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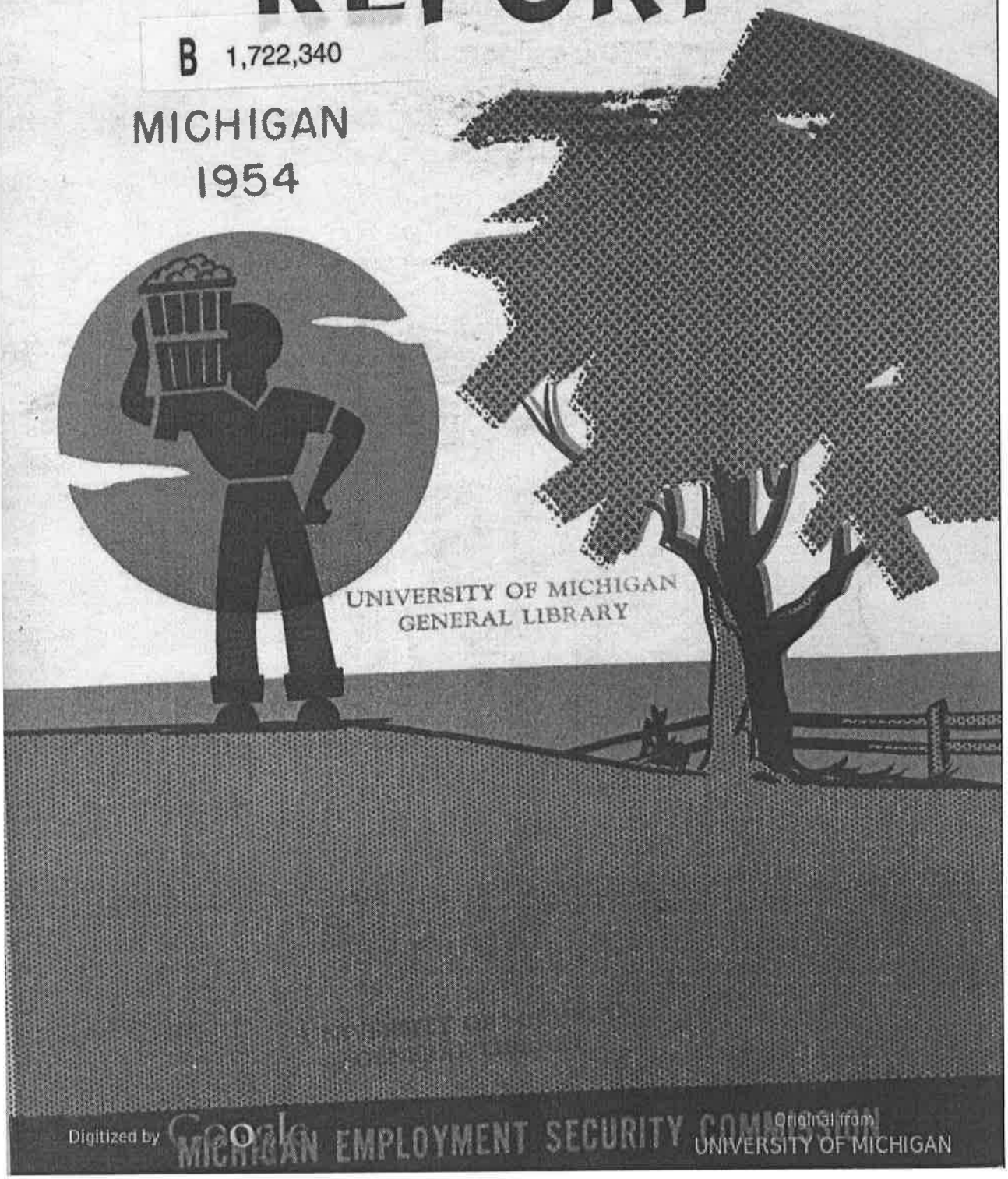
POST SEASON FARM LABOR REPORT

B 1,722,340

MICHIGAN
1954



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MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

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COMPOSITION OF LABOR FORCE

The seasonal farm labor force consisted of local, migratory and foreign workers.

Youth predominated in the local labor supply but a significant number of family groups were also a part of this labor force. Local sources supplied over 35,000 workers. However, only 26,700 were employed during the peak because many were interested in working on only one crop activity and very few workers would travel more than 30 miles to and from work each day.

