



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

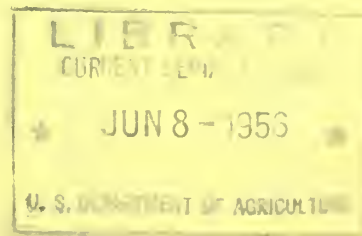
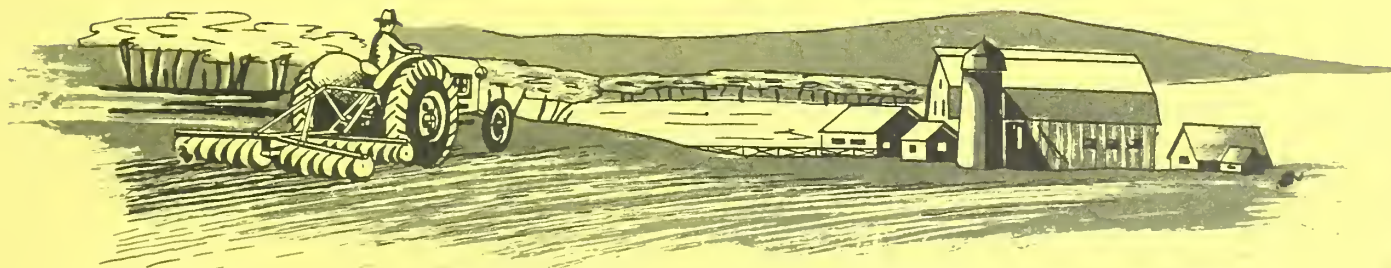
Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

A 280.39
M 34AM
Cop. 2

The Hired

FARM WORKING FORCE OF 1954



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Washington, D.C. • March 1956

THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE OF 1954*

By Sheridan T. Maitland, Labor Economist

Farm Population and Rural Life Branch
Agricultural Economics Division
Agricultural Marketing Service

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary - - - - -	2
Size and composition of the hired farm working force - - - - -	3
Chief activity of hired farm workers -	3
Time worked and wages earned by hired farm workers - - - - -	4
Migratory farm workers - - - - -	6
Employment and earnings of migratory farm workers - - - - -	7
Children of migratory farm workers - -	8
Appendix - - - - -	10

Number of farm wage workers who did any farm wage work during the year,
by sex, United States, 1945-54 1/

Year	All farm wage workers			Workers with less than 25 days of farm wage work during the year		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
1945	3,212	2,375	837	1,247	799	448
1946	2,770	2,120	650	817	536	281
1947	3,394	2,587	807	1,179	723	456
1948	3,752	2,820	932	1,250	784	466
1949	4,140	3,021	1,119	1,630	1,020	610
1950	4,342	3,221	1,121	--	--	-
1951	3,274	2,392	882	1,118	674	444
1952	2,980	2,218	762	1,008	660	348
1954	3,009	2,237	772	1,101	693	408

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

* Report prepared under the direction of Louis J. Ducoff, Assistant Chief, Farm Population and Rural Life Branch. The assistance of I.M. Baill, formerly of this Branch, is acknowledged.

Summary

About 3 million persons 14 years of age or older did some farm work for wages in the United States during 1954 - almost the same number as in 1952. Two-thirds of these workers did 25 or more days of farm wage work in the course of the year. Like the 1952 and earlier reports on the hired farm working force, the data in this report were obtained from a nationwide sample survey.^{1/}

About half of the workers with 25 or more days of farm wage work during the year reported farm wage work as their chief activity during 1954. This was an 11 percent increase over 1952 and about as high as any in the postwar period except for 1947. Likewise, a greater proportion of the workers with 25 or more days of farm wage work reported 150 or more days of such work in 1954 than in 1952.

The ratio of female to male workers with at least 25 days of farm wage work, about 1 to 4, was the same as in previous years. Male workers with 25 or more days of farm wage work in 1954 averaged 185 days of farm and nonfarm work for wages, of which 158 were on farms. Their average cash wage earnings for the year were \$1,124, all but \$208 of which was earned at farm work. Female workers were employed about half as long as male workers during the year; however, the average cash wage earnings of female workers during the year was only \$380, or about a third of that of the male workers.

About 470,000 farm wage workers, including 12,000 females, had 250 days or more work on farms in 1954 and averaged \$1,785 cash wage income, a gain of 5 percent over 1952. Eighteen percent of all farm wage workers had cash wage incomes of \$2,000 and over from all sources in 1954, a substantial increase over previous years.

A total of 365,000 persons reported some employment as migratory farm workers during 1954, not significantly different from 1952, but about 14 percent below the 1949 migratory farm working force. Migrants worked fewer days, earned more per day and averaged slightly higher annual farm wage income than nonmigrant farm workers in 1954. Age differences between migratory and nonmigratory farm workers were less in 1954 than in 1952 and earlier years. The ratio of female to male migratory workers was about the same as for nonmigrants.

