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## the HR ED FARM WORKing FORCE

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This report is the latest of a series begun in 1945 on the basis of enumerative surveys made under the direction of Louis J. Ducoff and Margaret Jarman Hagood, Farm Population and Rural Iife Branch. Information was obtained for the Agricultural Marketing Service by the Bureau of the Census.

April 1958

# Y THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE OF 1956* 

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## SUMMARY

More than $3 \frac{1}{2}$ million persons did some farm work for wages in the United States in 1956, and 2 million worked 25 days or more at farm wage work. Although the total hired farm working force in 1956 was up about half a million from 1954, the number of workers with 25 days or more of hired farm work was essentially unchanged from 1954, the last year that the survey was made.

Farm wage workers who did any farm wage work during the year, by sex, United States, 1945-56

| Year | All farm wage workers |  |  | Workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work during the year |  |  | Workers with less than 25 days of farm wage work during the year |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
|  | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. |
| 1945 | 3,212 | 2,375 | 837 | 1,965 | 1,576 | 389 | 1,247 | 799 | 448 |
| 1946 | 2,770 | 2,120 | 650 | 1,953 | 1,584 | 369 | 817 | 536 | 281 |
| 1947 | 3,394 | 2,587 | 807 | 2,215 | 1,864 | 351 | 1,179 | 723 | 456 |
| 1948 | 3,752 | 2,820 | 932 | 2,502 | 2,036 | 466 | 1,250 | 784 | 466 |
| 1949 | 4,140 | 3,021 | 1,119 | 2,510 | 2,001 | 509 | 1,630 | 1,020 | 610 |
| 1950 | 4,342 | 3,221 | 1,121 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1951 | 3,274 | 2,392 | 882 | 2,156 | 1,718 | 438 | 1,118 | 674 | 444 |
| 1952 | 2,980 | 2,218 | 762 | 1,972 | 1,558 | 414 | 1,008 | 660 | 348 |
| 1954 | 3,009 | 2,237 | 772 | 1,908 | 1,544 | 364 | 1,101 | 693 | 408 |
| 1956 | 3,575 | 2,525 | 1,050 | 2,078 | 1,553 | 525 | 1,497 | 972 | 525 |

All data on the hired farm working force from the Current Population Survey relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

[^0]There were more short-term seasonal workers in 1956 than in 1954, including larger proportions of females, young males, and nonwhite workers. Average days of farm wage work per worker and the proportion of workers employed for 250 days or more at farm wage work were lower in 1956 than for most previous years surveyed. About half of the persons who had 25 days or more of farm wage work reported such work as their chief activity in 1956.

Total cash wage income from all sources earned by farm workers was higher in 1956 than for any earlier year. Annual cash earnings from farm wage work were the same in 1956 as in 1954 but such earnings were higher for males than in earlier years. Average daily farm wages of males rose substantially while wages of female farm workers declined between 1954 and 1956. Fifteen percent of the males and 1 percent of female farm wage workers made $\$ 2,000$ or more from hired farm work in 1956. About 25 percent of all persons who did 25 days or more of hired farm work also had earnings from nonfarm wage work, but the average duration of nonfarm work among hired farm workers was the lowest reported since 1945, when this survey began.

About 427,000 persons did migratory farm work at some time during 1956, slightly more than in 1954. Eight percent of the migratory workers had 250 days or more of farm wage work in 1956; about three out of five migpatory workers reported farm wage work as their chief activity during the year. In addition, there were nearly 400,000 foreign agricultural workers employed in the United States in 1956 who had left the country by December, when the survey was made.

Among migratory workers annual cash earnings from farm wages were higher in 1956 than in 1954 though average days of farm wage work declined. Migratory workers averaged higher daily earnings from nonfarm wage work, and worked more days at nonfarm employment during the year, than nonmigrants. Total earnings of migrants from both farm and nonfarm wage work were higher than those of nonmigrants.

About three-fourths of the migrants who did 25 days or more of hired farm work traveled 75 miles or more, 35 percent traveled over 600 miles, and 18 percent traveled more than 1,000 miles from their homes to do farm wage work during 1956. Workers who traveled the greatest distances to do farm wage work tended to have the highest daily and annual cash farm earnings.

Information on employment by months was obtained for the first time in 1956. It revealed that about haif of the entire
hired farm working force were employed for some time during each month from June through October. A little over a fifth of the hired farm working force were working on farms for wages in January 1956. Half of the total days of work on farms for wages in 1956 were in the 5 months from June through October. Migrant workers showed greater fluctuations in seasonal employment than nonmigrants. In July 1956, 60 percent of all persons who did some migratory farm work during the year were working on farms for wages, but in January 1956 only 22 percent of the migrants worked at farm wage work. Peak employment of children 14 and 15 years of age was reached in August-during that month 51 percent of all hired farm workers in that age group were employed on farms for pay. Only 5 percent of the 14- and 15-year-olds were working for wages on farms in the months of January and February; about 3 percent had nonfarm wage jobs in the early months of the year.

About 53 percent of all hired farm workers wer e eligible for Social Security coverage on the basis of their farm wage earnings in 1956. About 300,000 of those eligible had less than $\$ 150$ in farm wages and qualified on the basis of having 20 days or more of farm work for wages earned on a time basis.

## SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE

The estimated $3 \frac{1}{2}$ million persons 14 years of age and older who worked on U. S. farms for wages in 1956 included all persons who worked at least one day at farm wage work during the year. Among these were many diverse groups of workers, ranging from the many who worked only at the peak of the harvest season to the few at the other extreme who did some farm work every day in the year. About 2 million persons 14 years of age and over worked 25 days or more on farms for wages in 1956, including almost 300,000 who worked 300 days or more at farm wage work during the year. The approximately 2 million persons who worked 25 days or more for farm wages in 1956 represented 58 percent of the entire hired farm working force. They accounted for 95 percent of the total days of farm wage labor and 93 percent of the total cash earnings from farm wages reported for the year. An additional 1.5 million persons 14 years of age and over worked for farm wages for less than 25 days in 1956. These groups differ widely in experience, earnings, and general characteristics as well as in the degree of their attachment to the agricultural labor force. Both for this reason and for convenience in presenting the data, information on the hired farm working force is given under two broad groupings: (1) Persons who worked 25 days or more at farm wage work during the year and (2) persons who worked less than 25 days for farm wages during the year. Except where noted, data in the following
analysis refer to persons in the hired farm working force who did 25 days or more of farm wage work in the specified year.

The ratio of males to females at about 4 to 1 was relatively stable during earlier survey years. In 1956 the ratio of males to females declined to 3 to 1. The change in sex ratio was due entirely to a substantial increase in number of female workers; the number of male hired farm workers remained about the same (table 1). The proportion of nonwhite workers among those who did 25 days or more of farm wage work increased from 30 percent in 1954 to 33 percent in 1956. Negro workers made up about nine-tenths of all nonwhites in 1954 and 96 percent in 1956.

Table 1. - Farm wage workers with 25 or more days of farm wage work in the year, by sex, United States, 1945-49, 1951, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Sex | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1951 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. |
|  | 1,965 | 1,953 | 2,215 | 2,502 | 2,510 | 2,156 | 1,972 | 1,908 | 2,078 |
| Male | 1,576 | 1,584 | 1,864 | 2,036 | 2,001 | 1,718 | 1,558 | 1,544 | 1,553 |
| Female | 389 | 369 | 351 | 466 | 509 | 438 | 414 | 364 | 525 |
| Total |  |  | Percentage distribution |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pet. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pet. | Pct. |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 80 | 81 | 84 | 81 | 80 | 80 | 79 | 81 | 75 |
| Female | 20 | 19 | 16 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 19 | 25 |

Age composition of the hired farm working force has remained essentially unchanged in the survey years. About 80 percent of both sexes were in the age group 18 through 64 (table 2), but a smaller proportion of females than males was found in the 65 and over age group.

Table 2. - Percentage distribution of male and female workers who did 25 days or more of hired farm work, by age groups, United States, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Age | Male |  |  | Female |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
|  | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 14-17 years | 17 | 14 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 18 |
| 18-34 | 42 | 41 | 39 | 37 | 44 | 39 |
| 35-64 | 37 | 41 | 39 | 44 | 36 | 41 |
| 65 and over | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

The "regular" hired farm working force--workers who spend 150 days (about 6 months) or more at farm wage work--comprised only a little over a third of all workers reporting 25 days or more of work on farms for pay in 1956 (table 3). Year-round hired farm workers (those who reported 250 days or more of farm wage work) represented about a fifth of the total in 1956 compared with about a fourth for most previous years.

Table 3. - Distribution of farm wage workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by duration of farm wage work during year, United States, 1945-49, 1951, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Days of farm wage work | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1951 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. |
|  | 1,965 | 1,953 | 2,215 | 2,502 | 2,510 | 2,156 | 1,972 | 1,908 | 2,078 |
| Less than 150 days | 1,164 | 1,089 | 1,182 | 1,501 | 1,543 | 1,304 | 1,252 | 1,074 | 1,329 |
| 150 days and over | 801 | 864 | 1,033 | 1,001 | 967 | 852 | 720 | 834 | 749 |
|  |  |  | Percentage distribution |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Less than 150 days | 59 | 56 | 53 | 60 | 61 | 60 | 63 | 56 | 64 |
| $150 \text { days }$ and over | 41 | 44 | 47 | 40 | 39 | 40 | 37 | 44 | 36 |

The increase in the size of the hired farm working force between 1954 and 1956 occurred primarily among short-term seasonal workers (those who did less than 25 days of farm wage work) and among females, young males, and nonwhite workers in the group that worked 25 days or more at farm wage work. The number of persons working 25 days or more increased about 9 percent, and the aggregate number of days at farm wage work for all persons in this group increased only 4 percent between 1954 and 1956.

## CHIEF ACTIVITY DURING THE YEAR

Only about 1 in 3 hired farm workers doing 25 days or more of farm wage work spent 6 months or more at farm work for wages in 1956. About 1 in 5 put in the equivalent of 50 five-day work weeks (250 days or more) at farm work for wages during the year. Less than 1 in 7 put in 300 days or more of farm wage work. Since the majority of all hired farm workers spend the largest share of their time doing something other than farm wage work, an investigation of the workers' chief activity during the year will reveal more clearly the varied pattern of their activities. For our purposes, "chief activity" is defined as the activity at which the hired farm worker spent the most time during the year.

Work for wages on farms was the chief activity of just half of all persons reporting 25 days or more of farm wage work in 1956. This is about the same proportion as that found in all earlier survey years except 1947 (table 4). Evidence of the growing importance of housewives, students, and elderly persons in the hired farm labor force is revealed in the increased proportion of farm wage workers who are out of the labor force most of the year. In 1947 about a fifth of all persons who worked 25 days or more on farms for pay were classified as out of the labor force the greater part of the year; in 1952, 1954, and 1956 the proportion so classified has been about a third. On the other hand, the proportion who work chiefly at nonfarm jobs during the year has held fairly steady in the years surveyed, varying between 8 and 11 percent. The proportion of farm wage workers who were chiefly engaged in such activities as nonfarm work, keeping house, or going to school is, of course, much greater among the workers who reported less than 25 days of farm wage work than among those who reported 25 days or more.

## EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OF HIRED FARM WORKERS

At farm work. --The changing employment pattern among farm wage workers, revealed in trends in chief activity, is borne out by data on average duration of hired farm employment. Farm wage workers who

Table 4. - Distribution of farm wage workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work in the year, by chief activity during year, United States, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Chief activity of workers during year | Farm wage workers |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1947 | 1949 | 1951 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
| Total | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. |
|  | 2,215 | 2,510 | 2,156 | 1,972 | 1,908 | 2,078 |
| Farm work | 1,563 | 1,622 | 1,292 | 1,078 | 1,166 | 1,223 |
| Farm wage work | 1,325 | 1,262 | 981 | 884 | 979 | 1,028 |
| Without nonfarm work | 1,014 | 978 | 768 | 674 | 759 | 825 |
| With nonfarm work | 311 | 284 | 213 | 210 | 220 | 203 |
| Other farm work | 238 | 360 | 311 | 194 | 187 | 195 |
| Nonfarm work | 245 | 252 | 245 | 222 | 173 | 160 |
| Not in the labor force | 407 | 636 | 1/619 | 1/672 | 1/569 | 1/695 |
| Keeping house | 128 | 299 | 267 | 288 | 205 | 285 |
| Attending school | 195 | 258 | 287 | 284 | 243 | 314 |
| Other | 84 | 79 | 1/65 | I/100 | 1/121 | 1) 95 |

Total
Farm work
Farm wage work
Without nonfarm work With nonfarm work
Other farm work
Nonfarm work
Not in the labor force
Keeping house
Attending school
Other

1 Includes for $1951,8,000$, for $1952,18,000$, for $1954,49,000$, and for 1956, 22,000 persons who reported looking for work was their chief activity. The comparable figures for 1947 and 1949 not available.
worked at least 25 days averaged 136 days of farm wage work in 1956, one of the lowest averages reported in this series (table 5). The decline from an average of 142 days reported for 1954 was brought about largely by an increase in proportion of women. Female farm workers tend to work for shorter periods of time than males and their group includes a larger proportion of marginal or short-term workers. Among hired farm laborers, average days worked by male and female workers considered separately were virtually unchanged from 1954.

Annual cash earnings from Parm work averaged $\$ 799$ in 1956, the same as in 1954. Earnings of male workers at $\$ 974$ were up, however, continuing the general trend since 1947, when earnings of farm wage workers who worked 25 days or more during the year first became available. Farm wages reported in this survey are cash earnings only and do not include the value of perquisites sometimes furnished to hired workers such as board, lodging, milk, and eggs. The rise between 1947 and 1956 in annual cash earnings from farm wage work for male workers exceeded the rise in the cost of living. Adjusted on the basis of a 17 percent change between 1947 and 1956 in the AMS index of prices paid by farmers for items used in family living, 1/ the real annual farm wage earnings of male farm workers rose 28 percent between those years, or an average of a little over 3 percent per year.

Figures on annual earnings do not take into account variations in average duration of employment. A different view of the change in cash earnings for the period 1947-1956 is obtained by computing an average doily wage from total days of work and annual cash earnings. Male farm workers' average cash daily wages rose 63 percent from 1947 to 1956 , or 39 percent after adjusting for the increase in cost of living. Female farm workers have fared much worse in annual earnings and average daily earnings. After rising to $\$ 4.05$ in 1952 and 1954, the average daily farm wage earnings for female workers dropped to $\$ 3.75$ in 1956 , the same rate reported in 1947.

Because time spent at farm work during the year varies greatly among farm wage workers, earnings also vary considerably. Workers who put in 250 or more days on farms for wages averaged $\$ 1,911$ in 1956 (table 6). They averaged 18 days more and earned an average of $\$ 187$ more at farm wage work in 1956 than in 1954 . Length of time at farm wage work appeared to affect average daily earnings very little. Persons working 250 days or more at farm work for pay averaged only 30 cents a day more than those working 25 to 149 days on farms. Moreover, male hired workers who did between 25 and 150 days of farm

1/ Agricultural Prices, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Supplement No. 1, October 1957, p. 45.

Table 5. - Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work by farm workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by sex, United States, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Year and sex | Farm and nonfarm |  | Farm |  |  | Nonfarm |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Days worked | Wages earned | Days | Wages earned |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ | Wages earned |  |
|  |  |  |  | Per year | $\left.\begin{gathered} \text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered} \right\rvert\,$ |  | Per <br> year | Per day worked 1 |
|  | Number | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars |
| $1947$ <br> Total | 183 | 734 | 156 | 596 | 3.80 | 27 | 138 | 5.05 |
| Male | 198 | 803 | 170 | 648 | 3.80 | 28 | 155 | 5.50 |
| Female | 106 | 362 | 85 | 319 | 3.75 | 21 | 43 | 2.05 |
| 1949 <br> Total | 166 | 702 | 140 | 557 | 3.95 | 26 | 145 | 5.65 |
| Male | 183 | 810 | 157 | 643 | 4.10 | 26 | 167 | 6.40 |
| Female | 98 | 280 | 74 | 219 | 2.95 | 24 | 61 | 2.55 |
| 1951 <br> Total | 174 | 879 | 146 | 683 | 4.70 | 28 | 196 | 7.00 |
| Male <br> Female | 197 84 | $\begin{array}{r} 1,035 \\ 268 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 165 \\ 70 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 797 \\ & 238 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4.85 \\ & 3.40 \end{aligned}$ | 32 14 | $\begin{array}{r} 238 \\ 30 \end{array}$ | 7.55 2.10 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1952 \\ & \text { Total } \end{aligned}$ | 162 | 908 | 132 | 684 | 5.15 | 30 | 224 | 7.45 |
| Male <br> Female | $\begin{array}{r} 187 \\ 67 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,078 \\ 264 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 152 \\ 57 \end{array}$ | 804 232 | 5.30 4.05 | 35 10 | 274 32 | $\begin{aligned} & 7.75 \\ & 3.15 \end{aligned}$ |
| $1954$ <br> Total | 168 | 981 | 142 | 799 | 5.65 | 26 | 182 | 7.10 |
| Male <br> Female | $\begin{array}{r} 185 \\ 96 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,124 \\ 380 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 158 \\ 76 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 916 \\ & 307 \end{aligned}$ | 5.80 4.05 | $\begin{aligned} & 27 \\ & 20 \end{aligned}$ | 208 73 | $\begin{aligned} & 7.70 \\ & 3.70 \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1956 \\ & \text { Total } \end{aligned}$ | 159 | 989 | 136 | 799 | 5.85 | 23 | 190 | 8.30 |
| Male <br> Female | $\begin{array}{r} 184 \\ 86 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,215 \\ 320 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 157 \\ 74 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 974 \\ & 279 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6.20 \\ & 3.75 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 27 \\ & 12 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 241 \\ 41 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 9.05 \\ & 3.35 \end{aligned}$ |

1/ Rounded to nearest 5 cents.

Table 6. - Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work for farm wage Workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by sex of worker and duration of farm wage work, United States, 1956

| Sex of worker and duration of farm wage work | Number of farm wage workers | Farm and nonfarm |  |  | Farm |  |  | Nonfarm |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Days | Wages earned |  | Daysworked | Wages earned |  | Days worked | Wages earned |  |
|  |  |  | Per year | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Per } \\ \text { day 1/ } \\ \text { worked } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  | Per <br> year | Per day 1/ worked |  | Per <br> year | Per day $1 /$ worked |
| Total | Thousands | Number | Dollars | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars |
|  | 2,078 | 159 | 989 | 6.20 | 136 | 799 | 5.85 | 23 | 190 | 8.30 |
| 25-149 days | 1,330 | 94 | 622 | 6.55 | 63 | 361 | 5.70 | 31 | 261 | 8.35 |
| 150-249 | 305 | 271 | 1,239 | 5.90 | 192 | 1,090 | 5.70 | 19 | 149 | 7.95 |
| 250 and over | 443 | 318 | 1,917 | 6.05 | 317 | 1,911 | 6.00 | $12 /$ | 6 | 9.65 |
| Male | 1,553 | 184 | 1,215 | 6.60 | 157 | 974 | 6.20 | 27 | 241 | 9.05 |
| 25-149 days | 856 | 106 | 828 | 7.75 | 65 | 447 | 6.85 | 41 | 381 |  |
| 150-249 | 265 | 214 | 1,295 | 6.05 | 193 | 1,125 | 5.85 | 21. | 170 | 8.10 |
| 250 and over | 432 | 319 | 1,932 | 6.05 | 318 | 1,926 | 6.05 | $12 /$ | 6 | 9.70 |
| Female | 525 | 86 | 320 | 3.70 | 74 | 279 | 3.75 | 12 | 41 | 3.35 |
| 25-149 days | 474 | 73 | 251 | 3.45 | 60 | 206 | 3.45 | 13 | 45 | 3.40 |
| 150-249 | 40 | 188 | 857 | 4.55 | 184 | 850 | 4.65 | 42 | 7 | 1.80 |
| 250 and over | 11 | 297 | 1,349 | 4.55 | 296 | 1,3461 | 4.55 | 12 | 3 | 8.00 |
| Rounded to the nearest 5 cents. Less than 1 day. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

work fared better than the year-round workers on a daily rate basis-$\$ 6.85$ compared with $\$ 6.05$. Reasons for the higher average daily earnings of shorter-term workers may be found by examining the typical wage structure on U. S. farms. Year-round hired workers, usually paid by the week or month, are more likely than the shortterm or seasonal farm workers to receive perquisites in addition to a cash wage. On the other hand, seasonal workers are more likely to be paid on an hourly or piece-rate basis and seldom receive perquisites in addition to their cash earnings. Earnings reported in this study reflect only the cash wages paid to farm workers.

Despite slightly higher average earnings, the proportion of hired workers earning at least $\$ 600$ from farm work was lower in 1956 than in 1954 (table 7). Eleven percent of the hired farm working force earned \$2,000 or more in cash farm wages in 1956 compared with 13 percent who earned that much in 1954. Over 70 percent received less than $\$ 1,000$ in farm wages in 1956; the proportion making less than $\$ 400$ from such work increased from 45 to 50 percent compared with 1954. The lower farm wage earnings reported in 1956 chiefly reflect the shorter average duration of hired farm employment in 1956. In addition, they reflect the increased number of women, youths, and nonwhites in the 1956 hired farm working force, groups that generally receive lower than average wage rates.

Table 7. - Percentage distribution of farm wage workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work by wages earned at farm wage work, by sex, United States, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Cash farm } \\ & \text { wages earned } \end{aligned}$ | All workers |  |  | Male |  |  | Female |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
|  | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under \$100 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 16 | 22 |
| 100-199 | 20 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 38 | 33 | 30 |
| 200-399 | 20 | 22 | 22 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 24 | 34 | 29 |
| 400-599 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| 600-999 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| 1,000-1,999 | 17 | 18 | 17 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| 2,000 and over | 7 | 13 | 11. | 9 | 16 | 15 | - | 1 | 1 |

At nonfarm work. - About a fourth of all persons who did 25 days or more of farm wage work also did some nonfarm work for wages (tables 8 and 9). The proportion of hired workers doing some nonfarm work has not changed materially in the years for which information is available. But the 23 days of nonfarm work reported in 1956 was the lowest average since the series began (table 5). Yet average earnings from nonfarm wages were higher than they were in most past years, and average daily earnings from nonfarm work were higher than those in any previous year. Average daily nonfarm earnings of male and female farm workers each increased about 64 percent during the same period, though female earnings from nonfarm work averaged far less than nonfarm earnings of male hired workers.

