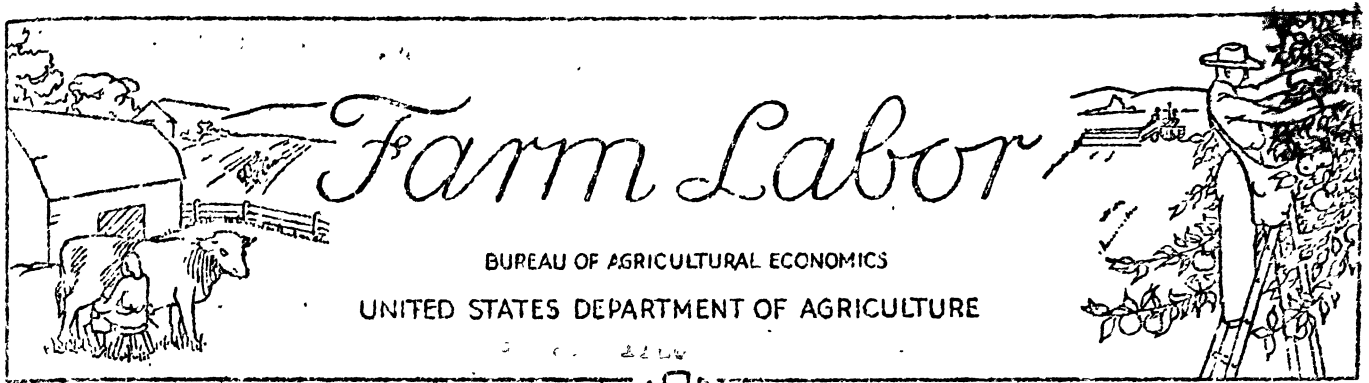




Washington, D. C.

September 10, 1953


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HALF MILLION MORE PEOPLE WORKING ON FARMS

Farm employment, at 11,283,000 during the week of August 23-29, was about a half million more than a month earlier. The increase was entirely in the number of family workers since the number of hired workers was a little less than last month. The number of family workers was up a little more than usual. In comparison with a year ago, total employment was down 1 percent with fewer family workers employed at farm work and a few more hired workers.

Weather was favorable for farm work in most parts of the country during the survey week. There was little or no rain except for a belt along the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida, a section of northern Minnesota, central Arizona and southeastern Utah and the coastal areas of Washington and Oregon. Temperatures were above normal in most of the country east of the Continental Divide and below normal west of this dividing line.

Farm work generally consisted of completing the usual summer jobs and starting those usual to the fall season. Small grain harvest was about finished except in areas along the Canadian Border. Hay making was still spread over most of the country with late hay crops and second or third cuttings being harvested. Cotton picking was starting in the northern part of the Cotton Belt and was in full swing in much of the remainder of the area. In a few of

the areas in the South, cotton picking was about over. Corn harvest had been started in some southern areas but was generally waiting for completion of cotton picking. Preparations for seeding fall grains were fairly general but dry soils in much of the area were delaying work. Some wheat was being planted in the High Plains of Texas and in western Nebraska and Kansas. Other jobs which were of major importance in local areas included harvest of various fruit and vegetable crops.

Farm operators and their hired workers were working about the same number of hours per day this year as they were a year ago. Farm operators averaged 10.8 hours work per day for the country as a whole while the workday for hired workers averaged 9.3 hours. Hours of work per day varied from region to region. Hours of work were generally lowest in the South and highest in the northern dairy sections. Farm operators worked 12.2 hours per day in Wisconsin and their hired workers 10.5 hours while in the South Atlantic States farm operators averaged 10.4 hours work per day and hired farm workers 9.1 hours per day.

Much of the half million increase in the number of people working on farms in the entire country in late August took place in the East South Central States. In this region, farm employment increased 37 percent or nearly a half million from July to August, a little more than usual. Increased employment in cotton picking and somewhat earlier cutting of tobacco in Kentucky and Tennessee were responsible for the change. On a percentage basis, the number of family workers and the number of hired workers each increased about the same. The increase in the number of hired workers was about the same as usual but the increase in the number of family workers was greater than usual. The larger than seasonal increase in family workers is probably due to the early start of tobacco harvest in Kentucky and Tennessee which is largely a family job.

There were also increases in the numbers of persons working on farms in the West South Central, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Pacific States. These increases, however, were much smaller than those in the East South Central States. The largest increase of these was in the West South Central States. It amounted to 9 percent or a little over 100,000 persons. With the exception of the increase in the South Atlantic States, the increases were about usual or a little more. In the South Atlantic States there are usually fewer persons working on farms during late August than in July. This year there were a few more. This change from the usual pattern is probably because of shifts in the seasonal pattern of farm work due to weather conditions.

There were fewer persons at work in the New England, East and West North Central regions. The decreases amounted to a little over 100,000 in each of the North Central Regions. Declines were about the same as usual. In the Mountain States, total employment was about the same as a month ago in contrast to a usual small increase.

