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A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE 1965 FARM WAGE FORCE

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HIGHLIGHTS

The 3.1 million persons comprising the hired farm work force in 1965 had a median family income of \$2,900, less than half the average family income of all persons in the United States. The poorest farm wage workers were nonwhite, aged 55 and over, with no more than a grade school education. Those with the highest family incomes were high school graduates, white persons, and households with teenagers. Geographic region was importantly related to family income. Because of the lower wages prevailing in the South, where a large proportion of nonwhite farm workers reside, family income in the South averaged about half that of residents of the North and West.

Seasonality of agricultural work contributes significantly to the low income of hired farmworkers. In 1965, nearly half of all hired farmworkers were employed less than 25 days on any one job, and only about one-fifth worked 150 days or more on a single farm. Daily farm earnings averaged \$7.55, or \$650 for a typical work year of 85 days.

In 1965, 2 1/2 million persons, or four-fifths of all paid farmworkers, did seasonal work. They differed sharply in personal characteristics from regular farmworkers in that the majority were women and teenagers. Approximately three-tenths of the total were youngsters employed during summer vacations from school.

Males, 18 and over, made up nine-tenths of the regular farm work force. Youngsters aged 14 through 17 and women 18 and over accounted for the remainder. While sex and age were directly related to length of work year, migratory status and color were not. Migrants and nonmigrants had roughly equal work periods, as did white and nonwhite workers for each sex.

The 1.1 million heads of household supplied seven-tenths of the agricultural wage force which is employed on a more or less permanent and year-round basis. Because of their responsibility for providing the main share of the family income, these workers had the strongest attachment to the agricultural labor force. Four-fifths of the heads of household were either working or looking for work most of the year.

About two-fifths of the farm wage force combined farmwork with some off-farm employment during 1965. Persons who did such

nonfarmwork were more apt to be white than persons who worked exclusively on farms. Among males, age had a bearing on incidence of nonfarmwork in that the youngest workers (14-17) and adults aged 25 and over were less likely to work off the farm during the year than young adult males. Young men aged 18 to 24 were the only group of farmworkers among whom nonfarm employment predominated.

Persons employed at both farm and nonfarm jobs earned an average annual wage of \$1,486, almost double the earnings of persons employed exclusively on the farm (\$805). Among persons who worked in both the farm and nonfarm economy, the major duration of work was at the nonfarm job, for all groups except farm residents.

The provision of free housing to the hired farmworker and his family as part payment for labor is an intrinsic feature of the wage system in hired farmwork. In 1965, one-fifth of all farm wage workers lived in rent-free living quarters, usually on farms. Although migratory farmworkers are often housed without charge on the road, only about one-tenth lived in rent-free housing at the home base. A large majority of farmworkers with rent-free housing had poverty-level family incomes; about half were nonwhite.

Slightly more than two-fifths of all farm wage workers owned their homes. White farm wage workers (the highest income group) were twice as likely to be homeowners as nonwhite workers.

Educational attainment is directly related to the level of earnings and family income of hired farmworkers. In 1965, the average farm laborer had completed only the eighth grade, while the average worker in the total labor force was a high school graduate. The farm wage worker with some high school training was more likely to have had some nonfarm employment during the year, worked a longer period at nonfarmwork, and earned higher daily wages than the worker who had not progressed beyond grade school.

A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE 1965 FARM WAGE FORCE

By

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Economic Development Division

Economic Research Service

INTRODUCTION

The Problem

The period since the end of World War II has been marked by rising prosperity and by increasing employment in almost every major industry except agriculture. Within agriculture, sweeping advances in technology have led to a decreasing number of jobs and to considerable unemployment and underemployment for those displaced by laborsaving innovations. Moreover, wages and working conditions in agriculture contrast sharply with those in other industries.

Although there is growing public concern over poverty and underemployment in the agricultural sector, meaningful programs and policies to raise incomes and improve working conditions of the farm labor force cannot be adequately formulated without sufficient information. Data are needed on the number and personal characteristics of hired farm workers; their wages, hours, and duration of employment; the strength of their desire to obtain work as evidenced by the extent they seek it; the period of time during the year that they wish to work; their motivation to change their occupation or to leave the geographic area in which they live for better jobs elsewhere; and the level of their skills and other qualifications for available jobs.

and economic characteristics of hired farmworkers. Data are also evaluated on the social characteristics of farm wage workers (their household status, age, sex, race, education, and tenure of housing) and on factors affecting their economic situation, such as extent of participation in the labor force, type of work, wages, length of work year, and family income.

Basis of Report

The Bureau of the Census, through a continuing program known as the Current Population Survey, surveys a sample of the population monthly. Once a year, generally in December, the Economic Research Service contracts for special questions to be added to the survey for persons who have done hired farmwork at any time during the year. The basic data on employment and earnings obtained from this survey are published by the Economic Research Service in its annual report on the hired farm working force. Additional special reports covering specific aspects of the hired farm working force are published from time to time. Information utilized in this study was derived from the Current Population Survey of December 1965. 1/

This report partially fills the informational gap by developing a profile of the basic social

1/ For further information on the Current Population Survey, see Explanatory Note, p. 35.

Table 1.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers and all workers 14 years of age and over, by selected characteristics, United States, 1965

Selected characteristics	All workers in the U. S. <u>2/</u>		Farm wage workers	
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	86,186	100	3,128	100
Sex:				
Male	52,419	61	2,205	70
Female	33,767	39	923	30
Color:				
White	76,599	89	2,205	70
Nonwhite	9,587	11	923	30
Males:				
White	47,136	90	1,707	77
Nonwhite	5,283	10	498	23
Female:				
White	29,463	87	498	54
Nonwhite	4,304	13	426	46
Age:				
14 - 17 years	5,886	7	940	30
18 - 24	14,674	17	665	21
25 - 54	50,169	58	1,126	36
55 and over	15,457	18	397	13
Residence: <u>1/</u>				
Farm	4,846	7	932	30
Nonfarm	63,297	93	2,196	70
Geographic region: <u>1/</u>				
North	37,909	56	845	27
South	19,591	29	1,609	51
West	10,643	15	673	22

1/ Data for the U.S. civilian labor force are from the 1960 Census of Population, Volume PC (1) 1 D, U.S., tables 194 and 251.

2/ Except where indicated, data are from Work Experience of the Population in 1965. In Monthly Labor Review, December 1966. Reprinted as Spec. Labor Force Rpt. 76.

Table 2.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers, by color, age, and sex, 1965

Color and age	Male			Female		
	Number	Percentage of total	Percentage by color	Number	Percentage of total	Percentage by color
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.
Total workers	2,205	100	---	923	100	---
White	1,707	77	100	498	54	100
14 - 17	556	25	33	153	17	31
18 - 54	925	42	54	314	34	63
55 and over	226	10	13	31	3	6
Nonwhite	497	23	100	426	46	100
14 - 17	134	6	27	97	11	23
18 - 54	280	13	56	272	29	64
55 and over	83	4	17	56	6	13

Farmworkers are more likely to be farm residents than the total work force; about three in 10 lived on farms in 1965. In 1960, less than a tenth of the total work force were farm residents (tables 3 and 4). However, although a substantial proportion of farmworkers still live on farms, their type of residence has changed sharply since the end of World War II. In the mid-1940's seven workers in 10 lived on farms, but with the numerous changes affecting agriculture and the consequent rapid off-farm movement of the population, hired farmworkers have become primarily nonfarm residents. Farm residence was not significantly related to age,

sex, or color. Approximately the same proportion of males and females, and of white and nonwhite workers, live on farms. Similarly, teenage farmworkers were as likely to be living on farms as older workers.

Although the color, age, geographic area, and farm or nonfarm residence of hired farmworkers differed to a marked degree from those of all workers, the sex distribution did not. Proportionately, there were nearly as many women working as farm laborers as there were women in the total work force.

Table 3.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers, by residence, age, and sex, 1965

Residence and age	Male			Female		
	Number	Percentage of total	Percentage by residence	Number	Percentage of total	Percentage by residence
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.
Total workers	2,205	100	---	923	100	---
Farm	685	31	100	247	27	100
14 - 17	170	8	25	66	7	27
18 - 54	413	19	60	141	16	57
55 and over	102	4	15	40	4	16
Nonfarm	1,520	69	100	675	73	100
14 - 17	519	24	34	184	20	27
18 - 54	793	36	52	445	48	66
55 and over	208	9	14	46	5	7

Table 4.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers, by color, residence, and sex, 1965

Color and residence	Male			Female		
	Number	Percentage of total	Percentage by color	Number	Percentage of total	Percentage by color
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.
Total workers	2,205	100	---	923	100	---
White	1,707	77	100	498	54	100
Farm	504	23	30	122	13	24
Nonfarm	1,203	54	70	376	41	76
Nonwhite	498	23	100	426	46	100
Farm	181	8	36	125	14	29
Nonfarm	317	15	64	300	32	71

Regular and Seasonal Workers

Because of the diverse groups represented among farm wage workers, the amount of farmwork performed varied sharply from one group to another. For some wage workers, farmwork represented only a few days' employment at one time during the year, or for two or three different but brief work periods; for others, farmwork was the main occupation and provided year-round employment. These two groups of workers are referred to as seasonal and regular workers, according to the number of days spent at paid farmwork during the year.

Number of Workers

The seasonal workers, who numbered about 2 1/2 million in 1965 (four-fifths of all paid farmworkers), worked less than 150 days during the year (table 5). About half worked less than 25 days and the remainder 25 to 149 days. Persons with such short-term employment (an average of 36 days during the year) are hired to meet the seasonal needs of agricultural production, principally around harvest-time or for certain preharvest activities such as thinning and weeding.

