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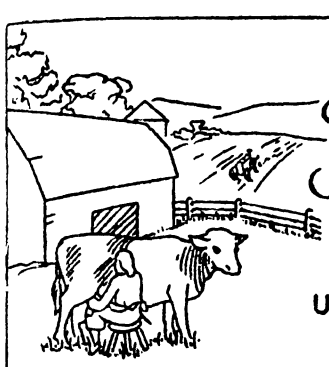

Farm Labor

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C. October 11, 1955

FARM EMPLOYMENT LOWER THAN LAST YEAR
FARM WAGE RATES HIGHER

A total of 10,849,000 persons, 375,000 less than a year earlier, worked on farms during the week of September 18-24, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The number of family workers was down 2 percent from a year earlier while hired workers totaled 7 percent less. The large decrease in the number of hired workers was partly due to rain and partly to the advanced stage of farm work in certain areas.

The increase from a month earlier in total employment of about a million and quarter was a little less than usual. Family workers were up a little more than a million, about the usual percentage increase. The number of hired workers was up 6 percent in contrast to an average increase of about 13 percent and an 18-percent increase last year.

Farm wage rates on about October 1 were up 3 percent from a year earlier and about 2 percent from July 1. The farm wage rate index for October 1 this year was 518 compared with 502 a year earlier and 510 for the previous quarter. Farm wage rates are apparently being influenced by increases in wage rates in non-agricultural jobs.

Individual types of wage rates averaged higher than a year earlier for all classifications except one which was unchanged. The monthly rate with house was up $5 to average $154, the per day without board or room rate was up 10 cents to average $5.70 while the per hour without board rate of 77 cents was up 2 cents.

When compared with the previous quarter, per day with house, per day without board or room and per hour with house rates averaged higher. The per month with board and room rate was unchanged and all other types of rates dropped. These changes followed the usual pattern of seasonal change but variations from the usual amount of change resulted in an average for all rates which was up more than usual.

Wage rates, as measured by the seasonally adjusted index, were up from a year ago on October 1 for all geographic regions. Increases were largest in the New England, East South Central, West South Central and Mountain States.

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The average was up least for the West North Central States where demand for farm labor as indicated by the low level of hired employment was light. When compared with the previous quarter farm wage rates October 1 were lower in the New England, Middle Atlantic and South Atlantic States and the same for the Pacific States. In all other geographic regions, they were higher.

Part of the survey week was rainy over most of the Great Plains, the Upper Mississippi and Ohio Valleys and the Northeast. Heavy rains fell in most of Oklahoma, north central Texas, southeastern New Mexico, west central Arkansas, most of Kansas, the northwestern part of Missouri, southwestern Iowa and southeastern Nebraska. Another area of heavy rainfall included most of the Nebraska-South Dakota border counties and extended across much of the western half of South Dakota. The southern half of Indiana and southwestern Ohio and an area covering the eastern half of North Carolina and extending into the coastal sections of Virginia and South Carolina also had heavy rains. Temperatures averaged above normal in most of the eastern half of the country south of the Great Lakes. By the latter part of the week, however, most of the country had cool weather.

Farm work was generally proceeding smoothly. In the North Central and Northeast regions, crops and work were generally more advanced than usual. The most general jobs in this area were digging potatoes and sugar beets, combining soybeans, seeding winter wheat and picking apples. Corn picking was just starting in most of the area. In the South, cotton picking was the main job. Picking was nearly completed in the more southern parts of the area but in full swing elsewhere. Corn, sweet potatoes and peanuts were also being harvested where and when the work did not interfere with picking cotton.

In the Mountain States, farmers were harvesting fall crops such as potatoes, sugar beets, dry beans, late hays and apples. In some areas, fall grains were being seeded. In Washington and Oregon, farmers were finishing harvest of some vegetable crops and harvesting potatoes and sugar beets. Harvest of pears was about finished and apple picking was getting started. Farmers were busy seeding winter wheat in many areas.

Fall vegetables were being planted in Florida, California and the Lower Valley of Texas. Citrus harvest was under way in Florida and California and about to start in Texas.

Most of the increase from August to September in the total number of persons working on farms was in the South. A usual increase of more than 50 percent in the East South Central States amounted to about three quarters of a million persons. A less than usual 30-percent rise in the West South Central States and about a usual change of 12 percent in the South Atlantic States accounted for a little more than a half million people. There were also small increases in the New England, Middle Atlantic and Pacific States. The increase was greater than usual in the Pacific States where crops were late. In the New England States, the small increase was in contrast to a usual small decrease. Here peak fall employment was being reached earlier than usual. In the East and West North Central and the Mountain States, there were fewer persons working on farms in late September than a month earlier. In each of the North Central Regions, the decrease was more than usual. In the Mountain States, there is usually a slight increase.

