HD
1525
A3

Farm Labor

Washington, D. C.
April 10, 1957

FARM EMPLOYMENT LOWER THAN A YEAR AGO
WAGE RATES CONTINUE TO CLIMB

Approximately 6.4 million persons, about 767,000 more than a month earlier, were working on farms during the week of March 24-30, the Crop Reporting Board announced today. This was about the usual seasonal rise from February. Spring weather is moving northward and field activity is increasing sharply. The number of family workers at 5,148,000 was 11 percent higher than a month earlier. Hired farm employment rose about 28 percent due to rather sharp increases in the South.

Compared with a year earlier, there were 3 percent fewer persons working on the Nation's farms in late March. This decrease was due in part to excessively wet weather in much of the eastern half on the country. There is no apparent halt in the longtime downtrend in the number of persons working on farms.

Wage rates for hired farm workers around April 1 were about 4 percent higher than a year ago. The seasonally adjusted wage rate index was 562 compared with 538 last April and 554 the previous quarter. All types of farm wage rates were higher than a year earlier. However, some individual reported rates declined seasonally from January to April. The increases from a year ago occurred throughout the country, ranging from 2 percent in the Rocky Mountain States to 6 percent in New England.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service — Crop Reporting Board
La 1 (4-57) — Washington, D. C.

The seasonally adjusted index of farm wage rates for the country indicated about 1.5 percent increase from January 1 to April 1, 1957. The level of rates rose or remained fairly steady in all regions except the New England, South Atlantic, and the Rocky Mountain. Largest decline was in the Rocky Mountain region where demand for hired help is usually slack at this season.

During the week of March 24-30, moderate to heavy rains delayed farm activity over much of the eastern half of the country. Wet fields retarded land preparation and planting operations from the eastern portion of the southern plains to the Atlantic. Several tornadoes with the usual accompanying hail, high winds and heavy rains moved across the Gulf States, causing local damage and flooding. Farmers throughout much of the western plains were taking inventory of local livestock losses and trying to recover from the recent blizzard. Warmer weather melted most of the snow from the storm, and snow cover around April 1 was limited to the extreme northern portion of the North Central States and to the Rocky Mountain area.

Delays in field work do not appear to be serious yet and progress will be rapid as soon as weather clears. Where possible, farmers were busy breaking ground and planting spring crops. In the South, some corn and cotton planting was reported as far north as the lower counties of South Carolina. Tobacco setting was nearing completion in northern Florida and south Georgia. Oat seeding had advanced into the upper portion of North Central States and there were scattered reports of spring wheat seeding in the Dakotas, Wyoming, Idaho, and Washington. Land intended for corn and soybeans was being prepared throughout the country as soil conditions permitted.

Harvest activities were mostly limited to citrus and vegetable crops in California, Florida and the extreme South. Strawberry picking was becoming

active in commercial areas of Louisiana and Alabama by April 1. Maple sirup tapping was making excellent progress in New York and the New England States.

For the country as a whole, the total number of persons working on farms in late March was 14 percent greater than a month earlier. Increases by regions ranged from 9 percent in New England to 18 percent in the East South Central States. All regions, except the South Central and West North Central States, increased as much as or more than usual. In these regions, weather conditions accounted for the smaller than average increase.

Number of persons working on farms declined 3 percent from a year earlier. Only New England and the Middle Atlantic States showed increases from March 1956. Decreases ranged from 1 to 7 percent in the other regions. Greatest reductions were in the South Central and Mountain States where adverse weather restricted farm worker activity the last week of March this year.

The number of family workers also decreased from March 1956 in all regions except New England and the Middle Atlantic States. Change from February to March reflected slightly less than the usual seasonal increase for the country as a whole. However, more family members than usual were working in all areas except in the three southern regions and the West North Central States.

The number of hired farm workers in the entire country was about 28 percent larger in late March than a month earlier. Most increases followed the usual seasonal pattern, although much sharper than usual throughout the South and North Central regions. In New England, the Middle Atlantic, Mountain and Pacific States, increases varied from 8 to 18 percent. The smallest rise in hired farm workers occurred in the Rocky Mountain States. Hired employment rose 40 and 46 percent, respectively, during the month in the West South Central and East South Central regions. Increases in the North Central and South Atlantic States, while more moderate, were all above average.