Total wage income of hired workers.--Average wage income of farm workers from all sources in 1956 was the highest reported for any year covered by these surveys, $\$ 989$ earned in 159 days of farm and nonfarm wage work. Despite the longer period of nonfarm work and greater income from nonfarm wages earned by farm workers with 25 to 149 days of farm wage work, year-round farm workers earned about three times as much in combined farm and nonfarm wage income. Most of the year_round farm workers' wage income, of course, was earned on farms. Combined wage income of male farm workers was abcut the same in 1956 and 1954 but earnings of female farm workers from farm and nonfarm wages were down, as both days of work and average daily earnings declined from 1954 to 1956. Total wage income of farm wage workers rose about 35 percent betrreen 1947 and 1956. The increase from 1949 to 1956 amounted to more than 40 percent. But these increases are rather modest after adjusting for the rise in cost of living. With this adjustment, increase in real income from wages was about 15 percent from 1947 levels and about 20 percent from 1949 levels.

The distribution of farm wage workers by total farm and nonfarm income shown in table 10 indicates only slight shifts in proportion of workers earning various amounts in the years 1952, 1954, and 1956. Almost nalf of the male workers, but only 4 percent
 wages in 1056.

Chiof antivity during the year. -Classifying hired workers by their chief activity during the year provides a means of comparing the average earnings and duration of employment of regular hired workers with other persons in the total labor force whose primary activity is elsewhere but who work on farms for wages sometime during the year. Table 11 gives average days of employment and earnings for the principal labor force classifications in which hired farm workers are found.

Table 8. - Average days worked and wages earned at nonfarm wage work by farm wage workers who did any nonfarm wage work by duration of farm wage work, United States, 1949, 1951, 1954, and 1956

| Year | Total farm wage workers who did any nonfarm wage work |  |  | Persons with 25 days or more of farm wage work who did any nonfarm wage work |  |  | Persons with less than 25 days of farm wage work who did any nonfarm wage work |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ | Wages earned |  | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Wages earned |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Wages earned |  |
|  |  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Per } \\ \text { year } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked } \end{array}$ |  | Per year | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked } \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { year } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Per } \\ \text { day } 1 / \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Number | Dol. | Dol. | Number | Dol. | Dol. | Number | Dol. | Dol. |
| 1949 | 91 | 538 | 5.90 | 86 | 487 | 5.65 | 98 | 606 | 6.20 |
| 1951 | 99 | 725 | 7.30 | 103 | 716 | 6.95 | 93 | 743 | 8.00 |
| 1954 | 100 | 712 | 7.15 | 97 | 691 | 7.10 | 103 | 742 | 7.15 |
| 1956 | 94 | 811 | 8.65 | 90 | 747 | 8.30 | 97 | 877 | 9.00 |

1) Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Table 9. - Farm wage workers who had no nonfarm wage work, United States, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Year | Number of persons who did farm wage work only |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | 25 days or more | Less than 25 days |
|  | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. |
| 1949 | 2,886 | 1,795 | 1,091 |
| 1951 | 2,410 | 1,596 | 814 |
| 1952 |  | 1,403 |  |
| 1954 | 2,145 | 1,404 | 741 |
| 1956 | 2,544 | 1,549 | 994 |

Table 10. - Percentage distribution of farm wage workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work by wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work, by sex, United States, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Cash wage income | All workers |  |  | Male |  |  |  | Female |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
|  | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |  |
| Total | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |  |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |  |
|  | 7 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 13 | 19 |  |
| $100-199$ | 17 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 38 | 28 | 29 |  |
| $200-399$ | 17 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 28 | 34 | 30 |  |
| $400-599$ | 8 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 11 |  |
| $600-999$ | 16 | 14 | 12 | 18 | 15 | 14 | 7 | 11 | 7 |  |
| $1,000-1,399$ | 11 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 6 | 2 |  |
| $1,400-1,999$ | 11 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 2,000 and over | 13 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 22 | 21 | - | 1 | 1 |  |

About half of all workers who worked 25 days or more at farm wage work reported such work as their chief activity in 1956. Average farm wage earnings for this group, shown in table l2, have risen steadily since 1949, the first year these data were available. Average days worked for farm wages, however, have declined in recent years. Both farm wage earnings and combined farm and nonfarm wage earnings for this group are consistently higher than average cash earnings for all workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work show in table 5. Workers whose chief activity was farm wage work averaged $\$ 1,421$, of which $\$ 1,333$ was earned in farm wages and $\$ 88$ from nonfarm wages.

Of the 1 million whose chief activity in 1956 was working for wages on farms, 825,000 had no nonfarm work (table 4). The percentage in this group with earnings from nonfurm work declined slightly from 23 percent to less than 20 percent between 1947 and 1956. Farm wage workers in this group who had no nonfarm earnings had higher average annual incomes from wages than those who also did some nonfarm wage work, but they worked about 35 more days to earn their additional wage income. The average daily farm wage of hired workers who also did nonfarm work was higher than the average for hired workers who had no nonfarm wage earnings.

Table 11. - Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work for $\Longrightarrow$ workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by chief activity
of worker, United States, 1956

| Chief activity | Farm and nonfarm |  |  | Farm |  |  | Nonfarm |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Days worked | Wages earned |  | Days worked | Wages earned |  | Days worked | Wages ęarned |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { year } \end{aligned}$ | Per day worked |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { year } \end{aligned}$ | Per day worked 1 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { year } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Number | Dollars | Doliars | Number | Dollars | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars |
| Total | 159 | 989 | 6.20 | 136 | 799 | 5.85 | 23 | 190 | 8.30 |
| In the labor force | 204 | 1,356 | 6.65 | 175 | 1,090 | 6.25 | 29 | 266 | 9.05 |
| Farm work | 201 | 1,265 | 6.30 | 190 | 1,179 | 6.20 | 11 | 86 | 8.00 |
| Farm wage work | 226 | 1,421 | 6.30 | 215 | 1,333 | 6.20 | 11 | 88 | 8.10 |
| Without nonfarm work With nonfarm | 233 | 1,435 | 6.15 | 233 | 1,435 | 6.15 | - | - | - |
| work | 198 | 1,364 | 6.90 | 143 | 918 | 6.40 | 55 | 446 | 8.10 |
| Other farm work | 67 | 446 | 6.60 | 57 | 369 | 6.45 | 10 | 77 | 7.50 |
| Nonfarm work | 233 | 2,053 | 8.80 | 62 | 414 | 6.70 | 171 | 1,639 | 9.55 |
| Not in the labor force | 70 | 259 | 3.70 | 60 | 219 | 3.65 | 10 | 40 | 3.90 |
| Keeping house | 65 | 220 | 3.40 | 59 | 207 | 3.50 | 6 | 13 | 2.05 |
| Attending school | 72 | 262 | 3.65 | 61 | 218 | 3.55 | 11 | 44 | 4.05 |
| Other | 77 | 363 | 4.75 | 58 | 260 | 4.50 | 19 | 103 | 5.50 |

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Table 12. - Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm Wage work for workers whose chief activity during the year was farm wage work, United States, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Year | Farm and nonfarm |  | Farm |  | Nonfarm |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Days worked | Wages earned | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ | Wages earned | Days worked | Wages earned |
|  | Number | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Number | Dollars |
| 1949 | 225 | 925 | 211 | 824 | 14 | 101 |
| 1951 | 249 | 1,230 | 236 | 1,142 | 13 | 88 |
| 1952 | 244 | 1,331 | 227 | 1,188 | 17 | 143 |
| 1954 | 232 | 1,384 | 219 | 1,274 | 13 | 110 |
| 1956 | 226 | 1,421 | 215 | 1,333 | 11 | 88 |

Farm workers whose chief activity was nonfarm work averaged more days of wage work of all kinds during the year than any other labor force group. This resulted from a l6-day gain in average days of nonfarm work from 1954 to 1956. Total wage earnings of hired workers whose chief activity was nonfarm work were higher than those for any other group. As was to be expected, the greater part of their combined wage earnings was earned at nonfarm work, but a substantial amount represented earnings from farm work for wages. Average daily earnings from farm wages of this group were higher than those of any other group.

Reasons for the higher daily farm wage rates for those labor force groups who also did nonfarm work for wages during the year may be found in certain characteristics of the farm wage structure and farm labor markets: (I) As pointed out earlier, year-round hired workers normally are paid a weekly or monthly cash wage, and this usually works out to a lower daily rate than that for seasonal farm workers who are generally paid by the hour or by the piece, and (2) farm wage rates tend to be higher in areas in which alternative employment opportunities are more plentiful. 2/ Note that a similar tendency is suggested in the average daily wages of hired workers whose chief activity was farm wage work. Hired workers in that group
$2 /$ See Geographic Differentials of Agricultural Wages in the United States, Weatherford, Willis D., Jr., Harvard Univ. Press 1957; and Area Variations in the Wages of Agricultural Labor in the United States, Maitland, Sheridan T. and Fisher, Dorothy Anne, U. S. Department of Agriculture Technical Bulletin No. 1177, 1957.

Who also had some nonfarm wage work earned a higher daily wage at farm work than did those without nonfarm wage work-- $\$ 6.40$ compared with $\$ 6.15$ (table 11). Eliminating the marginal workers who were out of the labor force the greater part of the year, the rest of the hired farm working force averaged $\$ 1,090$ in cash earnings from farm wage work for the year, or $\$ 6.25$ per day worked.

Earnings of hired workers who had no income from selfemployment. -The information on labor force activity given in table 4 indicates that a substantial number of hired workers also operate their own farms. Some farm wage workers also derive income from other types of self-employment. Many of the hired workers who did at least 25 days or more of farm work for wages also had income from operation of their own farms or other types of self-employment in 1956. When hired workers with self-employment are sepr ed from the hired farm workers who depend for a livelihood solely on wages or salaries (table 13), the average earnings from farm wages of the latter are shown to be substantially higher, although still very low in terms of the 1956 cost of living. Hired farm workers without self-employment averaged $\$ 1,289$ in farm wages in 1956, over $\$ 500$ more than in 1954. Earnings from both farm and nonfarm wages for this group were higher in 1956 than in 1954, despite nonfarm wage earnings of less than half the amount received in 1954.

A breakdown by residence at the time of the survey of hired workers whose sole income was from wages is given in table 13. Workers are further classified as to whether they had both farm and nonfarm wage work or worked for farm wages only during the year. Urban residents worked fewer days but earned more than either of the other residence groups at hired farm work during the year. Rural nonfarm residents (persons who live in the open country but not a farm) also averaged more than farm residents in farm wage earnings for the year and on a daily basis. Persons who lived in town or cities at the end of the year averaged about $\$ 1,600$ in combined earnings from farm and nonfarm wage earnings during 1956. Their annual and daily earnings from farm wage work were also comparatively higher than the earnings of other residence groups. Further speculation on these findings would be of doubtful value because of the smallness of the urban residence sample.

