Farm Labor

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FEWER JUNE WORKERS IN SLOW CROP SEASON
WAGE RATES CONTINUE INCREASE

The farm work force during the past month was generally adequate to needs with shortages the exception, according to recent reports. The total number working during the survey week of June 19-25 is estimated at 8.3 million--about 4 percent less than a year earlier. Farm family workers continued to handle the bulk of work on most farms, with an estimated 5.6 million working, about 5 percent less than in June 1959. Hired workers were estimated at almost 2.7 million or within 2 percent of the number a year earlier.

The June estimates represent more than the usual seasonal increase from the low level of the previous month when bad weather in the survey week curtailed work. Even in late June farm work and crop progress in extensive central and eastern areas lagged from one to more than two weeks behind usual timing.

In late June this year reporting farms in many States showed notably less family workers than usual at this period, with a stronger trend in hired workers. This may have resulted from a number of influences including weather and crop timing which might allow for time off for family members before the onset of harvest and other peak work periods on many farms.

Southern Plains Show More June Workers; Other Regions Less

Total farm workers in the West South Central region during late June at 1.1 million edged above the 1959 level and were only slightly less numerous than the 5-year average for the date. The regional total of hired workers was 11 percent larger than in June 1959. Chief reason for the increase was dry weather in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas which gave farmers a chance to put on the power to catch up on a variety of jobs. These included preparing ground and seeding sorghums and other late crops, row crop cultivation, and harvest of winter wheat, barley, and oats. Many farms had much to show from the employment boost.

July 1 Wage Rates Average 2 Percent Higher Than Last Year

Farm wage rates about July 1, 1960 continued the uptrend shown in several recent years with a rise of 2 percent above a year earlier. The national average composite rate of $0.812 per hour reached a seasonally adjusted index of 631 percent of the 1910-14 base period. Comparison of the detailed wage rates by

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Agricultural Marketing Service
Crop Reporting Board
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different pay arrangements on pages 6 and 7 shows that the increases, although chiefly moderate, are quite consistent and general in most States. The U.S. average wage per hour without board or room reached $1.02 and the wage per month with house reached $200.00, each rate up 2 percent from a year earlier. Cash payments are represented in the reported wage rates, without allowance for house, meals, or value items which may also be included in hiring arrangements.

June Farm Work Progress Still Slow

Wheat harvest, an exciting work peak through much of the Great Plains, has been slowed in many sections by rainy and cool weather which delayed ripening and kept combines waiting alongside muddy fields. The vast Kansas acreage ripened considerably more slowly than usual and by the end of the June survey week had been less than one-sixth combined. Texas and Oklahoma wheat harvest under somewhat drier conditions was about nine-tenths finished with reports of excellent yields. Harvest of wheat, barley, and oats was starting slowly in southern portions of Corn Belt States and still going strong in areas to the south and east.

The peak of labor needs for fighting weeds and grass in cotton was over by the survey week in many Mississippi River Delta section and also in other areas of greatest importance in the West and in the Southwest. It appears that the challenge has been well met not only by the "man with the hoe" but more than ever before by operators using newest herbicides and flame cultivators. Replacement of cotton choppers by other weed control methods is widely reported. However, the cotton acreage planted of 16.3 million acres, 3 percent larger than last year's acreage, took much replanting work to get final stands.

The corn, soybeans, and other crops which greened the fields in late June showed that even delayed plantings were mainly finished. A little corn was still going in. Soybean planting continued with at least a tenth of Illinois acreage remaining. Low spots drowned out in cornfields may still go into soybeans. Planting also continues in southern sections following the harvest of small grains. Grain sorghum planting in the Great Plains was mainly finished although in Kansas a tenth remained. Tobacco transplanting was completed or nearly so after much delay from either late plants or wet soils. The Florida-Georgia shade grown crop was three-fourths harvested and a start made on other tobacco.

June haymaking made slow progress in much of the great dairy land in the North Central and Northeastern States under rainy or cool weather which lost some work spent on ruined hay. Grass silage making was active in most dairy areas. The alfalfa fields of the Great Plains and Far West came on well with California growers in the central valley making their third cutting.