^{1/} The survey was made for the Agricultural Marketing Service by the Bureau of the Census in January 1955. Information was obtained for persons 14 years old and over in the civilian noninstitutional population who did farm work for wages during the year. Children under 14 years of age, and foreign nationals brought in legally for temporary farm employment who had left the country by the end of the year, were not covered by the survey. Further information on the survey method is given in the appendix.

Migratory workers worked a greater number of days at farm wage work in 1954 than in 1952, while nonmigratory workers worked about the same number in both years. Both groups averaged fewer days at nonfarm wage work in 1954 than in 1952, but this decline was offset by an increase in duration of farm wage work of nonmigratory workers and only slightly reduced the substantial increase in total days worked by migratory workers between 1952 and 1954.

Response to special questions asked migratory workers for the first time in the 1954 survey revealed that more than 150,000 children under the age of 18 travelled with migratory farm workers during 1954. About the same number of children remained at the migratory worker's home base with some member of the household or in other households.

Size and Composition of the Hired Farm Working Force

Approximately 1.9 million persons 14 years of age or older worked 25 days or more at farm wage work in 1954, about the same as in 1952. This total, although not significantly different from the 1952 level, was as low as, or lower than, any year since the series of surveys was begun in 1945. An additional 1.1 million persons 14 years of age and over did farm wage work in 1954 for periods of less than 25 days. Most of the detailed information in this report is presented for hired farm workers with at least 25 days of farm employment during 1954.

The proportion of males among farm wage workers with 25 days or more of employment on farms has remained about the same throughout the period - 80 percent (table 1). All but 30 percent of the hired farm workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work in 1954 were white. Negro workers made up about nine-tenths of all nonwhites. One in 10 of the hired workers were veterans of World War II.

The age distribution of male and female workers who did 25 days or more of hired farm work in 1952 and 1954 is shown in table 2.

The percentage of hired farm workers who spent the major part of the year at farm wage work increased in 1954. About 44 percent of the hired farm working force who worked 25 days or more on farms for wages worked a total of 150 days or more at farm wage work during 1954, the largest proportion since 1947 (table 3). A fourth of these workers were employed 250 days or more at farm wage work in 1954.

Chief Activity of Hired Farm Workers

The duration of farm employment varies greatly among persons who work on farms for wages at some time during the year. Some idea of the heterogeneity of the hired farm working force can be gained by classifying all persons who worked 25 days or more on farms for wages, according to the activity at which they spent the greatest amount of time during the year.

An estimated 51 percent of the 1,908,000 persons who did 25 days or more of farm wage work in 1954 reported farm wage work as their chief activity during the year. This percentage was exceeded only in 1947; that year 60 percent of the hired farm working force reported farm wage work as their chief activity. The number of persons whose chief activity was farm wage work was substantially higher in 1954 than in 1952, and about equal to 1951 (table 4). An additional 10 percent either operated their own farms or worked without pay on the family farm during the greater part of the year. Nonfarm work was the chief activity of about 9 percent of the hired farm working force. Most of the rest -- a little less than a third -- were engaged in housework or were attending school. About 2 1/2 percent were unemployed the major part of the year. Of the nearly 1 million reporting farm wage work as their chief activity about 220,000 had also done some nonfarm wage work during 1954.

Time Worked and Wages Earned by Hired Farm Workers

Farm workers who worked 25 days or more on farms for pay averaged 142 days of such work in 1954, slightly higher than in 1952 and about the same as in 1949 and 1951. Male farm workers averaged 158 days of farm wage work in 1954 (table 5). Average daily farm wages for males were higher in 1954 but females averaged the same as in 1952.

Farm wage workers also averaged 26 days of nonfarm wage work, a slight decline from 1952 levels. However, the over-all average days of nonfarm wage work by hired farm workers has varied but little since 1947. Nonfarm wage earnings per day in 1954 compared with 1952 were down slightly for males and up about 17 percent for females.

Average cash wage earnings from farm work were higher in 1954 than in any previous year for which data are available, and although there was a drop in nonfarm earnings, the workers' average total cash wages from all sources were also higher than in any previous year. Annual wage income received by hired farm workers varied greatly because of the wide variation in total number of days worked. Those who worked 250 days or more on farms for wages received an average cash income from wages of almost \$1,800 in 1954, practically all from farm work (table 6). Farm wage workers who reported between 25 and 150 days of farm wage work averaged a little less than \$600, of which more than half was from farm wages. Male farm wage workers fared considerably better than female workers, earning about three times as much on the average. Both higher daily earnings and longer employment contributed to the larger earnings for males.

Hired farm workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work averaged \$5.85 per day in cash wages from all sources in 1954. Their pay for farm wage work averaged \$5.65 and for nonfarm wage work \$7.10 per day, a drop from \$7.45 in 1952. Average daily earnings from farm wages rose about 11 percent from 1952 to 1954.