The difference between farm wage earnings of white and nonwhite workers was marked, reflecting in part the regional variations in farm wage rates. Most nonwhite farm workers are in the south-farm rates are generally lower in the South than in other sections of the country. White farm workers averaged considerably more days of farm wage work and higher earnings than nonwhite workers (table 14). But the discrepancy between earnings of whites and nonwhites was far greater for nonfarm earnings than it was for farm wage earnings. White workers' average daily earnings from nonfarm wages were

Table 13. - Average days worked and cash wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work for workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work and who had no income from self-employment, by residence, United States, December 1956

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Residence } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { type of wage work } \end{gathered}$ | Farm and nonfarm |  |  | Farm |  |  | Nonfarm |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Wages earned |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Wages earned |  | Days worked | Wages earned |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { year } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Per } \\ \text { day } 1 / 1 / \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ |  | Per year | $\begin{gathered} \text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ |  | Per year | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { day } 1 / \\ & \text { worked } \end{aligned}$ |
| All residence groups Farm Farm and nonfarm | Number | Dollars | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars |
|  | 225 | 1,372 | 6.10 | 214 | 1,289 | 6.05 | 11 | 83 | 7.70 |
|  | 231 | 1,404 | 6.10 | 231 | 1,404 | 6.10 |  |  |  |
|  | 199 | 1,245 | 6.25 | 145 | ${ }^{1} 827$ | 5.70 | 54 | 418 | 7.70 |
| Rural-farm | $\frac{234}{241}$ | 1,306 | $\frac{5.60}{5.50}$ | 225 | 1,241 | 5.50 | 9 | 65 | 7.45 |
| Farm Farm and nonfarm | 241 | 1,324 | 5.50 | 241 | $1,324$ | 5.50 | 2 |  | 1.45 |
| Farm and nonfarm | 200 | 1,218 | 6.10 | 149 | $838$ | 5.65 | 51 | 379 | 7.45 |
| Rural-nonfarm | 214 | 1,393 | 6.50 | 203 | 1,308 | 6.45 | 11 | 85 | 7.60 |
| Farm | 217 | 1,429 | 6.60 | 217 | 1,429 | 6.60 |  |  |  |
| Farm and nonfarm | 202 | 1,237 | 6.15 | 142 | 783 | 5.50 | 60 | 454 | 7.60 |
| Urban | 205 | 1,634 | 7.95 | 186 | 1,474 | 7.90 | 19 | 160 | 8.30 |
| Farm | 211 | 1,802 | 8.55 | 211 | 1,802 | 8.55 |  |  |  |
| Farm and nonfarm | 195 | 1,318 | 6.75 | 139 | 858 | 6.15 | 56 | 460 | 8.30 |

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Table 14. - Farm wage workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work, by race
and sex of worker, United States, 1956

| Race and sex of worker | Number of workers | Farm and nonfarm |  |  | Farm |  |  | Nonfarm |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ | Wages earned |  | Days worked | Wages earned |  | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \end{array}$ | Wages earned |  |
|  |  |  | Per Year | $\left[\begin{array}{c}\text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked }\end{array}\right]$ |  | Per Year | $\left.\begin{array}{c}\text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked }\end{array}\right]$ |  | Per Year | Per day worked |
|  | Thou. | Number | Dol. | Dol. | Number | Dol. | Dol. | Number | Dol. | Dol. |
| Total | 2,078 | 159 | 989 | 6.20 | 136 | 799 | 5.85 | 23 | 190 | 8.30 |
| White | 1,393 | 169 | 1,195 | 7.05 | 144 | 954 | 6.60 | 25 | 241 | 9.80 |
| Male | 1,171 | 186 | 1,349 | 7.25 | 158 | 1,073 | 6.75 | 28 | 276 | 9.85 |
| Female | 222 | 77 | 378 | 4.95 | 70 | 325 | 4.65 | 7 | 53 | 7.85 |
| Nonwhite | 685 | 140 | 572 | 4.10 | 120 | 484 | 4.00 | 20 | 88 | 4.50 |
| Male | 382 | 176 | 805 | 4.55 | 154 | 673 | 4.35 | 22 | 132 | 5.95 |
| Female | 303 | 94 | 278 | 2.95 | 78 | 246 | 3.15 | 16 | 32 | 2.00 |

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.
over twice as much as nonfarm wage earnings of nonwhite hired farm workers. Nonwhite males earned somewhat more at nonfarm wage work than farm wage work--the usual pattern--but nonwhite females earned a higher average daily wage at farm wage work than they did at nonfarm wage work. The chief nonfarm wage work done by nonwhite females is domestic service, which pays even lower rates than farm labor, whereas males can obtain higher paying industrial work.

## MIGRATORY FARM WORKERS

Agricultural employment levels fluctuate from one season to the next to a degree unmatched by those in any other major industry. In recent years, the introduction of harvesting machines in high labor-use crops and other technical advances have reduced farm labor requirements substantially. At the same time, new production methods, and particularly new food processing methods, have tended to shorten the over-all harvest time for many crops. Consequently, the seasonal demand for farm labor surges to a high peak for a shorter period of time. In the major fruit and vegetable producing areas and in some cotton areas, local labor supply cannot meet demand for farm workers at critical periods of the growing season. To meet this demand, migratory farm workers, mainly from the southeastern States, Texas, and California, move from one area to another "following the crops" and providing harvest and other seasonal farm labor in localities in which local labor is not sufficient to meet the need. As in certain earlier years, information was obtained in this survey concerning the number of workers who left their homes temporarily in 1956 to work at cultivating or harvesting crops in another county or counties. 3/

Workers who commuted daily across a county line to do farm wage work and persons who made a more or less permanent move to take a steady farm job in another county are not considered migratory farm workers under this definition. Farm wage workers who had no usual place of residence (no regular home, no regular living quarters elsewhere) were considered as migratory if they did farm wage work in two or more counties in 1956. This definition excludes from the migratory work force some persons who actually leave their homes to do farm wage work. For example, in some large western counties, workers may move from their homes temporarily to do farm work without leaving their home county. The number of such cases is doubtless small. A more precise definition would be difficult to administer effectively in the Current Population Survey.

The survey estimate of migratory farm workers in 1956 was about 427,000. The 1954 estimate of the migratory work force was 365,000. Although the CPS sample--the Current Population Survey sample of the Bureau of the Census-has been enlarged since the 1954 survey, it is likely that, as in earlier years, some undernumeration occurred in covering this group in 1956. If allowance is made for underenumeration and for children of migrants under 14 years of age who worked in the fields during some part of the year, the domestic migratory work force may have reached 500,000 in 1956. In addition, approximately 460,000 foreign nationals worked on farms in the United States in 1956, most of them Mexicans contracted under international agreement. About 78,000 of these were still in this country in December and are presumed to have been included in the survey. Adding the remainder to the estimated numbbet of domestic migrants brings to 880,000 the number of persons who did migratory farm work in the United States in 1956. 4/

Characteristics of migratory farm workers. --Distribution of the 1956 migratory farm working force by sex and age is shown in tables 15 and 16, with comparisons for 1949, 1950, 1952, and 1954. These estimates relate to all such workers who did any farm wage work during the year. As with the entire hired farm working force, data on migratory workers refer to those who did at least 25 days or more of farm wage work unless otherwise indicated. Of the 427,000 migratory workers, 301,000 worked 25 days or more on farms for cash wages.

As in 1954, age distributions of migratory and nonmigratory workers did not differ significantly in 1956 (table 17). This is a departure from earlier years; migratory workers have tended to be younger than nonmigratory farm workers in the past.

Nearly 60 percent of the migratory workers reported farm wage work as their chief activity in 1956 as compared with less than 50 percent of nonmigratory workers (table 18). For migratory workers this represented an increase over 1954 in the proportion reporting farm wage work as their chief activity. The proportion of migratory farm workers whose chief activity was nonfarm work was slightly less than that of nonmigratory farm workers in 1956, a reversal of all previous reports since 1949. The percentage of migratory workers who were outside the labor force the greater part of the year $5 / \mathrm{re}$ maine the same in 1956 as in 1954; for nonmigratory workers this proportion increased over 1954, returning to the 1952 level.

Findings in this survey concerning migratory farm workers are based only upon the estimated 427,000 migratory workers covered by the CPS sample.
5/ Includes a small number of workers who reported looking for work as their chief activity.

Table 15. - Number of persons who did any work as migratory farm workers, by sex, United States, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1954, and 1956 1//

| Sex | 1949 | 1950 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | Thousands <br> 422 | $\frac{\text { Thousands }}{403}$ | $\frac{\text { Thousands }}{352}$ | $\frac{\text { Thousands }}{365}$ | $\frac{\text { Thousands }}{427}$ |
|  | 291 <br> 131 | 285 <br> 118 | 234 <br> 118 | 273 <br> 92 | 314 <br> 113 |

1/ For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey, see text, page 21.

Table 16. - Percentage distribution of persons who did any work as migratory farm workers by age groups, United States, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1954, and 1956 1/

| Age group | 1949 | 1950 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Years | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 14-17 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 14 | 21 |
| 18-24 | 23 | 31 | 18 | 24 | 18 |
| 25-34 | 16 | 18 | 24 | 24 | 22 |
| 35-44 | 16 | 14 | 19 | 12 | 17 |
| 45-54 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 14 |
| 55-64 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 7 |
| 65 and over | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

1/ For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 21.

Table 17. - Percentage distribution of migratory and nomigratory workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work, by age groups, United States, 1949, 1952, 1954, and 1756 1/

| Age group | Migratory workers |  |  |  | Nonmigratory workers |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1949 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1949 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
| Years | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 14-17 | 22 | 21 | 13 | 16 | 21 | 17 | 15 | 18 |
| 18-24 | 23 | 17 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 18 |
| 25-34 | 16 | 26 | 27 | 23 | 18 | 23 | 22 | 20 |
| 35-44 | 16 | 22 | 12 | 20 | 16 | 14 | 17 | 17 |
| 45-54 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| 55-64 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 9 |
| 65 and over | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

1/ For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 21.

Table 18. - Percentage distribution of migratory and nonmigratory workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by chief activity, United States, 1949, 1952, 1954, and 1956 I/

| Chief activity | Migratory workers |  |  |  | Nonmigratory workers |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1949 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1949 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
|  | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Farm work | 48 | 48 | 59 | 65 | 67 | 56 | 61 | 58 |
| Farm wage work | 38 | 39 | 50 | 57 | 52 | 46 | 51 | 48 |
| With nonfarm work | 10 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 9 |
| Without nonfarm work | 28 | 27 | 36 | 43 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 39 |
| Other farm work | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Nonfarm work | 13 | 17 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| Nongainful activity $2 /$ | 39 | 35 | 29 | 29 | 23 | 34 | 30 | 34 |

1/ For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 21.
2/ Includes a small number of workers who reported looking for work as their chief activity during the year.

About 8 percent of migratory farm workers did 250 days or more of farm wage work in 1956. This was the same as in 1952, but less than 1954. Nearly a third of the migratory workers worked 150 days or more on farms for pay in 1956, slightly less than the proportion of nonmigratory workers (table 19). The percentage of nonmigratory farm workers who worked 150 days or more at farm wage work declined between 1954 and 1956.

