

FARM EMPLOYMENT



**Family and Hired Workers,
Annual Averages :**

**States, 1950-59
United States, 1910-59**

Statistical Bulletin No. 334

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INTRODUCTION

This publication includes revised estimates, by States, of farm employment in the years 1954-59. It also includes estimates by States for the years 1950-53, and national estimates from 1910, the beginning of the series, through 1959. State estimates are not available prior to 1950.

The revisions result primarily from comparisons with published reports of the 1959 Census of Agriculture. The extent of revision varies considerably by States, but, in general, is small except for 1959.

For the years 1959-62, revised monthly estimates by States were published in the March 1963 issue of FARM LABOR. These revisions showed the relationships between the estimates for those years and the continuing State estimates for 1963 which were made on the revised basis. The present publication includes the revised annual averages, by States, for 1959 which were presented in the March 1963 FARM LABOR report. The annual data for the United States for 1910-57 and annual averages, by States, for 1950-57 were formerly published in Statistical Bulletin 236, September 1958. The revised data for 1954-57 in the present publication replace those carried in the above bulletin.

The estimates, which are designated "annual averages" of family, hired, and total farmworkers for each specified year, are the averages of estimates for 12 designated survey weeks in each year. Although the monthly estimates can be made available, the annual averages are usually sufficient, and are usually to be preferred for comparisons involving earlier years.

DEFINITIONS FOR THE SRS EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

The Statistical Reporting Service estimates of farm employment provide measures of the number of persons who are working on farms during stated periods. The basic data have been obtained from questionnaires which have not been sufficiently detailed to show precisely the total labor input on farms.

Family Workers

Farm operators who work on their farms 1 hour or more during survey weeks make up the largest segment of family workers. Farm operators who report no farm work are excluded. Their number is significant in certain seasons and varies considerably by States.

Other members of the farm operator's household are counted as family farmworkers if they work 15 hours or more at farmwork during the survey week without receiving cash wages. No age specification is made, nor is a level of cash wages prescribed. Housework is excluded from consideration as farmwork, either for family workers or hired workers.

The requirement of 15 hours of work per week doubtless excludes many farm children doing 2 hours or less per day of chore-type farmwork.

Hired Workers

Any person who works for pay at farmwork during designated survey weeks is considered a hired worker. Even a small amount of work (as little as an hour, by definition) qualifies one for consideration as a hired worker. However, it is doubtful that many workers are reported who meet merely this minimum specified amount, either in benchmark statistics or in current monthly reports. Farm family members who receive cash wages for any farmwork during the week are considered as hired workers, and not as unpaid family workers, even though they do some work for which they are not paid.

Farmwork includes the tilling of fields, planting and harvesting of crops, and similar activities, and also the care and feeding of livestock and poultry--chores which have long been an almost inescapable part of farm living. Farmwork also includes the repair and maintenance of farm machines and equipment, but excludes work on new capital improvements, such as building construction by persons not doing farmwork. Workers performing such recurring operations as plowing, hay baling, spraying, etc., with machines on a custom basis are considered farmworkers. Time spent in housekeeping and homemaking activities is not counted as farmwork.

Instructions to reporters specify that time spent in marketing, record-keeping, and other phases of farm business management should be included as farmwork.

BASIS AND EXTENT OF REVISIONS

Farm employment estimates have been revised periodically, primarily on the basis of quinquennial Censuses of Agriculture. The 1959 Census provides a major source of data for the current revisions. Other data have also been utilized, as described below.

The 1959 Census of Agriculture gave results of an enumerative survey of about 20 percent of all farms in the United States during the late fall of 1959, using definitions of farmworkers and farmwork virtually identical with those used in the SRS series. The Census enumeration gave by States and counties, for this 20 percent sample, the number of family workers and hired workers employed on farms the week before the enumeration.

