.00	141.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.20	-	1.08	.937	501
Mo.	137.00	106.00	-	-	-	5.40	6.30	-	.85	.714	565
N.Dak.	170.00	147.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.60	-	1.01	.877	446
S.Dak.	161.00	138.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.00	-	.99	.851	461
Nebr.	178.00	136.00	-	-	-	6.70	8.30	-	1.05	.894	523
Kans.	162.00	130.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.70	-	1.01	.877	610
W.N.Cent.	158.00	129.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.20	-	1.00	.859	510
Del.	-	-	-	-	5.70	-	7.30	-	.90	.777	720
Md.	-	-	-	-	5.60	-	7.00	-	.88	.751	767
Va.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.50	-	.66	.579	649
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	4.95	-	.65	.540	438
N. C.	-	-	-	-	4.35	-	5.00	-	.60	.529	627
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.15	-	3.75	-	.48	.405	582
Ga.	-	-	-	-	3.40	-	3.80	-	.53	.426	509
Fla.	-	-	-	-	4.70	-	5.20	-	.70	.575	618
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.75	-	.61	.512	605
Ky.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.70	-	.64	.463	497
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.25	-	3.90	-	.52	.392	445
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.25	-	3.70	-	.51	.379	478
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.20	-	3.65	-	.47	.370	457
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.35	-	4.00	-	.54	.402	460
Ark.	-	-	-	-	4.35	-	4.55	-	.55	.486	493
La.	-	-	-	-	3.80	-	4.15	-	.52	.446	527
Okla.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.70	-	.79	.696	542
Tex.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	5.80	-	.69	.609	535
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.90	-	5.40	-	.65	.570	531
Mont.	204.00	167.00	-	-	-	-	8.30	-	1.02	.801	432
Idaho	218.00	170.00	-	-	-	-	9.10	-	1.06	.847	516
Wyo.	205.00	144.00	-	-	-	-	8.20	-	1.02	.777	438
Colo.	184.00	140.00	-	-	-	-	7.60	-	.93	.719	515
N.Mex.	164.00	125.00	-	-	-	-	6.20	-	.74	.599	545
Ariz.	230.00	155.00	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.85	.736	539
Utah	220.00	185.00	-	-	-	-	8.30	-	1.10	.848	574
Nev.	188.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	1.05	.783	453
Mountain	198.00	153.00	-	-	-	-	7.80	-	.96	.753	492
Wash.	244.00	198.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.09	1.14	1.099	558
Oreg.	210.00	172.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.05	1.10	1.052	523
Calif.	245.00	190.00	-	-	-	-	-	.99	1.07	1.033	493
Pacific	239.00	189.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.02	1.09	1.050	503
U. S.	163.00	125.00	30.75	39.50	4.15	5.90	5.30	.81	.88	.669	510