In comparison with a year earlier, there were fewer persons working on farms this year in all regions except the Pacific where there was a small increase. The increase was probably due to the fact that farm work has been behind the usual schedule most of the year. The largest percentage decreases were in the New England, Middle Atlantic, East North Central and West North Central States where rain and better than usual progress of farm work both affected employment.

The number of family workers was up sharply from a month earlier in the South Atlantic, East South Central and West South Central States. In these regions, increases were of about the usual size. There were small increases in the Middle Atlantic and Mountain States and no change in the West North Central States. The increase in the Mountain States was less than average, but the other two regions showed the usual pattern of change. The decreases in the remaining regions were about as usual.

There were fewer family workers than a year earlier in all regions except the East South Central and Pacific States which had slight increases. Decreases were generally small, ranging from 1 percent to 4 percent except for an 8-percent decrease in the New England States.

The number of hired workers employed on farms in late September was up sharply from a month earlier in the East South Central, West South Central and Pacific States. The rise was considerably less than the average of recent years in the two southern regions but about twice as large as usual in the Pacific States. There were small increases in the New England, Middle Atlantic and East North Central States. In the New England States, there is usually no change at this time. The increase in the Middle Atlantic States was about usual but in the East North Central States the rise was much below average. In the West North Central and Mountain States, sizeable decreases were greater than usual. The drop of 9 percent in the South Atlantic States was about the same as the 8 percent average of recent years.

The number of hired farm workers was considerably less than a year earlier in the Middle Atlantic, East North Central and West North Central States. There were also fewer hired workers in the New England, South Atlantic and East South Central States. There was no change in the West South Central and Mountain States. The only region with more hired farm workers than a year earlier was the Pacific.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of September 18-24, 1955 United States, with comparisons

	September average 1950-54 1/	September 19-25, 1954	August 21-27, 1955	September 18-24, 1955
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons):				
Total	11,683	11,224	9,602	10,849
Family labor	8,521	8,127	6,876	7,960
Hired labor	3,162	3,097	2,726	2,889
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1910-14 = 100)				
Total	64	62	61	60
Family labor	67	63	64	62
Hired labor	58	57	55	53

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, October 1, 1955, United States, with comparisons 1/

	July 1, 1954	October 1, 1954	July 1, 1955	October 1, 1955
FARM WAGE RATES				
Per month with house	$160.00	$149.00	$163.00	$154.00
Per month with board and room	122.00	120.00	125.00	125.00
Per week with board and room	29.75	29.25	30.75	30.50
Per week without board or room	38.75	37.00	39.50	37.50
Per day with house	4.05	4.25	4.15	4.35
Per day with board and room	5.80	5.20	5.90	5.20
Per day without board or room	5.20	5.60	5.30	5.70
Per hour with house	.80	.86	.81	.87
Per hour without board or room	.87	.75	.88	.77
Composite rate per hour 2/	.663	.678	.669	.701
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14 = 100):				
Adjusted for seasonal variation	505	502	510	518
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)				
Prices received by farmers 3/	248	244	240	235*
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	49	49	47	45

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.
* September 15, 1955

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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of September 18-24, 1955, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	September average 1950-54 1/	August 22-28, 1954	September 19-25, 1954	August 21-27, 1955	September 18-24, 1955
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
		TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT			
United States	11,683	9,666	11,224	9,602	10,849
New England	208	219	215	197	200
Middle Atlantic	705	642	686	607	643
East North Central	1,465	1,434	1,417	1,399	1,329
West North Central	1,910	1,805	1,824	1,783	1,688
South Atlantic	2,233	1,859	2,160	1,882	2,115
East South Central	2,259	1,415	2,151	1,363	2,130
West South Central	1,612	1,085	1,513	1,137	1,476
Mountain	493	463	462	497	454
Pacific	798	744	796	737	814
		FAMILY WORKERS 2/			
United States	8,521	7,043	8,127	6,876	7,960
New England	123	126	125	117	115
Middle Atlantic	455	424	454	415	441
East North Central	1,175	1,209	1,137	1,169	1,095
West North Central	1,551	1,482	1,486	1,443	1,437
South Atlantic	1,753	1,354	1,661	1,358	1,639
East South Central	1,812	1,165	1,690	1,094	1,701
West South Central	1,039	694	979	690	943
Mountain	279	252	263	251	255
Pacific	334	337	332	339	334
		HIRED WORKERS 3/			
United States	3,162	2,623	3,097	2,726	2,889
New England	85	93	90	80	85
Middle Atlantic	250	218	232	192	202
East North Central	290	225	280	230	234
West North Central	359	323	338	340	251
South Atlantic	480	505	499	524	476
East South Central	447	250	461	269	429
West South Central	573	391	534	447	533
Mountain	214	211	199	246	199
Pacific	464	407	464	398	480