The applicability of the Census data for revision of monthly estimates is limited by a number of factors. First, the coverage of farms in the Census is not complete, and the degree of incompleteness is not determined by States. For the United States as a whole, the Bureau of the Census estimated that about 9.5 percent of the farms were missed by the enumeration. ^{1/} Second, the week covered by the Census report varied from farm to farm and area to area. Finally, the date of the Census enumeration, planned to secure final crop production data insofar as possible, occurred after most crop harvesting and other fieldwork was completed in many areas. Consequently, the number of workers, especially short-term or seasonal hired workers, was small in the comparison with the number in more active weeks. Even if the enumeration were made at a busier season, data from the quinquennial Censuses of Agriculture would represent only one somewhat indefinite week in a 5-year period.

Despite these limitations it appears that the Census data for family workers on a per-farm basis are highly useful, and they have been given considerable weight in the revisions. However, the applicability of the Census "benchmark" for a given week to other periods of the year is limited.

^{1/} U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of Agriculture, 1959, General Report, vol. 2, p. XLI.

Additional data for the current revisions were provided by the June enumerative area surveys made by SRS in recent years. These surveys have supplied considerable evidence on the size of the farm working force in 28 States, located principally in the South and the North-Central Regions. They cover the same week in May that is covered by the regular SRS mail survey. The farms enumerated are selected on the basis of area probability samples. The enumerations report the number of farm family members working without receiving cash wages and the number of hired workers. Definitions are the same as used in the published series. The sample was on a pilot basis in most States prior to 1961, and gave an insufficient basis for State estimates, but was expanded to give more reliable estimates in 1961, the latest year for which these data were available at the time of making the current revisions. They provide a useful comparison for a spring period as contrasted with the Census late fall data.

Another source of data was the State Employment Security agencies which provided estimates of the number of seasonal hired workers for specified periods. In States where the number of seasonal farmworkers is a large part of the total, these Employment Security data are highly significant.

As a result of the large seasonal differences in number of farmworkers, which are not reflected in Census figures, and because of possible differences between years not covered by Census data, the revisions made were somewhat limited in number and extent. The most extensive revisions were in the estimates (presented in the March 1963 issue of FARM LABOR) for 1959 and later years, and for the fall survey weeks nearest the date of the Census enumeration.

The revisions in the national estimates were relatively small. Estimates of total workers were changed less than 1 percent for all years in the 1954-62 period except 1961, for which the revision amounted to 1 percent. Family worker totals were revised downward slightly for most years, but for only 2 years, 1960 and 1961, did revisions amount to as much as 1.5 percent. The estimates of total hired workers were increased slightly for all years with a maximum increase of 1.6 percent. The State-by-State review of monthly estimates for the 9-year period, however, produced changes in slightly over a tenth of the monthly estimates, of which a majority were for the years 1959-62. For hired workers, changes were made in a fifth of the monthly estimates, nearly two-thirds of which were for the years 1959-62.

Table 1.--Annual averages and indexes of total, family, and hired farm workers, United States, 1910-1959

