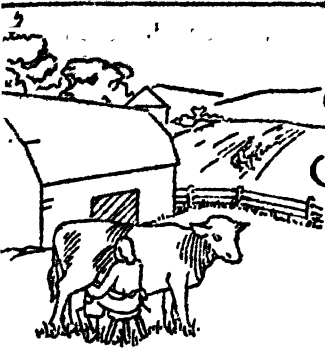




Farm Labor

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Washington, D. C.

BAE

February 11, 1952

FARM EMPLOYMENT RISES FROM SEASONAL LOW;
TOTAL 3 PERCENT BELOW YEAR AGO

HD
1525
A3

Total farm employment, at 6,827,000 in the week of January 20-26, began to move up from the seasonal low of late December, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. About 300,000 more persons were employed on farms in January than a month earlier. Farm employment was 3 percent below a year ago.

In northern areas, farm work during the survey week still consisted mostly of chores. A blizzard in the northern Great Plains, heavy rains in the far West, and heavy rains and floods in the upper Ohio Valley retarded farm work. Temperatures for the week averaged above normal in all parts of the country except the northern Great Plains. Field work was confined to the more southern areas of the country. However, spring plowing was started in a few of the northern South Atlantic States. Farmers in Texas and Oklahoma were making good progress with soil preparations for spring crops. Some oats had been planted in Oklahoma and a few fields had been planted in Southern Kansas. Potatoes were being planted in Baldwin County, Alabama. Major harvest operations consisted of harvest of winter vegetables and citrus in Florida, southern Texas, Arizona, and California. Cotton harvest also continued in California.

Total farm employment in the week of January 20-26 was up most from a month earlier in the South Atlantic and West South Central States. There were also more people at work on farms in the New England States, where mild weather made more work possible than usual at this season. In the Middle Atlantic, East and West North Central States, there was little change from a month ago. Usually small decreases occur from December to January in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central States, while farm employment in the East South Central States rises. In the Mountain and Pacific States, the number of people employed on farms was down more than the usual seasonal amount.

There were about the same number of persons at work on farms during the survey week in the Middle Atlantic, East North Central, and South Atlantic States as a year ago. In the New England States, farm employment was up slightly from last year. Decreases in the remaining regions were about the same as the national average, except in the East South Central States where the decline was larger.

The number of family workers was up about the usual amount in January from a month earlier for the country as a whole. There were the usual small increases in the New England and Middle Atlantic States. The slight increase in the East North Central States was in contrast to a usual small decline. Increases were largest in the South Atlantic and West South Central States where field work had started. The increase in the South Atlantic States was larger than usual. In the Mountain and Pacific States family employment was down from last month while ordinarily there is little change. Usually the number of family workers in the East South Central States increases in January, but this year there was a small decline, probably largely because of unfavorable weather.

There were a few more family workers employed on farms in the New England, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central States during the survey week this year than a year earlier. Of the remaining regions, only the East South Central States had a decrease much larger than the percentage decrease for the entire country.

The number of hired farm workers was up 11 percent from a month earlier, compared to an 8 percent rise a year ago and an average increase in recent years of 4 percent. Most regions contributed to this greater than seasonal rise. In the New England, East North Central, and Pacific States more hired workers were employed than a month earlier compared with usual decreases. The increase from a month ago in the number of hired workers was nearly 50 percent in the West South Central States, a usual increase. However, the increases of more than a third in the East South Central States and about a fifth in the South Atlantic States were greater than usual. In the Middle Atlantic States, the number of hired workers decreased in January but less than usual. The number of hired workers in the Mountain States was down about a third from December as the need for hired workers in Arizona and New Mexico decreased. The drop in this region was greater than usual.

For the entire country, there were fewer hired workers employed on farms in late January than a year ago. Decreases by regions ranged from 4 to 8 percent except in the New England and South Atlantic States. In these regions, there were more hired hands at work than 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 job; they are classified by Census as working on non-agricultural 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 difference. 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 January 20-26, 1952, United States, with comparisons

	: January : average : 1945-49 1/	: January : 21-27, : 1951	: December : 23-29, : 1951	: January : 20-26, : 1952
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons):				
Total	7,661	7,023	6,524	6,827
Family labor	6,639	6,066	5,688	5,903
Hired labor	1,022	957	836	924
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for : seasonal variation, 1910-14 = 100) :				
Total	92	85	82	82
Family labor	94	86	84	84
Hired labor	81	77	69	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
January 1, 1952, with comparisons 1/