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 September 1955, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons 1/

Geographic division	1950-54	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT				
United States	8,907	8,779	8,677	8,581	8,309
New England	177	173	175	178	171
Middle Atlantic	563	552	550	548	522
East North Central	1,376	1,363	1,348	1,343	1,293
West North Central	1,650	1,626	1,619	1,576	1,533
South Atlantic	1,629	1,610	1,559	1,562	1,499
East South Central	1,345	1,321	1,311	1,292	1,239
West South Central	1,150	1,122	1,112	1,086	1,068
Mountain	389	384	382	373	365
Pacific	628	628	621	623	619
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/				
United States	6,877	6,792	6,688	6,586	6,367
New England	118	116	116	117	111
Middle Atlantic	402	394	396	397	386
East North Central	1,171	1,163	1,151	1,140	1,102
West North Central	1,402	1,386	1,382	1,347	1,318
South Atlantic	1,244	1,234	1,186	1,175	1,123
East South Central	1,129	1,111	1,082	1,066	1,020
West South Central	839	820	812	787	757
Mountain	244	241	240	235	226
Pacific	328	327	323	322	324
	HIRED WORKERS 3/				
United States	2,030	1,987	1,989	1,995	1,942
New England	59	57	59	61	60
Middle Atlantic	161	158	154	151	136
East North Central	205	200	197	203	191
West North Central	248	240	237	229	215
South Atlantic	385	376	373	387	376
East South Central	216	210	229	226	219
West South Central	311	302	300	299	311
Mountain	145	143	142	138	139
Pacific	300	301	298	301	295

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, October 1, 1955, with comparisons

Geographic division	July 1, 1954	October 1, 1954	July 1, 1955	October 1, 1955
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
PER MONTH WITH HOUSE				
New England	163.00	159.00	172.00	170.00
Middle Atlantic	166.00	165.00	167.00	168.00
East North Central	158.00	157.00	161.00	162.00
West North Central	160.00	153.00	158.00	155.00
Mountain	191.00	189.00	198.00	201.00
Pacific	231.00	237.00	239.00	240.00
PER MONTH WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	125.00	117.00	130.00	130.00
Middle Atlantic	118.00	115.00	120.00	122.00
East North Central	121.00	116.00	124.00	120.00
West North Central	128.00	124.00	129.00	124.00
Mountain	150.00	145.00	153.00	153.00
Pacific	182.00	179.00	189.00	185.00
PER WEEK WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	31.75	33.00	34.25	35.00
Middle Atlantic	31.75	30.75	31.75	33.00
PER WEEK WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	45.00	46.75	47.50	48.75
Middle Atlantic	44.50	42.75	44.50	44.75
PER DAY WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	4.00	4.05	4.05	4.00
East South Central	3.25	3.40	3.35	3.55
West South Central	4.80	4.85	4.90	5.10
PER DAY WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
East North Central	6.10	5.80	6.30	6.20
West North Central	6.70	6.40	6.80	6.40
PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	7.90	8.20	8.30	8.50
Middle Atlantic	7.40	7.50	7.70	7.80
East North Central	7.50	7.20	7.70	7.70
West North Central	8.30	7.90	8.20	8.00
South Atlantic	4.65	4.75	4.75	4.75
East South Central	3.90	4.05	4.00	4.10
West South Central	5.40	5.50	5.40	5.80
Mountain	7.50	7.60	7.80	7.90
PER HOUR WITH HOUSE				
Pacific	1.00	1.00	1.02	1.01
PER HOUR WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	1.01	1.00	1.03	1.04
Middle Atlantic	.97	.96	.98	.98
East North Central	1.00	.98	1.01	1.01
West North Central	1.00	.98	1.00	.98
South Atlantic	.59	.60	.61	.62
East South Central	.52	.52	.54	.54
West South Central	.64	.66	.65	.69
Mountain	.93	.92	.96	.96
Pacific	1.08	1.07	1.09	1.10