Year	Total workers		Family workers		Hired workers	
	Average number of persons	Index 1957-59=100	Average number of persons	Index 1957-59=100	Average number of persons	Index 1957-59=100
	Thousands		Thousands		Thousands	
1910	13,555	181	10,174	184	3,381	173
1911	13,539	181	10,169	184	3,370	172
1912	13,559	181	10,162	184	3,397	173
1913	13,572	181	10,158	184	3,414	174
1914	13,580	182	10,147	184	3,433	175
1915	13,592	182	10,140	184	3,452	176
1916	13,632	182	10,144	184	3,488	178
1917	13,568	181	10,121	183	3,447	176
1918	13,391	179	10,053	182	3,338	170
1919	13,243	177	9,968	180	3,275	167
1920	13,432	180	10,041	182	3,391	173
1921	13,398	179	10,001	181	3,397	173
1922	13,337	178	9,936	180	3,401	174
1923	13,162	176	9,798	177	3,364	172
1924	13,031	174	9,705	176	3,326	170
1925	13,036	174	9,715	176	3,321	170
1926	12,976	173	9,526	172	3,450	176
1927	12,642	169	9,278	168	3,364	172
1928	12,691	170	9,340	169	3,351	171
1929	12,763	171	9,360	169	3,403	174
1930	12,497	167	9,307	168	3,190	163
1931	12,745	170	9,642	175	3,103	158
1932	12,816	171	9,922	180	2,894	148
1933	12,739	170	9,874	179	2,865	146
1934	12,627	169	9,765	177	2,862	146
1935	12,733	170	9,855	178	2,878	147
1936	12,331	165	9,350	169	2,981	152
1937	11,973	160	9,054	164	2,924	149
1938	11,622	155	8,815	160	2,807	143
1939	11,338	152	8,611	156	2,727	139
1940	10,979	147	8,300	150	2,679	137
1941	10,669	143	8,017	145	2,652	135
1942	10,504	140	7,949	144	2,555	130
1943	10,446	140	8,010	145	2,436	124
1944	10,219	137	7,988	145	2,231	114
1945	10,000	134	7,881	143	2,119	108
1946	10,295	138	8,106	147	2,189	112
1947	10,382	139	8,115	147	2,267	116
1948	10,363	139	8,026	145	2,337	119
1949	9,964	133	7,712	140	2,252	115
1950	9,926	133	7,597	138	2,329	119
1951	9,546	128	7,310	132	2,236	114
1952	9,149	122	7,005	127	2,144	109
1953	8,864	118	6,775	123	2,089	107
1954	8,651	116	6,570	119	2,081	106
1955	8,381	112	6,345	115	2,036	104
1956	7,852	105	5,900	107	1,952	100
1957	7,600	102	5,660	102	1,940	99
1958	7,503	100	5,521	100	1,982	101
1959	7,342	98	5,390	98	1,952	100

Table 2.--Annual average number of total workers on farms, by States, 1950-59 ^{1/}

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Maine	58	58	54	57	56
New Hampshire	22	21	20	19	19
Vermont	43	42	42	41	39
Massachusetts	58	57	56	54	50
Rhode Island	4	4	4	4	5
Connecticut	34	34	31	32	33
New England	219	216	207	207	202
New York	248	241	232	221	213
New Jersey	66	65	61	58	59
Pennsylvania	302	289	281	270	261
Middle Atlantic	616	595	574	549	533
Ohio	320	317	308	305	298
Indiana	291	287	279	271	271
Illinois	340	331	327	317	307
Michigan	271	269	269	261	260
Wisconsin	346	338	338	333	329
E. North Central	1,568	1,542	1,521	1,487	1,465
Minnesota	364	350	340	332	331
Iowa	346	336	330	336	327
Missouri	397	372	350	338	326
North Dakota	128	125	121	119	117
South Dakota	124	122	117	113	110
Nebraska	198	188	182	179	173
Kansas	222	212	206	199	194
W. North Central	1,779	1,705	1,646	1,616	1,578
Delaware	19	17	16	15	14
Maryland	82	79	74	73	68
Virginia	283	264	258	242	240
West Virginia	120	117	111	103	100
North Carolina	590	580	558	532	530
South Carolina	291	277	258	248	230
Georgia	320	299	281	260	248
Florida	107	105	106	108	119
South Atlantic	1,812	1,738	1,662	1,581	1,549
Kentucky	333	319	301	288	284
Tennessee	363	333	315	301	297
Alabama	277	253	236	224	211
Mississippi	459	424	389	373	354
E. South Central	1,432	1,329	1,241	1,186	1,146
Arkansas	356	343	310	287	278
Louisiana	213	200	196	194	189
Oklahoma	255	247	235	231	207
Texas	583	567	515	509	504
W. South Central	1,407	1,357	1,256	1,221	1,178
Montana	64	62	61	60	60
Idaho	81	78	75	71	71
Wyoming	26	26	25	25	23
Colorado	92	86	82	80	76
New Mexico	59	53	56	52	47
Arizona	47	47	50	49	50
Utah	43	42	41	41	40
Nevada	6	6	6	6	6
Mountain	418	400	396	384	373
Washington	143	141	135	133	135
Oregon	119	113	112	108	106
California	413	410	399	392	386
Pacific	675	664	646	633	627
United States	9,926	9,546	9,149	8,864	8,651

^{1/} Average number of persons employed in one survey week each month - the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Table 2.--Annual average number of total workers on farms, by States, 1950-59 ^{1/} -Continued