Workers whose chief activity in 1954 was farm wage work during the year averaged almost \$1,400 in cash wages, somewhat higher than in 1952. The higher income was earned in about the same number of days of work, indicating a rise in daily earnings since 1952 (table 7). Income earned from nonfarm wage work for this group was down in 1954 compared to 1952, but earnings were somewhat higher than in 1951 and 1949. Workers who did at least 25 days of farm wage work in 1954 and whose chief activity was nonfarm work averaged about the same number of days of hired farm and nonfarm work as in 1952 (table 8).

Thirteen percent of the hired farm working force who worked 25 days or more at farm wage work in 1954 earned \$2,000 or more in cash farm wages compared with 7 percent who earned that much in 1952 (table 9). Almost 70 percent received less than \$1,000 in farm wages in 1954; but the proportion that made less than \$400 from such work dropped from 50 to 45 percent, compared with 1952. The higher farm wage earnings reported by workers in 1954 are a result of higher average daily earnings and a longer average duration of hired farm employment.

About 1 out of 4 workers who did 25 days or more of hired farm work had nonfarm jobs during the year. A separate distribution of workers who did 25 days or more of hired farm wage work and also had some nonfarm employment shows that 41 percent had total cash earnings from wages of \$1,000 or more, and that 18 percent had wage incomes of \$2,000 or over in 1954, a substantial gain above the 1952 figures (table 10).

The percentage of male farm wage workers whose chief activity was farm wage work earning more than \$2,000 a year has increased steadily since 1949. In 1954, 30 percent of these workers reported earnings of \$2,000 or more (table 11).

Included in the number of persons who worked 25 days or more at farm wage work in 1954 are some who had sources of income in addition to farm and nonfarm wage work. Some of these operated their own farms and some worked at other types of self-employment.

A special tabulation was made of farm wage workers who had no income from self-employment in a farm or nonfarm business in order to obtain a picture of the annual cash income for farm wage workers whose earnings in 1954 came solely from wages. Table 12 shows the results with a breakdown by residence in January 1955. Average cash earnings for this group were up somewhat from 1952, although nonfarm wage income was below the 1952 average. Nonfarm wage income was down from 1952 for all residence groups except rural farm. Urban residents who combined farm and nonfarm wage work made the highest average income, earning \$1,337 in 205 days of work. Urban residents earned the highest average daily wage for farm work, \$6.20, possibly because farm wage rates are higher near urban centers. Year-round farm jobs, which usually pay less than seasonal or piece-rate farm jobs on a daily basis, are held by rural-farm residents. Rural-farm residents had the highest average number of days of farm wage work, urban residents the lowest.

Movement from job to job and into or out of the labor force is characteristic of many of the people who do farm wage work in the course of a year. Table 13 shows employment status, at the time of survey (January 1955), of all persons who spent any time working on farms for wages during 1954. Half of the workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work in 1954 were employed in agriculture in January 1955. Almost all of these were wage workers. Less than a fifth of the hired farm working force of 1954 were employed in nonagricultural industries in January 1955. Eight percent were unemployed. The casual job attachments of those with less than 25 days of farm wage work is indicated by the large proportion of this group (49 percent) who were out of the labor force at the time of the survey.

Migratory Farm Workers

About 365,000 persons worked as migratory farm workers at some time during 1954, not including children under 14 years of age. Counted as migratory farm workers were persons who left their homes temporarily to work at seasonal farm jobs outside their home county except (1) workers who commuted daily across a county line to do farm wage work, and (2) persons who made a more or less permanent move to take a steady job in another county. Farm wage workers who had no usual place of residence (no regular home, no regular living quarters elsewhere) were considered as migratory workers if they did farm wage work in two or more counties in 1954.

The number of migratory farm workers in 1954 was about the same as in 1952 but about 14 percent below the level of 1949, the first year in which migratory workers were tabulated separately in these surveys. In 1952 it was estimated that there were approximately 350,000 domestic migratory farm workers 14 years of age and over in this country. Because of the difficulty of enumerating migratory workers it was recognized that some underenumeration probably occurred. Allowing for this, as well as for children of migratory workers under 14 years of age who also worked in fields, raised the estimate to around 450,000. The 1954 level was estimated to be about the same as the 1952 level.

Distribution of the 1954 migratory farm working force by sex and age is shown in tables 14 and 15, respectively, with comparisons for 1949, 1950, and 1952. 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 those migratory workers who did at least 25 days or more of farm wage work are shown separately. All but 88,000 of the 365,000 migratory workers worked 25 days or more on farms for pay.

The age distribution of migratory and nonmigratory workers did not differ significantly in 1954 (table 16). This is a departure from earlier years; migratory workers in earlier years tended to be younger than nonmigratory farm workers.

