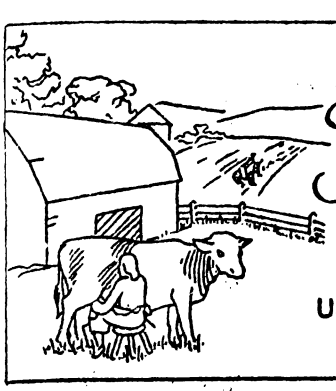
PERIODICAL ROOM



Farm Labor

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C. April 11, 1955

FARM EMPLOYMENT LESS THAN YEAR AGO
WAGE RATES HIGHER

About 6,918,000 persons were at work on farms during the week of March 20-26, the Crop Reporting Board reported today. With the beginning of the spring planting season, the number of farm workers increased, 819,000. The increase of 13 percent was about the same as usual. The number of family workers was up 12 percent from a month earlier while the number of hired workers was 22 percent larger.

In comparison with a year earlier, there were 5 percent fewer family workers and 5 percent fewer hired workers. These decreases are 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 about April 1 averaged 2 percent higher than a year earlier for the country as a whole. The seasonally adjusted index was 516 compared with 507 last April. All types of rates were higher or the same. In comparison with the previous quarter, farm wage rates averaged about 1 percent lower. All types of rates were down except weekly rates. The weekly rate with board and room was unchanged and the rate without board or room was up slightly.

Comparisons of farm wage rates for April 1 with January 1 rates on a national basis, are difficult because of shifts between regions in numbers of hired workers. Wage rates by States and regions usually rise from January 1 to April 1 yet the national averages usually decrease because of a higher proportion of hired workers in the lower wage areas in April. For example, in January about 40 percent of the hired farm workers were employed in the South while about April 1 this proportion increased to 60 percent. The proportion of hired workers in the East South Central States nearly doubled.

Averages of all types of farm wage rates by regions, were up from a year ago for all regions except the West South Central where they were the same. Unfavorable crop prospects in parts of the area may have tended to hold down rate increases. Individual types of rates were mostly the same or higher than a year ago.

AGRICULTURE-WASHINGTON, D.C.

The seasonally adjusted index shows a 1-percent decrease in farm wage rates from January for the Nation but changes by regions varied. The index was up in the East North Central and West North Central States, the South, and the Pacific States and down elsewhere. Averages of individual types of rates were generally up from January 1 to April 1 except in the West South Central States. The averages of all types of rates dropped in this region but not as much as usual as the seasonally adjusted index was up. In contrast to this situation, in the New England States, the averages for the region for all individual rates were the same or higher in April than January but increased less than usual since the seasonally adjusted index was down.

Farm work during the week of March 20-26 was delayed in most parts of the country. Two cold waves, one at the beginning of the week and the other at the end of the week slowed or stopped most field work. Temperatures averaged below normal in practically all areas. The area from Texas north to North Dakota and Montana had the coldest weather. Average temperatures were from 6 degrees below normal in the southern part of Texas to nearly 30 degrees below normal in parts of Montana. Rainfall was light in most areas except for a part of northern Alabama and Mississippi and central Tennessee, and in New Jersey and the southern New England States.

Where possible, farmers were busy plowing and planting spring crops. Corn planting was starting as far north as northern South Carolina. Some cotton was being planted in southern Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Potatoes were being planted in the Virginia Eastern Shore area, in central New Jersey, and on Long Island. Oats were being seeded in the southern part of the North Central Region. Some plowing was being done as far north as southern Michigan. Farther north, field work had not yet started. In some places along the northern border the ground was still frozen.

Where field work was not possible, farmers were preparing for spring work. They were hauling manure, cleaning ditches and overhauling machinery. In much of the western livestock area, ranchers were busy with calving and lambing. In Florida, California and other southern areas, vegetables and citrus were being harvested.

By regions, the increase from a month earlier in the total number of persons working on farms during the week of March 20-26, ranged from 7 percent in the Pacific States and 8 percent in the New England and Mountain States to 19 percent in the West South Central States. In all regions, the increases were about the same as the average for recent years.

The increases in the numbers of family workers were also about the same as usual. The smallest increases were in the Pacific and the New England States where they amounted to 6 percent. The increases of 14 percent in the East South Central and West South Central States were the largest.