Persons employed in agriculture 150 days or more during the year are termed regular workers. About 70 percent of these persons worked on only one farm. In 1965, there were about 660,000 regular workers who averaged 269 days of paid farmwork for the year. In some instances, migratory workers obtained

enough jobs to piece together at least 150 days of farmwork for the year.

Selected Characteristics

Seasonal and regular workers differed significantly from one another in ways other than duration of employment. Women and young people accounted for six-tenths of all seasonal farmworkers. Youngsters aged 14 through 17 years comprised 37 percent of the seasonal workers, with boys outnumbering girls nearly 3 to 1. Women, 18 years of age and over, accounted for another 25 percent, and men, 18 and over, for 38 percent of the seasonal work force.

The composition of the regular work force was markedly unlike the seasonal work force. Males 18 and over predominated to the extent of comprising fully nine-tenths of the regular workers. Youngsters 14 through 17 and women aged 18 and over accounted for the remaining one-tenth of the regular workers. Young men (18-24) represented about 15 percent of both short-term and long-term workers.

Household status was closely related to length of farm employment as well as to sex and age. Heads of household accounted for nearly three-quarters of all regular workers, but only one-quarter of the seasonal workers. Wives and children under 18 were scarce among the regular workers (one-tenth), but comprised half the seasonal workers.

Regular and seasonal workers differed also with respect to type of residence. The

Table 5.--Number and percentage distribution of seasonal and regular farm wage workers grouped by number of days employed at farm wage work, selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Farm wage workers		Days employed at farm wage work		
	Number	Percentage of total	Seasonal workers		Regular workers
			Less than 25 days	25-149 days	150 days and over
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
Total workers	3,128	100	1,264	1,204	661
Household relationship:			Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Head	1,147	37	27	27	72
Spouse	415	13	16	16	4
Other relative under 18 years	915	29	39	32	5
Other member of household	651	21	18	25	19
Sex and color:					
Male, white	1,707	54	50	52	68
Female, white	498	16	21	17	5
Male, nonwhite	497	16	13	14	25
Female, nonwhite	426	14	16	17	2
Sex and age:					
Male	2,205	70	63	66	93
14-17 years	690	22	28	25	6
18-24	477	15	14	15	17
25-54	728	23	14	18	51
55 and over	310	10	7	8	19
Female	923	30	37	34	7
14-17 years	250	8	12	8	1/
18-24	188	6	8	7	2
25-54	398	13	14	16	4
55 and over	87	3	3	3	1
Residence:					
Farm	932	30	23	29	44
Nonfarm	2,196	70	77	71	56
Geographic region:					
North	845	27	30	24	27
South	1,609	51	50	54	48
West	673	22	20	22	25
Migratory status:					
Migrant	466	15	13	17	14
Nonmigrant	2,662	85	87	83	86

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 7.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers who headed their respective households, by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	1,147	100
Age and sex:		
Male	1,036	90
14 - 17 years:	7	1
18 - 54	758	66
55 and over	271	23
Female	111	10
14 - 17 years:	---	---
18 - 54	72	6
55 and over	39	4
Sex and color:		
Male	1,036	90
White	789	69
Nonwhite	247	21
Female	111	10
White	44	4
Nonwhite	67	6
Type of residence:		
Farm	364	32
Nonfarm	784	68
Chief activity during year:		
Farm wage work	553	48
Nonfarmwork	282	25
Other in labor force	118	10
Not in labor force	194	17

household members. Four-fifths of the wives were occupied in keeping house for a major part of the year, so their farmwork was brief. Only one-tenth did hired farmwork as their chief activity for the year.

Women who were classified as the wife of the head of the house were for the most part the same women whose chief activity was keeping house. Each group--wives and housekeepers--contained about the same number of persons and had roughly the same socio-economic characteristics. As with female farm wage workers generally, this category included a high proportion of nonwhites. The majority were younger than the household heads, with nearly 90 per-

Table 8.--Number and percentage distribution of female farm wage workers who were married to the head of their household, by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	415	100
Age:		
14 - 17 years	11	3
18 - 54 years	370	89
55 and over	34	8
Color and type of residence:		
White	242	58
Farm	55	13
Nonfarm	188	45
Nonwhite	173	42
Farm	58	14
Nonfarm	115	28
Chief activity during year:		
Farm wage work	42	10
Nonfarmwork	23	5
Other in labor force	11	3
Not in labor force	339	82

cent between the ages of 18 and 54, compared with only 70 percent of the heads. They were also primarily nonfarm residents, with only one-quarter living on farms.

There were some differences between these two groups of farmworkers. Some of the wives were working during most of the year, but none of the housekeepers were employed. Furthermore, among the housekeepers were persons who were single or married to someone other than the household head. A few of the housekeepers were males.

Teenagers.--Nearly a million persons, or about three-tenths of all farm wage workers, were youngsters aged 14 through 17 who were living at home when the survey was conducted. They are classified in table 9 on the basis of their relationship to the head of the household. These teenage workers are essentially the same persons who are classified in table 21 according to their major activity, attending school. One area of difference between teenagers and students is age: the student farmworkers included nearly a quarter of a million persons who were 18 years of age and over. Another difference is that the students, by definition, were out of the

Table 9.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers under 18 who were related to the head of their household, by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage distribution
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	915	100
Sex and color:		
Male	675	100
White	541	80
Nonwhite	134	20
Female	240	100
White	144	60
Nonwhite	96	40
Sex and type of residence:		
Male	675	74
Farm	162	18
Nonfarm	513	56
Female	240	26
Farm	66	7
Nonfarm	173	19
Chief activity during year:		
Farm wage work	29	3
Nonfarmwork	7	1
Other in labor force	21	2
Not in labor force	858	94

labor force most of the year attending school, while some of the teenagers were working. Finally, although all of the teenage farm wage workers were living at home with their parents, some of the students may have been living elsewhere.

In other respects, similar characteristics prevailed in both groups of young workers. Half a million persons in each category, or about half of the total, were white males aged 14 through 17. Nonwhite males accounted for approximately 150,000 persons in each group; white girls also numbered about 150,000, and nonwhite girls about 100,000.

The sex ratio among students and teenagers was three males to one female. This is somewhere between the extreme sex ratios representative of adult workers, depending on their chief labor force activity during the year.

The color ratio for students and teenagers, as with all farm wage workers, varied

primarily by sex, with females in every farm-worker category having a larger proportion of nonwhites than males. In the case of students and teenagers, one-fifth of the males were nonwhite, compared with two-fifths of the females.

Other members of household--Slightly over 600,000 farm wage workers resided in households in which they were the children (18 years of age and over) of the household head, adult relatives other than the wife or child of the head, or persons living with others not related to them (table 10). More than half of these workers were white adult males.

Half of the persons in the category, others members of household, were out of the labor force most of the year. This was a surprisingly large proportion since only one-quarter were adult women and teenagers, the

Table 10.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers whose relationship to the head of their household was other than wife or relative under 18, by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage distribution
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	651	100
Sex and age:		
Male	494	100
14 - 17 years	8	2
18 - 54	447	90
55 and over	38	8
Female	157	100
14 - 17 years	---	---
18 - 54	144	91
55 and over	14	9
Sex and color:		
Male	494	100
White	377	76
Nonwhite	177	18
Female	157	24
White	67	10
Nonwhite	90	14
Type of residence:		
Farm	228	35
Nonfarm	423	65
Chief activity during year:		
Farm wage work	185	28
Nonfarmwork	77	12
Other in labor force	81	13
Not in labor force	308	47

principal nonworker groups. The low labor force participation rate of the group suggests that many were young men and women in their late teens who were still attending school or not yet settled in their careers. Some additional evidence for this explanation is the sex ratio of these workers, which is more akin to the sex ratio of students than it is to that of other adult workers.

Although many of these persons were out of the labor force most of the year, a substantial number of the remainder were employed chiefly at farm wage work. In fact, this group supplied more workers who did farm wage work as their chief activity during the year than any other group of household members except household heads.

Summary of personal characteristics.--Table 11 summarizes some of the personal characteristics distinguishing various groups of farm wage workers. Eight-tenths of the male workers were white, compared with half the females. A

similar color-sex differential characterized every group of farm wage workers studied.

Chief labor force activity during the year varied according to sex of the worker. Of those persons working most of the year, only one-tenth were females. As might be expected, almost all of those keeping house were female, while the majority of retirees were male. Among students, the ratio of females to males (1 to 3) was between the extremes characteristic of the other workers.

Persons employed most of the year had the following features distinguishing them from persons with a short work year. Seven-tenths were household heads and eight-tenths were adult males (18 years and over), the majority of whom were white. Of the persons who were out of the labor force most of the year, four-fifths were women and teenagers.

The older farm wage workers (aged 55 and over) were more common among household heads,

Table 11.--Summary of distinguishing personal characteristics of farm wage workers, by household relationship and chief activity, 1965

Household relationship and chief activity	Percentage of male workers in group who were white	Percentage of female workers in group who were white	Percentage of all workers in group who were --			
			Female	55 years and over	Farm residents	Heads of household
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total workers	77	54	30	13	30	37
Household relationship:						
Head	76	40	10	27	32	100
Wife	---	58	100	8	27	---
Other relative under 18 years	80	60	26	---	25	---
Other household member	76	43	24	8	35	---
Chief activity during year:						
Farm wage work	70	49	12	20	42	68
Nonfarmwork	85	48	14	8	16	72
Other farmwork	79	1/	10	27	79	) 51
Unemployed	64	1/	16	18	5	)
Keeping house	1/	56	99	14	26	)
Attending school	82	58	26	2/	25	)
Other not in labor force	79	1/	2	59	12	) 11

1/ Percent not shown where base is less than 50,000.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

persons engaged in farmwork most of their work year, and the retired. They were less frequently found among those who were occupied principally in keeping house, attending school, or working at nonfarm jobs during the year.