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Maine	51	48	48	49	34
New Hampshire	17	16	16	16	13
Vermont	35	36	34	33	30
Massachusetts	48	44	42	42	38
Rhode Island	5	4	4	4	4
Connecticut	32	31	29	28	26
New England	188	179	173	172	145
New York	200	185	179	181	172
New Jersey	58	53	51	50	45
Pennsylvania	244	226	214	213	205
Middle Atlantic	502	464	444	444	422
Ohio	289	275	264	252	246
Indiana	264	249	237	232	227
Illinois	293	277	266	263	254
Michigan	252	239	234	232	228
Wisconsin	326	319	306	309	298
E. North Central	1,424	1,359	1,307	1,288	1,253
Minnesota	326	298	285	282	279
Iowa	316	295	296	297	295
Missouri	323	302	293	295	280
North Dakota	110	106	100	100	95
South Dakota	106	100	100	98	95
Nebraska	171	161	159	158	160
Kansas	185	170	166	171	169
W. North Central	1,537	1,432	1,399	1,401	1,373
Delaware	13	13	13	13	12
Maryland	65	62	63	60	59
Virginia	232	216	210	203	194
West Virginia	92	81	77	76	75
North Carolina	519	476	455	438	436
South Carolina	235	222	216	204	201
Georgia	234	212	208	197	197
Florida	119	118	130	131	127
South Atlantic	1,509	1,400	1,372	1,322	1,301
Kentucky	275	250	248	248	243
Tennessee	283	271	266	259	264
Alabama	200	176	167	164	165
Mississippi	340	323	294	274	266
E. South Central	1,098	1,020	975	945	938
Arkansas	275	245	225	232	220
Louisiana	182	162	156	157	162
Oklahoma	198	182	166	169	165
Texas	491	445	444	429	431
W. South Central	1,146	1,034	991	987	978
Montana	57	57	54	54	51
Idaho	70	69	68	69	68
Wyoming	22	22	21	22	21
Colorado	74	71	70	68	66
New Mexico	47	47	43	44	42
Arizona	50	52	51	54	49
Utah	39	37	36	37	35
Nevada	6	6	6	5	5
Mountain	365	361	349	353	337
Washington	128	123	120	123	120
Oregon	103	100	97	95	96
California	381	380	373	373	379
Pacific	612	603	590	591	595
United States	8,381	7,852	7,600	7,503	7,342

^{1/} Average number of persons employed in one survey week each month - the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Table 3.--Annual average number of family workers on farms, by States, 1950-59 1/

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Maine	35	34	32	32	31
New Hampshire	17	15	14	14	14
Vermont	32	30	30	29	28
Massachusetts	36	34	33	33	30
Rhode Island	3	3	3	3	4
Connecticut	25	25	24	24	23
New England	143	141	136	135	130
New York	159	155	149	145	142
New Jersey	37	37	36	34	35
Pennsylvania	235	226	220	211	206
Middle Atlantic	431	418	405	390	383
Ohio	274	271	265	261	254
Indiana	258	253	247	240	239
Illinois	273	264	265	261	249
Michigan	224	222	221	217	216
Wisconsin	302	296	297	295	292
E. North Central	1,331	1,306	1,295	1,274	1,250
Minnesota	310	298	291	285	284
Iowa	298	291	287	291	284
Missouri	329	309	295	288	276
North Dakota	99	98	97	96	93
South Dakota	108	107	103	98	96
Nebraska	170	162	158	155	150
Kansas	190	183	176	171	167
W. North Central	1,504	1,448	1,407	1,384	1,350
Delaware	10	10	10	9	8
Maryland	54	52	49	49	44
Virginia	214	200	195	183	180
West Virginia	101	96	93	87	84
North Carolina	485	477	458	432	424
South Carolina	216	204	189	182	171
Georgia	251	233	215	198	189
Florida	64	59	58	57	56
South Atlantic	1,395	1,331	1,267	1,197	1,156
Kentucky	277	266	248	239	233
Tennessee	298	275	260	244	237
Alabama	236	213	196	182	170
Mississippi	381	354	318	300	284
E. South Central	1,192	1,108	1,022	965	924
Arkansas	242	232	213	195	186
Louisiana	145	141	133	130	125
Oklahoma	205	201	192	189	171
Texas	392	388	356	348	339
W. South Central	984	962	894	862	821
Montana	48	45	45	45	43
Idaho	55	54	53	52	51
Wyoming	17	17	17	17	16
Colorado	66	62	60	61	56
New Mexico	32	29	29	29	28
Arizona	14	14	13	12	12
Utah	31	31	30	29	29
Nevada	4	4	4	4	4
Mountain	267	256	251	249	239
Washington	97	97	92	91	92
Oregon	82	79	79	77	75
California	166	164	157	151	150
Pacific	345	340	328	319	317
United States	7,597	7,310	7,005	6,775	6,570