Hired workers on all farms in late March 1957 totaled about the same as in March 1956. The East North Central and South Atlantic States, like the country as a whole, showed no change from a year earlier in the number of hired workers. The largest decline, 6 percent, was registered in the West North Central States. Other shifts were quite small except for New England. There hired workers were 16 percent more numerous than a year earlier.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of March 24-30, 1957, United States, with comparisons

	March average 1952-56 1/	March 18-24, 1956	February 17-23, 1957	March 24-30, 1957
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons)				
Total	7,132	6,628	5,633	6,400
Family labor	5,833	5,374	4,652	5,148
Hired labor	1,299	1,254	981	1,252
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1910-14=100)				
Total	63	59	57	57
Family labor	64	59	58	57
Hired labor	58	56	53	56

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, April 1, 1957, United States, with comparisons 1/

	Jan. 1, 1956	Apr. 1, 1956	Jan. 1, 1957	Apr. 1, 1957
FARM WAGE RATES				
Per month with house	$156.00	$152.00	$165.00	$159.00
Per month with board and room	126.00	123.00	133.00	128.00
Per week with board and room	30.00	29.75	31.75	32.25
Per week without board or room	38.00	39.00	39.75	40.75
Per day with house	4.45	4.30	4.75	4.50
Per day with board and room	5.30	5.00	5.60	5.20
Per day without board or room	5.40	5.40	5.80	5.60
Per hour with house	.67	.66	.72	.67
Per hour without board or room	.91	.89	.95	.92
Composite rate per hour 2/	.740	.615	.785	.643
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Adjusted for seasonal variation	522	538	554	562
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Prices received by farmers 3/	224	232	238	237 *
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	43	43	43	42

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.
* March 15, 1957.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of March 24-30, 1957, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	March average 1952-56 1/	February 19-25, 1956	March 18-24, 1956	February 17-23, 1957	March 24-30, 1957
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
		TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT			
United States	7,132	5,772	6,628	5,633	6,400
New England	147	137	145	140	153
Middle Atlantic	469	411	431	403	444
East North Central	1,200	991	1,134	978	1,127
West North Central	1,346	1,079	1,254	1,072	1,201
South Atlantic	1,177	947	1,073	920	1,036
East South Central	1,044	769	928	740	871
West South Central	968	743	876	712	812
Mountain	289	263	296	246	276
Pacific	492	432	491	422	480
		FAMILY WORKERS 2/			
United States	5,833	4,770	5,374	4,652	5,148
New England	103	98	100	94	101
Middle Atlantic	361	325	337	315	346
East North Central	1,052	892	990	874	983
West North Central	1,224	998	1,142	991	1,096
South Atlantic	894	729	806	713	769
East South Central	888	667	781	643	729
West South Central	792	605	701	585	634
Mountain	214	185	214	172	196
Pacific	305	271	303	265	294
		HIRED WORKERS 3/			
United States	1,299	1,002	1,254	981	1,252
New England	44	39	45	46	52
Middle Atlantic	108	86	94	88	98
East North Central	148	99	144	104	144
West North Central	122	81	112	81	105
South Atlantic	283	218	267	207	267
East South Central	156	102	147	97	142
West South Central	176	138	175	127	178
Mountain	75	78	82	74	80
Pacific	187	161	188	157	186

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Farm employment: Average number of persons employed per month, January through March 1957, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons 1/