The change in the number of family workers from July to August followed about the same pattern as the changes in total employment. The increase in the South Atlantic States, in addition to that in the East South Central States was large. There is usually a fairly large increase in the South Atlantic States at this season but it was larger than usual this year. The decline in the New England States was greater than that in all workers and the increase in the Middle Atlantic States on a percentage basis was less. In the Mountain States there were a few more family workers than a month ago which is the average change. In the Pacific States, the increase in total employment was accounted for by hired workers since the number of family workers, as usual, remained about the same.

The number of hired workers dropped slightly from July to August as usual. Decreases in the East and West North Central, South Atlantic and the Mountain States more than equalled increases in other regions. The decreases were greatest in the North Central and South Atlantic States. Except for the Mountain States, decreases were about the same size as in recent years. In the Mountain States, however, there is usually an increase in the number of hired workers from July to August. Increases in hired employment were slightly greater than the average of recent years in the Middle Atlantic States and less in the Pacific States.

There were slightly fewer persons employed on farms during the survey week in August this year than a year ago for the country as a whole and for most regions. In only the New England and West South Central were there more. This was also true for family workers. There were a few more hired workers employed than a year earlier for the country as a whole. There were increases in the New England, East North Central, West North Central, East South Central and West South Central States. The increases amounted to 5 percent or more in all except the North Central Regions but were not large in actual numbers. Decreases from last year were also small.

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 August 23-29 1953, United States, with comparisons

	: August : average : 1948-52 1/:	: August : : 24-30, : : 1952 : 1953	: July : : 19-25, : : 1953 : 1953	: August : 23-29, : 1953
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons):				
Total	12,147	11,428	10,772	11,283
Family labor	8,676	8,289	7,560	8,098
Hired labor	3,471	3,139	3,212	3,185
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for ; seasonal variation, 1910-14 = 100)				
Total	85	80	79	79
Family labor	88	84	81	82
Hired labor	79	71	74	72

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, : : 1952	: July 1, : : 1952	: April 1, : : 1953	: July 1, : : 1953
FARM WAGE RATES				
Per month with board and room	\$114.00	\$121.00	\$112.00	\$124.00
Per month with house	132.00	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 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 August 23-29, 1953, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	: August : : average : : 1948-52 1/	: July : : 20-26, : : 1952 :	: August : : 24-30, : : 1952 :	: July : : 19-25, : : 1953 :	: August : : 23-29, : : 1953 :
	: Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT					
United States	: 12,117	10,955	11,428	10,772	11,283
New England	: 261	267	256	277	265
Middle Atlantic	: 772	708	748	637	739
East North Central	: 1,681	1,695	1,581	1,673	1,565
West North Central	: 2,091	2,043	1,899	2,006	1,891
South Atlantic	: 2,632	2,481	2,519	2,388	2,436
East South Central	: 1,914	1,337	1,905	1,364	1,862
West South Central	: 1,553	1,320	1,358	1,278	1,394
Mountain	: 508	468	491	458	460
Pacific	: 705	636	671	631	663
FAMILY WORKERS 2/					
United States	: 8,676	7,678	8,259	7,560	8,098
New England	: 171	187	166	190	167
Middle Atlantic	: 516	486	507	437	506
East North Central	: 1,334	1,333	1,275	1,327	1,249
West North Central	: 1,654	1,587	1,543	1,570	1,527
South Atlantic	: 1,914	1,658	1,870	1,567	1,791
East South Central	: 1,447	986	1,423	999	1,357
West South Central	: 1,004	864	917	854	928
Mountain	: 305	281	296	281	288
Pacific	: 301	286	292	285	285
HIRED WORKERS 3/					
United States	: 3,471	3,277	3,139	3,212	3,185
New England	: 90	80	90	87	98
Middle Atlantic	: 256	222	241	200	233
East North Central	: 347	362	306	346	316
West North Central	: 437	446	356	436	364
South Atlantic	: 688	823	649	821	645
East South Central	: 497	351	482	365	505
West South Central	: 549	456	441	424	466
Mountain	: 203	187	195	187	180
Pacific	: 404	350	379	346	378

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 August 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	10,318	10,311	9,974	9,706	9,645
New England	230	228	226	227	228
Middle Atlantic	617	621	606	602	599
East North Central	1,545	1,537	1,505	1,483	1,468
West North Central	1,801	1,798	1,726	1,680	1,681
South Atlantic	2,169	2,168	2,091	2,031	1,983
East South Central	1,566	1,575	1,509	1,455	1,470
West South Central	1,459	1,455	1,409	1,336	1,327
Mountain	390	391	379	373	372
Pacific	541	538	523	519	517
FAMILY WORKERS <u>2/</u>					
United States	8,021	8,023	7,751	7,549	7,457
New England	167	166	162	162	162
Middle Atlantic	461	460	452	451	453
East North Central	1,302	1,294	1,267	1,255	1,242
West North Central	1,537	1,530	1,483	1,446	1,446
South Atlantic	1,631	1,637	1,556	1,520	1,467
East South Central	1,249	1,259	1,204	1,151	1,132
West South Central	1,111	1,115	1,083	1,026	1,020
Mountain	270	270	261	258	257
Pacific	293	292	283	280	278
HIRED WORKERS <u>3/</u>					
United States	2,297	2,288	2,223	2,157	2,188
New England	63	62	64	65	66
Middle Atlantic	156	161	154	151	146
East North Central	243	243	238	228	226
West North Central	264	268	243	234	235
South Atlantic	538	531	535	511	516
East South Central	317	316	305	304	338
West South Central	348	340	326	310	307
Mountain	120	121	118	115	115
Pacific	248	246	240	239	239

