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Farm Labor

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JUNE FARM WORK EXCEEDS 1960 MARK
WAGE RATE INCREASE CONTINUES

The number of farm workers during the week of June 18-24 is estimated at 8.3 million, about 1 percent more than a year earlier. Farm family workers totaled 5.6 million, a decrease of 1 percent from late June of last year and a new record low for this date. Hired worker numbers are estimated at 2.7 million, which is 4 percent above the June 1960 level, and the largest force of hired farm workers estimated for the June survey period since 1955.

Moderate decreases under a year ago in the number of family workers were shown in a majority of States. Increases occurred in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Pacific Coast States which offset most of these decreases. Increases over a year ago in the number of hired workers were largest in California, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Missouri, and Illinois. Other States also contributed increases which brought regional totals above June 1960 in the North Central, South Central, South Atlantic and Pacific regions. Regional totals were up 9 percent in the Pacific and East North Central regions, and 4 percent in the South Atlantic, West North Central, and West South Central regions.

Compared with the low levels of worker numbers reported in the May survey week of this year, the June force reflects more than the usual seasonal gain. June hired workers increased about 40 percent in number over May compared with the 5-year average increase of 28 percent and last year's increase of 34 percent. The timing of crop work, the amount of delayed work to be done, and the extent of open weather for good field work are among the factors which caused sharp seasonal changes in employment on many farms. Remarkably few instances of critical worker shortages were reported during June this year. More often, seasonal workers waited for crops to mature or good weather to bring in the expected rush periods for farm work.

July Wage Rates Average 2 Percent Above 1960

Continued moderate increases in farm wage rates as compared with a year earlier were reported quite generally. The U.S. average composite rate per hour about July 1 was $0.825, which is 2 percent above the July 1, 1960 average. The seasonally adjusted index of U.S. farm wage rates reached 648 percent of the 1910-14 average. This compared with the index of 631 a year

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earlier but shows little change from the seasonally adjusted index of 647 for April 1, 1961.

Increases in wage rates were most general for regular workers at monthly rates and for hourly workers in areas other than the South. They occurred less frequently where day by day hand work such as chopping cotton predominated. New methods of fighting weeds in cotton fields reportedly are making significant further reductions this year in needs for hand labor. The drought in the Northern Plains reduced employment and cut some wage rates.

June Farm Work Theme-- "Make Hay While the Sun Shines"

Putting up hay and forage for livestock is big work in most States, and June on most farms means making hay. Well over half of all farms that harvest any cropland grow and harvest hay. The huge tonnage that must be cut, moved, and stored made so much hard work that engineers and farmers have continually developed and changed machines and methods for handling the forage crops. The result has undoubtedly been fewer farm backaches and less outpouring of sweat in hot and humid hayfields in many a race to get hay under cover before the next downpour. However, handling the U.S. hay crop of over 100 million tons and uncounted millions of tons of other forage still takes a lot of doing for men as well as machines.

During June much of the clover and clover-grass-mixed-hay in heavy hay producing North-Central and North-Eastern States comes to cutting stage. Weather the past month was none too favorable for curing in many sections in this area, and where rain interfered too much with haying, farmers with equipment available chopped the grass into silage. Because of cool weather this year New York, largest clover-grass hay State, had harvested only about a tenth of the hay crop, but several counties had reported at least 60 percent of grass silage cut by the end of June. About half of Illinois and Iowa clover hay had been cut. Drought in North Dakota and parts of South Dakota, Montana, and Minnesota reduced both hay tonnage and haying jobs for hired workers. The first cutting of alfalfa was practically completed through Nebraska and Kansas while in Oklahoma and southern Kansas, second cuttings were in progress. In California, third and fourth cuttings of alfalfa were active in main areas.

Despite the continuing slowness of the crop season, harvest of a number of crops moved into greater activity by the end of June. The wheat harvest was nearing clean-up stage in Oklahoma and was about one-fourth done in Kansas. Harvest of green peas was starting in several parts of the country. Harvest of peaches proceeded in southeastern areas. Tobacco harvest increased in Georgia and certain areas in the Carolinas. Strawberry harvest reached New England after wide activity in most sections. Blueberry harvest started in New Jersey. The varied fruit and vegetable activities in Pacific Coast States included raspberries in Washington, berries and cherries in Oregon, and many varieties of specialty crops in California.