1/ Certain wage rates are not estimated because they are relatively unimportant.
2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, July 1, 1956 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	170.00	136.00	34.00	49.00	-	-	8.20	-	1.02	.862	519
N. H.	176.00	145.00	39.00	52.00	-	-	8.80	-	1.07	.919	605
Vt.	165.00	136.00	34.50	47.00	-	-	8.20	-	1.07	.869	566
Mass.	193.00	150.00	43.50	54.00	-	-	9.40	-	1.16	.984	643
R. I.	205.00	150.00	42.00	57.00	-	-	9.50	-	1.18	1.004	690
Conn.	212.00	160.00	44.50	58.00	-	-	9.80	-	1.23	1.039	703
New Eng.	180.00	143.00	38.50	51.25	-	-	8.80	-	1.10	.923	603
N. Y.	178.00	128.00	34.50	47.50	-	-	8.40	-	1.06	.892	499
N. J.	210.00	151.00	39.00	49.50	-	-	9.40	-	1.09	.943	630
Pa.	161.00	114.00	30.50	42.50	-	-	7.50	-	.98	.816	598
Mid. Atl.	177.00	126.00	33.75	45.75	-	-	8.20	-	1.03	.870	553
Ohio	160.00	122.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.70	-	1.02	.783	554
Ind.	158.00	121.00	-	-	-	6.30	7.70	-	1.03	.786	573
Ill.	180.00	140.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.50	-	1.06	.843	583
Mich.	185.00	128.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.30	-	1.05	.825	550
Wis.	171.00	129.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.20	-	1.01	.800	517
E.N.Cent.	170.00	128.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.10	-	1.03	.807	554
Minn.	169.00	134.00	-	-	-	7.30	8.80	-	1.04	.900	496
Iowa	170.00	139.00	-	-	-	7.60	9.20	-	1.07	.929	496
Mo.	139.00	106.00	-	-	-	5.50	6.80	-	.92	.762	602
N.Dak.	180.00	155.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.60	-	1.01	.886	439
S.Dak.	166.00	135.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.00	-	.98	.844	457
Nebr.	175.00	143.00	-	-	-	7.20	9.00	-	1.03	.902	527
Kans.	171.00	130.00	-	-	-	7.30	8.80	-	1.05	.904	623
W.N.Cent.	165.00	132.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.50	-	1.02	.878	522
Del.	-	-	-	-	6.00	-	7.80	-	.95	.826	766
Md.	-	-	-	-	5.70	-	7.10	-	.93	.777	793
Va.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	5.80	-	.72	.618	694
W. Va.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	5.20	-	.69	.570	461
N. C.	-	-	-	-	4.70	-	5.50	-	.65	.577	684
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.30	-	3.90	-	.47	.412	586
Ga.	-	-	-	-	3.70	-	4.30	-	.59	.477	571
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.60	-	6.00	-	.75	.645	678
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	5.10	-	.64	.543	635
Ky.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.80	-	.66	.479	520
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.35	-	4.15	-	.52	.409	464
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.50	-	4.00	-	.52	.407	514
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.40	-	3.75	-	.50	.387	478
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.55	-	4.20	-	.55	.421	482
Ark.	-	-	-	-	4.55	-	4.85	-	.62	.526	535
La.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.40	-	.55	.472	558
Okla.	-	-	-	-	6.50	-	7.30	-	.87	.763	588
Tex.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.00	-	.69	.621	546
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	5.70	-	.68	.599	558
Mont.	209.00	171.00	-	-	-	-	8.60	-	1.05	.823	440
Idaho	227.00	181.00	-	-	-	-	9.20	-	1.06	.864	526
Wyo.	191.00	149.00	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	1.02	.795	443
Colo.	195.00	147.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	.93	.742	532
N.Mex.	169.00	121.00	-	-	-	-	6.50	-	.76	.612	556
Ariz.	230.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	.85	.754	558
Utah	210.00	178.00	-	-	-	-	8.40	-	1.10	.836	566
Nev.	210.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	1.10	.807	482
Mountain	202.00	157.00	-	-	-	-	8.20	-	.97	.771	508
Wash.	254.00	203.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.14	1.20	1.156	587
Oreg.	230.00	183.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.09	1.12	1.078	536
Calif.	252.00	192.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.02	1.13	1.087	518
Pacific	249.00	192.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.05	1.14	1.098	525
U. S.	170.00	129.00	32.75	40.50	4.40	6.10	5.50	.83	.91	.696	535

1/ Certain wage rates are not estimated because they are relatively unimportant.
2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

EXPLANATIONS 1/

Farm employment estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service cover persons doing farm work on all farms. Mailed questionnaires are received every month from 15,000 to 20,000 farmers who report the number of persons working on their farms during the last complete calendar week, ending at least one day before the end of the month. The Census of Agriculture and interview surveys of farmers are used to provide bench mark data on employment.

All farm operators who spend one hour or more during the survey week at farm work, chores, or in the transaction of farm business are counted as employed. Members of the operator's family or household doing unpaid farm work or chores are counted if they put in 15 hours or more during the week. Operators plus unpaid members of their families or households who meet these criteria are called family workers. All persons doing one or more hours of farm work or chores for pay during the week are counted as hired workers.

The data on farm employment published by the Agricultural Marketing Service differ from those on agricultural employment of the Census in the Monthly Report on the Labor Force because of the differences in the method of approach, in concepts of employment, and in time of the month for which data are collected. The AMS collects information from the farmer on all persons working on his farm during the week regardless of age, or other jobs held by these workers. The Census data are obtained by interview from about 22,000 farm and nonfarm households on the labor force status of the household members 14 years of age and over, for the week including the 12th of the month. In addition, both series are subject to sampling variation and may differ from the results of a complete census.

Wage rates are reported quarterly by the same sample of farm operators that reports employment. The farmer is asked to report average wage rates being paid "at this time" in his locality.

1/ Additional information available in January 1956 issue of Farm Labor.

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