Half of the migratory workers reported farm wage work as their chief activity in 1954, about the same proportion as for nonmigratory workers (table 17). Both groups showed an increase over 1952 in the proportion reporting farm wage work as their chief activity, reflecting the decrease in nonfarm job opportunities during the 1954 recession, but the rise appeared to be larger for migratory workers. The increase from 1952 to 1954 in percentage of nonmigratory workers whose chief activity was farm wage work was about the same as the decline in this proportion which took place between 1949 and 1952. The proportion of migratory farm workers whose chief activity was nonfarm work was greater than that of nonmigratory farm workers in 1954. The percent of migratory workers who were outside the labor force the greater part of the year declined somewhat in 1954. 2/

Around 13 percent of migratory farm workers did 250 days or more of farm wage work in 1954, about double the 1949 and 1952 proportions. About 2 out of 5 migratory workers worked 150 days or more on farms for pay in 1954, slightly less than the proportion of nonmigratory workers (table 18). The percentage of nonmigratory farm workers who worked 150 days or more at farm wage work was about the same in 1949, 1952 and 1954.

A fifth of all migratory farm workers who did at least 25 days of farm wage work accumulated 250 days of work of all kinds during 1954 and 11 percent obtained 300 days or more of farm and nonfarm work. The percent of migratory workers who worked 25-74 days during 1954 declined substantially from 1952 (table 19).

Employment and Earnings of Migratory Farm Workers

In 1954 migratory farm workers who did 25 or more days of farm wage work increased considerably their average wage income and number of days worked. Average days worked at farm and nonfarm wage work was 156, up about 25 percent from 1952 and 31 percent from 1949. Average cash earned was \$1,033, an increase of 17 percent over 1952 and 74 percent over 1949. These averages included 32 days of nonfarm wage work with earnings of \$239. Both daily and annual average earnings from nonfarm work declined in 1954 while days of farm work and annual earnings rose, accounting for more than three-fourths of the migratory workers' total earnings (table 20). Migratory workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work averaged 124 days at hired farm labor in 1954, 40 percent more than in 1952 and 1949. Male migratory workers worked 54 more days and earned more than twice as much at farm wage work as female migratory workers in 1954. Migratory workers still averaged higher daily earnings at farm wage work than nonmigratory workers in 1954, although the difference had narrowed since 1952. Average daily cash earnings from farm work were \$.70 lower among male migratory workers contrasted with a rise of \$.65 over 1952 in the average daily rate of male nonmigratory workers. Migratory workers fared better than nonmigratory workers in 1954 in cash earned from nonfarm work, obtaining slightly more days of nonfarm work and higher daily earnings. Also, migratory workers were able

2/ Includes some workers who reported looking for work as their chief activity.

to earn, in 1954, about the same amount from farm wage work as nonmigratory workers although they worked 21 days less on the average at hired farm work.

The substantial increase in migratory workers' income from 1952 to 1954 was gained despite a drop in nonfarm earnings. A decline in nonfarm job opportunities and average daily farm wages in 1954 was more than offset by the rise in average days of farm work for wages. As in 1949 and 1952, male nonmigratory workers earned the highest average annual income from farm wages, \$919 in 161 days during 1954.

White migratory workers who did at least 25 days or more of farm wage work in 1954 averaged \$7.30 per day in cash wages earned at farm work. Non-white migratory workers earned an average of \$5.65 per day in cash at farm wage work (table 20). Among nonmigratory workers, whites averaged \$8.97 and nonwhites averaged \$5.49 daily in cash wages at farm work in 1954. These differences reflect the regional variations in farm wage rates since most nonwhite farm workers are in the South, where farm wage rates are generally lower than in other sections of the country. For example, according to estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service, the average hourly equivalent of all farm wage rates in 1954 in the South was 52 cents compared with 84 cents for the rest of the United States. However, male nonwhite migratory workers averaged \$1,032 in cash wages from farm work in 1954 compared with \$825 for male white migratory farm workers, because they worked a substantially greater number of days at farm wage work during the year.

Both white and nonwhite males averaged more days and higher earnings than white and nonwhite females.

Children of Migratory Farm Workers

Children who migrate with their parents are exposed to the health and social disadvantages associated with migratory life. They may suffer the disadvantages of interrupted schooling. Even the children left at home while their fathers migrate are usually dependent upon their parents' earnings from migratory farm work. To provide an estimate of the number of children dependent on migratory workers and the number who accompany migratory workers, the 1954 survey obtained information on the number of children under 18 years of age in migratory workers' households and the number of these travelling with their fathers. Only male migratory workers who were, or had ever been, married were asked these questions about their children.

Very few females are heads of migratory households and restricting the question to males was the most convenient way of avoiding the possibility of duplication in reporting.

About 100,000 male migratory workers were fathers and reported an estimated 320,000 children under 18 years of age. From the limited data available from this very small sample, it is estimated that about 150,000 of these children accompanied their fathers as they migrated from one farm job to another. Some of these youngsters, including about 50,000 14 to 17 year-olds, did migratory farm work,^{3/} but no direct information was obtained on the work participation of children under 14 years of age.

^{3/}These workers 14 to 17 years of age are included in all the estimates of migratory farm workers presented in the tables.

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 and 1954 1/

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

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at or near the end of the year.

Table 2.- Percentage distribution of male and female workers who did 25 days or more of hired farm work, by age group, 1952 and 1954 1/

Age	Male		Female	
	1952	1954	1952	1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100
14-17 years	17	14	18	19
18-34	42	41	37	44
35-64	37	41	44	36
65 and over	4	4	1	1

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at or near the end of the year.