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

	Annual average 1960	Annual average 1959	Annual average 1955-59	June average 1955-59 1/	June 19-25, 1960	June 18-24, 1961
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total	7,118	7,384	7,734	8,977	8,271	8,324
Family labor	5,249	5,459	5,791	6,288	5,627	5,585
Hired labor	1,869	1,925	1,943	2,689	2,644	2,739
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	52	54	57	58	53	53
Family labor	52	54	57	57	51	51
Hired labor	55	57	57	58	57	59

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, 1961, United States

	Annual average 1960	July average 1955-59	July 1, 1960	July 1, 1961
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.818	$ 0.721	$ 0.812	$ 0.825
Per month with house	$192.00	$177.00	$200.00	$203.00
Per month with board and room	149.00	133.00	149.00	151.00
Per week with board and room	35.50	33.50	36.75	36.75
Per week without board or room	45.75	42.50	47.50	48.25
Per day with house	5.30	4.55	5.30	5.30
Per day with board and room	6.50	6.30	6.90	7.00
Per day without board or room	6.60	5.70	6.50	6.50
Per hour with house	.88	.85	.92	.94
Per hour without board or room	.97	.93	1.02	1.04
INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Farm wage rates (Adjusted for seasonal variation)	629	556	631	648
Prices received by farmers 2/	238	239	236	234

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

Workers on Farms, June 1961

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	June average 1955-59 1/			June 1960 Week of 19-25			June 1961 Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	206	123	83	176	101	75	161	95	66
New York	204	127	77	187	115	72	183	111	72
New Jersey	65	36	29	59	33	26	57	34	23
Pennsylvania	259	201	58	229	180	49	220	175	45
Middle Atlantic	528	364	164	475	328	147	460	320	140
Ohio	301	246	55	287	233	54	275	223	52
Indiana	294	255	39	264	228	36	267	229	38
Illinois	331	253	78	300	229	71	317	228	89
Michigan	286	223	63	259	198	61	265	199	66
Wisconsin	338	300	38	306	269	37	300	263	37
East North Central	1,550	1,277	273	1,416	1,157	259	1,424	1,142	282
Minnesota	381	299	82	353	269	84	352	270	82
Iowa	366	285	81	357	279	78	361	280	81
Missouri	325	264	61	300	245	55	310	245	65
North Dakota	114	87	27	107	78	29	101	79	22
South Dakota	113	94	19	109	91	18	108	87	21
Nebraska	196	156	40	200	153	47	194	146	48
Kansas	212	161	51	197	145	52	204	146	58
West North Central	1,707	1,346	361	1,623	1,260	363	1,630	1,253	377
Del.-Md.	92	55	37	90	51	39	78	48	30
Virginia	256	159	97	254	149	105	241	143	98
West Virginia	98	75	23	85	65	20	84	62	22
North Carolina	562	381	181	475	314	161	543	354	189
South Carolina	305	171	134	265	146	119	275	140	135
Georgia	229	158	71	199	137	62	196	134	62
Florida	92	51	41	86	44	42	77	41	36
South Atlantic	1,634	1,050	584	1,454	906	548	1,494	922	572
Kentucky	281	201	80	272	186	86	287	196	91
Tennessee	285	213	72	252	189	63	265	196	69
Alabama	165	131	34	147	111	36	135	102	33
Mississippi	335	280	55	265	213	52	244	198	46
East South Central	1,066	825	241	936	699	237	931	692	239
Arkansas	265	167	98	240	137	103	222	130	92
Louisiana	160	96	64	144	82	62	160	86	74
Oklahoma	207	159	48	200	146	54	196	141	55
Texas	499	307	192	484	265	219	494	259	235
West South Central	1,131	729	402	1,068	630	438	1,072	616	456
Montana	66	40	26	64	39	25	61	38	23
Idaho	91	53	38	90	53	37	95	54	41
Colorado	89	59	30	88	56	32	84	53	31
N.Mex.-Ariz.	98	37	61	87	34	53	82	31	51
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	85	53	32	84	50	34	77	46	31
Mountain	429	242	187	413	232	181	399	222	177
Washington	181	107	74	173	97	76	182	100	82
Oregon	144	83	61	146	78	68	138	81	57
California	401	142	259	391	139	252	433	142	291
Pacific	726	332	394	710	314	396	753	323	430
UNITED STATES	8,977	6,288	2,689	8,271	5,627	2,644	8,324	5,585	2,739