Geographic division	1952-56	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT				
United States	6,430	6,556	6,269	5,980	5,812
New England	139	142	140	137	141
Middle Atlantic	442	452	436	414	415
East North Central	1,083	1,112	1,056	1,025	1,021
West North Central	1,240	1,257	1,213	1,142	1,118
South Atlantic	1,048	1,067	1,018	956	923
East South Central	901	941	876	805	768
West South Central	841	859	798	771	720
Mountain	271	271	260	273	258
Pacific	465	455	472	457	448
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/				
United States	5,336	5,448	5,206	4,924	4,768
New England	100	102	99	97	95
Middle Atlantic	344	350	342	327	326
East North Central	967	989	943	914	908
West North Central	1,133	1,149	1,116	1,048	1,028
South Atlantic	818	836	795	736	710
East South Central	782	812	757	692	660
West South Central	704	723	669	632	584
Mountain	195	197	189	191	178
Pacific	293	290	296	287	279
	HIRED WORKERS 3/				
United States	1,094	1,108	1,063	1,056	1,044
New England	39	40	41	40	46
Middle Atlantic	98	102	94	87	89
East North Central	116	123	113	111	113
West North Central	107	108	97	94	90
South Atlantic	230	231	223	220	213
East South Central	119	129	119	113	108
West South Central	137	136	129	139	136
Mountain	76	74	71	82	80
Pacific	172	165	176	170	169

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions
April 1, 1957, with comparisons

Geographic division	January 1, 1956	April 1, 1956	January 1, 1957	April 1, 1957
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
PER MONTH WITH HOUSE				
New England	176.00	174.00	189.00	190.00
Middle Atlantic	170.00	178.00	182.00	186.00
East North Central	162.00	166.00	172.00	177.00
West North Central	153.00	161.00	158.00	166.00
Mountain	204.00	206.00	214.00	212.00
Pacific	247.00	247.00	252.00	255.00
PER MONTH WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	130.00	130.00	144.00	144.00
Middle Atlantic	120.00	125.00	128.00	131.00
East North Central	122.00	124.00	127.00	131.00
West North Central	118.00	125.00	122.00	130.00
Mountain	149.00	155.00	158.00	158.00
Pacific	187.00	190.00	194.00	194.00
PER WEEK WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	35.00	35.00	38.75	38.75
Middle Atlantic	32.50	32.75	34.50	35.00
PER WEEK WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	49.00	49.75	51.75	52.75
Middle Atlantic	45.00	45.50	47.50	48.25
PER DAY WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	4.25	4.40	4.70	4.60
East South Central	3.45	3.50	3.65	3.70
West South Central	4.95	4.90	5.10	5.00
PER DAY WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
East North Central	6.10	6.20	6.40	6.50
West North Central	6.00	6.30	6.20	6.60
PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	8.50	8.40	8.80	9.00
Middle Atlantic	7.90	7.90	8.20	8.30
East North Central	7.70	7.80	8.10	8.20
West North Central	7.60	7.90	7.80	8.20
South Atlantic	5.00	5.10	5.50	5.40
East South Central	4.05	4.15	4.30	4.30
West South Central	5.50	5.40	5.70	5.60
Mountain	7.60	7.90	8.00	8.20
PER HOUR WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	.55	.57	.60	.59
East South Central	.48	.48	.50	.50
West South Central	.59	.58	.62	.59
Pacific	1.00	1.04	1.06	1.07
PER HOUR WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	1.06	1.08	1.10	1.11
Middle Atlantic	1.01	1.01	1.03	1.05
East North Central	1.02	1.03	1.04	1.05
West North Central	.97	.99	.99	1.00
South Atlantic	.66	.68	.72	.70
East South Central	.56	.57	.59	.59
West South Central	.68	.67	.73	.70
Mountain	.89	.96	.92	.97
Pacific	1.11	1.11	1.14	1.15

