

The seasonal fluctuation in labor requirement is great in both communities. Arvin demand varies from 132,000 hours in March to 525,000 hours in July (or four times the minimum). Dinuba demand for labor varies from 124,000 hours in November to 669,000 in September (over five times the minimum). Seasonality of employment opportunity is a serious problem in both towns, but is worse in Dinuba than Arvin.

These figures represent labor requirements on all farms, or the demand for labor. On the supply side, several classes of labor may be segregated: The farm operator, the resident full-time farm laborer, the resident part-time worker, and the outside transient worker. It may be assumed that, in general, the labor is performed by the operator when he can do it, by resident labor when there is too much for the operator, and by part-time and migratory workers only after the resident labor is fully employed. In actual practice, there will be many exceptions, but as a general rule this relationship will apply. In this way, the itinerant worker will receive the residual employment. It must be remembered that the resident laborer of Arvin and Dinuba may also be an itinerant laborer in any other community, while the itinerant laborer is the resident of some other town.

Figure 6 shows graphically the monthly fluctuation in labor demand for the two towns, and the proportion of this demand which must be filled by hired labor and by migrant workers living outside the community. Hatchures show the source of such labor. The lower portion represents the labor performed by the farm operators, on the assumption that each operator works full time (250 hours per month) when there is work to be done. Since many operators, especially on larger units, are occupied with management, this may overstate somewhat the actual hours of labor they can accomplish. It is assumed that this managerial function results in at least equivalent labor savings. Unpaid family labor has not been included as it does not play an important role in the economy of industrialized farming. The next section of the bar shows the work done by full-time hired labor resident in the community. The supply is predicated upon the data from schedules. The third section shows other family members who perform farm labor for wages on a part-time basis, the supply of which was determined by the schedules. Full-time labor is assumed to work 200 hours per month when work is available and part-time labor 100 hours per month when work is available. In Dinuba, no hired labor is required in November or December, but in Arvin there is always work for some hired hands. The resident labor in each community is sufficient to cover most of the demand. In both communities outside workers are necessary during the three peak months.

No doubt outside workers are normally in each community at other times, competing with local labor, but they are not absolutely needed. The upper portion of the bar represents that portion of the available work which must be done by these itinerant workers. Table 15 shows the break-down of workers for the two communities for the month of peak employment, based upon the assumption given. During other months, the number of itinerant workers is fewer, and during most months, even the resident labor is not fully employed. In Dinuba there are seasons when the operators are themselves not fully employed.