About a sixth of all migratory workers accumulated 250 days of farm and nonfarm wage work combined during 1956, again the same as in 1952 but lower than 1954. The proportion of nonmigratory farm workers with 250 days or more of wage work was about double the migratory proportion. Only about 5 percent of the migratory workers had 300 days or more of farm and nonfarm wage work in 1956 as compared with 11 percent in 1954. The percentage of migratory workers who worked only 25-74 days had declined substantially between 1952 and 1954, then rose again in 1956 but not to the 1952 level (table 20).

Employment and earnings.--Average employment of farm wage work by migratory workers dropped 8 days between 1954 and 1956 compared with a drop of 5 days for nonmigratory farm workers (table 2l). While some part of the rather wide year-to-year swings in average duration of farm employment of migratory workers reported in these surveys can be attributed to sampling error, the fact that migratory workers represent, in some areas, a labor reserve called upon only when the supply of local labor has been exhausted, contributes to the wide year-to-year variation in their average farm wage employment. Since 1949, average hired farm employment of migratory workers has ranged between 87 and 124 days; farm wage employment of nonmigratory workers during the same period varied between 140 and 148 days.

Although male migratory workers averaged fewer days at farm wage work in 1956 than in 1954, their annual farm wage earnings were higher because of a sharply increased daily rate, $\$ 8.50$ compared with $\$ 6.65$. Female migratory workers also averaged higher annual and daily earnings than in 1954 for the same number of days of farm wage work. As in all earlier surveys, migratory workers had higher daily farm wage earnings than nonmigratory workers; but in 1956, for the first time, migratory workers earned a higher annual income from cash farm wages than nonmigratory workers. The spread of $\$ 2.50$ between migratory and nonmigratory average daily cash earnings from farm wages in 1956 was greater than in any previous year for which this information is available. Some of the disparity between migratory and nonmigratory daily farm wage earnings can be explained by the trend in earnings of female workers in both groups. Average daily farm wage earnings of female migratory workers have steadily increased since the first survey covering such workers in 1949. Daily farm wage earnings of female nonmigratory workers, on the other hand, have declined since 1952.

Table 19. - Percentage distribution of migratory and nonmigratory workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work by duration of farm wage work, United States, 1949, 1952, 1954, and 1956 1/

| Days of farm wage work | Migratory workers |  |  |  | Nonmigratory workers |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1949 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1949 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
|  | Pct. | Pct. | Pet. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 25-74 days | 61 | 60 | 43 | 44 | 38 | 45 | 39 | 44 |
| 75-149 | 20 | 23 | 18 | 25 | 21 | 15 | 16 | 19 |
| 150-249 | 13 | 10 | 26 | 23 | 16 | 16 | 18 | 13 |
| 250 and over | 6 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 25 | 24 | 27 | 24 |

1/ For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 21.

Table 20. - Percentage distribution of migratory and nonmigratory workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work by duration of farm and nonfarm work, United States, 1949, 1952, 1954, and 1956 1/

| Days of <br> farm and <br> nonfarm work | Migratory workers |  |  |  | Nonmigratory workers |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1949 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 | 1949 | 1952 | 1954 | 1956 |
|  | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. | Pct. |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| $25-74$ days | 40 | 40 | 26 | 34 | 29 | 34 | 30 | 35 |
| $75-149$ | 29 | 31 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 19 |
| $150-249$ | 22 | 13 | 33 | 28 | 23 | 18 | 20 | 16 |
| 250 and over | 9 | 16 | 20 | 16 | 29 | 32 | 34 | 30 |

1/ For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 21.

Table 21. - Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work by workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by migratory status and sex of worker, United States, 1949, 1952, 1954, and 1956

| Item | Farm and nonfarm |  |  | Farm |  |  | Nonfarm |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Wages earned |  | Daysworked | Wages earned |  | $\left\|\begin{array}{c} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \end{array}\right\|$ | Wages earned |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { year } \end{aligned}$ | Per day ${ }^{1}$ worke |  | Per year | $\left.\begin{array}{c}\text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked }\end{array}\right]$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { year } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\left.\begin{array}{c}\text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked }\end{array}\right]$ |
|  | No. | DOI. | DOI. | No. | Dol. | Dol. | No. | Dol. | Dol. |
| $1949$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 135 | 739 | 5.50 | 98 | 549 | 5.60 | 37 | 190 | 5.20 |
| Female | 82 | 234 | 2.85 | 67 | 198 | 2.95 | 15 | 36 | 2.35 |
| Nonmigratory | 173 | 719 | 4.15 | 148 | 574 | 3.85 | 25 | 145 | 5.85 |
| Male | 190 | 818 | 4.30 | 165 | 655 | 3.95 | 25 | 163 | 6.65 |
| Female | 102 | 291 | 2.85 | 76 | 224 | 2.95 | 26 | 67 | 2.55 |
| 1952 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Migratory | 124 | 884 | 7.15 | 87 | 600 | 6.90 | 37 | 284 | 7.75 |
| Male | 144 | 1,101 | 7.60 | 99 | 731 | 7.35 | 45 | 370 | 8.15 |
| Female |  | 259 | 4.00 | 53 | 222 | 4.20 | 12 | 37 | 3.10 |
| Nonmigratory | 169 | 911 | 5.40 | 140 | 698 | 5.00 | 29 | 213 | 7.40 |
| Male | 195 | 1,074 | 5.50 | 161 | 815 | 5.05 | 34 | 259 | 7.70 |
| Female |  | 265 | 3.90 | 58 | 234 | 4.00 | 10 | 31 | 3.20 |
| 1954 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Migratory | 156 | 1,033 | 6.60 | 124 | 794 | 6.40 | 32 | 239 | 7.35 |
| Male | 166 | 1,160 | 6.95 | 135 | 899 | 6.65 | 31 | 261 | 8.30 |
| Female | 117 | 565 | 4.80 | 81 | 410 | 5.05 | 36 | 155 | 4.25 |
| Nonmigratory | 169 | 972 | 5.75 | 145 | 800 | 2.50 | 24 | 172 | 7.05 |
| Male | 187 | 1,119 | 5.95 | 161 | 919 | 5.70 | 26 | 200 | 7.60 |
| Female |  | 344 | 3.75 | 75 | 287 | 3.80 | 16 | 57 | 3.45 |
| 1956 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Migratory | 143 | 1,178 | 8.25 | 116 | 935 | 8.05 | 27 | 243 | 9.15 |
| Male | 157 | 1,369 | 8.70 | 1261 | , 069 | 8.50 | 31 | 300 | 9.55 |
| Female |  | 500 | 5.55 | 81 | 458 | 5.70 | 10 | 42 | 4.35 |
| Nonmigratory | 162 | 957 | 5.90 | 140 | 776 | 5.55 | 22 | 182 | 8.10 |
| Male | 189 | 1,188 | 6.30 | 163 | 958 | 5.90 | 26 | 230 | 8.95 |
| Female |  | 295 | 3.40 | 73 | 254 | 3.45 | 13 | 41 | 3.25 |

Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

In all of these surveys for which separate information by migratory status is available, average number of days worked and annual earmings from nonfarm work have been greater for migratory workers than for nonmigratory workers. In all survey years except 1949, migratory workers also have had higher average daily earnings from nonfarm wages than nomigratory farm workers.

Differences in earnings become more pronounced when workers are classified by chief activity and migratory status. Migrants whose chief activity during 1956 was farm wage work earned about $\$ 1,400$ at an average of $\$ 8.45$ per day worked on farms (table 22). Nonmigratory workers in the same activity status worked 225 days at farm wage work to earn $\$ 1,319$, or an average of $\$ 5.85$ per day. Differences in nonfarm earnings are even greater- $\$ 11.30$ for migratory workers, $\$ 7.05$ for nonmigratory workers. The size of the sample of migratory workers whose chief activity was farm wage work and who also worked at a nonfarm wage job is too small to merit further investigation of the apparent disparity between nonfarm wage rates of migratory and nonmigratory farm workers. However, daily rates at nonfarm wages of all migratory workers (regardless of chief activity) was $\$ 1.05$ above the average rate for all nonmigratory farm workers. Perhaps migratory workers, because of their travels, have a better knowledge of the general labor market, and are better able to take advantage of higher paying nonfarm job opportunities, than the less mobile nomigratory workers.

Distance traveled by migratory workers.--Migratory farm workers follow a great variety of routes. Distances they travel during the course of a year range from a few miles to thousands. Some workers, for example, travel from Florida to New York or from Texas to Michigan and back, following the harvest northward in the summer and returning to their homes to spend the winter. Others may go only as far as the next county during the course of their migratory farm work. To obtain an over-all picture of the extent of the annual travels of seasonal farm workers, the 1956 survey asked each migratory worker how far he had traveled to do farm work for wages. About three-fourths of all migratory workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work in 1956 traveled 75 miles or more from their homes for farm jobs. 6/Almost a fifth of these workers traveled 1,000 miles or more.

In 1956, Congress amended the Interstate Commerce Act to provide Federal regulation of interstate transportation of migratory farm workers by other than common carrier. Regulations were stipulated with respect to comfort of passengers, qualifications and maximu hours of service of operators, and safety of operation and equipment. The regulations apply to all interstate travel involving the transport of migrants 75 miles or more.

Table 22. - Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work for farm wage workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by migratory status and chief activity, United States, 1956

| Migratory status and chief activity | Farm and nonfarm |  |  | Farm |  |  | Nonform |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Days worked | Wages earned. |  | Days worked. | Wages earned |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Days } \\ & \text { worked } \end{aligned}$ | Wages earned |  |
|  |  | Per year | Per day worked 1/ |  | Per year | Per day worked I/ |  | Per year | Per day worked 1 |
|  | Number | Dollars | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Dollars |
| Migratory | 143 | 1,178 | 8.25 | 116 | 935 | 8.05 | 27 | 243 | 9.15 |
| Farm work 2/ | 168 | 1,473 | 8.75 | 152 | 1,302 | 8.55 | 16 | 171 | 10.50 |
| Farm wage work | 182 | 1,584 | 8.70 | 166 | 1,403 | 8.45 | 16 | 181 | 11.30 |
| Nonfarm wage | 256 | 2,441 | 9.50 | 59 | 478 | 8.05 | 197 | 1,963 | 11.30 9.95 |
| Nonmigratory | 162 | 958 | 5.90 | 140 | 776 | 5.55 | 22 | 182 | 8.10 |
| Farm work 2/ | 207 | 1,226 | 5.95 | 197 | 1,156 | 5.85 | 10 | 70 | 7.20 |
| Farm wage work | 235 | 1,388 | 5.90 | 225 | 1,319 | 5.85 | 10 | 69 | 7.05 |
| Nonfarm wage | 230 | 2,004 | 8.70 | 62 | 106 | 6.55 | 168 | 1,598 | 9.50 |

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.
2/ Includes persons for whom operation of farm or unpaid family work was chief activity during the year.

Average daily earnings from farm wage work appeared to be roughly commensurate to distance traveled. Migratory workers who traveled 1,000 miles or more earned the highest average daily wage at farm work. Migrants who traveled less than 75 miles had the lowest average daily farm wage.

Although daily and annual earnings of migrants who traveled the greatest distance were highest, the greater distance traveled appears to have restricted somewhat their opportunities for farm employment. Migrants who traveled between 75 and 399 miles put in the greatest number of days at farm wage work, averaging 12 more days than migrants who traveled 1,000 miles or more. As most migrants pay their own travel expenses, and living expenses are often higher while migrants are away from home, the actual difference between cash earnings of migrants and nonmigrants - after these additional expenses are taken into account - may be insignificant.

