

PART 2. FARM LABOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

Historical Background

In the last three decades, there have been significant increases in the substitution of laborsaving machines and other capital inputs for hired farmworkers. The scarcity of farmworkers along with the rapidly increasing wage rates has speeded this substitution in recent years.

Some of these changes are indicated by the data presented in this part of chapter 4. Data for 1969 are presented for the number of regular workers on farms (i.e., hired farmworkers working 150 days or more on a particular farm) and the number of seasonal workers on farms (i.e., hired farmworkers working less than 150 days on a particular farm).

Historically, reasonably accurate farm-labor statistics have been difficult to collect, even on a weekly or monthly survey basis. Problems of definition and classification always exist. It is necessary to recognize the additional difficulties attributable to memory biases.

Other Published Data

Data collected in the 1969 Census of Agriculture for labor-related expenditures and the total number of hired workers, in

addition to those published in this volume, are located as indicated in the following table. Data for 1969 for farms by the number of hired workers are not available except in this chapter.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Definitions concerning hired farmworkers are provided in this section. For farm labor and related expenditures, definitions and concepts are presented in the production expenses part of this chapter. Chapter 1 of this volume provides information about the comparability of data for 1969 with those of earlier censuses. It also contains information concerning the procedures for collecting, processing, and classifying along with a description of factors affecting the accuracy of the data.

In the 1969 Census of Agriculture, data for the number of hired farmworkers were collected only for farms with sales of farm products of \$2,500 and over (class 1-5 farms). Questions on the number of farmworkers were not asked of the one million farmers with sales of less than \$2,500, since in the 1964 census they had accounted for less than 3 percent of the total number of hired workers working 150 days or more.

The 1969 Census of Agriculture report form for class 1-5 farms contained two inquiries relating to the number of hired workers employed to do farm or ranch work in 1969. A facsimile of the

Table 1. Other Published Data for Labor

Where found	Geographical area for which available	Period	Classification	Subjects covered
Volume I				
<u>State tables:</u>				
5.....	State.....	1969 - 1959.....	<u>All farms</u> Total farms.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms and expenditures.
9.....	States.....	1969.....	Selected economic class groups.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms and expenditures.
<u>Class 1-5 Farms</u>				
14.....	State.....	1969 - 1959.....	Total class 1-5 farms.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures and number of workers.
24.....	State.....	1969.....	Tenure of operator and type of organization.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures and number of workers.
25.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by age of operator.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures and number of workers.
26.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by size.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures and number of workers.
27.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by economic class.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures and number of workers.
28.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by type.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures and number of workers.
29.....	State.....	1969.....	Farms by type and economic class.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures and number of workers.
30.....	State.....	1969.....	Large-scale farms by type.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures and number of workers.
<u>County tables:</u>				
5.....	County and State.....	1969 - 1964.....	<u>All farms</u> Total farms.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms and expenditures.
14.....	County and State.....	1969 - 1964.....	<u>Class 1-5 Farms</u> Total class 1-5 farms.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, expenditures, and number of workers.
<u>Volume II:</u>				
Chapter 3.....	United States.....	1969.....	<u>Class 1-5 Farms</u> Farms by tenure and type of organization.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms, and expenditures and number of workers.
Chapter 7.....	United States.....	1969.....	Farms by economic class.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms and expenditures and number of workers.
Chapter 8.....	United States.....	1969.....	Farms by type.....	Hired labor and contract labor - farms and expenditures and number of workers.