Finally, farm residence was most characteristic of the people who were employed either at hired or other farmwork regularly (four-tenths and eight-tenths, respectively) and least characteristic of all other workers (two-tenths).

Housing Status

A worker's housing status refers to the arrangements under which he occupies his living quarters. These could be ownership, rental for cash, or occupation without payment of cash rent. The reference is to the status of the worker's housing at the time the survey was taken, which for most workers, including migrants, means housing at the home base. 4/

Rented living quarters, no cash rent.-- One of the distinguishing characteristics of farm wage workers is the high proportion who live in homes where cash rent is not charged. Among the farm wage workers of 1965, nearly one-quarter, or about 700,000 workers, paid no cash rent for their living quarters (table 12).

Such housing is usually occupied by farmworkers who agree to work for a cash wage and a house or other type of living quarters for themselves and their families. Most of these workers are employed on a regular basis on a farm, although some seasonally employed farmworkers, who may be members of the regular worker's family, also reside in such living quarters. In 1965, half the workers who did not pay cash rent for their living quarters were employed chiefly at farm wage work during the year; the remainder were housewives, students, and others, most of whom worked seasonally.

Free housing is frequently provided to migratory workers while they are traveling on the farm work route, but this is not the case when they return to their home base. In December 1965 when the survey was taken and most migrants had completed the migratory work route, only one-tenth were living in housing quarters where cash rent was not charged, compared with about one-quarter of the nonmigrants.

Seven-tenths of the workers who did not pay cash rent lived on farmland, and three-quarters lived in the South. These were much

larger proportions than those which prevailed among hired farmworkers who either owned or paid cash rent for their living quarters. Furthermore, half of the no-cash-rent residents were household heads, half were nonwhite, and three-quarters had family incomes of less than \$3,000 for the year. These facts indicate that many of the persons living in dwelling units for no cash rent may have been low-income, nonwhite sharecroppers who did paid seasonal farmwork occasionally.

Rented living quarters, cash rent.-- Approximately one-third of the farm wage workers of 1965 paid cash rent for their living quarters. About nine-tenths of the paying renters lived off the farm, in sharp contrast with those who did not pay cash for rented quarters. Relatively more of the paying renters were white and more had family incomes above the poverty level than the nonpaying renters. 5/ Of all groups of farm wage workers, those whose principal activity during the year was nonfarmwork contained the largest proportion of cash renters. As reported previously, these persons did little farmwork during the year and lived in nonfarm places more often than most other workers.

Owned living quarters.-- Despite their low average family income, slightly more than two-fifths of all farm wage workers owned their housing. Farm wage workers who were homeowners, however, had higher family incomes than renters and possessed those personal characteristics which are associated with higher income. For example, workers with family incomes above the poverty level comprised about two-thirds of the homeowners but less than half of the renters. Similarly, white workers whose family income averaged more than twice that of nonwhite workers also accounted for a much larger proportion of owners than of renters.

Of farm wage workers classified by household status, teenage workers were heavily represented among persons living in family-owned living quarters, while household heads were underrepresented. This concentration can

4/ In December 1964, 84 percent of the migratory farm workers were residing in their home base county, Rapton, Avra. Domestic Migratory Farmworkers. U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., Agr. Econ. Rpt. No. 121, 1967, p. 15.

5/ Family income refers to cash income received by all income recipients in the family. It does not include nonmoney income, such as the value of housing, food, or other perquisites.

Table 12.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers,
by tenure of living quarters, selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Tenure of living quarters		
		Owned	Cash rent	No cash rent
	<u>Thou.</u>	<u>Thou.</u>	<u>Thou.</u>	<u>Thou.</u>
Total workers	3,128	1,372	1,052	704
		<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Household relationship:				
Head	1,147	24	44	50
Wife of head	415	11	15	15
Other relative under 18 years	915	40	23	17
Other member	651	25	18	18
Sex:				
Male	2,205	72	69	69
Female	923	28	31	31
Color:				
White	2,205	83	68	51
Nonwhite	923	17	32	49
Residence:				
Farm	932	24	12	68
Nonfarm	2,196	76	88	32
Region:				
North	845	33	28	14
South	1,609	42	49	74
West	673	25	23	12
Chief activity:				
Farm wage work	808	14	24	52
Nonfarmwork	390	11	20	5
Keeping house	473	13	17	16
Attending school	1,074	49	27	17
Other	383	13	12	10
Migratory status:				
Migrant	466	16	20	5
Nonmigrant	2,662	84	80	95
Family income:				
Under \$3,000	1,619	36	56	76
\$3,000 and over	1,509	64	44	24

be partially attributed to the fact that many students and teenage farmworkers come from homes in which the parents are not involved in farmwork and where family income is above that of other hired farmworkers. Most of the heads of household, on the other hand, were engaged primarily in hired farmwork during the year or were out of the labor force, and their income was correspondingly low.

Types of living quarters.--Almost all farmworkers were living in a house or apartment in December 1965. Migratory workers likely constituted a large proportion of those living in transient quarters, because of the nature of migratory work. However, at the time of the survey only about 5 percent of migrants and all other farm wage workers were living in such temporary shelters as hotels, motels, rooming houses, and trailers.

Education

The average person in the total labor force was a high school graduate, while the farm laborer had little more than a grade school education. Therefore, farm laborers, with only 8.4 years of school, were considerably disadvantaged, compared with all workers 18 and over--who had completed 12.2 years of school. 6/

Characteristics related to educational achievement.--Although the average educational level of farm wage workers was low, some workers attained a higher degree of schooling than others. Table 13 presents data on the number of years of school completed by workers who were 25 years old and over. Generally, nonwhite workers and workers aged 45 and over had a lower level of education than white workers and younger workers. Educational levels were also lower for farm wage workers who lived in the South than for workers in the North or West, and for farmworkers who had little or no off-farm employment, compared with persons whose principal occupation was non-farmwork.

Education and family income.--Education was closely related to family income for all farm wage workers. Each step up the income scale reflected a higher educational level. Among workers whose family income totaled less than \$2,000 during the year, only 30 percent had some high school education; for those with family incomes ranging between \$2,000 and \$4,999, about 40 percent attended high school; of the workers whose income was \$5,000 and over, half attended high school a year or more.

Table 14 illustrates the relationship between education and family income for farm wage workers who were heads of households. For almost all groups studied, heads with some high school education had higher family incomes than those with only a grade school education. There was an exception to this finding with respect to color, age, and geographic location: a high proportion of the heads of household who were nonwhite, 45 years old and over, or residents of the South had family incomes at the poverty level, regardless of schooling. The same was true of workers who lived in rent-free housing quarters since this group contained a large proportion of nonwhites and southern residents.

Education and employment.--Educational attainment was related not only to family income but also to earnings, to length of work year, and to type of work. Persons with a high school education were somewhat more likely to have had some nonfarm employment during the year than persons with a grade school education (table 15). This was true of most, but not all groups of farm wage workers. Although white workers benefited occupationally from high school training, level of education made no significant difference in the likelihood of non-farm employment among nonwhite workers. Similarly, while high school training for workers aged 25 to 45 was related to a greater incidence of nonfarm employment, this relationship was far less evident among persons aged 45 and over.

In addition to being associated with a greater likelihood of nonfarm employment, high school attendance was reflected in a longer period of nonfarm employment. But again, the gain in the length of the work year was not significant for all groups of workers who had attended high school. It applied to men but not to women, to white workers but not to nonwhite, to the younger rather than the older workers, and to heads of household rather than to other adult members of a household.

Although increased education was accompanied by longer employment at nonfarm jobs, such was not the case for farm jobs. Persons with a high school education did not report significantly more days of paid farmwork than persons with only grade school training.

A final effect of education was on wage rates. Higher daily wages were characteristic

6/ U.S. Dept. Labor. Educational Attainment of Workers. In Monthly Labor Review, March 1966. (Reprinted as Spec. Labor Force Rpt. No. 65.)

Table 13.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers
25 years old and over, by years of schooling completed,
selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Years of school completed			
		0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 11	12 or more
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total workers	1,523	11	53	17	19
Sex:					
Male	1,038	10	52	16	22
Female	485	11	56	21	12
Color:					
White	1,008	9	50	18	23
Nonwhite	515	15	59	16	10
Age:					
25 - 44 years	771	8	46	21	25
45 and over	752	14	60	13	13
Region:					
North	346	2	52	15	31
South	845	13	61	15	11
West	332	13	33	27	27
Chief activity during year:					
Farm wage work	602	13	56	17	14
Nonfarmwork	247	8	46	16	30
Other	674	10	53	18	19
Type of work during year:					
Farm wage work only	1,003	12	55	17	16
Farm and nonfarm wage work	520	8	48	19	25

for the worker with some high school training, and lower wages were earned by workers with only grade school training. These differences in daily earnings applied to both the farm and nonfarm jobs of workers. But as with the duration of employment, the relationship between high school training and higher daily wage rates was not characteristic of all farmworker groups.

