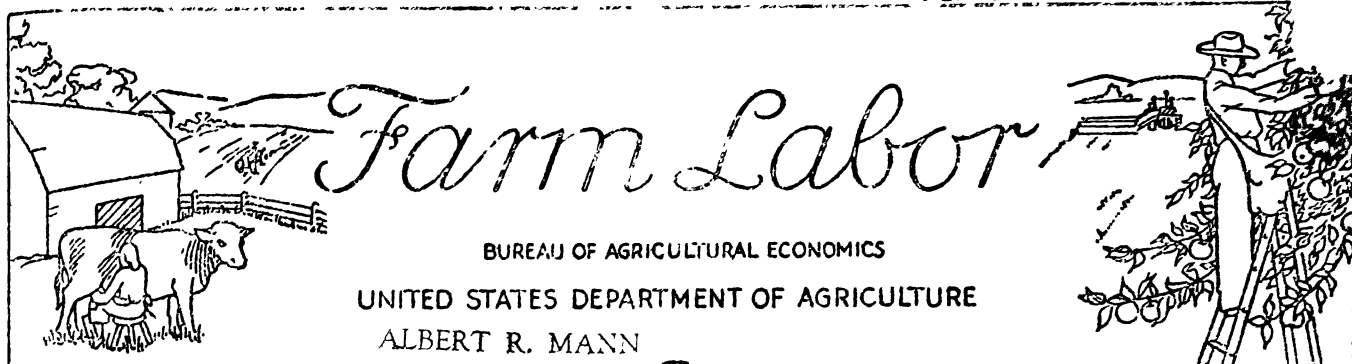




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## FARM EMPLOYMENT DOWN IN JULY

People working on farms totalled 10,772,000 during the week of July 19-25, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. This was a little more than 350,000 under a month ago as farm work activities were in their usual mid-summer lull in many parts of the country. The number of hired workers remained at about the same level as a month ago in contrast to the usual sizeable increase from June to July. Total employment was nearly 200,000 less than a year ago.

Farm work made good progress during the survey week. Moderate to heavy showers in most areas east of the Mississippi led to some interruptions in work but not enough to affect the employment estimates in most cases.

In most of the South, cultivation of the cotton crop was completed. Cotton farmers were dusting cotton for insects but this job does not require large numbers of workers. Cotton picking was in progress in Texas. In the Lower Valley, the job was about finished but picking was very active in the Coastal Bend and Upper Coast Counties and had moved into some central counties. Picking was also started on a small scale in Arizona.

Small grain harvest, mostly winter wheat, oats and barley, was generally completed in the middle and southern parts of the country and extended to the Northern Border States. Spring wheat harvest was started in South Dakota and ready to start in Washington. In sections where harvest of small grains was over, farmers were starting plowing for fall seedings of grains. Summer fallowing operations in dry-land farming areas were also in progress in preparation for fall seedings. Soybeans were generally too large for further cultivation. Early rice was being harvested in Louisiana and Texas. Grain sorghums were being harvested in central and west central sections of Texas while on the High Plains and in Oklahoma sorghums were being planted, mainly for forage.

Farmers in practically all parts of the country were harvesting some kinds of truck crops or fruit. Peach harvest was about completed in the South and was starting in Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey and in California. Potato harvest had moved as far north as the Long Island area. Cherries were being picked in Michigan and Wisconsin. Harvest of sweet corn and tomatoes for canning was starting in Illinois and other central areas.

Some farmers in practically every part of the country were harvesting hay. Tobacco farmers were finished or finishing harvest in Florida and South Carolina. Farther north they were still cultivating the crop and spraying and dusting for insect and disease control.

The number of family workers employed on farms during the week of July 19-25, was down 5 percent from a month earlier. This was a slightly larger decline than the average of recent years. In the Middle Atlantic, East North Central and Pacific States where the number of family workers usually drops slightly from late June to late July, decreases were larger than usual. In the East South Central and West South Central States where the seasonal drop is usually nearly 20 percent, declines were a little less than usual. In the remaining regions which usually show small increases, the rise in employment was less than usual.