The numbers of hired workers increased most from a month earlier in the East South Central and West South Central States. The increases amounted to 41 percent in the East South Central States, about the usual amount. The

44 percent increase in the West South Central States was larger than usual. In the Mountain States, the number of hired workers was up about 1 percent compared to a usual small decrease. The next smallest increase of 7 percent in the Pacific States was much less than usual. In the remaining regions, except for New England, the increase in the number of hired workers was a little larger than usual.

In comparison with a year earlier, the total number of persons at work on farms was less than a year ago in all regions except the Pacific. Decreases ranged from 1 percent in New England to 7 percent in the East South Central and Mountain States and 8 percent in the West South Central States. The largest decreases were in areas hardest hit by cold or rainy weather.

The number of family workers showed the same pattern of change from a year ago as all workers.

The number of hired workers was up slightly from a year earlier in the New England and Pacific Regions but down from 3 percent to 16 percent in the other regions. The decrease of 16 percent in the West North Central States was partly due to the high level of a year earlier. The other large decreases were 10 percent in the East South Central States and 9 percent in the Middle Atlantic States.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of March 20-26, 1955, United States, with comparisons

	March average 1950-54 1/	March 21-27 1954	February 20-26, 1955	March 20-26, 1955
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons):				
Total	7,540	7,278	6,099	6,918
Family labor	6,197	5,958	5,074	5,663
Hired labor	1,343	1,320	1,025	1,255
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1910-14 = 100)				
Total	67	65	62	61
Family labor	68	66	63	63
Hired labor	60	59	55	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, 1955, United States, with comparisons 1/

	Jan. 1, 1954	Apr. 1, 1954	Jan. 1, 1955	Apr. 1, 1955
FARM WAGE RATES	$			
Per month with house	$154.00	$144.00	$152.00	$145.00
Per month with board and room	124.00	117.00	122.00	118.00
Per week with board and room	29.00	28.50	28.50	28.50
Per week without board or room	37.50	37.00	37.25	38.00
Per day with house	4.30	4.05	4.30	4.05
Per day with board and room	5.20	4.70	5.20	4.75
Per day without board or room	5.40	5.00	5.30	5.10
Per hour with house	.68	.63	.66	.63
Per hour without board or room	.90	.84	.88	.85
Composite rate per hour 2/	.730	.580	.724	.590
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)				
Adjusted for seasonal variation	525	507	521	516
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)				
Prices received by farmers 3/	256	256	242	244 *
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	49	50	46	47

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, 1955.

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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of March 20-26, 1955, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	March average 1950-54 1/	February 21-27, 1954	March 21-27, 1954	February 20-26, 1955	March 20-26, 1955
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
		TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT			
United States	7,540	6,438	7,278	6,099	6,918
New England	150	141	149	136	147
Middle Atlantic	491	440	482	425	466
East North Central	1,247	1,081	1,225	1,026	1,167
West North Central	1,417	1,203	1,373	1,165	1,303
South Atlantic	1,280	1,077	1,206	1,016	1,160
East South Central	1,119	945	1,078	851	999
West South Central	1,047	854	990	769	913
Mountain	295	264	291	250	271
Pacific	494	433	484	461	492
		FAMILY WORKERS 2/			
United States	6,197	5,354	5,958	5,074	5,663
New England	107	99	105	96	102
Middle Atlantic	375	339	368	333	362
East North Central	1,096	961	1,073	922	1,023
West North Central	1,282	1,105	1,245	1,074	1,195
South Atlantic	985	838	921	787	884
East South Central	962	824	909	743	847
West South Central	863	719	816	652	745
Mountain	220	190	220	182	202
Pacific	307	279	301	285	303
		HIRED WORKERS 3/			
United States	1,343	1,084	1,320	1,025	1,255
New England	43	42	44	40	45
Middle Atlantic	116	101	114	92	104
East North Central	151	120	152	104	144
West North Central	135	98	128	91	108
South Atlantic	295	239	285	229	276
East South Central	157	121	169	108	152
West South Central	184	135	174	117	168
Mountain	75	74	71	68	69
Pacific	187	154	183	176	189