1/ Average number of persons employed in one survey week each month - the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Table 3.--Annual average number of family workers on farms, by States, 1950-59 1/-Continued
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Maine	27	26	24	24	22
New Hampshire	12	12	11	11	10
Vermont	25	25	24	23	22
Massachusetts	29	27	26	26	23
Rhode Island	4	3	3	3	3
Connecticut	22	21	19	19	17
New England	119	114	107	106	97
New York	136	123	116	116	112
New Jersey	34	31	31	28	25
Pennsylvania	195	182	174	172	166
Middle Atlantic	365	336	321	316	303
Ohio	246	234	226	212	209
Indiana	234	220	209	203	200
Illinois	237	225	214	211	205
Michigan	210	199	192	190	184
Wisconsin	291	285	274	277	268
E. North Central	1,218	1,163	1,115	1,093	1,066
Minnesota	282	254	245	243	239
Iowa	275	258	256	257	256
Missouri	274	259	250	248	238
North Dakota	88	84	79	78	75
South Dakota	93	88	86	85	83
Nebraska	149	140	136	134	136
Kansas	160	148	143	144	143
W. North Central	1,321	1,231	1,195	1,189	1,170
Delaware	8	8	8	8	7
Maryland	41	40	41	39	39
Virginia	174	161	156	146	138
West Virginia	77	67	64	63	62
North Carolina	414	370	348	329	328
South Carolina	169	155	150	137	135
Georgia	176	155	156	145	143
Florida	55	55	56	55	50
South Atlantic	1,114	1,011	979	922	902
Kentucky	227	203	200	199	196
Tennessee	224	214	209	202	204
Alabama	158	138	133	129	126
Mississippi	273	257	231	211	196
E. South Central	882	812	773	741	722
Arkansas	179	156	145	139	130
Louisiana	121	101	97	96	98
Oklahoma	161	150	138	134	132
Texas	323	293	281	275	269
W. South Central	784	700	661	644	629
Montana	41	42	39	39	38
Idaho	50	49	47	48	47
Wyoming	15	15	14	15	14
Colorado	54	54	51	50	49
New Mexico	26	27	24	24	22
Arizona	12	11	10	11	11
Utah	29	27	26	26	25
Nevada	4	4	4	3	3
Mountain	231	229	215	216	209
Washington	88	85	80	82	79
Oregon	73	71	67	66	66
California	150	148	147	146	147
Pacific	311	304	294	294	292
United States	6,345	5,900	5,660	5,521	5,390

1/ Average number of persons employed in one survey week each month - the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Table 4.--Annual average number of hired workers on farms, by States, 1950-59 ^{1/}

(Thousands of persons)

