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Farm Labor

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MAY 2 1956

Washington, D. C.
April 10, 1956

FARM EMPLOYMENT LESS THAN YEAR AGO
WAGE RATES HIGHER

About 6,628,000 persons were at work on farms during the week of March 18-24, the Crop Reporting Board announced today. With the beginning of the spring planting season, the number of farm workers increased 856,000 compared with a month earlier. The increase of 15 percent was the same as usual. The number of family workers at 5,374,000 was up 13 percent from a month earlier while the number of hired workers at 1,254,000 was 25 percent larger.

In comparison with a year earlier, there were 4 percent fewer persons working on farms in March this year than last. The decrease is probably partially accounted for by differences in weather conditions. However, some of the decline is a continuation of the long-time downtrend in the number of persons working on farms.

Wage rates for hired farm workers on April 1 averaged 4 percent higher than a year earlier for the country as a whole. The seasonally adjusted index was 538 compared with 516 last April and with 522 the previous quarter. Averages of all types of farm wage rates were higher for all regions than a year earlier. Increases by regions ranged from a low 1.5 percent in the West North Central States to a high of 6.4 percent in the East South Central States.

Differences in the level of average wage rates between January 1 and April 1 depend on a number of factors and comparisons are difficult. The average of

individual rates are affected not only by changes in the rates themselves but also by changes in the number of hired workers in different parts of the country and by differences in the percentages of workers employed at various rates. In addition, the weighted average of all types of rates is affected by differences in the factors used to compute equivalent hourly rates. The seasonally adjusted index of farm wage rates indicated a 3-percent increase in farm wage rates from January 1 to April 1. The level of wage rates in most regions was also higher except in the New England, East North Central, Mountain, and Pacific States where the adjusted index was slightly lower.

During the week of March 18-24, abnormally cold weather together with rain delayed farm work in the eastern half of the country. Frost and freezing temperatures extended to the southeastern coast and into Florida on several days. While winter conditions continued in the East, temperatures in the western half of the country averaged above normal. The warmer weather permitted farm work to begin in many northern areas and accelerated field activities in southern portions.

Where possible, farmers were busy plowing and planting spring crops. In the South, corn planting was underway as far north as South Carolina. Some cotton was being planted in southern Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Tobacco was being set in the more southern regions. Farm activities in the rest of the country consisted mostly of plowing, working land and planting of some spring crops. Planting of oats was about finished as far north as Kansas. Land intended for corn was also being prepared in many parts of the country. Cold weather delayed the production of maple sugar and sirup in the Northeast.

Harvest activities were mostly confined to the South and consisted largely of citrus and vegetables in Florida, California, and the Lower Valley of Texas. In Louisiana, the harvest of strawberries , cabbage, and shallots was in progress.

The total number of persons at work on farms in late March was 15 percent greater than a month earlier for the country as a whole. Increases by regions ranged from 13 to 21 percent except for New England and Middle Atlantic States where increases were 6 and 5 percent respectively. In the New England, Middle Atlantic, and West South Central States, increases were less than the average for recent years. In the West North Central, South Atlantic, East South Central, Mountain and Pacific States, the increase in total employment was larger than usual.

There was a small decrease from a year ago in the number of persons working on farms for the country as a whole and for all regions except the Mountain. The decreases are probably partially accounted for by differences in weather conditions, but the continuation of the long-time downtrend in the number of persons working on farms is also apparent. Decreases ranged from less than 1 percent in the Pacific States to 8 percent in the Middle Atlantic and South Atlantic States. The largest decreases were in areas hardest hit by cold or rainy weather during the survey week.

There was a decrease from a year earlier in the number of family workers for the country as a whole. The decline was reflected in all regions except Mountain and Pacific States.

The number of family workers increased by about the usual amount from February to March for the country and for most regions. In the New England and Middle Atlantic States the increase was smaller than usual while in the Mountain and Pacific States the number of family workers increased more than usual.