The number of hired workers for the entire country was 1 percent above a month ago during the survey week. The increase from June to July amounted to 8 percent last year and averaged 13 percent for the 1948-52 period. The less than seasonal change this year is due at least partly to the unusually large number of hired workers a month ago. Progress of farm work appears to be somewhat ahead of the usual seasonal pattern this year. Usually, all geographic divisions report more hired workers in late July than a month earlier except the East South Central States. In all regions which ordinarily report seasonal increases in numbers of hired workers in July, increases were considerably less than usual except in New England and in 2 regions, where there was actually a decrease. The East South Central States reported a larger than usual decline. In the East and West North Central States and the West South Central States, the increase usually amounts to about a fourth. However, this year the number of hired farm workers in the East North Central and West North Central States was about the same in late July as a month earlier. The increase in the West South Central States was less than usual.

The total number of persons working on farms in the entire country during the survey week was 2 percent less than a year earlier. The decrease was the same for family workers and hired workers on a percentage basis. There were fewer workers than a year ago in all regions except the New England and East South Central States where there were small increases and in the Mountain States where there was no change. In the New England and East South Central States there were increases in the number of family workers and of hired workers. In the Mountain States, the numbers of family workers and hired workers were each the same as a year earlier. In all regions where there were fewer workers than a year ago, numbers of family workers and of hired workers were each less or about the same as a year earlier.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Employment

Farm employment estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics 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. Interview surveys of farmers are used less frequently to provide bench mark data on employment. The survey week for the mailed questionnaire each month is the last complete calendar week in the month except when that week includes the last day of the month; in that case, the survey week is the next to the last full calendar week.

Employment concepts

All farm operators are counted as employed if they spend one hour or more during the survey week at farm work, chores, or in the transaction of farm business. 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 survey week. Operators plus unpaid members of their families or households who meet these criteria of employment are called family workers. All persons doing one or more hours of farm work or chores for pay during the survey week are counted as hired workers. Members of the operator's family doing farm work for cash wages are counted as hired workers. Croppers are considered family workers when working on their own crops, but hired workers when doing farm work for pay off their own tracts. If a person is employed both as a family worker and a hired worker during the week on the same farm, he is counted as a hired worker.

Comparability with other data

The data on farm employment published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics differ from those on agricultural employment published by the Bureau of the Census in the Monthly Report On The Labor Force. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics collects information from the employer (the farmer) who reports the number of persons working on his farm during the week regardless of the other jobs held by those workers. The Census data, on the other hand, are obtained through interviews with approximately 25,000 farm and nonfarm households with the housewife or some other member of the household reporting on the labor force status of the household members. They relate only to persons 14 years of age and over, who are in the civilian population and not in institutions.

The difference between the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Census data is attributable mainly to the different treatment of three groups of workers. Children under 14 years of age who meet the criteria of employment are included in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates, but not in the Census Bureau's. It is estimated that this number

may reach a summer peak as high as two million. Persons working on more than one farm during the survey week are counted only once by the Census Bureau, but they are counted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on each farm where they work and meet the minimum hour requirements. This group is also more numerous during the harvest season when the demand for farm labor is greatest. The additional count of workers attributable to this duplication is estimated at a minimum of a quarter of a million and may be considerably larger. The third group is composed of persons who work in both agricultural and nonagricultural employment, but work longer at the nonagricultural employment; they are classified by Census as working on nonagricultural employment, but by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as working on a farm. This last group may range from one-half million to a million in different seasons of the year.

Other groups counted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics but not by the Census Bureau are imported foreign workers and some migratory workers not living in private households. On the other hand, the Census Bureau includes in its estimates of agricultural employment certain classes of workers which the Bureau of Agricultural Economics does not include. Persons with "nonfarm" occupations who are working on farms, such as bookkeepers and typists, some persons in certain agricultural processing activities, and farm operators with no other job who did no farm work are considered as employed in agriculture by the Census Bureau, but are not included by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its estimates of agricultural employment.

Because the volume of agricultural employment is affected by changes both in season and in weather, the difference in the week of the month for which the data are collected may also make some differences. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics data relate to the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month while the Census Bureau information relates to the week containing the 8th of the month.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates farm employment from current reports made by a selected group of farmers adjusted to enumerative survey bench mark data. The Bureau of the Census bases its figures on a sample of dwelling units. Accordingly, the figures in both cases are subject to a sampling variation and may differ from the results of a complete census.