	: Oct. 1, : 1950	: Jan. 1, : 1951	: Oct. 1, : 1951	: Jan. 1, : 1952
FARM WAGE RATES				
Per month with board and room	\$102.00	\$105.00	\$116.00	\$116.00
Per month with house	123.00	127.00	138.00	141.00
Per week with board and room	24.75	24.25	28.50	27.25
Per week without board or room	31.25	31.75	35.25	35.00
Per day with board and room	4.50	4.50	5.00	5.00
Per day with house	3.70	3.75	4.10	4.20
Per day without board or room	4.95	4.65	5.50	5.20
Per hour with house	.75	.59	.81	.65
Per hour without board or room	.66	.79	.73	.86
Composite rate per hour 2/	.590	.626	.656	.693
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14 = 100):				
Adjusted for seasonal variation ...	428	450	476	498
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)				
Prices received by farmers 3/	270	293	294	302
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	63	65	62	61

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 January 20-26, 1952 United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	: January : : average : : 1945-49 1/	: December : : 24-30, : : 1950 :	: January : : 21-27, : : 1951 :	: December : : 23-29, : : 1951 :	: January : : 20-26, : : 1952 :
	: Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT					
United States	: 7,661	6,782	7,023	6,524	6,827
New England	: 183	163	172	165	178
Middle Atlantic	: 484	453	462	460	462
East North Central	: 1,210	1,184	1,130	1,120	1,128
West North Central	: 1,437	1,347	1,297	1,282	1,271
South Atlantic	: 1,380	1,159	1,269	1,094	1,254
East South Central	: 1,118	960	998	899	909
West South Central	: 1,189	878	1,089	875	1,043
Mountain	: 257	260	236	258	226
Pacific	: 403	378	370	371	356
FAMILY WORKERS 2/					
United States	: 6,639	5,897	6,066	5,688	5,903
New England	: 149	128	137	132	139
Middle Atlantic	: 406	371	376	374	380
East North Central	: 1,086	1,066	1,016	1,016	1,023
West North Central	: 1,334	1,244	1,204	1,188	1,182
South Atlantic	: 1,159	970	1,073	921	1,048
East South Central	: 976	861	868	812	789
West South Central	: 1,041	794	957	794	922
Mountain	: 213	199	193	196	185
Pacific	: 275	264	242	255	235
HIRED WORKERS 3/					
United States	: 1,022	885	957	836	924
New England	: 34	35	35	33	39
Middle Atlantic	: 78	82	86	86	82
East North Central	: 124	118	114	104	105
West North Central	: 103	103	93	94	89
South Atlantic	: 221	189	196	173	206
East South Central	: 142	99	130	87	120
West South Central	: 148	84	132	81	121
Mountain	: 44	61	43	62	41
Pacific	: 128	114	128	116	121

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: Persons employed and index numbers, by
type of farming area, 1951 1/

Month	Corn Area							Eastern Dairy Area						
	Family:			Index 3/				Family:			Index 3/			
	2/	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total		2/	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	
	Thousands							Thousands						
Jan.	832	83	915	74	21	60		447	104	551	70	31	56	
Feb.	917	97	1,014	81	24	66		480	114	594	75	34	61	
Mar.	1,013	140	1,153	90	35	75		515	134	649	81	39	66	
Apr.	1,124	160	1,284	99	40	84		533	151	684	83	44	70	
May	1,218	199	1,417	108	50	92		532	186	718	83	55	73	
June	1,155	288	1,443	102	72	94		586	215	801	92	63	82	
July	1,119	340	1,459	99	85	95		584	236	820	91	70	84	
Aug.	1,070	264	1,334	95	66	87		583	274	857	91	81	88	
Sept.	1,056	283	1,339	93	70	87		573	253	826	90	75	84	
Oct.	1,057	246	1,303	93	61	85		542	195	737	85	57	75	
Nov.	1,014	140	1,154	90	35	75		492	130	622	77	38	64	
Dec.	852	81	933	75	20	61		439	103	542	69	30	55	
Average	1,036	193	1,229	92	48	80		525	175	700	82	52	72	
	Western Dairy Area							Middle Eastern Area						
	Family:			Index 3/				Family:			Index 3/			
	2/	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total		2/	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	
	Thousands							Thousands						
Jan.	647	61	708	90	27	75		1,035	130	1,165	63	31	56	
Feb.	720	69	789	100	31	84		1,139	163	1,302	69	38	63	
Mar.	733	84	817	102	38	87		1,195	242	1,437	73	57	69	
Apr.	819	95	914	114	43	97		1,440	273	1,713	88	64	83	
May	876	117	993	122	53	105		1,469	337	1,806	89	79	87	
June	861	186	1,047	120	84	111		1,413	639	2,052	86	150	99	
July	901	231	1,132	125	104	120		1,536	733	2,269	93	172	110	
Aug.	854	209	1,063	119	94	113		1,551	554	2,105	94	130	102	
Sept.	787	189	976	109	85	104		1,714	419	2,133	104	99	103	
Oct.	709	128	837	99	58	89		1,699	344	2,043	103	81	99	
Nov.	676	92	768	94	41	82		1,478	242	1,720	90	57	83	
Dec.	640	55	695	89	25	74		995	109	1,104	61	26	53	
Average	769	126	895	107	57	95		1,389	349	1,738	85	82	84	

Continued ---

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed and index numbers, by type of
farming area, 1951 1/ --- Cont'd.