Economic Characteristics

Labor Force Activities

Farmworkers, in general, have a very short attachment to the labor force. There are two major categories of labor force activities: "in the labor force" (persons who were

Table 14.--Number and percentage distribution of male farm wage workers 25 years of age and over and heads of household, and percentage with family income of less than \$3,000, by education, selected characteristics, 1964

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage distribution of workers by years of school completed		Percentage of workers in group with family income of less than \$3,000 by years of school completed	
		8 years or less	9 years or more	8 years or less	9 years or more
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
All heads 25 years old and over	973	71	29	77	42
Color:					
White	690	64	36	69	38
Nonwhite	283	90	10	91	77
Age:					
25 - 44 years	421	59	41	70	33
45 and over	553	81	19	81	59
Residence:					
Farm	363	76	24	82	48
Nonfarm	610	69	31	74	40
Geographic region:					
North	276	63	37	72	35
South	509	83	17	86	62
West	188	53	47	49	35
Chief activity during year:					
Farm wage work	488	78	22	73	49
Nonfarmwork	187	48	52	63	23
Other	298	74	26	89	62
Migratory status:					
Migratory	124	77	23	75	48
Nonmigratory	849	71	29	78	42
Tenure of living quarters:					
Owned	338	66	34	66	29
Rented	321	70	30	79	39
No cash rent	314	79	21	85	71

Table 15.--Number of farm wage workers 25 years of age and over, percentage employed at nonfarm wage work, average daily wage and average number of days employed at farm wage work and non-farm wage work, by years of school completed, selected characteristics of workers, 1965 ^{1/}

Selected characteristics	: Number of farm : : wage workers : : by years of : : school com- : : pleted :		: Percentage of : : workers in : : group who did : : nonfarm wage : : work by years : : of school : : completed :		: Average days worked : : during the year, by : : years of school completed :				: Average daily wage by : : years of school completed :			
	: 8 : 9 : : years : years : : or : or : : less : more :		: 8 : 9 : : years : years : : or : or : : less : more :		: 8 : 9 : : years : years : : or : or : : less : more :		: 8 : 9 : : years : years : : or : or : : less : more :		: 8 : 9 : : years : years : : or : or : : less : more :		: 8 : 9 : : years : years : : or : or : : less : more :	
	: <u>Thou.</u> <u>Thou.</u> <u>Pct.</u> <u>Pct.</u> <u>No.</u> <u>No.</u> <u>No.</u> <u>No.</u> <u>Dol.</u> <u>Dol.</u> <u>Dol.</u> <u>Dol.</u>											
Total workers	: 970	: 553	: 30	: 42	: 122	: 113	: 109	: 142	: 7.70	: 9.10	: 10.50	: 13.60
Household relation-	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
ship:	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
Head	: 602	: 378	: 33	: 41	: 149	: 136	: 124	: 171	: 8.15	: 9.55	: 10.85	: 14.90
Other	: 367	: 176	: 25	: 45	: 75	: 64	: 76	: 83	: 6.20	: 6.70	: 9.30	: 8.35
Sex:	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
Male	: 645	: 393	: 31	: 42	: 154	: 143	: 119	: 160	: 8.15	: 9.45	: 11.90	: 15.20
Female	: 325	: 160	: 27	: 42	: 57	: 39	: 86	: 96	: 5.20	: 5.50	: 5.85	: 7.15
Color:	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
White	: 588	: 421	: 30	: 47	: 135	: 118	: 118	: 151	: 8.50	: 9.65	: 12.20	: 14.45
Nonwhite	: 382	: 133	: 30	: 28	: 100	: 97	: 96	: 2/	: 6.05	: 6.80	: 7.10	: 6.20
Age:	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
25 - 44 years	: 416	: 355	: 36	: 51	: 111	: 111	: 111	: 150	: 7.75	: 9.55	: 11.40	: 13.65
45 and over	: 554	: 199	: 25	: 27	: 129	: 117	: 107	: 113	: 7.60	: 8.15	: 9.50	: 13.35

^{1/} Averages pertaining to farmwork are based on all farm wage workers. Averages for nonfarmwork are based on workers who did both farm and nonfarm work.

^{2/} Average not shown where base is less than 50,000.

working or looking for work most of the year) and "out of the labor force" (those who were keeping house, attending school, or in retirement). Table 16 presents the major categories of farm wage workers classified by their principal activity during the year.

Table 16.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers by chief activity during the year, 1965

Chief activity	Number of workers	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	3,128	100 *
Out of labor force:		
Keeping house	473	15
Attending school	1,074	34
Other	153	5
In labor force:		
Farm wage work	808	26
Nonfarmwork	390	12
Other	230	8

Chief activity, farm wage work.--About 800,000 persons were in the labor force most of the year and viewed paid farmwork as their chief activity (table 17). This category includes all regular workers previously defined as persons employed 150 days or more at paid farmwork. It also refers to persons who were employed chiefly at farm wage work most of the year, but whose total farm employment may have amounted to less than 150 days. Workers whose major activity was farm wage work averaged 229 days of paid farmwork in 1965. Of all groups classified by chief activity, these workers alone were responsible for seven-tenths of the total days of hired farmwork.

Eighty-five percent of these workers were adult males, and seven in 10 of the males were white. Household heads predominated among the workers in this group. For the majority, farm wage work undoubtedly provided the main source of the total family income. Females represented only about one-tenth of the total group, and non-white workers accounted for one-third.

A distinguishing feature of persons who were principally employed as hired farmworkers is that a relatively large number (two-fifths) lived on farms, in contrast to all other groups of workers except those whose chief activity was

Table 17.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers whose chief activity was farm wage work, by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	808	100
Sex and age:		
Male	714	88
14 - 17 years	25	3
18 - 54	538	66
55 and over	151	19
Female	94	12
14 - 17 years	6	1
18 - 54	78	10
55 and over	9	1
Sex and color:		
Male	714	100
White	498	70
Nonwhite	216	30
Female	94	100
White	46	49
Nonwhite	48	51
Sex and type of residence:		
Male	714	100
Farm	324	45
Nonfarm	394	55
Female	94	100
Farm	20	21
Nonfarm	74	79
Household relationship:		
Household heads	553	68
Wives of heads	42	5
Other relative		
under 18 years	29	4
Other member of household	185	23

working as farm operators or as unpaid members of the farm family. Hired farmworkers in this group were also slightly older and included a somewhat higher proportion of non-whites than persons whose work year consisted primarily of nonfarm employment.

Chief activity, nonfarmwork.--Nearly 400,000 persons whose chief activity was non-farmwork did some work on farms for wages in 1965 (table 18). Since their principal occupation was not farmwork, these persons were responsible for only 5 percent of the total days of farmwork performed by hired workers, or an average of 31 days. Because this group was in the nonfarm labor force most of the year,

Table 18.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers whose chief activity was non-farmwork, by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	390	100
Sex and age:		
Male	336	86
14 - 17 years	7	2
18 - 54	306	78
55 and over	23	6
Female	54	14
14 - 17 years	2	1
18 - 54	47	12
55 and over	6	1
Sex and color:		
Male	336	100
White	284	85
Nonwhite	52	15
Female	54	100
White	26	48
Nonwhite	28	52
Type of residence:		
Farm	61	16
Nonfarm	329	84
Household relationship:		
Head of household	282	72
Wife of household head	23	6
Other relative under 18 years	7	2
Other member of household	77	20

and daily nonfarm wages averaged 1 1/2 times daily farm wages, theirs was the highest income group classified by principal activity during the year.

These workers were primarily white adult males, heads of household, and nonfarm residents. Males represented about nine-tenths of the group and heads of household seven-tenths, about the same proportion as in other farmworker groups employed most of the year. The color ratio for these principally nonfarmworkers was typical of the average farmworker in that a much larger proportion of the males were white than the females.

One of the characteristic features of persons in this category, in addition to their principal activity, nonfarmwork, was their place of residence. Only 16 percent lived on farms, a

proportion lower than that of any other group except the retired and the unemployed.

Chief activity, other in labor force.-- In addition to the people who were employed chiefly as farm laborers or at nonfarm jobs during the year, there was another group of farm wage workers who were also in the labor force for more than half the year, but whose chief activity differed from that of the aforementioned groups (table 19). For these one-quarter of a million persons, farm wage work represented very short-term seasonal employment and accounted for only 5 percent of the total days of hired farmwork.

The majority of these workers (140,000) did farmwork as their principal activity during the year, either as farm operators or as unpaid workers on a family farm. Since nine-tenths were adult males, most of these workers were probably farm operators rather than unpaid family workers, the latter usually being women and children. The paid farmwork of these workers averaged only 43 days for the year. Four-fifths of the group lived on farms, usually family farms. This was a larger proportion of farm residents than in any other group of farm wage workers, including regular hired workers.

The remainder of the persons in the miscellaneous in-labor-force group (90,000) spent most of 1965 looking for a job. Very few of the unemployed lived on a farm. Ninety-five percent commuted from a nonfarm residence to the farm where they were employed at paid farmwork for a brief period averaging 40 days.

The personal characteristics of workers who were unemployed or engaged in nonwage farmwork were similar to those for other persons in the labor force most of the year. They were predominantly white males, adults, and household heads.

Chief activity, not in labor force.--Slightly more than a million and a half persons classified as farm wage workers neither worked nor sought work for most of 1965, because they were chiefly engaged in activities, such as keeping house or attending school, which kept them out of the labor force most of the year. Although these students and housewives had a key role in filling peak seasonal needs for short-term farm labor, each averaged only 35 days of paid farm employment, or about two-tenths of the total days of paid farmwork. (See tables 20 and 21 and p. 7 for a discussion of the personal characteristics of these workers.)

Table 19.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers whose chief activity was in the labor force, but who were engaged primarily in other than farm wage or nonfarm work, by selected characteristics, 1965 1/

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage of total	Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.		Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	230	100	Color and type of work:		
Sex and color:			Other farmwork	143	62
Male	202	100	White	102	44
White	149	74	Nonwhite	41	18
Nonwhite	54	26	Unemployed	87	38
Female	28	100	White	51	22
White	4	14	Nonwhite	36	16
Nonwhite	24	86	Residence and type of work:		
Sex and type of work:			Other farmwork	143	100
Male	202	88	Farm	113	79
Other farmwork	129	57	Nonfarm	31	21
Unemployed	73	31	Unemployed	87	100
Female	28	12	Farm	4	5
Other farmwork	14	6	Nonfarm	83	95
Unemployed	14	6	Household relationship:		
Age and type of work:			Head of household	118	51
Other farmwork	143	62	Wife of head	11	5
14-17 years	10	4	Other relative under 18 years	21	9
18-54	95	41	Other member of household	81	35
55 and over	38	17			
Unemployed	87	38			
14-17 years	13	5			
18-54	60	26			
55 and over	16	7			

1/ Refers to farm operators, unpaid workers on a family farm, and the unemployed.