The quick-moving harvests of vegetables and fruits timed for late June reportedly were generally manned successfully despite problems and uncertainties. Strawberry harvest has been a large labor user for short periods in many areas. Southern peaches moved in large volume during the survey week as did cherries and early varieties of fruits from many sections. Fruit drop in many Washington orchards reportedly delayed and lessened the anticipated work of thinning. California cling peach growers are destroying 15 percent of their large crop before ripening to balance demand thus reducing later harvest labor needs. The Florida citrus crop is in the clean-up stage. California lemon picking was light during the survey period but Valencia harvest made good progress.

Farm employment and indexes, June 1960, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1959	May average 1955-59 1/	May 22-28, 1960	June average 1955-59 1/	June 21-27, 1959	June 19-25, 1960
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total	7,384	8,545	7,725	8,977	8,651	8,271
Family labor	5,459	6,452	5,758	6,288	5,942	5,627
Hired labor	1,925	2,093	1,967	2,689	2,709	2,644
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	54	57	52	58	55	53
Family labor	54	57	51	57	54	51
Hired labor	57	58	54	58	58	57

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, July 1, 1960, United States

	April 1, 1960	July average 1955-59	July 1, 1959	July 1, 1960
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.751	$ 0.721	$ 0.796	$ 0.812
Per month with house	$186.00	$177.00	$196.00	$200.00
Per month with board and room	145.00	133.00	145.00	149.00
Per week with board and room	34.75	33.50	36.00	36.75
Per week without board or room	45.75	42.50	46.75	47.50
Per day with house	5.20	4.55	5.10	5.30
Per day with board and room	5.90	6.30	6.70	6.90
Per day without board or room	6.40	5.70	6.40	6.50
Per hour with house	.77	.85	.90	.92
Per hour without board or room	1.03	.93	1.00	1.02
INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Farm wage rates (Adjusted for seasonal variation)	649	556	618	631
Prices received by farmers 2/	240	239	242	236

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

Workers on farms, June 1960

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	June average 1955-59 1/			June 1959 Week of 21-27			June 1960 Week of 19-25		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	206	123	83	189	112	77	176	101	75
New York	204	127	77	200	116	84	187	115	72
New Jersey	65	36	29	61	34	27	59	33	26
Pennsylvania	259	201	58	244	190	54	229	180	49
Mid. Atl.	528	364	164	505	340	165	475	328	147
Ohio	301	246	55	297	241	56	287	233	54
Indiana	294	255	39	283	241	42	264	228	36
Illinois	331	253	78	317	241	76	300	229	71
Michigan	286	223	63	292	212	80	259	198	61
Wisconsin	338	300	38	325	287	38	306	269	37
E. N. Cent.	1,550	1,277	273	1,514	1,222	292	1,416	1,157	259
Minnesota	381	299	82	361	283	78	353	269	84
Iowa	366	285	81	366	281	85	357	279	78
Missouri	325	264	61	294	239	55	300	245	55
North Dakota	114	87	27	106	81	25	107	78	29
South Dakota	113	94	19	107	91	16	109	91	18
Nebraska	196	156	40	191	151	40	200	153	47
Kansas	212	161	51	210	154	56	197	145	52
W. N. Cent.	1,707	1,346	361	1,635	1,280	355	1,623	1,260	363
Del.-Md.	92	55	37	88	53	35	90	51	39
Virginia	256	159	97	252	157	95	254	149	105
West Virginia	98	75	23	87	68	19	85	65	20
North Carolina	562	381	181	543	366	177	475	314	161
South Carolina	305	171	134	309	161	148	265	146	119
Georgia	229	158	71	221	150	71	199	137	62
Florida	92	51	41	94	50	44	86	44	42
So. Atl.	1,634	1,050	584	1,594	1,005	589	1,454	906	548
Kentucky	281	201	80	257	183	74	272	186	86
Tennessee	285	213	72	281	208	73	252	189	63
Alabama	165	131	34	163	123	40	147	111	36
Mississippi	335	280	55	299	250	49	265	213	52
E. S. Cent.	1,066	825	241	1,000	764	236	936	699	237
Arkansas	265	167	98	233	150	83	240	137	103
Louisiana	160	96	64	172	97	75	144	82	62
Oklahoma	207	159	48	200	153	47	200	146	54
Texas	499	307	192	457	268	189	484	265	219
W. S. Cent.	1,131	729	402	1,062	668	394	1,068	630	438
Montana	66	40	26	63	39	24	64	39	25
Idaho	91	53	38	90	52	38	90	53	37
Colorado	89	59	30	89	57	32	88	56	32
N.Mex.-Ariz.	98	37	61	96	34	62	87	34	53
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	85	53	32	80	49	31	84	50	34
Mountain	429	242	187	418	231	187	413	232	181
Washington	181	107	74	176	102	74	173	97	76
Oregon	144	83	61	133	79	54	146	78	68
California	401	142	259	425	139	286	391	139	252
Pacific	726	332	394	734	320	414	710	314	396
UNITED STATES	8,977	6,288	2,689	8,651	5,942	2,709	8,271	5,627	2,644