## PERSONS WITH LESS THAN 25 DAYS OF FARM WAGE WORK IN 1956

About 1.5 million persons, or 42 percent of all persons in the hired farm working force, worked less than 25 days at farm wage work in 1956. This is somewhat higher than the number of such workers found in all previous years except 1949 (page 2). Average earnings and days of farm and nonfarm wage work for workers with less than 25 days of hired farm work in 1956 are shown in table 23.

Table 23. - Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work for workers with less than 25 days of farm wage work, by migratory status, United States, 1956

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Migra- } \\ \text { tory } \\ \text { status } \end{gathered}$ | Farm and nonfarm |  |  | Farm |  |  | Nonfarm |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \end{array}$ | Wages earned |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Days } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ | Wages earned |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Days } \\ & \text { worked } \end{aligned}$ | Wages earned |  |
|  |  | Per year | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked } \end{array}$ |  | Per year | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \begin{array}{l} \text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked } \end{array} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | Per year | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l} \hline \text { Per } \\ \text { day } \\ \text { worked } \end{array}$ |
|  | Number | Dol. | Do1. | Number | DO1. | Dol. | Number | Dol. | Do1. |
| Total | 47 | 433 | 9.25 | 11 | 78 | 7.25 | 36 | 355 | 9.85 |
| Migratory | 42 | 369 | 8.70 | 10 | 80 | 8.00 | 32 | 289 | 8.95 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nonmi- } \\ & \text { gratory } \end{aligned}$ | - 43 | 375 | 8.75 | 10 | 80 | 7.95 | 33 | 295 | 9.00 |

[^1]To obtain a clear picture of the composition of this part of the hired farm working force, all persons who did any farm work for wages were classified by labor force status at the time of the survey. Labor force status during an off-season should provide an indication of the typical, or perhaps chief, activity of seasonal farm workers during the year. Fewer than 75,000 persons who worked less than 25 days at farm wage work during the year were employed for wages on farms at the time of the survey, December 1956 (table 24). About a fifth of the entire group were farm operators and 22 percent were employed in nonagricultural industries at the end of the year. The importance of housewives and children in the seasonal farm work force is indicated by the fact that almost half of all persons who did less than 25 days of hired farm work during the year were out of the labor force in December mainly keeping house or attending school.

About two-fifths of the 3.5 million persons who did any farm wage work in 1956 were heads of households in December of that year. Thirty-eight percent of all persons with less than 25 days of hired farm work were household heads; 44 percent of all workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work were so classified in December. About a third of the 1.5 million household heads who worked as hired farm laborers at some time during 1956 were employed as farm wage workers in December of that year.

## MONIHLY EMPLOYMENT OF HIRED FARM WORKERS

Information on the monthly employment of farm wage workers was obtained for the first time in the 1956 survey. Data on the level of monthly employment of farm wage workers are of special interest because of the wide seasonal variations in farm work. The monthly reports of farm employment published by the AMS and the CPS I/ provide estimates of the number of hired workers on farms during a specified survey week each month. This survey gives annual estimates of the number of different persons doing farm work for wages during an entire year. By questioning respondents concerning the number of days of farm and nonfarm wage work they did each month in the past year, a comparative estimate of monthly employment was obtained, as well as an estimate of the distribution of days of work each month over the year. Monthly employment of hired farm workers in 1956 as reported by the AMS farm employment series and the Current Population Survey are compared with the monthly estimates, as reported in this survey in table 25. Although based on data from

[^2]Table 24. - Percentage distribution of persons reporting farm wage work during 1956 by employment status, December 1956

| Employment status | Workers with less than 25 days | Workers with 25 days or more |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percent | Percent |
| Total | 100 | 100 |
| Employed in agriculture | 27 | 48 |
| Wage and salary workers Self_employed workers Unpaid family workers | 5 20 2 | 42 5 1 |
| Employed in nonagricultural industries | 22 | 16 |
| Manufacturing | 4 | 4 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining or construction | 3 | 2 |
| Transportation, communication and other public utilities <br> Trade | $\frac{1}{6}$ | 2 3 |
| Private households | 4 | 2 |
| Other | 4 | 3 |
| Unemployed | 5 | 7 |
| Not in the labor force | 46 | 29 |
| Keeping house Attending school Other | 18 | 13 |
|  | 23 | 11 |
|  | ) | 5 |

the same sample and collected during one of the CPS monthly surveys, the monthly estimates developed in this survey are lower than those of the CPS.

Table 25. - Average employment of hired farm workers as estimated by the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Current
Population Survey and the Hired Farm Working Force Survey, by months, United states, 1956

| Month | Agricultural Marketing Service 1/ | Current Population Survey 2/ | Hired Farm Working Force |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Thou. | Thou, | Thous |
| January | 912 | 1,319 | 769 |
| February | 1,002 | 1,211 | 807 |
| March | 1,254 | 1,247 | 864 |
| April | 1,526 | 1,324 | 993 |
| May | 2,005 | 1,607 | 1,346 |
| June | 2,411 | 2,071 | 1,695 |
| July | 2,503 | 2,202 | 1,891 |
| August | 2,705 | 2,122 | 1,947 |
| September | 2,926 | 2,092 | 1,824 |
| October | 2,372 | 2,206 | 1,830 |
| November | 1,586 | 1,751 | 1,426 |
| December | 1,011 | 1,151 | 1,141 |
| Annual average | 1,851 | 1,692 | 1,378 |

1/ From Farm Labor, Crop Reporting Board, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A., 1956.
2/ From Labor Force, Current Population Reports, Bureau of the Census, Series $\mathrm{P}-57,1956$.
For definitions and procedures used in these series, see appendices of indicated reports.

Conceptually, the hired farm working force estimates should be higher than the CPS. The hired farm working force estimate includes all persons who did any farm wage work, whereas the CPS estimate includes only persons who did farm wage work on the longest job held during the survey week. For example, persons who did 15 hours or more of unpaid family work and less than 15 hours of farm wage work during the survey week would be classified as farm wage workers by this survey, but would be classified as unpaid family workers by the CPS. In addition, estimates in this survey include all persons who did any farm wage work at any time during the month, whereas CPS estimates relate only to the survey week. One balancing factor is the inclusion of farm workers with a job but not at work (during the survey week) in the CPS. Only workers who reported days worked during the month were counted as employed for that month in the hired farm working force survey. The average monthly CPS estimate of farm workers with a job but not at work in 1956 was 192,000. Although these workers did not work during the CPS survey week, most of them probably worked some time during the month and, therefore, were also included in the hired farm working force monthly estimates. A small number of persons who did farm wage work during the year and were in institutions at the time of the survey or had died before the end of the year also were not included in this survey.

The differences between this survey and the CPS estimates for months prior to December can be accounted for largely by the fact that most foreign nationals who were brought into the country to do farm wage work during the year had left the United States by the time of the survey. In table 26, the number of foreign farm workers in this country at the end of each month is show separately and combined with the monthly estimates of hired farm workers developed in this survey. The foreign workers who were still in the country in December were presumably here for varying lengths of time throughout the year. Some duplication is involved in adding the Department of Labor count of foreign workers to the monthly estimates from this survey. Foreign workers picked up in this survey (in December) who also report farm employment in preceding months will inflate somewhat the monthly estimates of all workers in table 26 . The number of such cases will never be more than the number of foreign workers still in this country in December 1956.

Except for August and September, the monthly levels for the CPS are still above the estimates of the hired farm working force survey. Note that the differences in level of employment between the CPS and this survey are largest for the earlier months of the year, indicating a progressively greater loss of recall for the earlier months of the year.

Table 26. - Average employment of hired farm workers including foreign nationals, by months, 1956

| Month | All workers | Foreign <br> agricultural <br> workers | Hired farm working <br> force survey |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Migratory | Nonmigratory |  |
| January | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. |
| February | 865 | 96 | 93 | 676 |
| March | 901 | 94 | 107 | 700 |
| April | 961 | 1,101 | 97 | 98 |
| May | 1,504 | 108 | 118 | 766 |
| June | 1,832 | 158 | 208 | 875 |
| July | 2,069 | 137 | 247 | 1,138 |
| August | 2,141 | 178 | 258 | 1,633 |
| September | 2,133 | 194 | 248 | 1,699 |
| October | 2,047 | 309 | 232 | 1,592 |
| November | 1,589 | 217 | 257 | 1,573 |
| December | 1,141 | 163 | 161 | 115 |

1) Included in survey.

Foreign agricultural workers compiled from reports of U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Ermployment Security.

The monthly estimates of hired farm employment based on the responses of wage workers at the end of the year exhibit. more moderate seasonal variation than the CPS estimates. In addition to the reasons cited earlier to explain the higher CPS monthly employment level, it is likely that some persons who worked a few days during the peak months of July and October failed to report such work in the year-end hired farm working force survey. When
nommigrants are shown separately the characteristic bimodal curve of farm employment almost disappears (table 27). Note that average days worked are lower during the summer months, when farm activity is greatest, and higher during the winter months, when farm work (except in the southern specialty crop areas) consists largely of chores and maintenance work.

Table 27. - All farm wage workers by migratory status and average days worked at farm wage work by months, United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  | Migratory |  | Nonmigratory |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number workers | Average days worked | Number workers | Average <br> days worked | Number workers | Average <br> days worked |
|  | Thou. | Number | Thou. | Number | Thou. | Number |
| January | 769 | 22 | 93 | 18 | 676 | 22 |
| February | 807 | 21 | 107 | 18 | 700 | 21 |
| March | 864 | 22 | 98 | 18 | 766 | 22 |
| April | 993 | 20 | 118 | 18 | 875 | 20 |
| May | 1,346 | 19 | 208 | 17 | 1,138 | 19 |
| June | 1,695 | 18 | 247 | 17 | 1,448 | 18 |
| July | 1,891 | 17 | 258 | 18 | 1,633 | 17 |
| August | 1,947 | 17 | 248 | 17 | 1,699 | 17 |
| September | 1,824 | 17 | 232 | 17 | 1,592 | 17 |
| October | 1,830 | 17 | 257 | 16 | 1,573 | 17 |
| November | 1,426 | 17 | 161 | 15 | 1,265 | 18 |
| December | 1,141 | 17 | 115 | 17 | 1,026 | 17 |
| Annual average | 1,378 | 18 | 179 | 17 | 1,199 | 18 |

Among workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, July was the month of highest employment (table 28). Employment of migratory workers in this group also reached a peak in July; peak employment of nonmigrants occurred in August, though the difference in employment levels in the months of July, August, and September were insignificant. August was the peak month of employment for persons with less than 25 days of farm wage work (table 29). Both migrants and nonmigrants in this group show a strong secondary employment peak in October, the October level for migratory workers being even higher than the August peak.