Table 20.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers whose chief activity was housekeeping, by sex and age, 1965

Sex and age	Number of workers	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	473	100
Male	3	1
Female	470	99
14-17 years	16	3
18-54	391	83
55 and over	63	13

The remainder of the farm wage workers who were out of the labor force most of the year numbered about 150,000 (table 22). Virtually all were male (98 percent), four-fifths were white, and about three-fifths were 55 years old and over. Their relatively older age and the fact that they were both male and out of the labor force indicates that most of these persons had withdrawn from full participation in the labor force and were probably retired from their major job. Their farmwork averaged only 40 days for the year. Only one-tenth of these people lived on farms.

Participation in the nonfarm economy.--
Because of the low wages and limited opportunities for year-round employment in agriculture, many workers seek jobs in the non-

Table 23.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers who did no nonfarm wage work and workers who did both farm and non-farm wage work, selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Farm wage workers who did no nonfarm wage work (FWO workers)			Workers who did both farm and nonfarm wage work (FNF workers)	
	Number	Percentage of total	FWO workers as percentage of all farm wage workers in group	Number	Percentage of total
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	1,983	100	63	1,145	100
Household relationship:					
Head	674	34	59	473	41
Spouse	295	15	71	120	11
Other relative under 18 years	661	33	72	254	22
Other household member	356	18	55	296	26
Sex and color:					
Male, white	1,012	51	59	606	61
Female, white	317	16	64	181	16
Male, nonwhite	344	17	69	154	13
Female, nonwhite	311	16	73	114	10
Sex and age:					
Male:	1,355	68	61	849	74
14 - 17 years	497	25	72	192	17
18 - 24	188	9	39	290	25
25 and over	673	34	65	365	32
Female:	628	32	68	295	26
14 - 17 years	177	9	71	74	6
18 - 24	121	6	64	67	6
25 and over	331	17	68	155	14
Residence:					
Farm	692	35	75	241	21
Nonfarm	1,292	65	59	904	79
Migratory status:					
Migrant	252	13	54	213	19
Nonmigrant	1,731	87	65	931	81

Table 24.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers who did no nonfarm wage work during year, by duration of farm wage work, selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Days employed at farm wage work		
		Less than 25	25 - 149	150 or more
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total workers	1,983	35	37	28
Household relationship:				
Head	674	17	23	60
Spouse	295	44	47	9
Other relative under 18 years	661	52	44	4
Other household member	356	31	42	27
Sex and color:				
Male, white	1,012	31	32	37
Female, white	317	49	42	9
Male, nonwhite	344	27	33	40
Female, nonwhite	311	43	52	5
Sex and age:				
Male	1,355	30	32	38
14 - 17 years	497	49	45	6
18 - 24	188	30	31	39
25 and over	673	17	23	61
Female	628	46	47	7
14 - 17 years	177	60	39	1
18 - 24	121	45	45	10
25 and over	331	38	52	10
Residence:				
Farm	692	31	33	36
Nonfarm	1,292	37	39	24
Migratory status:				
Migrant	252	26	44	30
Nonmigrant	1,731	37	35	28

more at all farm jobs. Of those with one employer, only about half worked at least 25 days during the year.

Farm and Nonfarm Earnings

This section pertains to wages received by farmworkers from all types of employment, whether farm or nonfarm, and discusses the relationship of personal characteristics to these earnings. The influence of duration of employment and of the daily wage rate on the level of annual earnings is also discussed.

Daily earnings.--Average daily farm earnings were \$7.55 a day for all farm wage workers in 1965, ranging from around \$4 to \$11 a day for particular farm wage worker groups (table 29). Earnings at nonfarmwork were about 50 percent

higher, or \$10.85 a day, with a spread of \$4 to \$13 a day. Some of the differences in daily earnings were attributable to differences in the number of hours in the workday, but other influential factors were age, sex, color, geographic region, and type of residence.

Male workers earned more than females, and white workers more than nonwhite workers, at both farm and nonfarm jobs. White male workers earned the highest wages; white females and nonwhite males were second with approximately the same daily earnings. Nonwhite females, the lowest earners, averaged only about \$4 a day at either farm or nonfarm work. After reaching a low for teenage workers aged 14 through 17, the daily wage rose rapidly and remained at a plateau, dropping slightly for workers 55 and over.

Table 25.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers who did both farm and nonfarm wage work during year, by duration of work, selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Days employed at farm wage work			Days employed at nonfarm wage work			Days employed at farm and nonfarm wage work		
		Less than 25	25-149	150 or more	Less than 25	25-149	150 or more	Less than 25	25-149	150 or more
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total workers	1,145	49	42	9	27	44	29	9	44	47
Household relationship:										
Head	473	49	37	14	16	33	51	5	24	71
Spouse	120	59	41	---	32	53	15	13	64	23
Other relative under 18 years	254	58	39	3	49	41	10	18	67	15
Other household member	296	39	51	10	24	60	16	9	47	44
Sex and color:										
Male, white	696	45	44	11	23	42	35	8	38	54
Female, white	181	60	40	---	40	45	15	13	70	17
Male, nonwhite	154	49	35	16	25	50	25	8	33	59
Female, nonwhite	114	60	40	---	35	46	19	18	52	30
Sex and age:										
Male	849	46	42	12	24	43	33	8	37	55
14 - 17 years	192	58	38	4	45	42	13	20	61	19
18 - 24	290	42	44	14	17	50	33	3	35	62
25 and over	365	42	43	15	18	38	44	5	26	69
Female	295	60	40	---	38	46	16	15	63	22
14 - 17 years	74	66	34	---	55	45	---	15	85	---
18 - 24	67	61	39	---	44	44	12	21	64	15
25 and over	155	58	43	---	27	46	26	12	52	36
Residence:										
Farm	241	33	49	18	33	46	21	8	40	52
Nonfarm	904	54	40	6	26	43	31	10	45	45
Migratory status:										
Migrant	213	47	45	8	27	45	28	6	45	49
Nonmigrant	931	50	41	9	27	44	29	10	44	46

Table 26.--Number of farm wage workers employed year round (250 days or more) at all wage and salary jobs, year-round workers as percentage of all workers, and year-round workers who did no nonfarm wage work during year and those who did, selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Year-round workers:		Workers who did no nonfarm wage work		Workers who did both farm and nonfarm wage work	
	Number of workers	as percentage of all farm wage workers in group	Number of workers	as percentage of all farm wage workers in group	Number of workers	as percentage of all farm wage workers in group
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	597	19	352	18	245	21
Household relationship:						
Head	465	41	281	42	184	39
Spouse	13	3	5	2	8	7
Other relative under 18:	32	3	13	2	19	7
Other household member:	88	14	53	15	35	12
Sex and color:						
Male, white	477	28	277	27	200	29
Female, white	18	4	9	3	9	5
Male, nonwhite	91	18	62	18	29	19
Female, nonwhite	12	3	5	2	7	6
Sex and age:						
Male	568	26	338	25	230	27
14 - 17 years	34	5	15	3	19	10
18 - 24	114	24	46	24	68	23
25 and over	420	40	277	41	143	39
Female	30	3	14	2	16	5
14 - 17 years	---	---	---	---	---	---
18 - 24	3	2	---	---	3	4
25 and over	27	6	14	4	13	8
Residence:						
Farm	218	23	162	23	56	23
Nonfarm	380	17	190	15	190	21
Migratory status:						
Migrant	58	12	21	8	37	17
Nonmigrant	540	20	331	19	209	22

Table 29.--Average daily farm wage of all farm wage workers
and of those who did some nonfarmwork,
by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Farm wage workers		Workers who did both farm and nonfarm wage work	
	Number	Average daily farm wage	Number	Average daily non-farm wage
	Thou.	Dol.	Thou.	Dol.
Total workers	3,128	7.55	1,145	10.85
Sex:				
Male	2,205	7.90	849	11.85
Female	923	5.55	295	5.75
Color:				
White	2,205	8.20	876	11.85
Nonwhite	923	5.90	268	6.45
Sex and color:				
Male, white	1,707	8.35	696	12.55
Female, white	498	6.75	181	7.10
Male, nonwhite	497	6.45	154	8.00
Female, nonwhite	426	4.25	114	3.75
Chief activity:				
Farm wage work	808	8.30	177	10.25
Nonfarmwork	390	8.05	390	13.30
Keeping house	473	5.55	127	5.80
Attending school	1,074	4.80	338	4.45
Other	383	7.40	113	8.50
Migratory status:				
Migratory	466	9.70	213	12.15
Nonmigratory	2,662	7.20	931	10.55
Geographic region:				
North	845	7.35	357	12.05
South	1,609	5.95	503	8.20
West	673	11.00	285	13.25
Age:				
14 - 17 years	940	4.85	266	3.05
18 - 24	665	7.55	356	11.90
25 - 54	1,126	8.30	454	11.85
55 and over	397	7.90	69	9.80
Type of wage work:				
Farmwork only	1,983	7.70	---	---
Farm and nonfarmwork:	1,145	7.15	1,145	10.85
Residence:				
Farm	932	6.45	241	7.80
Nonfarm	2,196	8.35	904	11.45

Workers in the South were more poorly paid than those living in other regions of the United States, whether they were doing farmwork or nonfarmwork. Daily farm wages in the West were almost double those earned in the South; nonfarm wages were about 50 percent higher. But even the relatively high farm wage of \$11 per day in the West was only about half the amount received by the average factory worker in the United States (\$22).