State and division	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Maine	23	24	22	25	25
New Hampshire	5	6	6	5	5
Vermont	11	12	12	12	11
Massachusetts	22	23	23	21	20
Rhode Island	1	1	1	1	1
Connecticut	9	9	7	8	10
New England	71	75	71	72	72
New York	89	86	83	76	71
New Jersey	29	28	25	24	24
Pennsylvania	67	63	61	59	55
Middle Atlantic	185	177	169	159	150
Ohio	46	46	43	44	44
Indiana	33	34	32	31	32
Illinois	67	67	62	56	58
Michigan	47	47	48	44	44
Wisconsin	44	42	41	38	37
E. North Central	237	236	226	213	215
Minnesota	54	52	49	47	47
Iowa	48	45	43	45	43
Missouri	68	63	55	50	50
North Dakota	29	27	24	23	24
South Dakota	16	15	14	15	14
Nebraska	28	26	24	24	23
Kansas	32	29	30	28	27
W. North Central	275	257	239	232	228
Delaware	9	7	6	6	6
Maryland	28	27	25	24	24
Virginia	69	64	63	59	60
West Virginia	19	21	18	16	16
North Carolina	105	103	100	100	106
South Carolina	75	73	69	66	59
Georgia	69	66	66	62	59
Florida	43	46	48	51	63
South Atlantic	417	407	395	384	393
Kentucky	56	53	53	49	51
Tennessee	65	58	55	57	60
Alabama	41	40	40	42	41
Mississippi	78	70	71	73	70
E. South Central	240	221	219	221	222
Arkansas	114	111	97	92	92
Louisiana	68	59	63	64	64
Oklahoma	50	46	43	42	36
Texas	191	179	159	161	165
W. South Central	423	395	362	359	357
Montana	16	17	16	15	17
Idaho	26	24	22	19	20
Wyoming	9	9	8	8	7
Colorado	26	24	22	19	20
New Mexico	27	24	27	23	19
Arizona	33	33	37	37	38
Utah	12	11	11	12	11
Nevada	2	2	2	2	2
Mountain	151	144	145	135	134
Washington	46	44	43	42	43
Oregon	37	34	33	31	31
California	247	246	242	241	236
Pacific	330	324	318	314	310
United States	2,329	2,236	2,144	2,089	2,081

^{1/} Average number of persons employed in one survey week each month - the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Table 4.--Annual average number of hired workers on farms, by States, 1950-59 1/-Continued
(Thousands of persons)

State and division	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Maine	24	22	24	25	12
New Hampshire	5	4	5	5	3
Vermont	10	11	10	10	8
Massachusetts	19	17	16	16	15
Rhode Island	1	1	1	1	1
Connecticut	10	10	10	9	9
New England	69	65	66	66	48
New York	64	62	63	65	60
New Jersey	24	22	20	22	20
Pennsylvania	49	44	40	41	39
Middle Atlantic	137	128	123	128	119
Ohio	43	41	38	40	37
Indiana	30	29	28	29	27
Illinois	56	52	52	52	49
Michigan	42	40	42	42	44
Wisconsin	35	34	32	32	30
E. North Central	206	196	192	195	187
Minnesota	44	44	40	39	40
Iowa	41	37	40	40	39
Missouri	49	43	43	47	42
North Dakota	22	22	21	22	20
South Dakota	13	12	14	13	12
Nebraska	22	21	23	24	24
Kansas	25	22	23	27	26
W. North Central	216	201	204	212	203
Delaware	5	5	5	5	5
Maryland	24	22	22	21	20
Virginia	58	55	54	57	56
West Virginia	15	14	13	13	13
North Carolina	105	106	107	109	108
South Carolina	66	67	66	67	66
Georgia	58	57	52	52	54
Florida	64	63	74	76	77
South Atlantic	395	389	393	400	399
Kentucky	48	47	48	49	47
Tennessee	59	57	57	57	60
Alabama	42	38	34	35	39
Mississippi	67	66	63	63	70
E. South Central	216	208	202	204	216
Arkansas	96	89	80	93	90
Louisiana	61	61	59	61	64
Oklahoma	37	32	28	35	33
Texas	168	152	163	154	162
W. South Central	362	334	330	343	349
Montana	16	15	15	15	13
Idaho	20	20	21	21	21
Wyoming	7	7	7	7	7
Colorado	20	17	19	18	17
New Mexico	21	20	19	20	20
Arizona	38	41	41	43	38
Utah	10	10	10	11	10
Nevada	2	2	2	2	2
Mountain	134	132	134	137	128
Washington	40	38	40	41	41
Oregon	30	29	30	29	30
California	231	232	226	227	232
Pacific	301	299	296	297	303
United States	2,036	1,952	1,940	1,982	1,952

1/ Average number of persons employed in one survey week each month - the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.