

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

FARM LABOR REPORT

Washington, D. C.

June 14, 1940

FARM EMPLOYMENT JUNE 1
SHOWS SEASONAL INCREASE

The June 1 estimate of total farm employment was placed at 11,896,000 persons, according to the monthly farm labor report of the Agricultural Marketing Service. This was an increase of nearly a million workers over the estimated number a month ago when 10,941,000 persons were working on farms. The gain was seasonal in nature and raised the index of farm employment to 99 percent of the 1910-14 average, compared with 91 on May 1 and with 103 percent on June 1, 1939.

Largest increases during the month were noted for the South Atlantic and South Central groups of States as field work reached the seasonal peak for the spring and summer months in those areas. Sizable gains were also reported in the Rocky Mountain area. For the country as a whole, total farm employment (both family and hired labor) usually reaches the high point for the year about June 1, declines through July and August and builds up to a secondary peak about October 1.

The number of unpaid family workers (including farm operators) on farms was estimated at 9,131,000 on June 1, compared with 8,411,000 a month ago. This represented an 8-point gain in the index of family labor and placed the figure at 100 percent of the 1910-14 average, compared with 103 a year ago. The increase from May 1 to June 1 was slightly more than the usual seasonal gain for that period.

Farm employment, June 1, 1940, with comparisons

FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)

	Apr. 1, 1939	May 1, 1939	June 1, 1939	Apr. 1, 1940	May 1, 1940	June 1, 1940
Total -						
Unadjusted.....	83	94	103	81	91	99
Adjusted for seasonality..	86	88	89	84	85	85
Family labor -						
Unadjusted.....	85	96	103	84	92	100
Adjusted for seasonality..	87	90	90	86	86	87
Hired labor -						
Unadjusted.....	76	89	101	73	87	96
Adjusted for seasonality..	81	82	85	78	81	81

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons)

United States.....	9,960	11,362	12,372	9,797	10,941	11,896
New England.....	241	245	269	242	253	268
Middle Atlantic.....	594	628	628	583	622	625
East North Central.....	1,451	1,551	1,572	1,418	1,514	1,560
West North Central.....	1,582	1,751	1,820	1,590	1,713	1,810
South Atlantic.....	1,975	2,347	2,633	1,875	2,157	2,398
East South Central.....	1,603	1,957	2,201	1,575	1,871	2,072
West South Central.....	1,573	1,895	2,200	1,599	1,848	2,139
Mountain.....	415	454	483	412	427	479
Pacific.....	526	534	566	503	536	545

FAMILY WORKERS (Thousands of persons)

United States.....	7,773	8,775	9,443	7,684	8,411	9,131
New England.....	161	161	166	168	164	166
Middle Atlantic.....	410	418	418	414	420	413
East North Central.....	1,148	1,207	1,208	1,136	1,167	1,192
West North Central.....	1,286	1,373	1,431	1,286	1,337	1,407
South Atlantic.....	1,496	1,764	1,983	1,430	1,630	1,834
East South Central.....	1,386	1,705	1,880	1,378	1,630	1,799
West South Central.....	1,268	1,521	1,725	1,285	1,469	1,714
Mountain.....	290	297	303	286	285	293
Pacific.....	328	329	329	301	309	313

HIRED WORKERS (Thousands of persons)

United States.....	2,187	2,587	2,929	2,113	2,530	2,765
New England.....	80	84	103	74	89	102
Middle Atlantic.....	184	210	210	169	202	212
East North Central.....	303	344	364	282	347	368
West North Central.....	296	378	389	304	376	403
South Atlantic.....	479	583	650	445	527	564
East South Central.....	217	252	321	197	241	273
West South Central.....	305	374	475	314	379	425
Mountain.....	125	157	180	126	142	186
Pacific.....	198	205	237	202	227	232

Based on reports from 23,317 farmers.