The average farm resident, whether employed at farmwork or nonfarmwork, earned lower daily wages than the person who did not live on a farm.

In recent years, migratory workers have averaged higher wages for a day's farmwork than nonmigrants, possibly because of the greater demand for domestic migrants after the cessation of the bracero program.

The average daily wage of the person whose principal activity during the year was nonfarm employment was higher than that of the regular hired farmhand. The former earned approximately the same pay per day (about \$8) for farmwork as the regular hired farmhand, although the latter often received free living quarters and other perquisites for his farmwork. Moreover, the nonfarmworker earned about \$3 a day more at nonfarmwork than the regular hired farmworker did when employed at nonfarm jobs.

Persons who were out of the labor force most of the year, such as housewives and students, averaged between \$4 and \$8 per day at their jobs.

Annual earnings.--Because of the low wage rates and short work year characteristic of agricultural employment, the average hired farmworker in 1965 earned farm wages of only \$650 for 85 days of farmwork. This wage figure does not represent total earnings, nor does it include any income from self-employment.

Even when wages from all sources are totaled for the year, the average hired farmworker was still a low wage earner. Persons employed in both the farm and nonfarm economy averaged \$1,486 at all jobs in 1965, or nearly twice the earnings of those doing farmwork only (\$805) (table 30). Not only were daily nonfarm wages higher than daily farm wages, but the average worker with some nonfarm experience was employed for a longer period at all jobs than the person who did farmwork only. In addition, the nonfarmwork during the year was of longer duration than the farmwork and

consequently produced the larger share of the year's total wages.

Because the length of the work year has an important bearing on annual earnings, persons who were in the labor force most of the year, irrespective of whether their principal occupation was farm or nonfarm work, earned considerably more than housewives, students, and other persons who were out of the labor force more than half the year. Daily wages were also an important factor in the annual earnings of persons who were in the labor force most of the year because this group earned higher wages per day than persons who were generally out of the labor force. Of the farm wage workers who were in the labor force most of the year, those employed primarily at nonfarmwork averaged \$2,829, or about \$1,000 a year more in total wages than persons employed chiefly at paid farmwork. The former not only received higher daily earnings from their nonfarmwork, but they worked relatively long periods at such jobs.

Annual earnings are not simply a function of the daily wage rate, number of workdays, and type of work. They are also greatly influenced by such personal characteristics as sex and color. For instance, male workers earned more than females for the obvious reasons that males worked longer periods and were paid more per day than females. Annual earnings of white workers, both male and female, were approximately 1 1/2 times those of nonwhite workers, principally because white workers averaged higher daily wages at their farm and nonfarm jobs. However, no significant difference in length of work year was observed between white and nonwhite females or between white and nonwhite males.

The South yielded relatively low annual earnings, compared with the North and West, chiefly because of the much lower wage rates prevailing in the South. Duration of work was not a significant factor in regional differences in annual earnings.

Because their daily wages were higher, migratory workers were able to earn more per year than nonmigrants from farmwork and nonfarmwork.

Family Income

Farmworkers are poor, not only because their wages are low compared with wages of other Americans, but because the total amount of money available to them and to members of

Table 30.--Number of farm wage workers, average days employed, and average annual wages earned at farm and nonfarm work, for workers who did no nonfarm wage work during year and those who did, selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Farm wage workers who did no nonfarm wage work			Workers who did both farm and nonfarm wage work						
	Number of workers	Farmwork		Number of workers	Farmwork		Nonfarmwork		Farm and nonfarm work	
		Average days per year	Average annual wages		Average days per year	Average annual wages	Average days per year	Average annual wages	Average days per year	Average annual wages
		year	wages		year	wages	year	wages	year	wages
	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Thou.	No.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	No.	Dol.
Total workers	1,983	104	805	1,145	53	381	102	1,105	155	1,486
Sex:										
Male	1,355	130	1,053	849	60	448	114	1,354	175	1,803
Female	628	49	268	295	31	189	67	386	98	576
Color:										
White	1,329	112	948	876	52	392	107	1,279	160	1,672
Nonwhite	655	87	513	268	56	345	83	535	139	880
Sex and color:										
Male, white	1,102	132	1,141	696	58	438	118	1,491	177	1,929
Female, white	317	50	332	181	29	217	65	465	95	683
Male, nonwhite	344	124	795	154	73	493	92	738	165	1,232
Female, nonwhite	311	48	202	114	33	145	70	262	104	408
Chief activity:										
Farm wage work	631	247	2,089	177	165	1,250	54	559	219	1,810
Nonfarmwork	---	---	---	390	31	255	193	2,574	225	2,829
Keeping house	346	38	206	127	27	177	49	285	76	462
Attending school	736	36	172	338	33	165	57	253	90	419
Other	271	41	298	113	41	327	54	356	95	684
Migratory status:										
Migratory	252	104	1,046	213	57	515	100	1,222	158	1,737
Nonmigratory	1,731	104	769	931	52	351	102	1,078	154	1,429
Geographic region:										
North	489	105	783	357	51	376	126	1,536	178	1,913
South	1,106	93	552	503	58	362	90	742	149	1,105
West	389	135	1,553	285	45	421	90	1,204	136	1,626
Residence:										
Farm	692	128	845	241	85	497	84	662	170	1,160
Nonfarm	1,292	92	783	904	44	350	106	1,223	151	1,573

their families also falls far below the national average. In 1965, the 3.1 million persons who did hired farmwork lived in families whose total income for the year, from all sources, averaged \$2,900. In the same year, the family income of all Americans averaged \$6,000. 2/

Some farmworkers do fare better financially than the average, however. About one-tenth of all farmworkers in 1965 had family incomes of \$7,500 and above. This was in sharp contrast to the one-tenth whose family incomes fell below \$1,000 for the year.

Characteristics related to family income.--Table 31 shows family income by selected economic and personal characteristics of the workers. Personal characteristics particularly relevant to family income were color, age, and education. White farm wage workers, with family incomes averaging \$3,900, had more than double the income of nonwhite workers (\$1,700). Age of workers was inversely related to family income. Teenagers, for example, had the highest family income (\$4,200) of all farm wage workers; persons in the central age group (18-54 years) averaged smaller family incomes than the teenagers; and workers aged 55 and over had family incomes of only \$1,900, close to the income of the average nonwhite worker. Family income was positively related to education, ranging from \$2,700 for the worker who had attended grade school only to \$3,800 for the high school graduate.

Certain economic characteristics--labor force status, type of work, wage rates, and duration of employment--were closely related to the level of family income, but only for workers who were heads of household. This is because wage rates and other economic factors determine the level of earnings of the head of the household, and the head's earnings are the major component of the family income. The economic characteristics of other farm wage workers (wives, teenage children, or other members of the household) are not significantly related to total family income.

Type of residence and geographic area of residence are another set of characteristics related to family income. Farm residents had lower family incomes than nonfarm residents, because farm residents received lower wages than nonfarm residents and were less likely to be employed at better paying nonfarm jobs. Workers in the South averaged less than half the family income of workers living elsewhere in the United States. Their lower income may be attributed to geographic differences in wage rates and to the large number of nonwhite workers residing

in the South whose earnings were even less than those of Southern white workers. Family incomes of farm wage workers in the North and West averaged about \$4,500 and, along with the family incomes of teenage workers, were the highest of all groups studied.

Family income of household heads.--The median family income of household heads who did any paid farmwork in 1965 was \$2,600. It was higher for heads who did some nonfarmwork during the year (\$3,226).

Table 32 compares personal and economic characteristics of farm wage workers whose family income was within and above the poverty range. About three-fifths of the heads of household had family incomes which fell below \$3,000 for the year. These workers tend to have the same personal characteristics--age, color, geographic region, and education--as all workers with poverty-level incomes.

Certain economic characteristics had a marked effect on the family income of household heads. Heads who were out of the labor force most of the year, because of retirement or for some other reason, had extremely low incomes. Four-fifths of such workers had poverty-level family incomes, compared with about half the heads who were in the labor force. Since the head of the household is usually the family breadwinner, any cessation of his wages resulting from a withdrawal from the labor force causes a sharp drop in family income.

Type of work also affected the family income of household heads. Because of their higher wage scale, heads who were employed chiefly at nonfarmwork had larger family incomes than heads employed principally as farm laborers.

Finally, family income was affected by the size of the household head's annual wage, which was, in turn, related to the number of days employed and the wage rate paid. Table 33 shows average earnings and number of days worked at farmwork and at nonfarmwork for two levels of family income. A consistent relationship between wages and length of employment on the one hand, and the level of family income on the other, was shown in the work record of heads of household. Heads who had family incomes of \$3,000

2/ Refers to the median total money income of families and of individuals living alone or with persons not related to them. Income in 1965 of Families and Persons in the United States, U.S. Dept. Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P-60, No. 51, table 1, Jan. 1967.