Table 3.- Distribution of farm wage workers with 25 or more days of farm wage work, by length of farm wage work during year, United States, 1945-49, 1951, 1952, and 1954 1/

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

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at or near the end of the year.

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, and 1954

Chief activity of workers during year	Farm wage workers					Percentage of farm wage workers				
	1947	1949	1951	1952	1954	1947	1949	1951	1952	1954
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
All workers	2,215	2,510	2,156	1,972	1,908	100	100	100	100	100
Farm work	1,563	1,622	1,292	1,078	1,166	71	65	60	55	61
Farm wage work	1,325	1,262	981	884	979	60	50	46	45	51
Without nonfarm work	1,014	978	768	674	759	46	39	36	34	40
With nonfarm work	311	284	213	210	220	14	11	10	11	11
Other farm work	238	360	311	194	187	11	15	14	10	10
Nonfarm work	245	252	245	222	173	11	10	11	11	9
Not in the labor force	407	636	1,619	1,672	1,569	18	25	29	34	30
Keeping house	128	299	267	288	205	5	12	13	15	11
Attending school	195	258	287	284	243	9	10	13	14	13
Other	84	79	1,665	1,100	1,121	4	3	3	5	6

1/ Includes for 1951, 8,000, for 1952, 18,000, and for 1954, 49,000 persons who reported looking for work as their chief activity. The comparable figures for 1947 and 1949 not available. Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

Table 5. - Average time 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, and 1954 ^{1/}

Year and Sex	Farm and nonfarm		Farm			Nonfarm		
	Days worked	Wages earned	Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned	
				Per year	Per day worked ^{2/}		Per year	Per day worked ^{2/}
Number :	Dollars:	Number:	Dollars:	Dollars:	Number:	Dollars:	Dollars:	
1947								
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								
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								
Total	174	879	146	683	4.70	28	196	7.00
Male	197	1,035	165	797	4.85	32	238	7.55
Female	84	268	70	238	3.40	14	30	2.10
1952								
Total	162	908	132	684	5.15	30	224	7.45
Male	187	1,078	152	804	5.30	35	274	7.75
Female	67	264	57	232	4.05	10	32	3.15
1954								
Total	168	981	142	799	5.65	26	182	7.10
Male	185	1,124	158	916	5.80	27	208	7.70
Female	96	380	76	307	4.05	20	73	3.70

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at or near the end of the year.

^{2/} Rounded to nearest 5 cents.

Table 6. Average time worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm 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, 1954 ^{1/}

Sex of worker and duration of farm wage work	Number of farm wage workers		Farm and nonfarm		Farm		Nonfarm	
	Thousands	Number	Average : days of work	Cash earned : Dollars	Average : days of work	Cash earned : Dollars	Average : days of work	Cash earned : Dollars
All farm wage workers	1,908	168	5.85	981	142	799	26	182
25 - 149 days	1,074	97	5.90	577	60	320	37	257
150 - 249 days	364	199	5.75	1,140	181	1,021	18	119
250 and over	470	305	5.85	1,785	299	1,724	6	61
Male	1,544	185	6.10	1,124	158	916	27	208
25 - 149 days	748	106	6.55	694	62	360	44	334
150 - 249 days	338	200	5.85	1,167	181	1,040	19	127
250 and over	458	303	5.95	1,797	297	1,734	6	63
Female	364	96	3.95	380	76	307	20	73
25 - 149 days	326	79	3.95	311	57	230	22	81
150 - 249 days	26	191	4.15	795	186	788	5	7
250 and over	12	353	3.80	1,348	353	1,348	-	-

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

^{2/} Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Table 7. - Average time worked and wages earned in farm and nonfarm work for workers whose chief activity during the year was farm wage work, United States, 1949, 1951, 1952, and 1954 1/

Year	Farm and nonfarm		Farm		Nonfarm	
	Days worked	Wages earned	Days worked	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

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over the in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

Table 8. - Average number of days worked at farm and nonfarm wage work for workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by chief activity of worker, United States, 1952 and 1954 1/

Chief Activity	Farm and nonfarm:		Farm		Nonfarm	
	1952	1954	1952	1954	1952	1954
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total	162	168	132	142	30	26
Farm work	212	206	197	193	15	13
Farm wage work	244	232	227	219	17	13
Other farm work	62	69	56	60	6	9
Nonfarm work	216	217	57	62	159	155
Not in labor force <u>2/</u>	64	75	54	62	10	13
Keeping house	61	68	53	59	8	9
Attending school	67	77	55	63	12	14
Other <u>2/</u>	65	80	54	63	11	17

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at or near the end of the year.

2/ Includes a small number of workers who reported looking for work as their chief activity during the year.