Month	Eastern Cotton						Delta Cotton					
	Area						Area					
	Family:	Hired:	Total:	Index 3/			Family:	Hired:	Total:	Index 3/		
	2/			Family:	Hired:	Total:	2/			Family:	Hired:	Total:
	Thousands						Thousands					
Jan.	619	101	720	44	32	42	570	84	654	52	33	49
Feb.	740	169	909	53	54	53	644	136	780	59	54	58
Mar.	876	242	1,118	62	77	65	787	216	1,003	72	86	75
Apr.	1,099	256	1,355	78	81	79	931	237	1,168	85	94	87
May	1,139	276	1,415	81	88	82	997	263	1,260	91	104	94
June	1,015	437	1,452	72	139	84	868	202	1,070	80	80	80
July	854	330	1,184	61	105	69	726	288	1,014	67	114	76
Aug.	1,121	378	1,499	80	120	87	884	355	1,239	81	141	92
Sept.	1,647	471	2,118	117	150	123	1,346	581	1,927	124	230	144
Oct.	1,517	387	1,904	108	123	111	1,099	439	1,538	101	174	115
Nov.	881	241	1,122	63	77	65	666	202	868	61	80	65
Dec.	493	87	580	35	28	34	495	57	552	45	23	41
Average	1,000	281	1,281	71	89	74	835	255	1,090	77	101	81
	Western Cotton						Small Grain					
	Area						Area					
	Family:	Hired:	Total:	Index 3/			Family:	Hired:	Total:	Index 3/		
	2/			Family:	Hired:	Total:	2/			Family:	Hired:	Total:
Jan.	592	85	677	61	34	56	509	40	549	83	22	69
Feb.	603	81	684	63	32	56	555	50	605	91	28	76
Mar.	684	122	806	71	49	66	590	64	654	96	35	82
Apr.	805	176	981	84	70	81	673	81	754	110	45	95
May	761	233	994	79	93	82	674	103	777	110	57	98
June	679	250	929	70	100	77	663	160	823	108	88	104
July	587	307	894	61	123	74	698	235	933	114	130	117
Aug.	576	310	886	60	124	73	710	181	891	116	100	112
Sept.	749	447	1,196	78	178	99	708	138	846	115	76	107
Oct.	626	306	932	65	122	77	635	97	732	104	54	92
Nov.	549	150	699	57	60	58	552	61	613	90	34	77
Dec.	490	50	540	51	20	44	507	44	551	83	24	69
Average	641	210	851	67	84	70	623	104	727	102	57	92

Continued ---

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed and index numbers, by
type of farming area, 1951 ^{1/} ---Cont'd.

Month	Range Area						Northwestern Area					
	Family:	Hired:	Total:	Index 3/			Family:	Hired:	Total:	Index 3/		
	2/			Family:	Hired:	Total.	2/			Family:	Hired:	Total
	Thousands						Thousands					
Jan.	119	36	155	79	36	61	164	19	183	103	24	77
Feb.	135	42	177	89	42	70	174	27	201	109	35	85
Mar.	146	43	189	97	42	75	186	47	233	117	60	98
Apr.	180	55	235	119	54	93	219	70	289	138	90	122
May	177	97	274	117	96	109	240	93	333	151	119	141
June	178	124	302	118	123	120	240	147	387	151	188	163
July	181	133	314	120	131	124	224	152	376	141	195	159
Aug.	185	145	330	122	143	131	213	134	347	134	172	146
Sept.	194	154	348	128	152	138	220	91	311	138	117	131
Oct.	186	140	326	123	138	129	206	67	273	130	86	115
Nov.	130	95	225	86	94	89	188	37	225	118	47	95
Dec.	119	51	170	79	50	67	168	23	191	106	29	81
Average	161	93	254	106	92	101	203	76	279	128	97	118

^{1/} Corn Area: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa; Eastern Dairy Area: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania; Western Dairy Area: Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota; Middle Eastern Area: Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee; Eastern Cotton Area: South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama; Delta Cotton Area: Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana; Western Cotton Area: Oklahoma and Texas; Small Grain Area: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Montana; Range Area: Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada; and Northwestern Area: Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

^{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/} 1910-1914 = 100.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE - FL - 2/11/52 - 2000
Permit No. 1001

N. Y. STATE COLLEGE OF AGR.
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS LIBRARY
3-24-49
ML-FL ITHACA, N. Y.

<u>IN THIS ISSUE</u>		<u>Page</u>
Text		1 - 2
Definitions and Explanations		3 - 4
Farm employment: Persons employed during week of January 20-26, 1952, United States, with comparisons		5
Farm wage rates: Wage rates, indexes, and related data January 1, 1952, with comparisons		5
Farm employment: Persons employed during week of January 20-26, 1952, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons		6
Farm employment: Persons employed and index numbers by type of farming area, 1951		7 - 9