The number of hired farm workers in the entire country was about a fourth larger in late March than a month earlier. Increases amounted to more than a third in the East and West North Central and the East South Central to about a fourth in the West South Central States. In the New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, Mountain, and Pacific States increases ranged from 5 to 22 percent. For most regions there was some variation from the usual change. The greatest change from usual occurred in the West North Central States where the increase was considerably greater than usual. The seasonal change in the Pacific States was also greater than usual. Smaller than usual increases occurred in the New England, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, and East and West South Central States. Weather conditions in these areas restricted outside activities to a large extent.

There were a few less hired workers employed on all farms in the country in March this year than a year earlier. The largest decline was in the Middle Atlantic States but there were also fewer hired workers on farms in the South Atlantic, East South Central and Pacific States. The greatest increase was in the Mountain States. Small increases were reported in the West North Central and West South Central States. The number of hired workers in the New England and East North Central States was about the same as a year earlier.

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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of March 18-24, 1956, United States, with comparisons

	March average 1951-55 1/	March 20-26, 1955	February 19-25, 1956	March 18-24, 1956
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons):				
Total	7,331	6,918	5,772	6,628
Family labor	6,015	5,663	4,770	5,374
Hired labor	1,316	1,255	1,002	1,254
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1910-14=100)	--			
Total	65	61	58	59
Family labor	66	63	59	59
Hired labor	59	56	54	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, 1956, United States, with comparisons 1/

	Jan. 1, 1955	Apr. 1, 1955	Jan. 1, 1956	Apr. 1, 1956
FARM WAGE RATES				
Per month with house	$152.00	$145.00	$156.00	$152.00
Per month with board and room	122.00	118.00	126.00	123.00
Per week with board and room	28.50	28.50	30.00	29.75
Per week without board or room	37.25	38.00	38.00	39.00
Per day with house	4.30	4.05	4.45	4.30
Per day with board and room	5.20	4.75	5.30	5.00
Per day without board or room	5.30	5.10	5.40	5.40
Per hour with house	.66	.63	.67	.66
Per hour without board or room	.88	.85	.91	.89
Composite rate per hour 2/	.724	.590	.740	.615
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Adjusted for seasonal variation	521	516	522	538
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Prices received by farmers 3/	242	246	224	230 *
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	46	48	43	43

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, 1956.

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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of March 18-24, 1956, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	March average 1951-55 1/	February 20-26, 1955	March 20-26, 1955	February 19-25, 1956	March 18-24, 1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
		TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT			
United States	7,331	6,099	6,918	5,772	6,628
New England	148	136	147	137	145
Middle Atlantic	483	425	466	411	431
East North Central	1,225	1,026	1,167	991	1,134
West North Central	1,381	1,165	1,303	1,079	1,254
South Atlantic	1,224	1,016	1,160	947	1,073
East South Central	1,084	851	999	769	928
West South Central	1,005	769	913	743	876
Mountain	288	250	271	263	296
Pacific	493	461	492	432	491
		FAMILY WORKERS 2/			
United States	6,015	5,074	5,663	4,770	5,374
New England	104	96	102	98	100
Middle Atlantic	369	333	362	325	337
East North Central	1,076	922	1,023	892	990
West North Central	1,254	1,074	1,195	998	1,142
South Atlantic	935	787	884	729	806
East South Central	928	743	847	667	781
West South Central	828	652	745	605	701
Mountain	215	182	202	185	214
Pacific	306	285	303	271	303
		HIRED WORKERS 3/			
United States	1,316	1,025	1,255	1,002	1,254
New England	44	40	45	39	45
Middle Atlantic	114	92	104	86	94
East North Central	149	104	144	99	144
West North Central	127	91	108	81	112
South Atlantic	289	229	276	218	267
East South Central	156	108	152	102	147
West South Central	177	117	168	138	175
Mountain	73	68	69	78	82
Pacific	187	176	189	161	188

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 March 1956, U.S. and geographic divisions, with comparisons 1/

