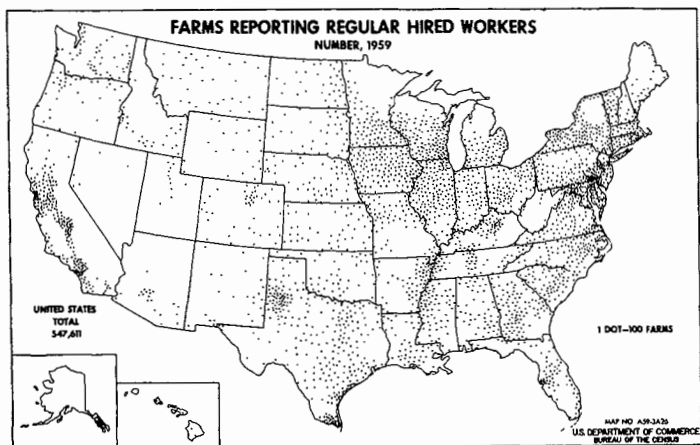


Hired farm labor.—Hired farm labor is the smallest of the three major groups of farmworkers. This part of the farm labor force totaled 1.6 million persons during the week preceding the census enumeration in 1959. More than half of the total hired farm labor force comprised seasonal workers employed for less than 150 days on the farm on which they were working. The number of seasonal hired workers varies greatly during the year as farm labor requirements are highly seasonal.

Hired farmworkers during the week preceding the census enumeration were reported on 547,611, or 14.8 percent, of the farms in 1959. However, 1.8 million, or 48.1 percent, of all farms employed some hired labor in 1959. Expenditures of \$1,000 or more for hired labor were made on only 432,901, or 11.7 percent, of the farms. Only 244,433 farms, or 1 farm out of 15, had two or more hired workers in 1959. More than half of all the farmworkers were on the 62,140 farms having five or more hired workers. Only eight States had as many as 50,000 hired farmworkers and the total of those eight States represented 46.1 percent of all the hired farmworkers in the United States. Two States, Texas and California, had almost one-fifth of all hired farmworkers.



Only 1 farm out of 12 had one or more regular hired workers in 1959 and only 110,487 farms had two or more regular hired workers. About 40 percent of all regular hired workers were on the 22,530 farms employing five or more regular hired workers in 1959. Only three States—New York, Texas, and California—had as many as 5,000 farms having two or more regular hired workers.

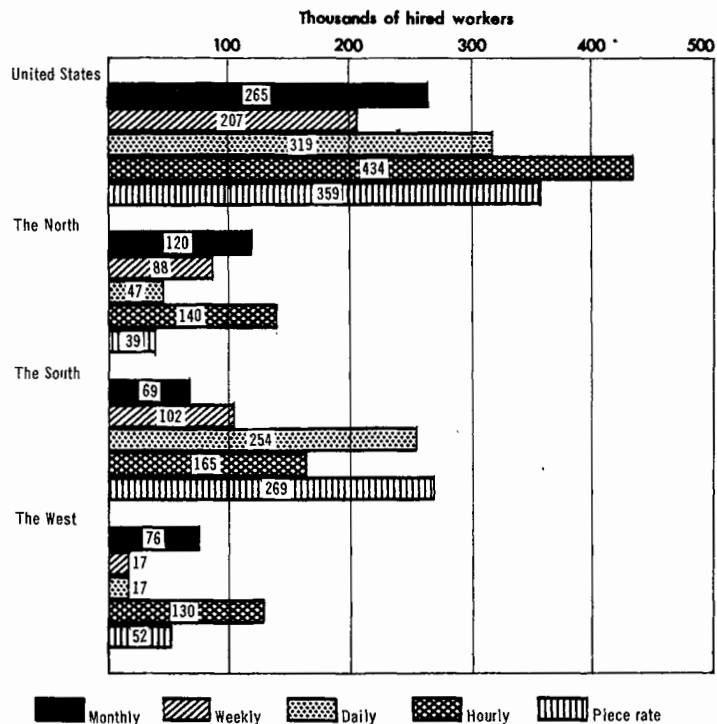
From 1954 to 1959 there was a significant reduction in hours of work of hired farmworkers as indicated by the following data:

	1959	1954	1950
Average hours of work per month for workers paid on monthly basis.....	209	231	239
Average hours of work per week for workers paid on weekly basis.....	46	51	52
Average hours of work per day for workers paid on daily basis.....	8.5	8.8	9.2

Approximately one out of every six hired workers during the week preceding the census in 1959 was employed by the month. The average hours of work by hired workers paid on a monthly basis was 209 hours for the conterminous United States. In 1954, the corresponding average hours worked per month was 231.

Approximately one out of every seven hired workers on farms was paid on a weekly basis. The average hours worked per week

NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS BY BASIS OF PAYMENT BY REGIONS: 1959



for these workers was 46 for the conterminous United States, a decrease of 5 hours, or almost 10 percent, from the average of 51 hours for 1954.

One out of every five hired farmworkers in 1959 was paid on a daily basis. The average number of hours worked per day for the hired workers was 8.5 hours per day as compared with 8.8 hours per day in 1954. Four-fifths of the hired farmworkers paid on a daily basis were in the South.

Approximately one-fourth of all hired workers during the week preceding the census in 1959 were employed on a piece-price basis. No data are available regarding the hours of work for this group of hired farmworkers. About 75 percent of the hired workers employed on a piecework basis were in the South.

Cash farm wage rates.—The data available on farm wage rates represent only cash payments. Many hired farmworkers receive perquisites such as room and board, food, house, etc., in addition to the cash payments. The wage rates reflect widely varying types of workers and working arrangements. Some hired workers may be working only part time, even though they are paid on a monthly or weekly basis. In some cases, young persons or elderly persons are paid small wages in addition to board, etc., and these persons have been reported in the census as hired workers. Moreover, some workers receive a share of the farm products in addition to the cash payments.

For the United States, the average cash wage rate per person was \$198 per month for workers paid by the month, \$42 per week for workers paid by the week, \$5.25 per day for workers paid by the day, \$0.97 per hour for workers paid by the hour, and \$6.46 per day (for Friday of week preceding enumeration) for persons working on a piecework basis.

Wage rates vary significantly by States. Wage rates were higher in the Western States and lower in the Southern States.