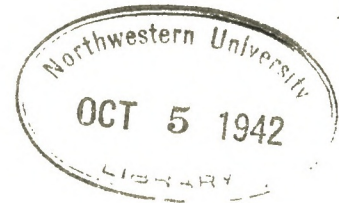


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MAN-HOURS JUMP AS AVERAGE WORK-WEEK INCREASES ONE HOUR IN YEAR

The average work-week of American workers increased one hour during the last year, and this rise has accounted for about one-fourth of the total increase in man-hours, according to a special WPA research study.

Released today by Brigadier General Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator and Acting Commissioner of Work Projects, the report states that between June, 1941, and this June, employment increased by 3,100,000 persons, accounting for three-fourths of the rise in man-hours. The number of workers employed 40 hours or more a week rose by 3,600,000, and the number of persons working less than 40 hours a week declined by 500,000.

Including both agricultural and non-agricultural workers, the average weekly hours of work rose from 45.7 last June to 46.7 this June. Nearly 44,000,000 of the 53,300,000 employed persons in June were working 40 hours or more a week.

The study was made by the WPA Division of Research and Statistics in connection with its regular Monthly Report of Employment and Unemployment, for which representative areas are scientifically sampled.

"The nation's manpower is being utilized more effectively in the war production program not only through the hiring of millions of additional persons, but also through putting more employed workers on full-time or over-time schedules," the report says.

"The fact that over one-sixth of all employed persons in June, 1942, worked less than 40 hours a week suggests a considerable degree of unused capacity in the labor force now employed. It must be remembered, however, that in many jobs outside of war lines only part-time workers are needed, and many workers have domestic or other responsibilities that would keep them out of the labor market entirely if they could not find part-time jobs.

"The continued employment of large numbers of part-time workers thus may be one aspect of the fuller utilization of our labor reserves, just as is the current trend toward a longer work week and the drawing in of new workers to the labor force."

Farmers and farm workers, who ordinarily work long hours, relied to a considerable extent on even longer hours to increase production, the study found. The average weekly hours of work went up 1.8, from 55.4 to 57.2, in the one-year period. Agricultural employment, meanwhile, rose by only 600,000.

A longer work-week was of relatively less importance in the readjustment of non-agricultural employment. While the number of employed persons outside of agriculture was increasing by 2,500,000, the average number of hours worked per week was only eight-tenths of an hour greater in June, 1942, than in June, 1941.

In non-agricultural pursuits employment of less than 40 hours a week declined by only 100,000, but employment of 40 and more hours advanced by 2,600,000 with the hiring of new workers for full-time or over-time jobs, principally in the war production industries.

"One of the most outstanding developments in agricultural employment over the past year is the increase of 1,100,000 in the number of persons working 60 or more hours a week," the report states. "During the same period, the number employed less than 40 hours a week in agriculture has declined by 400,000.

"This undoubtedly indicates that many farm operators, by working longer hours themselves, are making up for the loss of considerable numbers of experienced farm workers who have migrated to war production centers or entered the armed forces. Moreover, in the case of the supplementary agricultural labor supply - farm women and children, together with students and other persons from nearby towns - a much larger proportion is being utilized on a full-time basis this summer."

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