Geographic division	1951-55	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT				
United States	6,619	6,643	6,556	6,269	5,980
New England	140	135	142	140	137
Middle Atlantic	452	453	452	436	414
East North Central	1,106	1,105	1,112	1,056	1,025
West North Central	1,279	1,290	1,257	1,213	1,142
South Atlantic	1,092	1,081	1,067	1,018	956
East South Central	936	946	941	876	805
West South Central	873	891	859	798	771
Mountain	273	277	271	260	273
Pacific	468	465	455	472	457
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/				
United States	5,505	5,529	5,448	5,206	4,924
New England	101	100	102	99	97
Middle Atlantic	349	351	350	342	327
East North Central	988	989	989	943	914
West North Central	1,163	1,178	1,149	1,116	1,048
South Atlantic	858	847	836	795	736
East South Central	817	821	812	757	692
West South Central	735	748	723	669	632
Mountain	198	200	197	189	191
Pacific	296	295	290	296	287
	HIRED WORKERS 3/				
United States	1,114	1,114	1,108	1,063	1,056
New England	39	35	40	41	40
Middle Atlantic	103	102	102	94	87
East North Central	118	116	123	113	111
West North Central	116	112	108	97	94
South Atlantic	234	234	231	223	220
East South Central	119	125	129	119	113
West South Central	138	143	136	129	139
Mountain	75	77	74	71	82
Pacific	172	170	165	176	170

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
April 1, 1956, with comparisons

Geographic division	January 1, 1955	April 1, 1955	January 1, 1956	April 1, 1956
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
PER MONTH WITH HOUSE				
New England	165.00	166.00	176.00	174.00
Middle Atlantic	167.00	167.00	170.00	178.00
East North Central	154.00	159.00	162.00	166.00
West North Central	149.00	156.00	153.00	161.00
Mountain	199.00	197.00	204.00	206.00
Pacific	232.00	234.00	247.00	247.00
PER MONTH WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	122.00	123.00	130.00	130.00
Middle Atlantic	118.00	119.00	120.00	125.00
East North Central	114.00	119.00	122.00	124.00
West North Central	115.00	124.00	118.00	125.00
Mountain	149.00	149.00	149.00	155.00
Pacific	179.00	183.00	187.00	190.00
PER WEEK WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	32.75	32.75	35.00	35.00
Middle Atlantic	31.50	31.00	32.50	32.75
PER WEEK WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	47.25	48.00	49.00	49.75
Middle Atlantic	43.25	43.75	45.00	45.50
PER DAY WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	4.15	4.25	4.25	4.40
East South Central	3.25	3.30	3.45	3.50
West South Central	4.65	4.55	4.95	4.90
PER DAY WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
East North Central	5.70	5.90	6.10	6.20
West North Central	5.80	6.20	6.00	6.30
PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	8.00	8.00	8.50	8.40
Middle Atlantic	7.50	7.60	7.90	7.90
East North Central	7.20	7.30	7.70	7.80
West North Central	7.30	7.80	7.60	7.90
South Atlantic	4.85	4.95	5.00	5.10
East South Central	3.90	3.90	4.05	4.15
West South Central	5.30	5.10	5.50	5.40
Mountain	7.40	7.50	7.60	7.90
PER HOUR WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	.54	.56	.55	.57
East South Central	.45	.46	.48	.48
West South Central	.57	.55	.59	.58
Pacific	.99	1.00	1.00	1.04
PER HOUR WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	1.01	1.02	1.06	1.08
Middle Atlantic	.96	.97	1.01	1.01
East North Central	.97	.99	1.02	1.03
West North Central	.95	.98	.97	.99
South Atlantic	.63	.65	.66	.68
East South Central	.53	.54	.56	.57
West South Central	.66	.64	.68	.67
Mountain	.86	.92	.89	.96
Pacific	1.07	1.08	1.11	1.11