### Wage rates

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. The "at this time" on the average probably represents the second or third day before the end of the month.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of July 19-25, 1953, United States, with comparisons

|                                                                               | July<br>: average<br>: 1948-52 1/ | July<br>: 20-26,<br>: 1952 | June<br>: 21-27,<br>: 1953 | July<br>: 19-25,<br>: 1953 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons) :                                      |                                   |                            |                            |                            |
| Total .....                                                                   | 11,786                            | 10,955                     | 11,132                     | 10,772                     |
| Family labor .....                                                            | 8,273                             | 7,678                      | 7,944                      | 7,560                      |
| Hired labor .....                                                             | 3,513                             | 3,277                      | 3,188                      | 3,212                      |
| FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for<br>seasonal variation, 1910-14 = 100) : |                                   |                            |                            |                            |
| Total .....                                                                   | 86                                | 80                         | 81                         | 79                         |
| Family labor .....                                                            | 89                                | 82                         | 80                         | 81                         |
| Hired labor .....                                                             | 80                                | 75                         | 85                         | 74                         |

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, July 1,  
1953, with comparisons 1/

|                                                      | April 1,<br>: 1952 | July 1,<br>: 1952 | April 1,<br>: 1953 | July 1,<br>: 1953 |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| FARM WAGE RATES :                                    |                    |                   |                    |                   |
| Per month with board and room .....                  | \$114.00           | \$121.00          | \$119.00           | \$124.00          |
| Per month with house .....                           | 138.00             | 155.00            | 144.00             | 161.00            |
| Per week with board and room .....                   | 28.00              | 30.00             | 29.00              | 31.50             |
| Per week without board or room ....                  | 34.75              | 40.00             | 36.25              | 39.50             |
| Per day with board and room .....                    | 4.55               | 5.80              | 4.70               | 5.80              |
| Per day with house .....                             | 4.00               | 4.15              | 4.00               | 4.05              |
| Per day without board or room .....                  | 5.00               | 5.20              | 5.00               | 5.30              |
| Per hour with house .....                            | .61                | .80               | .63                | .81               |
| Per hour without board or room ....                  | .83                | .87               | .85                | .89               |
| Composite rate per hour 2/ .....                     | .571               | .664              | .581               | .675              |
| FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14 = 100) :             |                    |                   |                    |                   |
| Adjusted for seasonal variation ...                  | 510                | 506               | 508                | 514               |
| RELATED INDEXES (1910-14 = 100) :                    |                    |                   |                    |                   |
| Prices received by farmers 3/ .....                  | 289                | 294               | 262                | 259               |
| Ratio of prices received to farm<br>wage rates ..... | 57                 | 58                | 52                 | 50                |

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of July 19-25, 1953, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

| Geographic division:  | July<br>1948-52 1/ | June<br>22-28,<br>1952 | July<br>20-26,<br>1952 | June<br>21-27,<br>1953 | July<br>19-25,<br>1953 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                       | Thousands          | Thousands              | Thousands              | Thousands              | Thousands              |
| TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT |                    |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| United States         | 11,786             | 11,020                 | 10,955                 | 11,132                 | 10,772                 |
| New England           | 272                | 258                    | 267                    | 271                    | 277                    |
| Middle Atlantic       | 732                | 713                    | 708                    | 719                    | 687                    |
| East North Central    | 1,781              | 1,688                  | 1,695                  | 1,711                  | 1,673                  |
| West North Central    | 2,218              | 1,954                  | 2,043                  | 2,004                  | 2,006                  |
| South Atlantic        | 2,705              | 2,372                  | 2,481                  | 2,365                  | 2,388                  |
| East South Central    | 1,467              | 1,570                  | 1,337                  | 1,624                  | 1,364                  |
| West South Central    | 1,449              | 1,404                  | 1,320                  | 1,346                  | 1,278                  |
| Mountain              | 498                | 447                    | 468                    | 462                    | 468                    |
| Pacific               | 664                | 614                    | 636                    | 630                    | 631                    |
| FAMILY WORKERS 2/     |                    |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| United States         | 8,273              | 7,995                  | 7,678                  | 7,944                  | 7,560                  |
| New England           | 194                | 179                    | 187                    | 187                    | 190                    |
| Middle Atlantic       | 503                | 516                    | 486                    | 515                    | 487                    |
| East North Central    | 1,399              | 1,367                  | 1,333                  | 1,367                  | 1,327                  |
| West North Central    | 1,699              | 1,557                  | 1,597                  | 1,557                  | 1,570                  |
| South Atlantic        | 1,824              | 1,589                  | 1,658                  | 1,548                  | 1,567                  |
| East South Central    | 1,108              | 1,191                  | 986                    | 1,188                  | 999                    |
| West South Central    | 940                | 1,020                  | 864                    | 995                    | 854                    |
| Mountain              | 302                | 271                    | 281                    | 277                    | 281                    |
| Pacific               | 304                | 305                    | 286                    | 310                    | 285                    |
| HIRED WORKERS 3/      |                    |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| United States         | 3,513              | 3,025                  | 3,277                  | 3,188                  | 3,212                  |
| New England           | 78                 | 79                     | 80                     | 84                     | 87                     |
| Middle Atlantic       | 229                | 197                    | 222                    | 204                    | 200                    |
| East North Central    | 382                | 321                    | 362                    | 344                    | 346                    |
| West North Central    | 519                | 397                    | 446                    | 447                    | 436                    |
| South Atlantic        | 881                | 783                    | 823                    | 817                    | 821                    |
| East South Central    | 359                | 379                    | 351                    | 436                    | 365                    |
| West South Central    | 509                | 384                    | 456                    | 351                    | 424                    |
| Mountain              | 196                | 176                    | 187                    | 185                    | 187                    |
| Pacific               | 360                | 309                    | 350                    | 320                    | 346                    |