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 1959, April and May 1960

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average 1959			April 1960 Week of 17-23			May 1960 Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	162	99	63	144	93	51	159	94	65
New York	171	108	63	154	100	54	161	108	53
New Jersey	49	29	20	45	28	17	53	29	24
Pennsylvania	202	164	38	191	160	31	199	165	34
Middle Atlantic	422	301	121	390	288	102	413	302	111
Ohio	260	223	37	267	232	35	277	238	39
Indiana	228	201	27	235	207	28	251	221	30
Illinois	256	206	50	279	226	53	286	231	55
Michigan	229	185	44	212	182	30	246	206	40
Wisconsin	299	269	30	291	264	27	301	276	25
East North Central	1,272	1,084	188	1,284	1,111	173	1,361	1,172	189
Minnesota	276	236	40	277	249	28	304	262	42
Iowa	293	254	39	294	269	25	322	288	34
Missouri	280	238	42	262	237	25	275	243	32
North Dakota	94	74	20	89	75	14	101	81	20
South Dakota	94	82	12	94	87	7	96	87	9
Nebraska	158	134	24	164	139	25	182	151	31
Kansas	165	140	25	161	143	18	178	148	30
West North Central	1,360	1,158	202	1,341	1,199	142	1,458	1,260	198
Del.-Md.	71	47	24	70	47	23	77	49	28
Virginia	210	154	56	202	160	42	249	182	67
West Virginia	75	62	13	77	60	17	80	63	17
North Carolina	432	330	102	349	292	57	421	339	82
South Carolina	206	141	65	176	118	58	199	132	67
Georgia	197	143	54	197	150	47	211	151	60
Florida	103	50	53	127	53	74	105	50	55
South Atlantic	1,294	927	367	1,198	880	318	1,342	966	376
Kentucky	244	198	46	221	182	39	203	164	39
Tennessee	256	204	52	218	182	36	227	183	44
Alabama	158	124	34	136	112	24	156	127	29
Mississippi	270	213	57	273	207	66	315	256	59
East South Central	928	739	189	848	683	165	901	730	171
Arkansas	222	136	86	238	136	102	252	145	107
Louisiana	164	99	65	175	108	67	159	92	67
Oklahoma	176	139	37	183	158	25	178	142	36
Texas	448	271	177	480	329	151	529	312	217
West South Central	1,010	645	365	1,076	731	345	1,118	691	427
Montana	50	38	12	54	43	11	54	38	16
Idaho	67	47	20	69	51	18	71	50	21
Colorado	69	52	17	71	61	10	75	57	18
N.Mex.-Ariz.	95	33	62	69	31	38	82	33	49
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	60	42	18	57	41	16	66	44	22
Mountain	341	212	129	320	227	93	348	222	126
Washington	117	78	39	121	77	44	135	89	46
Oregon	96	67	29	92	70	22	105	76	29
California	382	149	233	337	148	189	385	156	229
Pacific	595	294	301	550	295	255	625	321	304
UNITED STATES	7,384	5,459	1,925	7,151	5,507	1,644	7,725	5,758	1,967