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, October 1, 1954 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	145.00	109.00	32.50	45.00	-	-	8.10	-	.96	.818	465
N. H.	166.00	126.00	35.50	50.00	-	-	8.10	-	.99	.861	544
Vt.	154.00	118.00	31.50	42.00	-	-	7.60	-	.98	.804	504
Mass.	174.00	125.00	34.00	51.00	-	-	8.70	-	1.05	.898	564
R. I.	180.00	126.00	33.50	50.00	-	-	8.60	-	1.05	.892	595
Conn.	183.00	127.00	33.00	50.00	-	-	8.60	-	1.10	.911	610
New Eng.	159.00	117.00	33.00	46.75	-	-	8.20	-	1.00	.845	536
N. Y.	171.00	122.00	32.50	45.00	-	-	7.90	-	1.02	.793	474
N. J.	198.00	136.00	35.00	49.00	-	-	8.40	-	1.00	.816	561
Pa.	146.00	101.00	27.50	38.25	-	-	6.80	-	.90	.688	534
Mid. Atl.	165.00	115.00	30.75	42.75	-	-	7.50	-	.98	.752	506
Ohio	146.00	106.00	-	-	-	5.80	7.10	-	.98	.769	516
Ind.	150.00	112.00	-	-	-	5.40	6.80	-	.97	.767	535
Ill.	170.00	135.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.00	-	1.01	.831	565
Mich.	170.00	118.00	-	-	-	5.90	7.40	-	.99	.795	515
Wis.	160.00	120.00	-	-	-	5.80	7.30	-	.96	.778	485
E.N.Cent.	167.00	116.00	-	-	-	5.80	7.20	-	.98	.784	524
Minn.	152.00	125.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.30	-	1.03	.779	470
Iowa	162.00	140.00	-	-	-	7.60	8.90	-	1.07	.828	500
Mo.	131.00	100.00	-	-	-	5.00	6.20	-	.85	.629	562
N.Dak.	167.00	145.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.60	-	1.00	.796	408
S.Dak.	160.00	131.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.20	-	1.02	.782	456
Nebr.	171.00	134.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.60	-	1.02	.794	529
Kans.	162.00	125.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.20	-	1.00	.769	603
W.N.Cent.	153.00	124.00	-	-	-	6.40	7.90	-	.98	.748	521
Del.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.60	-	.85	.752	663
Md.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.80	-	.88	.768	746
Va.	-	-	-	-	4.45	-	5.50	-	.67	.596	643
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.10	-	4.70	-	.64	.548	426
N. C.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	5.10	-	.59	.542	617
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.10	-	3.65	-	.44	.396	519
Ga.	-	-	-	-	3.45	-	3.95	-	.53	.454	496
Fla.	-	-	-	-	4.70	-	5.20	-	.72	.610	610
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.05	-	4.75	-	.60	.528	587
Ky.	-	-	-	-	3.95	-	5.50	-	.72	.661	507
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.20	-	3.90	-	.50	.472	418
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.40	-	3.90	-	.50	.475	462
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.25	-	3.70	-	.47	.448	427
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.40	-	4.05	-	.52	.488	449
Ark.	-	-	-	-	4.40	-	4.75	-	.57	.557	487
La.	-	-	-	-	3.85	-	4.30	-	.55	.529	502
Okla.	-	-	-	-	5.60	-	6.50	-	.81	.783	544
Tex.	-	-	-	-	5.10	-	5.80	-	.69	.674	521
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.85	-	5.50	-	.66	.643	517
Mont.	200.00	165.00	-	-	-	-	8.40	-	1.03	.883	416
Idaho	217.00	175.00	-	-	-	-	9.10	-	1.06	.930	513
Wyo.	195.00	140.00	-	-	-	-	7.80	-	1.04	.852	422
Colo.	182.00	134.00	-	-	-	-	7.70	-	.92	.786	495
N. Mex.	152.00	106.00	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	.72	.615	492
Ariz.	210.00	150.00	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.82	.762	508
Utah	200.00	180.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	1.05	.894	537
Nev.	185.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	7.60	-	1.05	.862	448
Mountain	189.00	145.00	-	-	-	-	7.60	-	.92	.792	473
Wash.	239.00	208.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.10	1.15	1.126	550
Oreg.	205.00	168.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.03	1.08	1.050	517
Calif.	240.00	177.00	-	-	-	-	-	.98	1.06	1.036	479
Pacific	237.00	179.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	1.07	1.046	491
U. S.	149.00	120.00	29.25	37.00	4.25	5.20	5.60	.86	.75	.678	502