LENGTH OF FARM WORKDAY

September 1, 1939, December 1, 1939, March 1, 1940, and June 1, 1940,
by geographic divisions

Division	Length of workday							
	Operator				Hired help			
	Sept.1	Dec.1	Mar.1	June 1	Sept.1	Dec.1	Mar.1	June 1
	1939	1939	1940	1940	1939	1939	1940	1940
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
New England.....	12.0	11.5	11.5	12.0	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0
Middle Atlantic.....	12.3	11.1	11.0	12.5	10.2	9.8	10.0	10.6
West North Central...	12.1	11.0	10.5	12.5	10.5	10.0	9.9	10.8
East North Central...	12.3	10.5	10.4	12.6	10.9	9.7	9.9	11.0
South Atlantic.....	11.3	10.0	10.3	11.8	9.8	9.0	9.3	10.3
West South Central...	11.0	9.8	9.9	11.7	10.0	8.9	9.3	10.6
East South Central...	11.4	9.9	10.3	11.8	10.0	9.0	9.4	10.3
Mountain.....	11.9	10.1	10.1	12.3	9.9	9.0	9.3	10.1
Pacific.....	11.2	10.0	10.1	11.3	9.4	8.9	8.9	9.5
United States.....	11.7	10.3	10.3	12.1	10.1	9.3	9.5	10.4

June 1, 1940, by States

State	Length of		State	Length of	
	workday			workday	
	Operator	Hired		Operator	Hired
	Hours	Hours		Hours	Hours
Delaware.....	12.5	9.7	West Virginia.....	11.5	9.4
New Hampshire.....	11.5	9.4	North Carolina.....	11.7	10.2
Connecticut.....	12.5	10.6	South Carolina.....	12.0	10.7
Massachusetts.....	11.5	10.0	Georgia.....	11.9	10.8
Rhode Island.....	12.0	10.0	Florida.....	11.0	9.5
Connecticut.....	11.5	10.1	Kentucky.....	11.7	10.4
New York.....	12.5	10.7	Tennessee.....	11.9	10.6
New Jersey.....	12.0	10.6	Alabama.....	11.8	10.7
Pennsylvania.....	12.5	10.4	Mississippi.....	11.5	10.6
Ohio.....	12.4	10.1	Arkansas.....	11.9	10.3
Indiana.....	12.6	10.4	Louisiana.....	11.2	10.0
Illinois.....	12.3	11.0	Oklahoma.....	11.9	10.2
Michigan.....	12.4	10.4	Texas.....	11.9	10.4
Wisconsin.....	12.9	11.7	Montana.....	12.6	10.7
Minnesota.....	12.6	11.2	Idaho.....	12.8	10.0
Nebraska.....	12.6	11.2	Wyoming.....	12.1	10.4
Missouri.....	12.4	10.5	Colorado.....	12.5	10.5
North Dakota.....	12.5	11.5	New Mexico.....	12.0	10.4
South Dakota.....	12.7	11.3	Arizona.....	11.5	9.4
Nebraska.....	12.8	11.1	Utah.....	12.0	9.0
Nevada.....	12.5	10.7	Nevada.....	11.6	9.0
Idaho.....	12.3	10.4	Washington.....	11.5	10.0
Wyoming.....	12.4	10.4	Oregon.....	11.8	9.6
California.....	11.9	10.0	California.....	11.0	9.3

Numbers of hired workers also increased from May 1 to June 1. It was estimated that 2,765,000 hired workers were employed on farms on June 1, - a gain of 235,000 from the month previous but below the level of 2,929,000 employed on June 1 a year ago. In comparison with the 1910-14 average the level of hired farm labor was relatively lower than that for family labor and at 96 percent of the base period on June 1 was 5 points lower than a year ago. Most of the decrease from last year occurred in the South Atlantic and South Central States.

FARM WORKDAY LONGER

Along with the seasonal upturn in farm operations, quarterly reports indicate that the farm workday was longer on June 1 than on any of the previous dates for which information is available (September 1, 1939, December 1, 1939, and March 1, 1940). For the country as a whole, the length of workday for the farm operator averaged 12.1 hours on June 1, compared with 10.3 hours on March 1. The increase during the same period in the number of hours worked per day by hired hands was less than that for the farm operator. The workday for hired help averaged 10.4 hours on June 1, compared with 9.5 hours 3 months earlier.

Workdays were shorter for both the farm operator and hired help in the Pacific Coast States and longer in the West North Central region than elsewhere.