Farm wage rates by regions and States, July 1, 1959 1/

Region and State	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	195.00	142.00		37.00	52.50	-	-	8.80	-	1.04	.908	547
N. H.	198.00	144.00		40.00	55.50	-	-	9.00	-	1.11	.955	622
Vt.	184.00	148.00		38.00	50.00	-	-	8.70	-	1.10	.914	589
Mass.	213.00	156.00		45.00	59.00	-	-	10.10	-	1.21	1.046	691
R. I.	219.00	162.00		47.00	61.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.20	1.060	736
Conn.	219.00	165.00		47.00	62.00	-	-	10.50	-	1.27	1.094	762
New Eng.	202.00	150.00		40.75	55.25	-	-	9.40	-	1.13	.974	637
N. Y.	204.00	142.00		37.25	52.00	-	-	9.10	-	1.11	.948	545
N. J.	212.00	153.00		40.00	53.00	-	-	9.40	-	1.16	.990	655
Pa.	183.00	129.00		34.50	47.25	-	-	8.10	-	1.04	.878	644
Mid. Atl.	198.00	139.00		36.75	50.50	-	-	8.80	-	1.09	.932	598
Ohio	174.00	126.00		-	-	-	6.60	8.50	-	1.08	.834	602
Ind.	176.00	131.00		-	-	-	6.50	8.00	-	1.05	.816	601
Ill.	194.00	150.00		-	-	-	7.70	9.30	-	1.10	.892	630
Mich.	199.00	142.00		-	-	-	7.00	8.80	-	1.07	.860	595
Wis.	190.00	140.00		-	-	-	7.00	8.90	-	1.08	.862	562
E.N.Cent.	189.00	139.00		-	-	-	7.00	8.80	-	1.08	.857	600
Minn.	186.00	147.00		-	-	-	7.80	9.80	-	1.11	.970	548
Iowa	195.00	159.00		-	-	-	8.30	10.10	-	1.14	1.004	551
Mo.	150.00	111.00		-	-	-	5.90	7.50	-	.98	.815	650
N.Dak.	194.00	163.00		-	-	-	7.40	9.20	-	1.06	.936	476
S.Dak.	183.00	148.00		-	-	-	7.20	8.90	-	1.05	.915	496
Nebr.	208.00	160.00		-	-	-	7.80	9.90	-	1.07	.959	586
Kans.	189.00	146.00		-	-	-	7.90	9.70	-	1.10	.964	688
W.N.Cent.	186.00	147.00		-	-	-	7.60	9.40	-	1.09	.947	583
Del.	-	-		-	-	7.00	-	9.00	-	1.05	.938	879
Md.	-	-		-	-	6.40	-	7.90	-	1.05	.870	897
Va.	-	-		-	-	5.20	-	6.20	-	.77	.660	733
W.Va.	-	-		-	-	5.00	-	5.70	-	.76	.627	503
N. C.	-	-		-	-	4.85	-	5.80	-	.70	.611	716
S. C.	-	-		-	-	3.55	-	4.10	-	.49	.431	594
Ga.	-	-		-	-	4.00	-	4.55	-	.60	.497	582
Fla.	-	-		-	-	5.80	-	6.30	-	.80	.679	714
So. Atl.	-	-		-	-	4.65	-	5.50	-	.68	.582	674
Ky.	-	-		-	-	4.20	-	5.30	-	.74	.527	558
Tenn.	-	-		-	-	3.85	-	4.55	-	.58	.456	518
Ala.	-	-		-	-	3.75	-	4.25	-	.55	.432	546
Miss.	-	-		-	-	3.60	-	4.00	-	.50	.408	499
E.S.Cent.	-	-		-	-	3.90	-	4.60	-	.61	.464	531
Ark.	-	-		-	-	5.00	-	5.40	-	.67	.576	585
La.	-	-		-	-	4.50	-	4.90	-	.61	.523	619
Okla.	-	-		-	-	6.90	-	8.10	-	.93	.828	652
Tex.	-	-		-	-	6.00	-	6.70	-	.76	.687	611
W.S.Cent.	-	-		-	-	5.60	-	6.30	-	.73	.650	612
Mont.	227.00	180.00		-	-	-	-	9.10	-	1.13	.876	483
Idaho	250.00	192.00		-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.14	.928	572
Wyo.	223.00	161.00		-	-	-	-	9.30	-	1.08	.847	472
Colo.	212.00	160.00		-	-	-	-	9.00	-	1.04	.822	582
N.Mex.	169.00	134.00		-	-	-	-	7.10	-	.78	.646	594
Ariz.	255.00	185.00		-	-	-	-	8.60	-	.95	.835	611
Utah	232.00	200.00		-	-	-	-	9.30	-	1.13	.903	612
Nev.	250.00	165.00		-	-	-	-	9.10	-	1.25	.906	541
Mountain	228.00	174.00		-	-	-	-	8.90	-	1.03	.840	554
Wash.	267.00	216.00		-	-	-	-	-	1.19	1.26	1.214	604
Oreg.	240.00	184.00		-	-	-	-	-	1.11	1.18	1.131	569
Calif.	283.00	215.00		-	-	-	-	-	1.11	1.17	1.136	542
Pacific	275.00	211.00		-	-	-	-	-	1.12	1.19	1.150	551
U. S.	196.00	145.00		36.00	46.75	5.10	6.70	6.40	.90	1.00	.796	618