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, April and May 1961

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual average 1960			April 1961 Week of 23-29			May 1961 Week of 21-27		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
New England	150	91	59	141	89	52	150	92	58
New York	163	107	56	147	96	51	156	100	56
New Jersey	47	28	19	42	27	15	51	28	23
Pennsylvania	194	159	35	178	151	27	190	157	33
Middle Atlantic	404	294	110	367	274	93	397	285	112
Ohio	250	214	36	251	221	30	266	224	42
Indiana	219	192	27	211	190	21	254	221	33
Illinois	249	201	48	256	211	45	295	237	58
Michigan	220	178	42	210	179	31	243	202	41
Wisconsin	282	253	29	278	253	25	296	270	26
East North Central	1,220	1,038	182	1,206	1,054	152	1,354	1,154	200
Minnesota	266	228	38	275	248	27	305	265	40
Iowwa	289	252	37	293	270	23	327	291	36
Missouri	276	237	39	256	231	25	271	235	36
North Dakota	92	71	21	90	76	14	103	82	21
South Dakota	92	81	11	94	86	8	91	83	8
Nebraska	160	135	25	157	132	25	169	143	26
Kansas	159	134	25	153	136	17	159	137	22
West North Central	1,334	1,138	196	1,318	1,179	139	1,425	1,236	189
Delaware-Maryland	70	45	25	69	48	21	77	49	28
Virginia	203	149	54	205	164	41	249	186	63
West Virginia	73	60	13	71	56	15	78	59	19
North Carolina	416	317	99	358	299	59	434	348	86
South Carolina	195	133	62	173	112	61	212	135	77
Georgia	185	135	50	180	138	42	204	149	55
Florida	98	46	52	127	58	69	109	52	57
South Atlantic	1,240	885	355	1,183	875	308	1,363	978	385
Kentucky	235	188	47	203	168	35	214	172	42
Tennessee	246	195	51	207	175	32	217	176	41
Alabama	149	116	33	139	107	32	145	113	32
Mississippi	252	195	57	255	177	78	298	237	61
East South Central	882	694	188	804	627	177	874	698	176
Arkansas	212	126	86	211	125	86	238	131	107
Louisiana	153	95	58	170	100	70	146	81	65
Oklahoma	165	131	34	178	150	28	185	146	39
Texas	442	261	181	456	304	152	483	282	201
West South Central	972	613	359	1,015	679	336	1,052	640	412
Montana	49	37	12	53	42	11	52	38	14
Idaho	67	47	20	71	53	18	72	50	22
Colorado	69	51	18	71	62	9	75	60	15
N.Mex.-Ariz.	90	32	58	68	31	37	81	30	51
Wyo.-Utah-Nev.	59	41	18	59	43	16	68	44	24
Mountain	334	208	126	322	231	91	348	222	126
Washington	113	76	37	106	73	33	131	87	44
Oregon	92	66	26	95	71	24	113	80	33
California	377	146	231	324	145	179	364	149	215
Pacific	582	288	294	525	289	236	608	316	292
UNITED STATES	7,118	5,249	1,869	6,881	5,297	1,584	7,571	5,621	1,950

Farm Wage Rates by Regions and States, July 1, 1960 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	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	1.01	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	1.05	695
R. I.	225.00	158.00	46.00	61.00	-	-	10.40	-	1.20	1.06	738
Conn.	225.00	158.00	45.00	62.00	-	-	10.70	-	1.30	1.10	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	1.01	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	1.02	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	1.21	604
Oreg.	246.00	189.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.15	1.21	1.16	584
Calif.	295.00	215.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.14	1.22	1.18	563
Pacific	281.00	209.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	1.23	1.18	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. average. 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Farm Wage Rates by Regions and States, July 1, 1961 1/