Table 9. - Percentage distribution of farm wage workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work by cash wages earned at farm wage work, by sex, United States, 1952 and 1954 ^{1/}

Cash farm wages earned	All workers		Male		Female	
	1952	1954	1952	1954	1952	1954
<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 100	10	8	7	6	24	16
100 - 199	20	15	15	11	38	33
200 - 399	20	22	19	18	24	34
400 - 599	11	10	13	11	5	5
600 - 999	15	14	16	16	7	7
1,000 - 1,999	17	18	21	22	2	4
2,000 and over	7	13	9	16	-	1

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at or near the end of the year.

Table 10. - Percentage distribution of farm wage workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work by cash wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work, by sex, United States, 1952 and 1954 ^{1/}

Cash wage income	All workers		Male		Female	
	1952	1954	1952	1954	1952	1954
<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 100	7	6	5	4	18	13
100 - 199	17	12	11	8	38	28
200 - 399	17	18	13	14	28	34
400 - 599	8	9	9	10	5	6
600 - 999	16	14	18	15	7	11
1,000 - 1,399	11	11	14	12	3	6
1,400 - 1,999	11	12	14	15	1	1
2,000 and over	13	18	16	22	-	1

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at or near the end of the year.

Table 11. -- Percentage distribution of male farm wage workers whose chief activity was farm wage work, by cash wages earned, United States, 1949, 1951, 1952, and 1954 1/

Cash wage income	All workers			Farm wage work only			Farm and nonfarm wage work					
	1949 : 1951 : 1952 : 1954			1949 : 1951 : 1952 : 1954			1949 : 1951 : 1952 : 1954					
	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.	Pct. : Pct. : Pct. : Pct.			
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 100	3	2	2	2/	3	2	2	3	2/	1	1	-
100-199	6	3	5	2	7	2	2	6	2	6	-	-
200-399	10	10	8	4	10	11	9	9	4	11	5	6
400-599	13	6	10	9	13	6	12	12	9	14	5	9
600-999	23	20	22	18	23	22	20	20	17	25	13	20
1,000-1,399	24	21	16	15	25	19	17	17	15	22	30	17
1,400-1,999	14	21	18	22	12	22	17	17	22	19	18	22
2,000 and over	7	17	19	30	7	16	16	16	31	6	22	31

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 12. - Average number of days worked and cash wages earned at farm and nonfarm jobs for workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work and who had no income from self-employment, by residence in January 1955, United States, 1954 ^{1/}

Residence and Type of work	All wage or salary work				Farm wage work				Nonfarm wage work			
	Average days	Average cash wages	Per day	Average days	Average cash wages	Per day	Average days	Average cash wages	Per day	Average days	Average cash wages	Per day
Wage work:	No.	DoI.	DoI.	No.	DoI.	DoI.	No.	DoI.	DoI.	No.	DoI.	DoI.
All residence groups	171	948	5.55	144	768	5.35	27	180	6.75			
Farm	160	856	5.35	160	856	5.35						
Farm and nonfarm	199	1,187	6.00	102	537	5.25	97	650	6.75			
Rural-farm	180	911	5.05	162	784	4.85	18	127	6.90			
Farm	173	849	4.90	173	849	4.90						
Farm and nonfarm	202	1,110	5.50	125	580	4.65	77	530	6.90			
Rural-nonfarm	162	924	5.70	138	771	5.55	24	153	6.10			
Farm	154	861	5.60	154	861	5.60						
Farm and nonfarm	187	1,122	6.00	89	493	5.50	98	629	6.40			
Urban	165	1,056	6.40	118	732	6.20	47	324	6.85			
Farm	138	867	6.30	138	867	6.30						
Farm and nonfarm	205	1,337	6.50	87	531	6.10	118	806	6.85			

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

^{2/} Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Table 13. - Percentage distribution by employment status in January 1955 of persons reporting farm wage work during 1954 ^{1/}

Employment status	Workers with less than 25 days	Workers with 25 days or more
	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100
Employed in agriculture	24	50
Wage and salary workers	4	43
Self-employed workers	17	6
Unpaid family workers	3	1
Employed in nonagricultural industries	18	18
Manufacturing	5	6
Forestry, fishing, mining or construction	2	3
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	1	1
Trade	4	4
Private households	3	2
Other	3	2
Unemployed	9	8
Not in the labor force	49	24
Keeping house	23	10
Attending school	21	10
Other	5	4

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

Table 14. - Number of persons who did any work as migratory farm workers, by sex, United States, 1949, 1950, 1952 and 1954 ^{1/}

Sex	1949	1950	1952	1954
	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>
Total	422	403	352	365
Male	291	285	234	273
Female	131	118	118	92

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the survey. For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey, see text, page 6.

Table 15. - Percentage distribution of persons who did any work as migratory farm workers by age groups, United States, 1949, 1950, 1952, and 1954 ^{1/}

Age group	1949	1950	1952	1954
<u>Years</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
All ages	100	100	100	100
14 - 17	21	21	22	14
18 - 24	23	31	18	24
25 - 34	16	18	24	24
35 - 44	16	14	19	12
45 - 54	13	10	8	12
55 - 64	9	3	5	12
65 and over	2	3	4	2

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the survey. For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 6.