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 by regions and States, July 1, 1960 1/

Region and State	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	198.00	142.00	37.00	53.00	-	-	9.00	-	1.08	.929	560
N. H.	210.00	158.00	44.00	59.00	-	-	9.60	-	1.15	1.011	658
Vt.	199.00	160.00	40.00	54.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.16	.971	626
Mass.	225.00	158.00	46.00	60.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.20	1.053	695
R. I.	225.00	158.00	46.00	61.00	-	-	10.40	-	1.20	1.063	738
Conn.	225.00	158.00	45.00	62.00	-	-	10.70	-	1.30	1.105	770
New Eng.	210.00	153.00	41.50	56.75	-	-	9.60	-	1.16	.999	653
N. Y.	212.00	149.00	37.75	52.75	-	-	9.20	-	1.13	.966	556
N. J.	217.00	160.00	42.00	56.00	-	-	9.50	-	1.17	1.008	667
Pa.	189.00	133.00	35.50	47.00	-	-	8.10	-	1.06	.893	661
Mid. Atl.	205.00	146.00	37.75	51.50	-	-	8.90	-	1.11	.950	615
Ohio	179.00	137.00	-	-	-	6.70	8.50	-	1.06	.838	599
Ind.	181.00	130.00	-	-	-	6.70	8.20	-	1.06	.826	613
Ill.	197.00	152.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.40	-	1.10	.897	632
Mich.	200.00	138.00	-	-	-	7.00	9.00	-	1.07	.864	598
Wis.	198.00	148.00	-	-	-	7.10	9.00	-	1.09	.879	579
E.N.Cent.	192.00	142.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.90	-	1.08	.863	605
Minn.	188.00	148.00	-	-	-	8.10	9.90	-	1.10	.970	548
Iowa	205.00	163.00	-	-	-	8.70	10.30	-	1.15	1.021	561
Mo.	154.00	117.00	-	-	-	6.10	7.60	-	.98	.822	655
N.Dak.	198.00	168.00	-	-	-	7.50	9.30	-	1.07	.947	486
S.Dak.	192.00	155.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.30	-	1.04	.922	499
Nebr.	212.00	164.00	-	-	-	7.90	10.00	-	1.10	.981	600
Kans.	201.00	155.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.80	-	1.13	.988	699
W.N.Cent.	193.00	152.00	-	-	-	7.80	9.60	-	1.09	.959	590
Del.	-	-	-	-	7.00	-	8.90	-	1.00	.916	857
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.70	-	9.10	-	1.02	.870	897
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	6.40	-	.80	.682	766
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.80	-	.77	.635	509
N. C.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.70	-	.69	.602	699
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.55	-	4.10	-	.50	.434	598
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.70	-	.65	.522	605
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.20	-	.79	.668	703
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.75	-	5.60	-	.70	.597	685
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.50	-	.77	.548	588
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.95	-	4.65	-	.61	.468	531
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.45	-	.58	.452	565
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.70	-	4.05	-	.53	.417	509
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.80	-	.65	.484	561
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	5.60	-	.69	.596	599
La.	-	-	-	-	4.50	-	4.90	-	.62	.526	616
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.30	-	8.30	-	.96	.854	665
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.10	-	6.70	-	.78	.696	618
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.40	-	.76	.668	629
Mont.	232.00	181.00	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.13	.892	492
Idaho	251.00	190.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	1.21	.947	583
Wyo.	223.00	162.00	-	-	-	-	9.20	-	1.08	.846	471
Colo.	224.00	174.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.10	.876	621
N.Mex.	185.00	134.00	-	-	-	-	7.10	-	.84	.671	611
Ariz.	258.00	186.00	-	-	-	-	8.80	-	1.01	.859	621
Utah	240.00	210.00	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	1.19	.948	643
Nev.	260.00	165.00	-	-	-	-	9.30	-	1.25	.916	536
Mountain	235.00	179.00	-	-	-	-	9.20	-	1.09	.875	577
Wash.	264.00	206.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.21	1.26	1.213	604
Oreg.	246.00	189.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.15	1.21	1.162	584
Calif.	295.00	215.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.14	1.22	1.182	563
Pacific	281.00	209.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	1.23	1.184	567
U. S.	200.00	149.00	36.75	47.50	5.30	6.90	6.50	.92	1.02	.812	631

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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