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 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	6,818	6,703	6,643	6,556	6,269
New England	142	144	135	142	140
Middle Atlantic	462	453	453	452	436
East North Central	1,132	1,121	1,105	1,112	1,056
West North Central	1,311	1,297	1,290	1,257	1,213
South Atlantic	1,139	1,117	1,081	1,067	1,018
East South Central	971	933	946	941	876
West South Central	913	887	891	859	798
Mountain	278	274	277	271	260
Pacific	470	477	465	455	472
			FAMILY WORKERS 2/		
United States	5,676	5,577	5,529	5,448	5,206
New England	104	104	100	102	99
Middle Atlantic	356	348	351	350	342
East North Central	1,009	1,003	989	989	943
West North Central	1,189	1,172	1,178	1,149	1,116
South Atlantic	899	879	847	836	795
East South Central	851	824	821	812	757
West South Central	768	749	748	723	669
Mountain	202	198	200	197	189
Pacific	298	300	295	290	296
			HIRED WORKERS 3/		
United States	1,142	1,126	1,114	1,108	1,063
New England	38	40	35	40	41
Middle Atlantic	106	105	102	102	94
East North Central	123	118	116	123	113
West North Central	122	125	112	108	97
South Atlantic	240	238	234	231	223
East South Central	120	109	125	129	119
West South Central	145	138	143	136	129
Mountain	76	76	77	74	71
Pacific	172	177	170	165	176

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one da before the end of the month.

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members o their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cas wages.

3/ Includes all persons doing one or more hours of farm work during the surve week for pay.

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions
April 1, 1955, with comparisons

Geographic division	January 1, 1954	April 1, 1954	January 1, 1955	April 1, 1955
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
PER MONTH WITH HOUSE				
New England	159.00	164.00	165.00	166.00
Middle Atlantic	167.00	164.00	167.00	167.00
East North Central	161.00	159.00	154.00	159.00
West North Central	149.00	155.00	149.00	156.00
Mountain	186.00	191.00	199.00	197.00
Pacific	234.00	231.00	232.00	234.00
PER MONTH WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	120.00	123.00	122.00	123.00
Middle Atlantic	119.00	118.00	118.00	119.00
East North Central	120.00	120.00	114.00	119.00
West North Central	117.00	122.00	115.00	124.00
Mountain	144.00	148.00	149.00	149.00
Pacific	176.00	178.00	179.00	183.00
PER WEEK WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	31.50	32.25	32.75	32.75
Middle Atlantic	31.75	31.25	31.50	31.00
PER WEEK WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	45.00	46.25	47.25	48.00
Middle Atlantic	43.25	43.50	43.25	43.75
PER DAY WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	4.10	4.15	4.15	4.25
East South Central	3.30	3.30	3.25	3.30
West South Central	4.75	4.60	4.65	4.55
PER DAY WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
East North Central	6.00	5.90	5.70	5.90
West North Central	5.90	6.10	5.80	6.20
PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	7.90	8.00	8.00	8.00
Middle Atlantic	7.30	7.40	7.50	7.60
East North Central	7.50	7.30	7.20	7.30
West North Central	7.40	7.70	7.30	7.80
South Atlantic	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.95
East South Central	4.00	3.85	3.90	3.90
West South Central	5.40	5.10	5.30	5.10
Mountain	7.30	7.50	7.40	7.50
PER HOUR WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	.55	.56	.54	.56
East South Central	.46	.44	.45	.46
West South Central	.57	.55	.57	.55
Pacific	.98	.99	.99	1.00
PER HOUR WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	1.02	1.01	1.01	1.02
Middle Atlantic	.96	.96	.96	.97
East North Central	1.00	.98	.97	.99
West North Central	.97	.97	.95	.98
South Atlantic	.64	.65	.63	.65
East South Central	.55	.53	.53	.54
West South Central	.67	.64	.66	.64
Mountain	.90	.94	.86	.92
Pacific	1.06	1.07	1.07	1.08