Table 16.- Percentage distribution of migratory and nonmigratory workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work, by age groups, United States, 1952 and 1954 ^{1/}

Age group	Migratory workers		Nonmigratory workers	
	1952	1954	1952	1954
Years	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
All ages	100	100	100	100
14-17	21	13	17	15
18-24	17	21	18	19
25-34	26	27	23	22
35-44	22	12	14	17
45-54	9	13	13	13
55-64	3	12	12	10
65 and over	2	2	3	4

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the survey. For definition of migratory farms workers and coverage of survey see text, page 6.

Table 17.- Percentage distribution of migratory and nonmigratory workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by chief activity, United States, 1949, 1952, and 1954 ^{1/}

Chief activity	Migratory workers			Nonmigratory workers		
	1949	1952	1954	1949	1952	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
All activities	100	100	100	100	100	100
Farm work	48	48	59	67	56	61
Farm wage work	38	39	50	52	46	51
With nonfarm work	10	12	14	12	11	11
Without nonfarm work	28	27	36	40	35	40
Other farm work	10	9	9	15	10	10
Nonfarm work	13	17	12	10	10	9
Nongainful activity ^{2/}	39	35	29	23	34	30

^{1/} Data relate to person 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the survey. For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 6.

^{2/} Includes a small number of workers who reported looking for work as their chief activity during the year.

Table 18. - Percentage distribution of migratory and nonmigratory workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work by duration of paid farm work, United States, 1949, 1952 and 1954 ^{1/}

Farm wage work	Migratory workers			Nonmigratory workers		
	1949	1952	1954	1949	1952	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
25-74	61	60	43	38	45	39
75-149	20	23	18	21	15	17
150-249	13	10	26	16	16	18
250 and over	6	7	13	25	24	26

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at the time of the survey. For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 6.

Table 19.- 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 and 1954 ^{1/}

Farm and nonfarm work	Migratory workers			Nonmigratory workers		
	1949	1952	1954	1949	1952	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
25-74	40	40	26	29	34	30
75-149	29	31	21	19	16	16
150-249	22	13	33	23	18	20
250 and over	9	16	20	29	32	34

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the survey. For definition of migratory farm workers and coverage of survey see text, page 6.

Table 20. - Average time worked and cash wages earned at farm and nonfarm work by workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work, by migratory status and sex of worker, United States, 1949, 1952 and 1954 ^{1/}

Year and category of worker	Farm and nonfarm			Farm			Nonfarm		
	Av. : Cash earned			Av. : Cash earned			Av. : Cash earned		
	days:	Per	of :Year : day ^{2/}	days:	Per	of :Year : day ^{2/}	days:	Per	of :Year : day ^{2/}
	work:	worked	work:	work:	worked	work:	work:	worked	
	No.:	Dol.:	Dol.	No.:	Dol.:	Dol.	No.:	Dol.:	Dol.
1949									
Migratory	119	594	4.95	89	448	5.00	30	146	4.80
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	65	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	68	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	5.50	24	172	7.05
Male	187	1,119	5.95	161	919	5.70	26	200	7.60
Female	91	344	3.75	75	287	3.80	16	57	3.45

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

^{2/} Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Table 21. - Distribution of farm wage workers with 25 or more days of farm wage work, by race, migratory status and sex, 1954 ^{1/}

Race, migratory status and sex of worker	Number of workers		Total		Farm		Nonfarm			
	Number	Average days of work	Cash earned	Average days of work	Cash earned	Average days of work	Cash earned	Average days of work		
	Thousands	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Number		
White and nonwhite	1,908	168	981	5.85	142	799	5.65	26	182	7.10
White	1,344	176	1,099	6.25	147	880	6.00	29	219	7.65
Migratory	166	151	1,104	7.30	108	755	7.00	43	349	8.10
Male	140	157	1,195	7.60	115	825	7.20	42	370	8.80
Female	26	121	608	5.00	73	373	5.10	48	235	4.85
Nonmigratory	1,178	180	1,098	6.10	153	897	5.90	27	201	7.50
Male	1,031	190	1,188	6.25	162	971	6.00	28	217	7.80
Female	147	104	471	4.50	85	380	4.45	19	91	4.80
Nonwhite	564	148	704	4.75	130	609	4.70	18	95	5.20
Migratory	111	164	926	5.65	147	852	5.80	17	74	4.40
Male	78	185	1,097	5.90	173	1,032	5.95	12	65	5.30
Female	33	114	533	4.65	87	438	5.05	27	95	3.50
Nonmigratory	453	145	649	4.50	126	549	4.35	19	100	5.40
Male	295	179	876	4.90	158	735	4.65	21	141	6.75
Female	158	80	226	2.80	66	201	3.05	14	25	1.75

^{1/} Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at or near the end of the year.