Table 28. - Farm wage workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work by migratory status and average days worked at farm wage work by months, United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  | Migratory |  | Nonmigratory |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number workers | Average days worked | Number workers | Average days worked | Number workers | Average days worked |
|  | Thou. | Number | Thou. | Number | Thou. | Number |
| January | 747 | 22 | 91 | 19 | 656 | 23 |
| February | 775 | 21 | 103 | 18 | 672 | 22 |
| March | 827 | 22 | 93 | 18 | 734 | 23 |
| April | 940 | 21 | 113 | 18 | 827 | 21 |
| May | 1,207 | 20 | 192 | 17 | 1,015 | 21 |
| June | 1,418 | 20 | 214 | 19 | 1,204 | 20 |
| July | 1,478 | 20 | 228 | 19 | 1,250 | 20 |
| August | 1,473 | 20 | 215 | 19 | 1,258 | 20 |
| September | 1,460 | 19 | 205 | 19 | 1,255 | 20 |
| October | 1,435 | 20 | 218 | 17 | 1,217 | 21 |
| November | 1,223 | 19 | 149 | 16 | 1,074 | 20 |
| December | 1,015 | 19 | 109 | 18 | 906 | 19 |
| Annual average | 1,167 | 20 | 161 | 18 | 1,006 | 21 |

Table 29. - Farm wage workers who did less than 25 days of farm wage work by migratory status and average days worked at farm wage work by months,

United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  | Migratory |  | Nonmigratory |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number workers | Average days worked | Number workers | Average days worked | Number workers | Average days worked |
|  | Thou. | Number | Thou. | Number | Thou. | Number |
| January | 22 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 5 |
| February | 32 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 28 | 5 |
| March | 37 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 32 | 3 |
| April | 53 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 48 | 5 |
| May | 139 | 6 | 16 | 7 | 123 | 6 |
| June | 277 | 5 | 33 | 5 | 244 | 5 |
| July | 413 | 6 | 30 | 5 | 383 | 6 |
| August | 474 | 6 | 33 | 7 | 441 | 6 |
| September | 364 | 6 | 27 | 8 | 337 | 6 |
| October | 395 | 6 | 39 | 7 | 356 | 6 |
| November | 203 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 191 | 6 |
| December | 126 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 120 | 5 |
| Annual average | 211 | 6 | 18 | 6 | 193 | 6 |

Tables 30,31 and 32 show the percentage distribution of employment and days of hired farm work each month by migratory status.

Peak employment months were August for male workers and October for females (table 33). The bimodal pattern of employment was present in the seasonal trends for both male and female migratory workers but, whereas peak employment months for male migrants were July and August, more female migrants were doing farm wage work in June and October. Nonmigrant males averaged more days of farm wage work per month than male migrants, but female migrants

Table 30. - Percentage distribution of farm wage workers and days of farm wage work by months, for all persons who did any farm wage work during the year, by migratory status, United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  | Migratory |  | Nonmigratory |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked |
|  | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| January | 22 | 6 | 22 | 5 | 21 | 6 |
| February | 23 | 6 | 25 | 5 | 22 | 6 |
| March | 24 | 6 | 23 | 5 | 24 | 6 |
| April | 28 | 7 | 28 | 6 | 28 | 7 |
| May | 38 | 8 | 49 | 10 | 36 | 8 |
| June | 47 | 10 | 58 | 11 | 46 | 10 |
| July | 53 | 11 | 60 | 12 | 52 | 11 |
| August | 54 | 11 | 58 | 12 | 54 | 11 |
| September | 51 | 10 | 54 | 11 | 51 | 10 |
| October | 51 | 10 | 60 | 11 | 50 | 10 |
| November | 40 | 8 | 38 | 7 | 40 | 8 |
| December | 32 | 7 | 27 | 5 | 33 | 7 |
| Total | -- | 100 | -- | 100 | -- | 100 |

worked an average of 2 more days per month at farm wage work than female nonmigrants. Most of the year-round farm work force are numbered among the male nonmigrant workers, a condition that would account for their higher average monthly working time. Among female farm wage workers, school-age and elderly workers--groups that tend to work for shorter periods during the year--are found in greater numbers in the nonmigrant work force.

Table 31. - Percentage distribution of farm wage workers and days of farm wage work by months, for persons who did 25 days or more of farm wage work, by migratory status, United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  | Migratory |  | Nonmigratory |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked | Persons reporting farm wage work | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Days } \\ & \text { worked } \end{aligned}$ |
|  | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| January | 36 | 6 | 31 | 5 | 37 | 6 |
| February | 37 | 6 | 34 | 5 | 38 | 6 |
| March | 40 | 6 | 31 | 5 | 41 | 7 |
| April | 45 | 7 | 38 | 6 | 47 | 7 |
| May | 58 | 9 | 64 | 10 | 57 | 9 |
| June | 68 | 10 | 71 | 11 | 68 | 10 |
| July | 71 | 11 | 76 | 12 | 70 | 10 |
| August | 71 | 10 | 71 | 11 | 71 | 10 |
| September | 70 | 10 | 68 | 11 | 71 | 10 |
| October | 69 | 10 | 72 | 11 | 69 | 10 |
| November | 59 | 8 | 49 | 7 | 60 | 8 |
| December | 49 | 7 | 36 | 6 | 51 | 7 |
| Total | -- | 100 | -- | 100 | -- | 100 |

Table 32. - Percentage distribution of farm wage workers and days of farm wage work by months, for persons who did less than 25 days of farm wage work, by migratory status, United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  | Migratory |  | Nommigratory |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Persons } \\ & \text { reporting } \\ & \text { farm wage } \\ & \text { work } \end{aligned}$ | Days | ```Persons reporting farm wage work``` | Days worked |  | Days worked |
|  | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| January | 1 | 1 | 1 | $1 /$ | 1 | 1 |
| February | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| March | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| April | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| May | 9 | 6 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 6 |
| June | 19 | 10 | 26 | 12 | 18 | 10 |
| July | 28 | 16 | 24 | 12 | 28 | 16 |
| August | 32 | 20 | 26 | 16 | 32 | 20 |
| September | 24 | 15 | 22 | 15 | 25 | 15 |
| October | 26 | 16 | 31 | 20 | 26 | 16 |
| November | 14 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 8 |
| December | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| Total | -- | 100 | -- | 100 | -- | 100 |

Less than one percent.

Monthly employment at nonfarm wage work.--The proportion of the total hired farm working force employed at nonfarm wage work showed less variation from month to month than the proportion of such workers engaged in farm wage employment. At least two-fifths of all hired farm workers reported some nonfarm work for wages each month in 1956 (table 34). Among short-term farm wage workers, the percentage

Table 33. - All farm wage workers by migratory status, sex, and average days worked at farm wage work, by months, United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  |  |  | Migrant |  |  |  | Nonmigrant |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number of workers |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Average } \\ \text { days } \\ \text { worked } \end{gathered}$ |  | Number Of workers |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Average } \\ \text { days } \\ \text { worked } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  | Number of workers |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Average } \\ \text { days } \\ \text { worked } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
|  | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
|  | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. |
| January | 711 | 58 | 22 | 15 | 84 | 9 | 18 | 17 | 627 | 49 | 23 | 15 |
| February | 741 | 66 | 21 | 15 | 95 | 12 | 18 | 16 | 646 | 54 | 22 | 15 |
| March | 781 | 82 | 22 | 13 | 89 | 9 | 18 | 17 | 692 | 73 | 23 | 12 |
| April | 880 | 113 | 21 | 13 | 104 | 14 | 19 | 13 | 776 | 99 | 21 | 13 |
| May | .1,058 | 288 | 20 | 13 | 160 | 48 | 17 | 15 | 898 | 240 | 21 | 13 |
| June | 1,298 | 398 | 19 | 13 | 192 | 55 | 18 | 14 | 1,106 | 343 | 19 | 13 |
| July | 1,463 | 428 | 18 | 13 | 203 | 54 | 18 | 15 | 1,260 | 374 | 18 | 13 |
| August | 1,490 | 458 | 18 | 13 | 198 | 50 | 17 | 17 | 1,292 | 408 | 18 | 13 |
| September | 1,303 | 521 | 18 | 14 | 179 | 53 | 18 | 15 | 1,124 | 468 | 18 | 14 |
| October | 1,307 | 523 | 19 | 13 | 195 | 62 | 16 | 13 | 1,112 | 461 | 19 | 13 |
| November | 1,121 | 305 | 18 | 13 | 136 | 25 | 16 | 13 | 985 | 280 | 19 | 13 |
| December | 985 | 156 | 19 | 10 | 107 | 8 | 18 | 7 | 878 | 148 | 19 | 10 |
| Annual <br> Average | 1,095 | 283 | 19 | 13 | 145 | 33 | 17 | 15 | 950 | 250 | 20 | 13 |

reporting nonfarm wage earnings ranged as high as 62 percent in some months and averaged over 50 percent for the year. Among workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, an average of 46 percent reported some nonfarm wage work during the year. November and December were the months of peak employment at nonfarm wage work for both groups.

Table 34. - Percentage distribution of farm wage workers and days of nonfarm wage work for persons who did any nonfarm wage work, by months, United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  | Persons with 25 days or more of farm wage work |  | Persons with less than 25 days of farm wage work |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Persons reporting nonfarm wage work | Days of nonfarm wage work | Persons reporting nonfarm wage work | Days of nonfarm work | Persons reporting nonfarm wage work | Days of wage work |
|  | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| January | 41 | 8 | 40 | 8 | 43 | 7 |
| February | 42 | 8 | 42 | 9 | 42 | 7 |
| March | 44 | 8 | 43 | 9 | 45 | 8 |
| April | 42 | 8 | 38 | 8 | 46 | 8 |
| May | 40 | 7 | 35 | 7 | 46 | 8 |
| June | 42 | 8 | 35 | 7 | 50 | 8 |
| July | 44 | 8 | 38 | 8 | 51 | 9 |
| August | 46 | 9 | 40 | 8 | 52 | 9 |
| September | 46 | 8 | 41 | 8 | 52 | 8 |
| October | 49 | 9 | 44 | 9 | 55 | 9 |
| November | 57 | 10 | 53 | 10 | 61 | 10 |
| December | 58 | 9 | 54 | 9 | 62 | 9 |
| Total | -- | 100 | -- | 100 | -- | 100 |

Monthly employment of youths at hired farm work.--As was to be expected, the peak months of employment for young persons 16 and 17 years of age was during the school vacation months of June, July and August. Over a third of all youths of that age in the hired farm working force were employed on farms during September and October 1956 (table 35). The proportion of migratory youths aged 16 and 17 working during May, September, and October-months during which most schools are in session--was the same or higher than for nonmigratory youths of the same age. For the balance of the year, however, a higher proportion of nonmigrant youths reported farm wage earnings each month than migrant youths 16 and 17 years of age.

Table 35. - Percentage distribution of all farm wage workers 16 and 17 years of age, by months, United States, 1956

| Month | All workers |  | Migratory |  | Nonmigratory |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked |
|  | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| January | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| February | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| March | 9 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 3 |
| April | 12 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 12 | 4 |
| May | 20 | 7 | 25 | 8 | 20 | 6 |
| June | 43 | 13 | 53 | 12 | 42 | 14 |
| July | 54 | 17 | 61 | 19 | 53 | 17 |
| August | 55 | 17 | 65 | 20 | 53 | 17 |
| September | .34 | 9 | 38 | 11 | 33 | 9 |
| October | 35 | 9 | 35 | 10 | 35 | 9 |
| November | 23 | 8 | 18 | 6 | 23 | 8 |
| December | 19 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 20 | 6 |
| Total | - | 100 | -- | 100 | -- | 100 |

Among children 14 and 15 years of age, the youngest group for which information is available, no more than half of the total group reported farm wage work in any one month (table 36). Over a third worked on farms for wages in September 1956 and over a fourth had farm wage earnings in October. Although these are months in which public elementary and secondary schools are normally in session, school vacations are permitted in many farm areas during the harvest season to allow the young people to help with the harvest. As in the case of older youths, children 14 and 15 years of age were more likely to report farm wage work in November and December if nonnigratory than if migratory.