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, April 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 board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room			
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	160.00	122.00	31.50	47.50	-	-	7.80	-	1.00	.793	509
N. H.	176.00	135.00	35.00	52.00	-	-	8.60	-	1.06	.863	598
Vt.	164.00	125.00	32.50	44.00	-	-	7.70	-	1.02	.783	542
Mass.	183.00	135.00	38.50	54.00	-	-	9.00	-	1.15	.915	629
R. I.	196.00	138.00	38.00	55.00	-	-	9.00	-	1.16	.922	674
Conn.	202.00	140.00	38.50	55.00	-	-	9.40	-	1.19	.942	684
New Eng.	174.00	130.00	35.00	49.75	-	-	8.40	-	1.08	.849	578
N. Y.	185.00	132.00	34.00	48.25	-	-	8.30	-	1.05	.732	523
N. J.	204.00	142.00	36.00	50.25	-	-	8.70	-	1.04	.760	617
Pa.	163.00	114.00	30.50	41.25	-	-	7.30	-	.95	.647	587
Mid. Atl.	178.00	125.00	32.75	45.50	-	-	7.90	-	1.01	.699	556
Ohio	154.00	116.00	-	-	-	5.70	7.50	-	1.03	.624	563
Ind.	151.00	118.00	-	-	-	6.30	7.50	-	1.02	.627	588
Ill.	176.00	138.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.20	-	1.04	.689	600
Mich.	180.00	125.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.40	-	1.05	.675	579
Wis.	169.00	123.00	-	-	-	5.80	7.50	-	1.00	.638	514
E.N.Cent.	166.00	124.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.80	-	1.03	.650	562
Minn.	163.00	126.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.20	-	1.02	.633	510
Iowa	170.00	139.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.00	-	1.05	.742	520
Mo.	136.00	102.00	-	-	-	5.20	6.40	-	.88	.571	586
N.Dak.	165.00	129.00	-	-	-	5.70	7.60	-	.96	.665	444
S.Dak.	163.00	130.00	-	-	-	6.10	7.60	-	.96	.668	460
Nebr.	180.00	135.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.50	-	1.02	.720	552
Kans.	168.00	131.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.30	-	1.02	.705	671
W.N.Cent.	161.00	125.00	-	-	-	6.30	7.90	-	.99	.676	536
Del.	-	-	-	-	6.00	-	7.80	.88	.95	.774	789
Md.	-	-	-	-	5.70	-	7.20	.86	.95	.747	839
Va.	-	-	-	-	4.75	-	5.70	.58	.73	.566	691
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	5.00	.60	.67	.523	456
N. C.	-	-	-	-	4.50	-	5.30	.54	.65	.522	652
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.30	-	3.90	.42	.50	.392	570
Ga.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.30	.51	.62	.453	560
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.50	.64	.76	.576	646
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.10	.57	.68	.521	629
Ky.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.60	.50	.63	.443	504
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.35	-	4.15	.44	.55	.400	464
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.50	-	4.10	.51	.57	.406	507
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.45	-	4.00	.46	.54	.396	484
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.50	-	4.15	.48	.57	.408	484
Ark.	-	-	-	-	4.55	-	4.85	.53	.60	.502	510
La.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.50	.53	.61	.476	557
Okla.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	6.70	.74	.84	.685	601
Tex.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	5.90	.61	.71	.596	542
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.90	-	5.40	.58	.67	.551	555
Mont.	198.00	159.00	-	-	-	-	8.30	-	1.05	.804	453
Idaho	224.00	181.00	-	-	-	-	9.10	-	1.06	.873	538
Wyo.	203.00	151.00	-	-	-	-	8.40	-	1.03	.795	457
Colo.	188.00	136.00	-	-	-	-	7.70	-	.94	.726	531
N.Mex.	168.00	115.00	-	-	-	-	6.00	-	.77	.600	546
Ariz.	225.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	7.90	-	.85	.763	541
Utah	224.00	190.00	-	-	-	-	8.50	-	1.10	.875	593
Nev.	220.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	7.80	-	1.10	.816	487
Mountain	206.00	155.00	-	-	-	-	7.90	-	.96	.771	514
Wash.	245.00	198.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.13	1.18	1.139	561
Oreg.	221.00	180.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.07	1.12	1.075	540
Calif.	251.00	190.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.02	1.10	1.066	508
Pacific	247.00	190.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.04	1.11	1.074	519
U. S.	152.00	123.00	29.75	39.00	4.30	5.00	5.40	.66	.89	.615	538