Table 31.--Number and percentage distribution of farm wage workers, by family income during year and median family income, by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Number of workers	Family income							Median
		Less than \$1,000	\$1,000 - \$1,999	\$2,000 - \$2,999	\$3,000 - \$4,999	\$5,000 - \$7,499	\$7,500 and over		
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Dol.	
Total workers	3,128	11	19	22	22	17	9	2,917	
Household relationship:									
Head	1,147	14	22	23	24	13	4	2,600	
Wife of head	415	13	22	21	26	14	4	2,702	
Other relative under 18 years	915	6	14	18	20	26	16	4,203	
Other member of household	651	12	19	24	19	14	12	2,801	
Color:									
White	2,205	6	11	22	24	24	13	3,895	
Nonwhite	923	24	36	21	16	2	1	1,705	
Age:									
14 - 17 years	940	6	14	18	20	26	16	4,167	
18 - 54	1,791	11	20	23	24	15	7	2,828	
55 and over	397	24	28	21	17	7	3	1,941	
Years of school completed:									
0 - 8 years	1,888	15	21	21	22	14	7	2,652	
9 - 11	617	7	16	22	20	24	11	3,468	
12 or more	623	4	15	22	22	22	15	3,775	
Residence:									
Farm	932	19	21	21	19	11	9	2,495	
Nonfarm	2,196	8	18	22	23	20	9	3,176	
Geographic region:									
North	845	3	8	21	26	29	13	4,362	
South	1,609	19	29	22	20	7	3	2,087	
West	673	3	8	21	22	27	19	4,588	
Chief activity:									
Farm wage work	808	11	23	25	27	11	3	2,613	
Nonfarmwork	390	5	12	23	26	24	10	3,760	
Other in labor force	230	20	26	26	16	6	6	2,133	
Not in labor force	1,699	11	17	19	20	21	12	3,203	
Migratory status:									
Migratory	466	10	15	23	20	18	14	3,194	
Nonmigratory	2,662	12	20	21	22	17	8	2,887	

Table 32.--Number of farm wage workers and percentage with family income of less than \$3,000 during year, by household relationship, by selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Relationship of farm wage workers to the head of their household							
	Household head		Wife of head		Other relative under 18		Other household member	
	Num- ber	Percentage of workers in group with family income under \$3,000	Num- ber	Percentage of workers in group with family income under \$3,000	Num- ber	Percentage of workers in group with family income under \$3,000	Num- ber	Percentage of workers in group with family income under \$3,000
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	1,147	59	415	56	915	38	651	55
Color:								
White	833	50	242	36	685	26	444	42
Nonwhite	314	85	173	86	229	77	208	80
Age:								
14 - 17 years	7	1/	11	1/	915	38	8	1/
18 - 54	830	53	370	55	---	--	591	54
55 and over	310	75	34	1/	---	--	52	62
Years of school completed:								
0 - 8 years	686	66	247	62	541	42	414	60
9 or more	462	49	168	47	373	34	237	45
Residence:								
Farm	364	69	113	67	228	42	228	63
Nonfarm	783	55	302	52	686	37	424	50
Geographic region:								
North and West	591	44	154	27	484	17	290	38
South	557	75	261	74	430	62	361	68
Chief activity:								
Farm wage work	553	59	42	1/	29	1/	185	61
Nonfarm work	282	41	23	1/	7	1/	77	41
Other in labor force	118	68	11	1/	21	1/	81	74
Not in labor force	194	81	339	55	858	37	308	49
Migratory status:								
Migratory	180	58	59	59	112	34	114	42
Nonmigratory	967	59	356	56	803	39	537	58

1/ Percent not shown where base is less than 50,000.

Table 33.--Number of farm wage workers, average days employed, and average annual and daily wages earned at farmwork for all workers, and at nonfarmwork for workers who also did some nonfarm wage work, by household relationship and family income, 1965

Household relationship and family income	Farm wage workers				Workers who did both farm and nonfarm wage work			
	Farm wage work			Number	Nonfarm wage work			Number
	Number	Average days per year	Average wages per year	Average wages per day ^{1/}	Average days per year	Average wages per year	Average wages per day ^{1/}	
	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Dol.
All workers:								
Less than \$3,000	1,619	86	531	6.20	545	84	617	7.30
\$3,000 and over	1,509	85	778	9.20	599	117	1,550	13.20
Household heads:								
Less than \$3,000	678	126	837	6.65	257	108	929	8.60
\$3,000 and over	469	158	1,795	11.35	219	195	3,258	16.75
Other household members:								
Less than \$3,000	942	57	310	5.45	286	64	341	5.35
\$3,000 and over	1,040	51	319	6.25	380	73	565	7.75

^{1/} Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

and over earned roughly twice the daily wage of the poorer heads of household at either farmwork or nonfarmwork, and they worked longer periods. As a result, their annual earnings were considerably higher than those of heads whose family income was in the poverty range.

Migratory status had little bearing on the size of family income of household heads. Heads who left their home base county to do paid farmwork had about the same incidence of poverty as nonmigrant heads.

Family income of wives.--Wives who did any paid farmwork during the year averaged about the same family income as the heads (\$2,700). Family income of wives who worked at both farm and nonfarm jobs averaged \$3,142. The low family income of working wives indicates that the husbands of these women had low-paying farm or nonfarm jobs.

As with household heads, certain personal characteristics of working wives were related to level of family income: those who were nonwhite, or who lived in the South or on farms, and those who had no more than a grade school education had lower family incomes than wives with op-

posite characteristics. However, wives who were white or lived outside the South were less likely to be at the poverty level than heads of household with these characteristics. A possible explanation is that some of the white working wives may have been living in households whose head had a relatively good-paying job. On the other hand, white household heads who did farm wage work averaged low earnings and, consequently, low family incomes.

Family income of teenagers.--Although farm wage workers who were heads of household or wives of heads generally lived in low-income families, workers who were 14 through 17 years old and living with their parents averaged relatively high family incomes (\$4,200). Those teenagers who also worked at nonfarm jobs during the year had even higher family incomes (\$5,115). While this survey was not oriented toward obtaining information on the households of teenage farmworkers, it is known that many young people work at farm jobs during summer vacation from school. This fact, coupled with relatively high family incomes and residence off the farm, indicates that many teenage farmworkers are from families whose head is in a nonfarm, well-paying, occupation.

Although family income of teenage farmworkers varied according to personal characteristics, as did the income of other farmworkers, almost all groups of teenagers were better off financially, on the average, than comparable groups of heads, wives, or other hired farmworkers. Nonwhite teenagers, who experienced about as much poverty proportionately as other nonwhite workers, were an exception.

Family income of other household members.--Those wage workers who were neither the head of the household nor the wife nor child under

18 of the head were about as poor as household heads and wives. In earlier sections it was noted that this group of farm wage workers were chiefly males, aged 18 years and over, who were still living with their parents. Others may have been brothers, sisters, or other adult relatives of the household head. The median family income of these workers was \$2,800. The characteristics which distinguish the poor from the nonpoor in this group are similar to those which characterize the poor among heads of household and other hired farmworkers.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Survey of the Hired Farm Working Force

The Bureau of the Census, through a continuing program known as the Current Population Survey, interviews a sample of the population monthly. Once a year, generally in December, the Economic Research Service contracts for special questions to be added to the survey for persons who have done hired farmwork at any time during the year. These questions refer to the number of days of farm wage work done during the year and the cash wages received for this work, the number of days of nonfarm wage work, if any, and earnings for that work, migratory status, chief activity during the year, and other matters. The basic data on employment and earnings are published by the Economic Research Service in the report on the Hired Farm Working Force 10/. This report utilizes unpublished data obtained from the Current Population Survey of December 1965.

Population Coverage

At the time of the 1965 survey, the CPS sample included about 40,000 housing units and other living quarters selected at random from 357 sample areas comprising 701 counties and independent cities representing every State and the District of Columbia 11/. Some 35,000 of these units were occupied by households which were interviewed; the remaining units were not included in the interview program because they were vacant, converted to nonresidential use, or the occupants were not available for interview.

The data in this report relate to persons 14 years of age and over who did farm wage work at any time during the year and were in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the December survey. Excluded were farm wage workers who died, entered the Armed Forces, or were otherwise removed from the

civilian noninstitutional population before the survey. Omitted also were foreign nationals who did farm wage work in the United States at some time during 1965 but returned to their own country before the survey.

Definitions

Age.--The age of the person at his last birthday.

Color.--This term refers to the white and nonwhite groups in the population. The nonwhite group includes Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Household.--A household includes all of the persons who occupy a room, a group of rooms, an apartment, or a house, which constitutes separate living quarters. That is, the persons occupying the quarters do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure, and there is either direct access from the outside or through a common hall, or a kitchen or cooking equipment exists for the exclusive use of the occupants.

The household head is usually the person regarded as such by members of the group. Women are not classified as heads if their husbands are residing in the household at the time of the survey. Other members of a

10/ McElroy, Robert C. The Hired Farm Working Force of 1967. A Statistical Report. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. No. 148, Sept. 1968.

11/ For a thorough explanation of the Current Population Survey, see Concepts and Methods Used in Manpower Statistics From the Current Population Survey. U.S. Dept. Commerce and U.S. Dept. Labor, Current Population Reports, Ser. P-23(22) June, and BLS Rpt. 313, 1967.

household can include the wife of the head, members of their immediate family, other relatives of the head, and nonrelatives residing in the household. A lodger and his wife are treated as a separate family but are included as members of the household. In determining the size of a household, all persons living in the household are counted, not only those 14 years of age and over.

Education.--A program of formal instruction in the regular school system leading to an elementary school certificate, a high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Instruction may be in graded public, private, and parochial elementary, junior and senior high schools, or in colleges, universities, or professional schools. Instruction in any other type of educational institution is counted only if the credits obtained are transferable to a school within the regular school system.

Tenure of living quarters.--Tenure refers to the conditions under which living quarters are occupied. There are three categories of tenure. A unit is "owned or being bought" if the owner or co-owner lives in it even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. The owner or co-owner must be a household member of the unit who is either present or temporarily absent from the unit for a short period of time. A unit is "rented" if any money rent is paid for it. If the unit is not "owned or being bought" and if no money rent is paid for it, then it is classified as "no cash rent." Such units are usually provided in exchange for services rendered, or as a gift from a relative or friend not living in the unit. For example, a unit occupied by a caretaker, farmworker, or a janitor who receives the use of a house or apartment as part of his wages is classified "no cash rent." A unit occupied by a tenant farmer or sharecropper who does not pay any cash rent is also classified "no cash rent."