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, April 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 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	151.00	110.00	30.00	45.00	-	-	7.40	-	.94	.748	480
N. H.	168.00	127.00	35.00	49.50	-	-	7.90	-	.99	.813	563
Vt.	153.00	123.00	30.50	43.50	-	-	7.60	-	.99	.764	529
Mass.	181.00	129.00	35.50	52.50	-	-	8.50	-	1.10	.873	601
R. I.	182.00	128.00	34.50	52.00	-	-	8.60	-	1.09	.868	635
Conn.	183.00	127.00	34.50	52.50	-	-	8.80	-	1.10	.877	637
New Eng.	166.00	123.00	32.75	48.00	-	-	8.00	-	1.02	.809	551
N. Y.	175.00	128.00	32.50	46.25	-	-	8.00	-	1.01	.703	502
N. J.	191.00	135.00	35.25	50.25	-	-	8.30	-	1.03	.741	601
Pa.	151.00	105.00	28.25	39.00	-	-	6.90	-	.91	.609	552
Mid. Atl.	167.00	119.00	31.00	43.75	-	-	7.60	-	.97	.668	531
Ohio	145.00	111.00	-	-	-	5.70	7.10	-	.98	.595	537
Ind.	149.00	114.00	-	-	-	5.50	6.80	-	.96	.592	555
Ill.	169.00	132.00	-	-	-	6.40	7.80	-	1.01	.662	576
Mich.	170.00	120.00	-	-	-	6.40	7.90	-	1.01	.646	554
Wis.	161.00	118.00	-	-	-	5.60	7.10	-	.97	.613	494
E.N.Cent.	159.00	119.00	-	-	-	5.90	7.30	-	.99	.621	538
Minn.	152.00	122.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.80	-	1.00	.667	491
Iowa	166.00	140.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.80	-	1.04	.732	513
Mo.	132.00	100.00	-	-	-	5.00	6.20	-	.85	.554	569
N.Dak.	158.00	128.00	-	-	-	5.50	7.30	-	.95	.650	435
S.Dak.	159.00	130.00	-	-	-	6.10	7.80	-	1.00	.679	468
Nebr.	174.00	133.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.50	-	1.01	.712	546
Kans.	162.00	122.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.80	-	1.00	.673	640
W.N.Cent.	156.00	124.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.80	-	.98	.666	528
Del.	-	-	-	-	5.50	-	7.00	.77	.83	.696	710
Md.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.80	.82	.88	.703	789
Va.	-	-	-	-	4.50	-	5.50	.53	.67	.534	652
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	4.70	.58	.63	.488	425
N. C.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	5.00	.50	.59	.487	609
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.05	-	3.65	.38	.46	.363	528
Ga.	-	-	-	-	3.40	-	4.00	.47	.55	.417	515
Fla.	-	-	-	-	4.75	-	5.30	.62	.72	.554	621
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	4.95	.56	.65	.505	610
Ky.	-	-	-	-	3.60	-	4.40	.49	.62	.431	490
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.15	-	3.90	.42	.52	.376	437
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.30	-	3.90	.46	.53	.384	480
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.15	-	3.65	.45	.51	.363	443
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.30	-	3.90	.46	.54	.384	455
Ark.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	4.70	.51	.57	.481	489
La.	-	-	-	-	3.85	-	4.15	.48	.57	.444	519
Okla.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.30	.69	.80	.641	562
Tex.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.70	.58	.70	.576	523
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.55	-	5.10	.55	.64	.523	526
Mont.	191.00	161.00	-	-	-	-	7.70	-	.99	.771	434
Idaho	210.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	8.60	-	1.04	.819	504
Wyo.	196.00	141.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	1.02	.766	441
Colo.	182.00	134.00	-	-	-	-	7.40	-	.92	.707	517
N.Mex.	159.00	112.00	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	.74	.577	524
Ariz.	220.00	150.00	-	-	-	-	7.30	-	.81	.721	510
Utah	207.00	180.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	1.05	.826	560
Nev.	180.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	7.30	-	1.00	.752	449
Mountain	197.00	149.00	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.92	.738	492
Wash.	236.00	186.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.09	1.16	1.113	548
Oreg.	205.00	167.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.02	1.10	1.047	526
Calif.	237.00	184.00	-	-	-	-	-	.98	1.06	1.026	489
Pacific	234.00	183.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	1.08	1.038	502
U. S.	145.00	118.00	28.50	38.00	4.05	4.75	5.10	.63	.85	.590	516

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

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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.	
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
N. 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	.693	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.	-	-	-	-	3.85	-	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.

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.