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, April 1, 1957 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 board and room	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	180.00	138.00	36.50	51.00	-	-	8.20	-	1.02	.843	540
N. H.	190.00	141.00	38.00	53.00	-	-	8.90	-	1.08	.891	617
Vt.	174.00	138.00	34.50	47.50	-	-	8.50	-	1.05	.837	580
Mass.	202.00	148.00	43.00	56.00	-	-	9.70	-	1.18	.966	664
R. I.	208.00	151.00	43.00	58.00	-	-	9.80	-	1.18	.979	716
Conn.	210.00	157.00	43.00	58.00	-	-	9.80	-	1.24	.995	722
New Eng.	190.00	144.00	38.75	52.75	-	-	9.00	-	1.11	.900	612
N. Y.	193.00	135.00	36.00	51.00	-	-	8.70	-	1.09	.764	546
N. J.	210.00	147.00	38.00	51.00	-	-	8.90	-	1.08	.785	638
Pa.	170.00	121.00	32.50	44.00	-	-	7.70	-	1.00	.683	619
Mid. Atl.	186.00	131.00	35.00	48.25	-	-	8.30	-	1.05	.735	584
Ohio	164.00	120.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.10	-	1.06	.655	590
Ind.	164.00	122.00	-	-	-	6.10	7.60	-	1.06	.648	607
Ill.	185.00	145.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.50	-	1.06	.713	621
Mich.	194.00	136.00	-	-	-	7.00	8.70	-	1.06	.708	606
Wis.	178.00	132.00	-	-	-	6.20	8.00	-	1.02	.670	540
E.N.Cent.	177.00	131.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.20	-	1.05	.679	587
Minn.	171.00	135.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.80	-	1.05	.730	537
Iowa	175.00	143.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.00	-	1.06	.751	526
Mo.	141.00	107.00	-	-	-	5.50	6.80	-	.91	.596	611
N.Dak.	174.00	144.00	-	-	-	6.30	7.90	-	1.00	.707	472
S.Dak.	168.00	132.00	-	-	-	6.30	8.00	-	.99	.690	475
Nebr.	182.00	139.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.60	-	1.01	.728	557
Kans.	171.00	128.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.50	-	1.03	.709	675
W.N.Cent.	166.00	130.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.20	-	1.00	.697	553
Del.	-	-	-	-	6.20	-	8.00	.89	.97	.803	819
Md.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	7.20	.85	.95	.745	837
Va.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	5.90	.59	.75	.580	708
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	5.20	.65	.70	.548	478
N.C.	-	-	-	-	4.60	-	5.70	.55	.70	.552	689
S.C.	-	-	-	-	3.40	-	4.00	.42	.50	.397	576
Ga.	-	-	-	-	3.75	-	4.40	.51	.62	.459	567
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	5.80	.64	.76	.593	665
S. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.60	-	5.40	.59	.70	.544	657
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	4.85	.56	.70	.478	543
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.50	-	4.25	.45	.57	.413	479
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.20	.50	.57	.417	520
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.10	.48	.57	.413	505
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.70	-	4.30	.50	.59	.426	505
Ark.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	5.20	.55	.66	.540	549
La.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.55	.50	.63	.482	563
Okla.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	6.90	.76	.85	.695	610
Tex.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.10	.63	.75	.617	560
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.60	.59	.70	.571	574
Mont.	204.00	169.00	-	-	-	-	8.60	-	1.06	.830	468
Idaho	230.00	184.00	-	-	-	-	9.30	-	1.10	.894	551
Wyo.	200.00	148.00	-	-	-	-	7.80	-	1.01	.768	442
Colo.	194.00	140.00	-	-	-	-	8.20	-	1.00	.764	559
N.Mex.	174.00	120.00	-	-	-	-	6.20	-	.76	.612	556
Ariz.	240.00	170.00	-	-	-	-	8.30	-	.86	.797	565
Utah	210.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	8.50	-	1.10	.830	563
Nev.	221.00	191.00	-	-	-	-	8.60	-	1.10	.877	524
Mountain	212.00	158.00	-	-	-	-	8.20	-	.97	.788	525
Wash.	253.00	200.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.17	1.26	1.207	595
Oreg.	235.00	182.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.09	1.16	1.113	560
Calif.	259.00	195.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.05	1.13	1.096	522
Pacific	255.00	194.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.07	1.15	1.111	538
U. S.	159.00	128.00	32.25	40.75	4.50	5.20	5.60	.67	.92	.643	562

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 20,000 to 25,000 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 35,000 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 1957 issue of Farm Labor.

AGRICULTURE-WASHINGTON