

The farm labor information was obtained in three parts: (1) operators working, (2) unpaid members of the operator's family working, and (3) hired persons working. Operators were considered as working if they worked 1 or more hours during the specified week; unpaid members of the operator's family, if they worked 15 or more hours; and hired persons, if they worked any time during the calendar week specified. Instructions contained no specifications regarding age of the persons working. In case of a partnership, the active or senior member was considered the operator. Other members of the partnership who did 15 or more hours of farm work on the place during the specified week without receiving pay were included with "unpaid members of the operator's family working."

Data shown for earlier Censuses are not fully comparable with those for 1954, particularly if they relate to a different time of year or if a time lag occurred between the date of enumeration and the calendar week for which inquiry was made. The data for 1954 were purposely related to a period of peak farm employment and to pre-determined calendar weeks upon recommendation of the principal users of farm-labor data.

The farm-labor inquiries for the 1950 Census related to the calendar week preceding the actual enumeration and respondents had little trouble reporting accurately for a week just completed. The starting date for enumeration in 1950 was identical in all States (April 1, 1950) although several weeks were required to complete the field work. The average date of enumeration for the 1950 Census was during the period of April 15 to April 28. For the 1945 and 1935 Censuses, the number of farm workers related to the first week in January. The data for 1940 related to two periods; one, the last week in March, 1940, and the other, the last week in September, 1939. In 1940, the Census was taken as of April 1. In 1945, 1940, and 1935, only persons working the equivalent of two or more days during the specified week were to be included. In 1935, as in 1954 and 1950, there was no specification regarding the age of the farm workers. No instructions were issued to

include farm chores as farm work in 1940 and 1935 Censuses.

Regular and seasonal workers.—Hired persons working on the farm during the specified week were classed as "regular" workers if the period of actual or expected employment was 150 or more days. If the period of expected employment was not reported, the period of employment was estimated for the individual farm after taking into account such items as the basis of payment, wage rate, expenditures for labor in 1954, the type of farm, and other characteristics of the farm.

Hired workers by basis of payment.—Hired persons were also classified according to the basis of payment. The questionnaire called for the numbers of hired workers paid on a monthly basis, on a weekly basis, on a daily basis, on an hourly basis, and on a piece-work basis. If the basis of payment was not reported for any of the hired workers, the missing information was supplied.

Wage rate and hours worked.—The rate of pay (except for workers on a piece-work basis) and the hours that workers were expected to work to earn this pay (except for workers on hourly basis or on piece-work basis) were asked for each class of workers. For 1954, the data include estimates of hours worked and wage rates for questionnaires incomplete for either of these items. Estimates were based upon relationships existing on nearby farms of similar size and type. Data for 1950 for hours worked and wage rates were restricted to farms reporting both wage rates and hours worked.

The 1954 Census of Agriculture, taken in October and November, 1954, was the first nationwide Census to be taken in the fall of the year. The number of persons reported as working on farms during the specified week in 1954 represents, in many areas, the maximum number of persons employed in agriculture during the year. Employment of labor on farms for the United States as a whole normally reaches a peak about September. For some farms, the number of persons working during a particular week may be less than the number normally employed at that period of the year because of adverse weather or other conditions.

TABLE 1.—COMPARISON OF IMPORTANT POINTS IN THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENUMERATING FARM WORKERS IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE FOR 1935 TO 1954

Item	1954 (Oct.—Nov.)	1950 (April 1)	1945 (January 1)	1940 (April 1)	1935 (January 1)
Information enumerated separately for.....	{(1) Operator..... (2) Unpaid members of operator's family. (3) Hired workers.....	{(1) Operator..... (2) Unpaid members of operator's family. (3) Hired workers.....	{(1) Operator..... (2) Unpaid members of operator's family. (3) Hired workers.....	{(1) Family workers (operator and unpaid members of operator's family). (2) Hired workers.....	{(1) Family workers (operator and unpaid members of operator's family). (2) Hired workers.....
Week covered by enumeration.....	Week of Sept. 26-Oct. 2 for 33 States; week of Oct. 24-30 for 15 States. None specified.....	Week preceding the enumeration ¹	Week ending January 6, 1945.....	March 24-30, 1940, and Sept. 24-30, 1939.	First week of January 1935.
Age of workers to be included.....	None specified.....	None specified.....	14 years old and over.....	14 years old and over.....	None specified.
Hours to be employed at farm work during specified week.....	{(1) Operator, 1 hour or more. (2) Unpaid members of operator's family, 15 or more hours. (3) Hired workers, any.....	{(1) Operator, 1 hour or more. (2) Unpaid members of operator's family, 15 or more hours. (3) Hired workers, any.....	{(1) All workers, equivalent of 2 or more days.	{(1) All workers, equivalent of 2 or more days.	{(1) Operator not specified. (2) Other workers, equivalent of 2 or more days.
Farm chores.....	Specifically included.....	Specifically included.....	Specifically included.....	Not mentioned.....	Not mentioned.
Inmates of institutions.....	Specifically excluded.....	Specifically excluded.....	Unpaid inmates excluded.....	Inmates who spend entire time working on farm included.	Not mentioned.
Contract construction work.....	Specifically excluded.....	Specifically excluded.....	Specifically excluded.....	Specifically excluded.....	Not mentioned.
Housework.....	Specifically excluded.....	Specifically excluded.....	Specifically excluded.....	Specifically excluded.....	Specifically excluded.

¹ Census of 1950, average date of enumeration for the United States, April 15-28.

The data for earlier Censuses are not exactly comparable primarily because of the differences in the date of enumeration, in the wording of the questions and in the instructions to enumerators. Table 1 shows, for each of the five Censuses, the

basic specifications regarding the reporting of farm labor, as indicated by the instructions to enumerators and by the wording of the inquiries on the questionnaire. In several of the years, the inquiry on numbers of persons working on farms