Region and States	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	203.00	147.00	36.50	55.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.08	.944	575
N. H.	221.00	161.00	44.50	60.00	-	-	9.50	-	1.17	1.02	671
Vt.	203.00	157.00	39.00	55.00	-	-	9.30	-	1.14	.970	638
Mass.	237.00	161.00	45.00	62.00	-	-	10.50	-	1.20	1.07	699
R. I.	238.00	161.00	45.00	63.00	-	-	10.70	-	1.20	1.08	751
Conn.	235.00	159.00	43.00	63.00	-	-	10.90	-	1.29	1.11	764
New Eng.	218.00	156.00	41.00	58.50	-	-	9.80	-	1.16	1.01	662
N. Y.	217.00	151.00	38.50	54.50	-	-	9.20	-	1.15	.983	566
N. J.	218.00	155.00	43.00	56.00	-	-	9.70	-	1.16	1.00	665
Pa.	187.00	136.00	35.50	47.50	-	-	8.30	-	1.07	.902	667
Mid. Atl.	208.00	147.00	38.25	52.50	-	-	9.00	-	1.13	.961	622
Ohio	176.00	129.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.60	-	1.10	.849	607
Ind.	182.00	132.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.50	-	1.07	.837	622
Ill.	201.00	156.00	-	-	-	7.70	9.50	-	1.12	.912	650
Mich.	208.00	138.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.80	-	1.08	.867	600
Wis.	203.00	154.00	-	-	-	7.10	9.00	-	1.12	.899	592
E.N.Cent.	196.00	143.00	-	-	-	7.10	9.00	-	1.10	.877	614
Minn.	192.00	152.00	-	-	-	8.10	9.90	-	1.12	.984	556
Iowa	206.00	163.00	-	-	-	8.50	10.50	-	1.17	1.03	573
Mo.	156.00	117.00	-	-	-	6.40	7.90	-	1.00	.842	671
N.Dak.	196.00	165.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.20	-	1.04	.926	471
S.Dak.	191.00	156.00	-	-	-	7.40	9.10	-	1.05	.925	501
Nebr.	218.00	170.00	-	-	-	8.30	10.20	-	1.13	1.01	617
Kans.	206.00	157.00	-	-	-	8.30	9.80	-	1.14	1.00	709
W.N.Cent.	194.00	152.00	-	-	-	7.90	9.60	-	1.11	.969	596
Del.	-	-	-	-	7.10	-	8.90	-	1.05	.933	865
Md.	-	-	-	-	6.80	-	8.10	-	1.03	.876	903
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.50	-	.81	.692	785
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	5.90	-	.79	.649	520
N. C.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.80	-	.70	.612	703
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.65	-	4.20	-	.50	.441	608
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.20	-	4.75	-	.66	.529	620
Fla.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.00	-	.85	.677	705
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.80	-	5.60	-	.70	.594	688
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.50	-	.77	.548	588
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	4.75	-	.60	.475	533
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.95	-	4.45	-	.58	.454	567
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.70	-	4.00	-	.52	.414	506
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.10	-	4.90	-	.65	.488	559
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	5.70	-	.71	.608	617
La.	-	-	-	-	4.75	-	5.20	-	.64	.552	632
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.40	-	8.20	-	1.00	.865	673
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.20	-	6.70	-	.77	.695	611
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	6.40	-	.76	.675	635
Mont.	232.00	185.00	-	-	-	-	9.70	-	1.16	.910	496
Idaho	259.00	202.00	-	-	-	-	10.50	-	1.19	.974	600
Wyo.	224.00	164.00	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.12	.864	486
Colo.	225.00	173.00	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.11	.878	628
N.Mex.	200.00	137.00	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.86	.700	636
Ariz.	255.00	185.00	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	.99	.857	614
Utah	249.00	208.00	-	-	-	-	9.90	-	1.20	.958	649
Nev.	260.00	170.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	1.20	.930	550
Mountain	239.00	182.00	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.10	.889	586
Wash.	276.00	223.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.24	1.30	1.25	623
Oreg.	258.00	195.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	1.22	1.17	590
Calif.	303.00	230.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.25	1.22	580
Pacific	292.00	224.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.26	1.22	589
U. S.	203.00	151.00	36.75	48.25	5.30	7.00	6.50	.94	1.04	.825	648

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Comments	1 - 2
Farm Employment and Indexes, June 1961, with comparisons, United States	3
Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, July 1, 1961, United States	3
Workers on Farms, June 1961	4
Workers on Farms: Comparative Estimates, Annual Average 1960, April and May 1961	5
Farm Wage Rates by Regions and States, July 1, 1960	6
Farm Wage Rates by Regions and States, July 1, 1961	7