The migratory labor force, in general, consisted of family groups and crews who left their homes to live at the place of employment. Michigan supplied 3,900 migrant workers and other states 48,300. Since many migrants were interested in working on only one crop activity and for one employer, no more than 3,100 from Michigan and 34,150 from other states were employed at the peak. Of the total migrant labor force, 40% were of Latin American descent, 37% white and 23% non-white. Nearly 100% of white migrants as well as those of Latin American descent worked as family groups. About 40% of the non-white migrants were adult crews. Family groups amounted to 90% of the total migrant work force. Children under 6 years of age constituted 12.4% of the total number of migrants in family groups and those 6 to 16 years of age 28.2%.

The foreign labor force consisted of 6,300 adult males from Mexico and 300 from British West Indies. However, not all of these workers were employed during the same period. At the peak, this labor force did not exceed 6,250 workers.

The table on page 32 shows the number and source of seasonal farm workers employed during each month of the year.

MOBILIZATION

Michigan's agriculture required a labor force of seasonal farm workers which was equal to the total employment at one of the largest industrial firms in the state. Both skilled and unskilled workers were needed. The labor demands were not concentrated at

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EMPLOYMENT OF SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING AND AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS, BY MONTH, 1954

MONTH	AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT				AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS	FOOD PROCESSING EMPLOYMENT		
	Total	DOMESTIC		Foreign		Total	Local	Non-Local
		Local	Non-Local					
Jan.	2,240	1,997	152	91	83	1,150	1,150	0
Feb.	2,200	2,035	92	73	133	1,050	1,050	0
Mar.	2,640	2,455	110	75	469	1,050	1,050	0
April	6,241	4,584	1,577	39	1,342	1,120	1,120	0
May	10,665	7,589	3,040	36	2,859	1,555	1,355	200
June	46,385	18,419	31,425	3,823	8,936	4,750	2,750	2,000
July	63,425	22,453	36,930	4,042	35,183	6,200	4,150	2,050
Aug.	66,580	25,171	35,092	6,312	44,447	8,000	5,550	2,450
Sept.	40,970	15,939	23,340	1,691	17,818	8,100	5,650	2,450
Oct.	29,480	19,102	9,630	748	8,157	7,350	6,100	1,250
Nov.	12,715	9,154	3,380	181	2,774	7,025	6,975	50
Dec.	5,720	5,402	300	18	593	5,700	5,650	50

NOTE: January, February and March agricultural labor force figures incomplete for the State because not all areas were required to submit farm labor reports. Employment figures represent the number of seasonal hired workers employed on the 15th of the month. The peak agricultural employment occurred during last half of July when 68,625 were employed.

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EXPECTED USE OF SEASONAL HIRED WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING, BY MONTH, 1955

MONTH	EXPECTED EMPLOYMENT							EXPECTED SURPLUS FOR OUT-OF-STATE MIGRATION*
	AGRICULTURAL				FOOD PROCESSING			
	Total	DOMESTIC		Foreign	Total	Local	Non-Local	
		Local	Non-Local					
Jan.	3,600	2,600	940	60	1,150	1,150	0	0
Feb.	3,600	2,600	940	60	1,150	1,150	0	0
Mar.	4,910	3,500	1,250	60	1,200	1,200	0	0
April	6,630	4,590	1,600	70	1,300	1,300	0	0
May	11,880	7,600	4,080	200	1,600	1,400	200	0
June	54,600	18,500	32,050	4,050	4,950	2,950	2,000	0
July	75,170	23,000	43,170	9,000	6,550	4,350	2,200	0
Aug.	75,800	26,540	39,100	10,160	8,300	5,650	2,650	5,000
Sept.	43,500	21,960	20,340	2,200	8,200	5,750	2,450	25,000
Oct.	29,840	19,200	9,540	1,100	7,350	6,100	1,250	12,000
Nov.	12,800	9,200	3,400	200	7,025	6,975	50	6,700
Dec.	5,725	5,400	250	75	5,700	5,480	220	0

*Also includes contracted foreign workers and domestic migratory workers who leave the State due to prior commitments. Only about 30% expected to be available for other jobs. Figures represent the number of seasonal workers expected to be employed on the 15th of the month. Peak of labor requirements expected to be reached around July 25 and last through August 10. The rise in foreign workers, despite a reduction of domestic workers, is due to that many cherry pickers are not interested in pickle or snap bean harvest which normally reaches its peak around the first of August.

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