^{2/} Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Table 22. - Average number of days worked and cash wages earned at farm and nonfarm jobs for male workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work by migratory status and veteran status, 1954 1/

Status	Farm		:	Nonfarm	
	Days	: Daily	:	Days	: Daily
	worked	: wage <u>2/</u>	:	worked	: wage <u>2/</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
All male workers					
Total	158	5.80		27	7.70
Veterans	182	6.70		34	7.70
Migratory	118	7.65		59	5.90
Nonmigratory	198	6.55		28	8.65
Non-veterans	154	5.65		26	7.70
Migratory	140	6.40		25	9.70
Nonmigratory	156	5.55		26	7.40

1/ Data relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian non-institutional population at or near the end of the year.

2/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

Appendix

Method of survey

Estimates in this report, like those in similar reports for earlier years, are based on information obtained for the Agricultural Marketing Service by the Bureau of the Census in its regular Current Population Survey in January 1955. ^{4/} The survey was made on a national sample of approximately 25,000 households and completed interviews were obtained from about 21,000 households. As the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Small figures, and small differences among 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 were asked concerning each person 14 years old and over in the households included in the survey, in both urban and rural areas. The special questions are reproduced herewith. The questions in column 9 of the schedule provided information on migratory farm workers. Columns 10 and 11 were designed to furnish information on migratory workers' children. The part of the instructions for enumerators dealing with the questions on children of migrants are also reproduced.

^{4/} Robert Pearl of the Bureau of the Census handled the survey operations and tabulations.

The following instructions are reproduced from the Bureau of the Census instructions to enumerators on the special questions added to the schedule for the January 1955 Current Population Surveys.

M. Item 10 - If "Yes" in item 9 and a MAN with M, Wd, D or Sep. in control card item 17 - How many children under 18 does . . . have?

- | | |
|--|--|
| For whom to ask | 1. Ask the above question only for <u>MEN</u> who have ever been <u>married</u> (M, Wd, D, or Sep. in control card item 17) and who have done migratory farm work during 1954 (<u>"Yes" marked in item 9 of CPS-AMS-3</u>) |
| What children to include | 2. Include the man's foster, adopted, natural, or step-children <u>under 18 years of age</u> . Include his children under 18 who are living with him, or those living elsewhere for whom he is legally responsible. |
| Include only children now alive | 3. Include only children who are now alive. |
| If man has <u>no</u> children under 18 | 4. If man has <u>no</u> children under 18, enter "none" in item 10. |

N. Item 11 - If 1 or more in item 10 - When . . . was working away from home, how many of these children travelled along with him?

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| For whom to ask | 1. Ask item 11 only of migrant fathers reported in item 10 as having 1 or more children now alive. |
| Purpose of this question | 2. The purpose of the above question is to get some idea of the number of children under 18 who travel with their fathers to farm jobs in other countries. |
| Entries to make | 3. In item 11 enter the number of children who travel with their fathers when they go on migrant farm jobs, or if none of the children go, enter "none" in item 11. The entry should include the children who went along on any or all of the father's trips. For example, if a man with two children made two trips during the year, taking only the first child on the first trip and only the second child on the second trip, the entry in item 11 would be "2". On the other hand, if this same man took only the first child on both trips, the entry would be "1". Count all children under 18 who travelled to any farm job with their fathers, regardless of whether these children worked or not. |

Special questions added to schedule for January 1955 Current Population Surveys Monthly Report
of the Labor Force, Bureau of the Census

To be filled out for all persons 14 years of age or older who answered "yes" in item 30, which read:
During the year 1954 did . . . do any farm work for cash wages or salary?

IF YES IN ITEM 30 OF JANUARY 1955 SCHEDULE

1. What was . . . doing most of 1954 -

working keeping house going to school or something else? (Mark one box below)

Farm work for cash wages or salary

Other farm work

Nonfarm work

Looking for work

Keeping house

Going to school

Other (specify)

2. In all, how many days did . . . do FARM WORK for cash wages during 1954?

(Number of days)

3. How much did . . . earn in cash wages from FARM WORK during 1954?

\$ (Enter to nearest dollar)

4. Operate a farm? Yes No

5. Operate his own nonfarm business or profession? Yes No

6. Do any NONFARM WORK for cash wages or salary? Yes (Ask 7 & 8) No (Skip to 9)

During the year 1954 did . . .

(Proceed to item 2) (Proceed to item 3) (Proceed to item 4) to item 5) (Proceed to item 6)

IF YES IN 6

7. How many days did . . . do NONFARM WORK for cash wages or salary during 1954?

8. How much did . . . earn in cash wages or salary at NONFARM WORK during 1954?

\$ (Enter to nearest dollar)

9. Some workers leave home to harvest crops or do other seasonal farm work in a different county. Did . . . do this in 1954? Yes (If a MAN with M, Wd, D, or Sep. in control card item 17, ask item 10; otherwise, omit 10 and 11) No (Omit 10 and 11)

10. How many children under 18 years of age does . . . have? (Include both the man's children living with him and those living somewhere else)

IF YES in 19, and a MAN with M, Wd, D, or Sep. in control card item 17* IF 1 OR MORE IN ITEM 10

11. When . . . was working away from home, how many of these children travelled along with him? (Number of children)

(If 1 or more, ask item 11) *Question on marital status