Table 36. - Percentage distribution of all farm wage workers 14 and 15 years of age, days of farm wage work and migratory status, by months, United States, 1956

|  | All workers |  | Migratory |  | Nonmigratory |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Month | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked | Persons reporting farm wage work | Days worked |
|  | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| January | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| February | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| March | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| April | 8 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| May | 19 | 8 | 27 | 11 | 18 | 7 |
| June | 38 | 14 | 46 | 18 | 37 | 13 |
| July | 47 | 17 | 42 | 19 | 47 | 17 |
| August | 51 | 18 | 45 | 14 | 52 | 19 |
| September | 38 | 13 | 35 | 15 | 38 | 12 |
| October | 28 | 10 | 26 | 11 | 28 | 10 |
| November | 19 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 20 | 7 |
| December | 10 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 4 |
| Total | -- | 100 | -- | 100 | --- | 100 |

Hired farm workers were first brought under the Social Security Act in 1951. Only regular farm workers with at least five months of continuous employment with one farm employer and a stipulated amount of employment and earnings in each calendar quarter with this employer could qualify for coverage under the 1950 amendments. The Social Security Act amendments of 1954 and 1956 extended coverage to some of the less regular farm wage workers. Under the present provision, a farm worker qualifies for coverage if his cash earnings from one farm employer are $\$ 150$ during the calendar year, or, if his cash wages were less than $\$ 150$, he qualifies for coverage if he has worked 20 days or more for one employer during the year and was paid on other than a piece-rate basis. Data were collected in this survey which provided a basis for estimating the number of farm wage workers meeting the OASI coverage requirements. Table 37 shows that an estimated 1.8 million or about 50 percent of the fam wage workers were covered. Nearly 300,000 of these workers were covered because they worked for one employer for 20 days or more at farm wage work on a time basis although their annual cash earnings fell short of the $\$ 150$ minimum. All of the approximately 1.6 million wage workers who failed to meet the coverage requirements earned less than $\$ 150$ in cash wages and about 7 out of 8 had less than 25 days of farm wage work on their longest farm job. Slightly more than 200,000 workers in the survey were custom workers 8 whose remuneration is considered for social security purposes as net earnings from self-employment instead of wages. These individuals would qualify for social security only if their total net earnings from selfemployment during their taxable year were $\$ 400$ or more.

Many farm workers, particularly migratory workers, are hired and work under the direction of crew leaders or labor contractors. These crew leaders negotiate with the farm operator regarding the amount and type of work to be done and the rate of pay. They sometimes arrange for travel and housing accommodations for their crews. Frequently, doubt existed as to whether the crew leader or the farm operator was the employer under arrangements of this kind.

Under the 1956 amendments the crew leader was designated as the employer for social security purposes if he furnished a crew of workers to do farm work and paid the workers (either for himself or for the farmer), unless there was a written agreement between the farmer and the crew leader stating that the crew leader was an employee of the farmer. This amendment did not become effective until January 1, 1957. Nevertheless an attempt was made in the 1956 survey to determine the number of workers who would have been employees of a crew leader if the 1956 amendment had been in effect. 8/ Farm work in which the worker furnishes a machine (tractor, combine, sprayer, etc.) in addition to his labor.

Table 37. - Farm wage workers by days of farm wage work on longest job, OASI coverage and basis of coverage, United States, 1956

| OASI status | Total workers | Number of days of farm work on longest job |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Under 25 | 25-49 | 50-74 | 75-149 | 150-199 | 200-249 | 250-299 | 300 and over |
| Total | $\begin{gathered} \text { Thou. } \\ 3,359^{1 /} \end{gathered}$ | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | Thou. | $\frac{\text { Thou. }}{106}$ | Thou. <br> 129 | $\frac{\text { Thou. }}{266}$ |
| Covered | 1,786 | 177 | 422 | 252 | 313 | 119 | 106 | 129 | 266 |
| $\$ 150$ or more in farm wages | 1,490 | 94 | 253 | 228 | 296 | 119 | 106 | 129 | 265 |
| Under \$150 farm wages; 20 days or more farm work on a time basis | 296 | 84 | 169 | 25 | 17 | - | - | - | 2/ |
| Not covered | 1,573 | 1,449 | 102 | 13 | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| Under \$150 farm wages; 20 days or more farm work not on a time basis | 203 | 80 | 102 | 13 | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| Under \$150 farm wages; under 20 days farm work | 1,369 | 1,369 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1/ Does not inclu 2/ Less than 2,00 Figures are rounde |  | ers wh <br> th | o were <br> usand | not el <br> withou | igible <br> being | for OAS <br> adjusted | I covera | up total | workers. |

About 130,000 hired workers, including 72,000 migratory workers, reported that they had worked on farms under crew leaders at some time during 1956. About two-fifths of these workers reported a crew leader as their only farm employer, and over onethird had worked for a crew leader on their longest farm job during the year. These estimates are admittedly subject to considerable error in view of the difficulty mentioned earlier of determining, for social security purposes, whether the worker was an employee of the farmer or the crew leader. Almost two-thirds of the entire hired farm working force had worked for only one farm employer during the year. The situation was reversed among farm migratory workers; about two-thirds of all migrants worked for more than one farm employer in 1956. There was very little difference in average daily wages earned by farm workers employed by crew leaders and farmers.

## APPENDIX

## Method of Survey

Estimates in the series of reports on the hired farm working force are based on information obtained for the Agricultural Marketing Service by the Bureau of the Census in supplementary questions on its regular Current Population Survey. The data for this report were obtained in December 1956. I/ Before 1956, the survey was made on a national sample of approximately 25,000 households. In 1956 the Current Population Survey sample was expanded by about twothirds, with an average of 35,000 households interviewed. Comparable estimates tabulated fram both the old and the new samples indicated that, for all practical purposes, the data from the expanded sample can be used as a continuous series with the statistics from previous surveys. 2/ It is possible, however, that the new expanded sample provides better enumeration of the number of different persons who did any farm wage work during the year, especially of those who worked less than 25 days at farm wage work.

As the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Small figures, and small differences in figures, should be used with care. Information on time worked and wages earned during the year is subject to errors in the memory of those who reported.

The questions upon which this report is based were added to the regular questions pertaining to personal characteristics and employment status asked each month by the Bureau of the Census. The special questions, reproduced at the end of this section, were asked for each person 14 years old and over in the households included in the survey who indicated that he had farm wage work during 1956, in both urban and rural areas.

In 1956 the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance cooperated on this special questionnaire to obtain information on social security coverage of farm wage workers. Questions $2,3,4,7$, and 8 were designed to obtain information on monthly variations in farm and nonfarm wage work done by persons who did any farm wage work. Questions 12 and 13 provided information on migratory workers and the distance they traveled to do farm wage work. Question 14 provided information on farm wage workers who worked for more than one employer. Questions $16,17,21,22$, and 23 provided information on those who worked for crew leaders or labor contractors as compared with those who were hired directly by the farmer or a person acting for the farmer.

1/ Robert Pearl of the Bureau of the Census handled the survey operations and tabulations.
2/ A detailed discussion of the expansion may be found in Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 3, "Expansion of the Current Population Survey Sample: 1956," July 15, 1956.

| Form CPS-AMS-4 <br> (Dec. 1956) | $\square$ |  |  |  | BUDGET BUREAU NO. 41-R1223. 6 APPROVAL EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1956 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Control No. of | $f$ Hous | sehold | Control Card | Line No. |
| If Yes in Item 31 of December 1956 Schedule |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (1) What was . . doing most of 1956$\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text { working } \\ \text { keeping house } \\ \text { going to school }\end{array}\right.$ or something else? <br> 1 Farm work for cash wages <br> 2 $\square$ Other farm work <br> 3 Nonfarm work <br> 4 $\square$ Looking for work <br> 5 Keeping house <br> 6 $\square$ Going to school <br> 7 Other (Specify) | (2) In which months did ... do farm work for cash wages during 1956? | (3) (As:: for each month checked in item 2.) On how many days did ... do farm work for wages during $\qquad$ $?$ (Enter number of days) | (4) (Ask for each month for which the entry in item 3 is 1-12 days.) Was farm work for cash wages ...'s chief kind of work for pay or profit in $\qquad$ ? | (5) How much did ... earn in cash wages from farm work during 1956? | (6) During 1956 did ... do any nonfarm worlk for cash mages or salary? | (7) <br> did <br> nonf <br> worl <br> cash <br> or <br> duri <br> 1956 <br> (Chec calen month |  | Yes in item 6 <br> (8) (Ask for <br> each <br> month <br> checked in <br> item 7) On <br> how many <br> days did <br> farm do non- <br> for cash <br> wages dur- <br> ing ? <br> (Enter number <br> of days) | (9) How mach did ... <br> earn in cash wages or salary at nonfarin work during 1956? |
|  | Jan. |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No | \$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \square \text { Yes } \\ & (A s k \text { items } \\ & 7-9) \end{aligned}$ | Jan. |  |  | \$ |
|  | Feb. |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No |  |  | Feb. |  |  |  |
|  | Mar. |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No | (Enter to nearest dollar) (Proceed to item 6) | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \square \text { No } \\ & \text { (Skip to } \\ & \text { item 10) } \end{aligned}$ | Mar. |  |  | (Enterto nearest do1lar) <br> (Proceed to ite: 10 on other side) |
|  | Apr. |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No |  |  | Apr. |  |  |  |
|  | May |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No |  |  | May |  |  |  |
|  | June |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No |  |  | June |  |  |  |
|  | July |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No |  |  | July |  |  |  |
|  | Aug. |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No |  |  | Aug. |  |  |  |
|  | Sept. |  | $1 \square \mathrm{Yes} 2 \square$ No |  |  | Sept. |  |  |  |
|  | oct. |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No |  |  | Oct. |  |  |  |
|  | Nov. |  | $1 \square$ Yes $2 \square$ No |  |  | Nov. |  |  |  |
|  | Dec. |  | $1 \square$ Yes $\quad 2 \square$ No |  |  | Dec. |  |  |  |
|  | (Proceed to item 3) |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (Proceod to } \\ & \text { item 5) } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (Proceed } \\ & \text { to itom } 8 \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (Proceed to } \\ & \text { item 4) } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (Proceed to } \\ & \text { item 9) } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |


nnmm TDC.AMS-4 (11-14-56)


[^0]:    * Report prepared under the direction of Margaret Jarman Hagood, Chief, Farm Population and Rural Iife Branch. The assistance of Dorothy Anne Fisher of this Branch is acknowledged.

[^1]:    1 Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

[^2]:    1) 

    Farm Labor, Agricultural Marketing Service, and Current Population Reports, Labor Force, P-57, Bureau of the Census.

