

NUMBER OF FAMILY WORKERS (INCLUDING OPERATOR) AND HIRED WORKERS PER FARM REPORTING, COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954

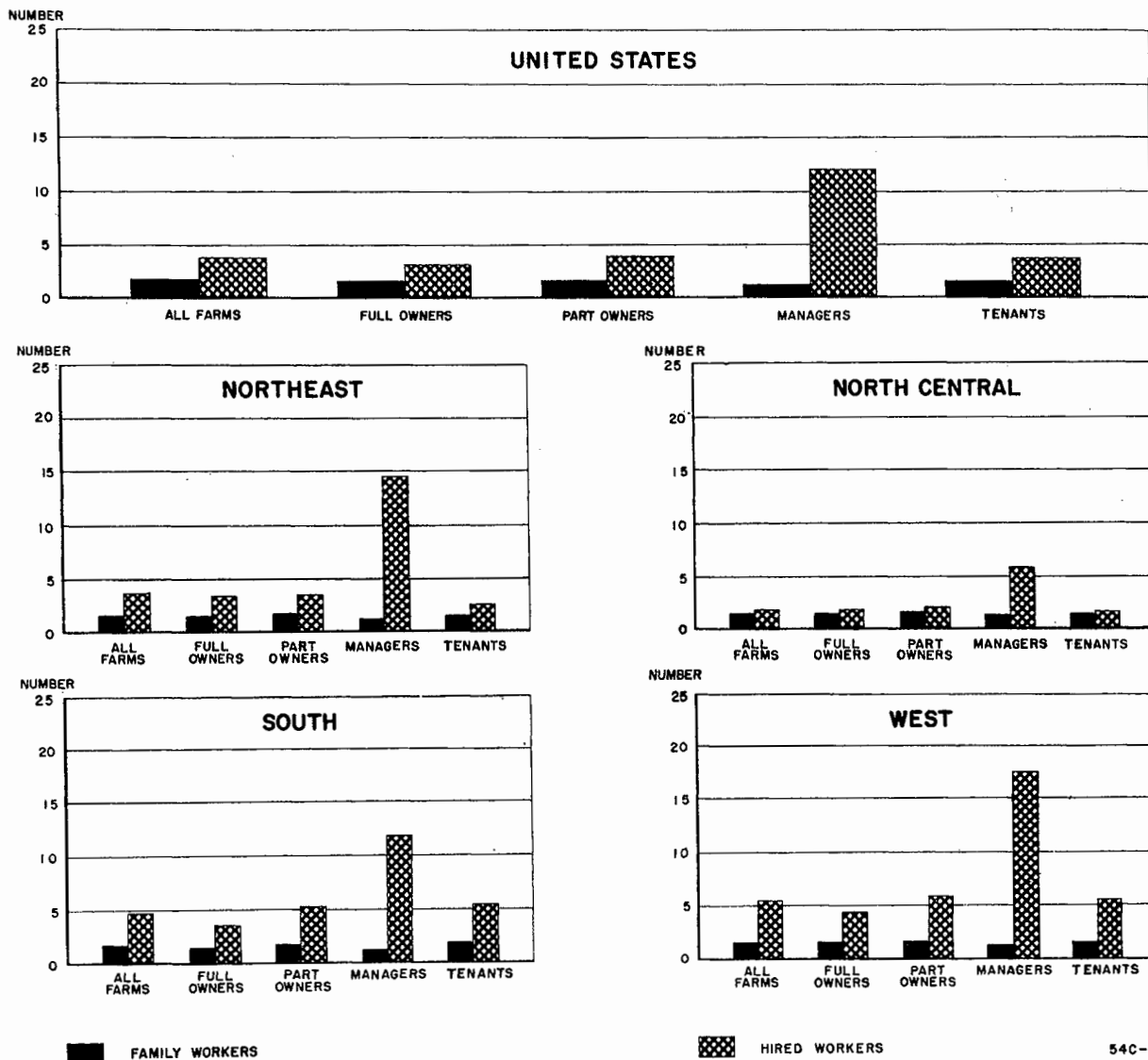


Figure 35.

FARM LABOR

Changes in the use of farm labor.—Labor, measured in terms of total value of production, remains the most important factor in agricultural production. However, the general trend in the pattern of production has been a substitution of capital for labor. Mechanization and other features of the production process bringing about a capital-labor substitution have been important in reducing the total man-hours of work on farms by one-fourth since World War II and about 15 percent since 1947-49. Most of this reduction of labor has come about in crop production.

The total amount of labor used for farm work, as estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture, has declined from 22,547 million man-hours in 1910 to 14,642 million man-hours in 1954. While these reductions in labor were taking place, substantial increases were being made in total agricultural production. The result is that the index of output per man-hour (base 1947-49=100) has increased from 46 in 1910 and 112 in 1950, to 126 in 1954.

Estimates by the United States Department of Agriculture indicate that in 1954 there was an annual average of 8,451,000 persons employed on farms, of which 6,521,000 were hired workers. These estimates show that the number of persons employed in agriculture has declined since the end of World War I.

The index of farm employment (base 1910-14=100) had declined from 69 in 1950 to 62 in 1954. More of the drop in the farm

TABLE 5.—NUMBER OF FAMILY (INCLUDING OPERATOR) AND HIRED WORKERS PER FARM REPORTING,¹ COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954

[Data are based on reports for only a sample of farms]

Area and type of worker	All farms	Full owners	Part owners	Managers	Tenants
United States:					
Family workers.....	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.3	1.8
Hired workers.....	3.8	3.2	4.0	12.2	3.9
Northeast:					
Family workers.....	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.6
Hired workers.....	3.6	3.4	3.6	14.7	2.7
North Central:					
Family workers.....	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.6
Hired workers.....	2.0	2.0	2.1	6.0	1.8
South:					
Family workers.....	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.3	2.0
Hired workers.....	4.8	3.6	6.3	12.0	5.4
West:					
Family workers.....	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.6
Hired workers.....	5.5	4.5	6.9	17.5	5.6

¹ For specified dates: September 26-October 3 for 33 States and October 24-30 for 15 States.