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Average number of persons employed per month, January through July 1953, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons 1/

| Geographic division      | 1948-52   | 1950      | 1951      | 1952      | 1953      |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                          | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands | Thousands |
| TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT    |           |           |           |           |           |
| United States            | 10,057    | 10,070    | 9,725     | 9,461     | 9,411     |
| New England              | 225       | 224       | 221       | 223       | 223       |
| Middle Atlantic          | 594       | 599       | 584       | 581       | 579       |
| East North Central       | 1,526     | 1,519     | 1,483     | 1,469     | 1,454     |
| West North Central       | 1,760     | 1,758     | 1,688     | 1,649     | 1,652     |
| South Atlantic           | 2,103     | 2,105     | 2,031     | 1,962     | 1,918     |
| East South Central       | 1,512     | 1,535     | 1,451     | 1,390     | 1,414     |
| West South Central       | 1,446     | 1,440     | 1,401     | 1,333     | 1,317     |
| Mountain                 | 374       | 376       | 364       | 357       | 358       |
| Pacific                  | 517       | 514       | 502       | 497       | 496       |
| FAMILY WORKERS <u>2/</u> |           |           |           |           |           |
| United States            | 7,927     | 7,947     | 7,663     | 7,444     | 7,366     |
| New England              | 166       | 165       | 161       | 162       | 161       |
| Middle Atlantic          | 453       | 453       | 444       | 443       | 445       |
| East North Central       | 1,297     | 1,291     | 1,259     | 1,252     | 1,241     |
| West North Central       | 1,520     | 1,514     | 1,469     | 1,432     | 1,435     |
| South Atlantic           | 1,586     | 1,593     | 1,518     | 1,470     | 1,421     |
| East South Central       | 1,221     | 1,240     | 1,173     | 1,112     | 1,100     |
| West South Central       | 1,127     | 1,132     | 1,100     | 1,042     | 1,033     |
| Mountain                 | 265       | 266       | 256       | 253       | 253       |
| Pacific                  | 292       | 293       | 283       | 278       | 277       |
| HIRED WORKERS <u>3/</u>  |           |           |           |           |           |
| United States            | 2,130     | 2,123     | 2,062     | 2,017     | 2,045     |
| New England              | 59        | 59        | 60        | 61        | 62        |
| Middle Atlantic          | 141       | 146       | 140       | 138       | 134       |
| East North Central       | 229       | 228       | 224       | 217       | 213       |
| West North Central       | 240       | 244       | 219       | 217       | 217       |
| South Atlantic           | 517       | 512       | 513       | 492       | 497       |
| East South Central       | 291       | 295       | 278       | 278       | 314       |
| West South Central       | 319       | 308       | 301       | 291       | 284       |
| Mountain                 | 109       | 110       | 108       | 104       | 105       |
| Pacific                  | 225       | 221       | 219       | 219       | 219       |

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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