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: Length of farm workday for operators and hired workers, September 1, 1951, 1952, and 1953

State and geographic division	Operators			Hired Workers		
	Sept. 1, 1951	Sept. 1, 1952	Sept. 1, 1953	Sept. 1, 1951	Sept. 1, 1952	Sept. 1, 1953
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	11.5	11.4	11.1	8.7	8.9	9.4
New Hampshire	11.5	11.1	10.6	9.5	9.9	9.5
Vermont	12.5	12.0	11.7	10.3	10.3	10.5
Massachusetts	11.3	10.7	11.4	9.4	9.2	9.4
Rhode Island	11.4	11.0	11.0	9.2	9.0	9.5
Connecticut	10.6	10.6	11.1	10.0	10.0	9.5
New England	11.5	11.1	11.2	9.5	9.5	9.7
New York	11.5	11.4	11.3	10.1	9.7	9.8
New Jersey	11.3	11.1	11.1	9.6	9.7	9.1
Pennsylvania	11.8	11.5	11.5	9.4	9.5	9.5
Middle Atlantic	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.7	9.6	9.6
Ohio	10.9	10.9	11.0	9.0	8.8	8.5
Indiana	10.8	10.7	10.4	9.4	8.9	9.0
Illinois	10.8	10.7	10.4	9.7	9.6	9.4
Michigan	11.7	11.6	11.3	9.3	9.4	9.3
Wisconsin	12.7	12.3	12.2	10.8	10.5	10.5
East North Central	11.3	11.2	11.0	9.6	9.5	9.3
Minnesota	11.7	11.7	11.7	10.6	10.2	10.0
Iowa	11.4	11.1	11.1	9.9	9.5	9.5
Missouri	11.4	10.9	10.7	9.3	8.9	9.1
North Dakota	12.4	12.5	12.6	10.9	11.3	11.2
South Dakota	11.9	11.4	11.8	10.2	9.8	10.2
Nebraska	11.8	11.3	11.2	10.0	9.5	9.7
Kansas	11.4	11.4	11.1	9.9	9.7	9.4
West North Central	11.6	11.3	11.3	10.0	9.7	9.7
Delaware	11.0	10.5	10.5	9.5	9.2	9.1
Maryland	11.4	10.9	10.8	9.5	9.5	9.2
Virginia	11.2	10.8	10.5	9.1	8.9	8.9
West Virginia	10.7	10.6	10.5	8.5	8.2	8.2
North Carolina	10.5	10.5	10.3	8.9	8.9	9.3
South Carolina	10.6	10.5	10.7	9.0	9.2	9.2
Georgia	10.5	10.3	10.3	9.6	9.2	9.3
Florida	9.6	9.6	9.7	8.5	8.0	8.8
South Atlantic	10.6	10.5	10.4	9.1	8.9	9.1
Kentucky	10.8	10.5	10.8	9.2	9.2	9.1
Tennessee	10.9	10.8	10.9	9.2	9.2	9.4
Alabama	10.4	10.3	10.4	9.0	9.2	9.2
Mississippi	10.2	10.2	10.3	9.1	9.3	9.2
East South Central	10.6	10.4	10.6	9.1	9.2	9.2
Arkansas	10.3	10.2	10.2	9.2	9.3	9.4
Louisiana	10.0	9.9	10.1	9.2	8.8	8.9
Oklahoma	10.4	10.0	10.5	9.5	9.0	8.9
Texas	10.3	10.2	10.5	9.1	9.6	9.3
West South Central	10.3	10.1	10.4	9.2	9.3	9.2
Montana	11.7	11.5	11.7	10.0	10.1	10.2
Idaho	11.8	11.4	11.5	9.4	9.5	9.4
Wyoming	11.8	11.1	11.2	9.4	9.5	9.6
Colorado	11.5	11.4	11.3	9.6	9.9	9.0
New Mexico	11.1	11.2	11.2	9.6	9.3	9.7
Arizona	10.1	10.3	10.1	8.9	9.4	9.2
Utah	11.0	11.2	10.8	8.0	8.4	8.1
Nevada	11.0	11.2	10.8	8.2	8.4	8.4
Mountain	11.4	11.3	11.2	9.3	9.5	9.3
Washington	10.9	10.5	10.6	9.6	9.3	9.4
Oregon	11.0	11.0	10.5	9.0	9.0	9.0
California	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.1	9.1	9.1
Pacific	10.6	10.4	10.3	9.2	9.1	9.1
UNITED STATES	11.0	10.8	10.8	9.3	9.3	9.3

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