Farm or nonfarm residence.--The place in which the worker lived at the time of the survey. Persons were classified as living on farms (farm resident) if they lived on rural places of 10 acres or more, from which agricultural products worth \$50 or more were sold in the reporting year. Also included as farm residents were those living on rural places of less than 10 acres with sales of at least \$250 in agricultural products in the reporting year. Nonfarm resident workers lived in urban places, rural towns, villages, or in the open country on places that did not meet the criteria for farm classification.

Geographic area of residence.--States included in each of the geographic regions referred to in this report are as follows: North--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas. South--Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas. West--Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Alaska.

Chief activity.--Information on the chief activity of farm wage workers during the year was derived from the question, "What was . . . doing most of 1965, working, keeping house, going to school, or something else?" If working was reported as the chief activity, the kind of work the person did most of the work year was determined. Farm wage work was recorded if the person spent most of his working time doing farm wage work. Other farmwork was recorded if the person spent most of his working time operating his own farm (as a tenant, owner, or sharecropper), doing work for pay in kind, or doing unpaid work on a family farm. Nonfarmwork was recorded if a person spent most of his working time in a nonfarm field, such as manufacturing, trade, construction, or domestic service, in his own business or profession, without pay in a family business, or for pay (or payment in kind).

If the person did not report working as his chief activity, information was obtained on what he was doing most of the year. Looking for work (unemployed) was recorded for a person who spent most of his time without employment, but actively looking for a job. Keeping house was recorded for persons who spent most of their time doing their own housework. Going to school was recorded for persons who spent most of their time attending school. The category other was recorded for persons who spent most of their time at some activity other than those named above.

Migratory status.--Farm wage workers were classified as migratory during the survey year if they left homes temporarily (at least overnight) to do farmwork for cash wages in another county within the same State or in another State, with the expectation of returning home at the conclusion of their period of farm wage work. Persons who had no usual place of residence and did farm wage work during the year

in two or more counties, were also classified as migratory farm wage workers.

Classified as nonmigratory workers were persons who commuted daily from their homes across the county or State line to do farm wage work and returned home each night. Also classified as nonmigratory were persons who did farm wage work in their own county for part of a year and then made a permanent move to another county, even though they may have done farm wage work in the second county.

Farm wage worker.--Any person in the population covered by the sample who did farmwork for cash wages or salary at any time of the year for all or only part of a day.

Farmwork for cash wages or salary.--Types of farm activity included are (1) paid work done on a farm in connection with the production, preparation for market, or delivery to market of agricultural products; (2) paid work done on and off the farm by a hired farmworker in connection with the normal maintenance and routine of farm business. This includes repairs to farm buildings and machinery and trips to town to buy feed, seed, and fertilizer or to handle other matters involved in running the farm business; and (3) the management of a farm business for cash salary.

Not included as farmwork for cash wages or salary are (1) work performed by a farm operator on his own farm; (2) "exchange" work between farmers without pay; (3) work done exclusively for "payment in kind," such as room or board; (4) work done without pay on a family farm by a member of the farm operator's family (a small regular cash allowance is not considered farm wages); (5) nonfarmwork performed on a farm by someone other than a hired farmworker involved in maintenance chores. This would include building, repair, or construction by a carpenter, well digging by a drilling company, hauling of agricultural products to market by a commercial trucker, and domestic service in the farmer's home; and (6) custom work, such as spraying, threshing, and combining when performed by a person who is paid a combined rate for the use of his equipment and labor.

FWO and FNF workers.--The FWO worker is one whose wage and salary employment during the year consisted of farmwork only. The FNF worker earned wages from both farm and nonfarm work.

Regular and seasonal workers.--These terms differentiate the long-term from the

short-term hired farmworker. Exact definitions of these two terms differ, depending on the data series, but in this report a regular farmworker is one who has worked 150 days or more at farm wage work counting all jobs held during the year. The seasonal worker is anyone who has worked less than 150 days at farm wage work at all farm jobs of the year.

Days of farm or nonfarm wage work.--Days on which any farm or nonfarm wage work was reported. The work may have been for all or only part of a day.

Earnings from farmwork or nonfarmwork.--Cash wages or salary received for farmwork or for nonfarmwork. Earnings do not include the value of perquisites received in connection with farmwork or the value of fringe benefits received for nonfarmwork.

Farm and nonfarm occupations.--Occupation groups used are defined as in 1960 Census of Population, except that farm managers are included with farm laborers and foremen in the survey of the Hired Farm Working Force while in the Census of Population farm managers are grouped with farmers.

Farm employers.--Three sets of questions were asked referring to the employers of farm wage workers. One set pertained to the number of different farm employers a farm wage worker had during the year. Another asked for the number of days a person worked on his longest farm wage job of the year. If a farm wage worker had only one employer, the number of days he worked for that employer was recorded. If a worker had two or more farm employers, the number of days he worked on his longest farm wage job was recorded. Finally, the relationship of the farm wage worker to his only, or longest, farm employer of the year was determined. A farm wage worker was classified as either related to his farm employer (husband, wife, parent, child or other relative) or unrelated.

Total family income.--This includes money income received by all income recipients in the family. It includes cash wages or salary, net income from self-employment, social security, interest, dividends, income from estates or trusts, net rental income, unemployment compensation, public assistance or welfare payments, and pensions, veterans payments, annuities, alimony, etc. It does not include money received from the sale of property, bank withdrawals, money borrowed, tax refunds, gifts, lump-sum inheritances, or insurance payments.

The term "family" refers to persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together.

Reliability of the Estimates

Estimating procedure.--The sample data obtained from persons in the 35,000 interviewed households are weighted by the known distribution in the entire population of age, sex, color, and farm-nonfarm residence. This distribution is based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on strength of the Armed Forces. This procedure provides substantially better estimates than could be produced by assigning to the sample data a fixed weight based on the sample ratio. The overall sampling ratio used in the 1965 survey represents one household in the sample for each 1800 households in the population. The inflated records for the hired farmworkers in the sample were selected and tabulated for this report.

Variability.--Since the estimates are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. They may differ somewhat from the results that would have been obtained from another sample, or from a complete census using the same schedule, instructions, and interviewers. The results are also subject to errors of response and reporting.

Sampling variability, that is, variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than a whole population is surveyed, is measured by the standard error of an estimate. The standard error, as calculated for this report, also partially measures the effect of compensating types of response and reporting errors, but does not measure any systematic biases in the data, such as would occur if respondents tended to overstate number of days worked. The standard error indicates that if the sample survey were taken an infinite number of times, an estimate from the survey would differ from a census by less than the standard error 68 times out of 100. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference between the sample and the census would be less than twice the standard error.

The estimates of standard errors shown in this report are approximations for the 357 areas sampled. To derive standard errors which would be applicable to a wide variety of items and which could be prepared at moderate cost, a number of approximations were required.

As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item.

Tables 34 and 35 show the standard errors of the estimated number and percentages of persons who did farm wage work. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends on the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Generally, estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates of the numerator of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is 50 percent or more.

Table 34.--Standard errors of estimated numbers of persons who did farm wage work, CPS supplement

(68 chances out of 100)	
Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000	11,000
50,000	15,000
100,000	22,000
250,000	35,000
500,000	52,000
1,000,000	80,000
2,500,000	150,000

Table 35.--Standard errors of percentages of persons who did farm wage work, CPS supplement

(68 chances out of 100)							
Percentage	Base of percentage in thousands						
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000
	Percent						
2 or 98	4.2	3.0	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4
5 or 95	6.6	4.7	2.9	2.1	1.5	.9	.7
10 or 90	9.1	6.4	4.1	2.9	2.0	1.3	.9
15 or 85	10.8	7.6	4.8	3.4	2.4	1.5	1.1
20 or 80	12.1	8.5	5.4	3.8	2.7	1.7	1.2
25 or 75	13.1	9.3	5.9	4.1	2.9	1.9	1.3
35 or 65	14.4	10.2	6.4	4.6	3.2	2.0	1.4
50	15.1	10.7	6.8	4.8	3.4	2.1	1.5

Tables 36, 37, and 38 show the standard errors of average annual number of days of farm wage work, average annual earnings from this work, and average daily farm wages. Standard errors of average number of days, annual earnings, and daily earnings from non-farm wage work would probably be somewhat higher than the standard errors of comparable estimates for farm wage work.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors.--Table 8 shows that there were 242,000 white female farm wage workers who were married to the head of household in which they resided. Table 34 shows the standard error of 242,000 to be about 34,000. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have shown a figure different from the sample result by less than 34,000. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the difference would have been less than 68,000. Of these 242,000 workers, 55,000, or 22.7 percent, were farm residents. Table 35 shows the standard error of 22.7 percent with a base of 242,000 to be approximately 5.9 per-

cent. Consequently, the chances are 68 out of 100 that a complete census count would have disclosed the figure to be between 16.8 and 28.6 percent, and 95 out of 100 that the figure would have been between 10.9 and 34.5 percent.

Table 37.--Standard errors of estimated average annual earnings from farm wage work, CPS Supplement

(68 chances out of 100)			
Average annual earnings per person	:	Base of average in thousands	
	:	250	500
Dol.	:	Standard error in dollars	
	:		
250	:	75	50
500	:	115	80
750	:	150	105
1,000	:	180	130

Table 38.--Standard errors of estimated average daily earnings from farm wage work, CPS Supplement

(68 chances out of 100)			
Average daily earnings per person	:	Base of average in thousands	
	:	250	500
Dol.	:	Standard error in dollars	
	:		
4	:	0.70	0.50
7	:	.95	.55
10	:	1.10	.80

Table 36.--Standard errors of estimated average annual number of days of farm wage work, CPS Supplement

(68 chances out of 100)			
Average number of days worked per year per person	:	Base of average in thousands	
	:	250	500
Days	:	Standard error in days	
	:		
50	:	11	8
100	:	15	10
200	:	18	13