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, October 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	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	160.00	128.00	36.00	48.50	-	-	8.50	-	1.00	.866	492
N. H.	176.00	134.00	35.50	50.50	-	-	8.40	-	1.00	.874	553
Vt.	156.00	123.00	30.00	42.00	-	-	7.50	-	.98	.800	501
Mass.	186.00	136.00	37.00	53.00	-	-	9.20	-	1.14	.960	603
R. I.	190.00	135.00	37.00	52.00	-	-	9.10	-	1.13	.950	635
Conn.	193.00	132.00	36.00	52.00	-	-	9.10	-	1.15	.956	640
New Eng.	170.00	130.00	35.00	48.75	-	-	8.50	-	1.04	.885	561
N. Y.	172.00	124.00	33.50	46.25	-	-	8.20	-	1.02	.801	479
N. J.	194.00	140.00	37.25	48.50	-	-	8.70	-	1.03	.836	574
Pa.	154.00	112.00	30.50	42.00	-	-	7.10	-	.93	.725	562
Mid. Atl.	168.00	122.00	33.00	44.75	-	-	7.80	-	.98	.775	521
Ohio	153.00	114.00	-	-	-	6.00	7.60	-	1.00	.794	533
Ind.	151.00	114.00	-	-	-	6.00	7.20	-	1.01	.795	554
Ill.	172.00	137.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.20	-	1.03	.845	574
Mich.	185.00	123.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.00	-	1.03	.835	541
Wis.	160.00	121.00	-	-	-	6.10	7.70	-	.98	.793	494
E.N.Cent.	162.00	120.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.70	-	1.01	.808	540
Minn.	150.00	128.00	-	-	-	7.10	8.80	-	1.03	.788	475
Iowa	166.00	140.00	-	-	-	7.50	9.30	-	1.06	.829	500
Mo.	136.00	102.00	-	-	-	5.30	6.50	-	.87	.646	577
N.Dak.	166.00	141.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.30	-	.98	.777	399
S.Dak.	159.00	132.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.40	-	1.02	.783	457
Nebr.	174.00	136.00	-	-	-	6.50	8.70	-	1.03	.801	534
Kans.	168.00	127.00	-	-	-	6.80	8.30	-	1.02	.782	614
W.N.Cent.	155.00	124.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.00	-	.98	.750	522
Del.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	7.40	-	.90	.809	713
Md.	-	-	-	-	5.50	-	6.90	-	.93	.800	777
Va.	-	-	-	-	4.50	-	5.50	-	.69	.604	651
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	5.00	-	.66	.566	440
N.C.	-	-	-	-	4.35	-	5.10	-	.61	.549	625
S.C.	-	-	-	-	3.15	-	3.80	-	.46	.410	538
Ga.	-	-	-	-	3.45	-	4.10	-	.58	.482	527
Fla.	-	-	-	-	4.70	-	5.20	-	.70	.600	600
So. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	4.75	-	.62	.537	597
Ky.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.85	-	.69	.634	486
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.20	-	4.00	-	.52	.488	432
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.70	-	4.20	-	.53	.506	492
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.45	-	3.85	-	.52	.489	465
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.55	-	4.10	-	.54	.510	470
Ark.	-	-	-	-	4.50	-	4.85	-	.57	.559	488
La.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.55	-	.59	.566	537
Okla.	-	-	-	-	5.90	-	7.10	-	.82	.803	557
Tex.	-	-	-	-	5.40	-	6.20	-	.73	.714	551
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	5.10	-	5.80	-	.69	.674	542
Mont.	199.00	165.00	-	-	-	-	8.30	-	1.09	.906	427
Idaho	219.00	177.00	-	-	-	-	9.40	-	1.10	.956	527
Wyo.	200.00	146.00	-	-	-	-	8.50	-	1.07	.888	440
Colo.	191.00	141.00	-	-	-	-	7.80	-	.97	.819	516
N.Mex.	170.00	122.00	-	-	-	-	6.40	-	.78	.676	540
Ariz.	235.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	.85	.806	537
Utah	213.00	192.00	-	-	-	-	8.20	-	1.10	.935	562
Nev.	190.00	162.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	1.05	.874	454
Mountain	201.00	153.00	-	-	-	-	7.90	-	.96	.831	496
Wash.	240.00	205.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.14	1.19	1.162	566
Oreg.	215.00	173.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.05	1.10	1.071	528
Calif.	243.00	185.00	-	-	-	-	-	.99	1.09	1.063	492
Pacific	240.00	185.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.01	1.10	1.072	503
U. S.	154.00	125.00	30.50	37.50	4.35	5.20	5.70	.87	.77	.701	518

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
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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 1955 issue of Farm Labor.