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, April 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 board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	148.00	113.00	32.00	43.50	-	-	7.30	-	.95	.747	479
N. H.	172.00	126.00	34.50	48.00	-	-	8.10	-	.98	.808	560
Vt.	152.00	121.00	30.50	43.50	-	-	7.90	-	1.00	.774	536
Mass.	180.00	127.00	33.50	49.50	-	-	8.50	-	1.06	.844	581
R. I.	182.00	132.00	33.00	49.50	-	-	8.50	-	1.06	.844	617
Conn.	183.00	132.00	32.00	49.00	-	-	8.60	-	1.07	.844	613
New Eng.	164.00	123.00	32.25	46.25	-	-	8.00	-	1.01	.798	544
N. Y.	168.00	125.00	32.75	45.00	-	-	7.70	-	1.01	.692	494
N. J.	192.00	136.00	34.00	48.75	-	-	8.30	-	1.01	.730	592
Pa.	153.00	108.00	29.00	41.00	-	-	6.80	-	.90	.617	560
Mid. Atl.	164.00	118.00	31.25	43.50	-	-	7.40	-	.96	.662	526
Ohio	148.00	111.00	-	-	-	5.80	7.00	-	.98	.595	537
Ind.	147.00	110.00	-	-	-	5.30	6.70	-	.96	.582	545
Ill.	171.00	136.00	-	-	-	6.40	7.80	-	1.00	.666	580
Mich.	170.00	120.00	-	-	-	6.20	7.70	-	1.00	.636	545
Wis.	161.00	120.00	-	-	-	5.60	7.20	-	.95	.613	494
E.N.Cent.	159.00	120.00	-	-	-	5.90	7.30	-	.98	.619	535
Minn.	154.00	124.00	-	-	-	6.40	8.30	-	1.02	.686	505
Iowa	164.00	137.00	-	-	-	6.90	8.60	-	1.04	.721	506
Mo.	131.00	98.00	-	-	-	5.00	6.00	-	.83	.541	555
N.Dak.	164.00	126.00	-	-	-	5.60	7.50	-	.94	.654	437
S.Dak.	162.00	131.00	-	-	-	6.00	7.80	-	1.00	.681	469
Nebr.	173.00	134.00	-	-	-	6.60	8.60	-	1.01	.715	548
Kans.	160.00	121.00	-	-	-	6.10	7.70	-	.99	.665	633
W.N.Cent.	155.00	122.00	-	-	-	6.10	7.70	-	.97	.659	522
Del.	-	-	-	-	5.50	-	6.80	.79	.86	.698	711
Md.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	6.80	.81	.86	.697	782
Va.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	5.20	.53	.66	.515	629
W. Va.	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	4.80	.59	.64	.499	435
N. C.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	5.00	.50	.60	.487	609
S. C.	-	-	-	-	3.10	-	3.70	.39	.47	.369	537
Ga.	-	-	-	-	3.40	-	4.00	.46	.55	.415	513
Fla.	-	-	-	-	4.60	-	5.20	.62	.72	.546	612
S. Atl.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.85	.56	.65	.499	603
Ky.	-	-	-	-	3.55	-	4.35	.49	.61	.425	483
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	3.10	-	3.80	.40	.51	.369	429
Ala.	-	-	-	-	3.20	-	3.80	.44	.52	.374	467
Miss.	-	-	-	-	3.35	-	3.75	.45	.51	.377	460
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	3.30	-	3.85	.44	.53	.382	453
Ark.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	4.55	.48	.56	.470	477
La.	-	-	-	-	3.80	-	4.20	.47	.56	.440	514
Okla.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	6.20	.68	.77	.626	549
Tex.	-	-	-	-	5.10	-	5.70	.61	.70	.581	527
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.60	-	5.10	.55	.64	.523	526
Mont.	193.00	156.00	-	-	-	-	8.20	-	1.02	.786	443
Idaho	210.00	165.00	-	-	-	-	8.60	-	1.02	.820	505
Wyo.	191.00	140.00	-	-	-	-	7.80	-	1.03	.757	435
Colo.	180.00	130.00	-	-	-	-	7.20	-	.91	.693	506
N.Mex.	146.00	108.00	-	-	-	-	6.00	-	.73	.568	516
Ariz.	200.00	145.00	-	-	-	-	6.80	-	.82	.690	489
Utah	205.00	180.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-	1.05	.825	559
Nev.	185.00	160.00	-	-	-	-	7.60	-	1.05	.776	463
Mountain	191.00	148.00	-	-	-	-	7.50	-	.94	.736	491
Wash.	235.00	178.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.07	1.15	1.100	542
Oreg.	202.00	165.00	-	-	-	-	-	1.01	1.08	1.028	516
Calif.	234.00	180.00	-	-	-	-	-	.97	1.05	1.014	484
Pacific	231.00	178.00	-	-	-	-	-	.99	1.07	1.026	496
U. S.	144.00	117.00	28.50	37.00	4.05	4.70	5.00	.63	.84	.580	507

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, 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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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 8th 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.