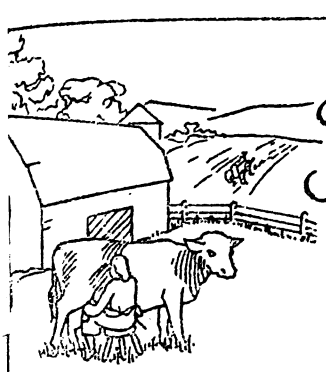
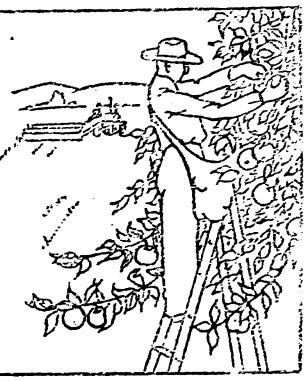


Farm Labor



BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C. BAE February 13, 1947

8,280,000 PERSONS AT WORK ON FARMS OF U.S. ON FEBRUARY 1

About 8,280,000 persons were at work on farms in the United States on February 1, practically the same as a month earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. Along the Atlantic Coast and in the southern portion of the country, above-normal temperatures and much fair weather during the week up to February 1 were generally favorable for outside activity. In the remainder of the country, warm weather early in the week was followed by blizzard conditions.

In all major regions, more persons were doing farm work on February 1 than a year earlier. The number of farm operators and unpaid members of their families was slightly less than a year ago in the Middle Atlantic and Pacific States, but the number of hired workers was larger in all regions.

The number of family workers on February 1 was smaller in the country as a whole than a month earlier, and there were fewer family workers in the Middle Atlantic, East and West North Central and East and West South Central States. The decreases in the Middle Atlantic and North Central States were slightly larger than usual as a result of the extreme winter weather. The increases during January in the number of family workers in the other regions of the country were generally somewhat larger than usual.

Changes in the number of hired workers reflected the bad weather more clearly than did the changes in the number of family workers. In the Middle Atlantic, East and West North Central and Mountain States the number of hired workers on February 1 was less than on January 1, in comparison with usual increases for this period. The heavy snow, high winds and severe cold of late January and early February were concentrated in these regions. Increases from January 1 in the number of hired workers on the East and West Coast States and in the South were more than enough to offset decreases elsewhere. Consequently, the total number of hired workers on February 1 for the country as a whole was larger than

on January 1. Increases were about as large as usual in the South and less than usual in New England and the Pacific Coast States.

Seasonal farm work progressed rapidly during January as the result of mild weather in much of the Nation. Winter jobs in the northern part of the country, such as cutting wood, hauling manure, repairing machinery and buildings, cleaning fence rows and butchering hogs, proceeded faster than usual during January, except for the last days of the month when work was confined to chores by cold weather.

Field work was starting in the South, with some plowing reported as far north as southern Kansas and southern New Jersey. Excessive moisture in parts of the South hindered field work, especially in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. Plowing and preparation of land for spring planting was under way in Oklahoma. Harvest of early truck crops and planting of later ones were proceeding in the Gulf Coast area on February 1 and potato planting was in progress. Citrus harvest in Florida and Texas was using its usual quota of hired workers. Tobacco beds were planted in Florida, the Carolinas and Georgia, and beds were being prepared in Kentucky and Tennessee. Tobacco was nearly all prepared for market in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia.

On the West Coast there was little farm activity in Washington and Oregon. Cold weather in the first two weeks of January and rain in the latter part of the month limited outside work. Citrus harvest, and planting and harvest of various truck crops were important jobs in California.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm labor: Persons employed, wage rates, indexes and related data, United States, February 1, 1947 with comparisons

	Annual average 1910-14	January average 1935-39	February 1, 1946	January 1, 1947	February 1, 1947
FARM EMPLOYMENT (thousands of persons)					
Total	12,052	8,834	7,799	8,272	8,280
Family labor	9,160	7,159	6,375	6,747	6,693
Hired labor	2,892	1,675	1,424	1,525	1,587
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation):					
Total	100	91	80	87	84
Family labor	100	91	81	88	85
Hired labor	100	88	73	84	82
	Annual average 1910-14	January average 1935-39	January 1, 1946	October 1, 1946	January 1, 1947
FARM WAGE RATES					
Per month, with board	$22.09	22.69	80.20	91.40	88.40
Per month, without board	29.18	32.02	95.30	104.00	106.00
Per day, with board	1.16	1.10	3.76	4.36	4.15
Per day, without board	1.42	1.42	4.40	4.94	4.83
Composite rate per month 1/	24.76	26.68	85.90	96.40	94.80
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES					
Unadjusted	100	108	347	389	383
Adjusted for seasonal variation	100	112	361	378	399
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES BY REGION					
New England	100	135	331	386	379
Middle Atlantic	100	119	325	382	371
East North Central	100	101	308	351	350
West North Central	100	78	290	363	322
South Atlantic	100	109	326	343	370
East South Central	100	97	268	311	309
West South Central	100	98	328	349	357
Mountain	100	94	304	351	322
Pacific	100	121	389	426	426
RELATED INDEXES					
Prices received by farmers 2/	100	108	206	258	262
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	100	100	59	66	68
Average weekly factory earnings 3/	100	194.3	366.7	405.8	---

1/ Weighted average of monthly rates with and without board, and daily rates with and without board converted to a monthly basis.
2/ Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.
3/ Factory payroll per employed worker; average of all weeks during the designated month. Revised April 1946.

Based on reports from 18,352 farmers.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed, United States and geographic divisions, February 1, 1947, with comparisons

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Geographic division	January average 1935-39	January 1, 1946	February 1, 1946	January 1, 1947	February 1, 1947
	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's
United States	8,834	7,732	7,799	8,272	8,280
New England	213	202	203	207	212
Middle Atlantic	522	488	482	510	492
East North Central	1,316	1,188	1,170	1,244	1,209
West North Central	1,414	1,279	1,297	1,432	1,383
South Atlantic	1,643	1,410	1,417	1,450	1,514
East South Central	1,426	1,177	1,166	1,268	1,281
West South Central	1,498	1,207	1,275	1,357	1,359
Mountain	358	324	326	346	357
Pacific	444	457	463	458	473
FAMILY WORKERS 1/					
United States	7,159	6,412	6,375	6,747	6,693
New England	149	150	154	155	159
Middle Atlantic	386	368	358	366	354
East North Central	1,086	1,028	1,002	1,072	1,040
West North Central	1,223	1,146	1,142	1,255	1,212
South Atlantic	1,288	1,151	1,114	1,164	1,183
East South Central	1,238	1,044	1,022	1,116	1,103
West South Central	1,231	996	1,039	1,087	1,082
Mountain	271	250	255	268	277
Pacific	287	281	289	270	283
HIRED WORKERS					
United States	1,675	1,320	1,424	1,525	1,587
New England	64	52	49	52	53
Middle Atlantic	136	122	124	144	138
East North Central	230	160	168	172	169
West North Central	191	133	155	177	171
South Atlantic	355	259	303	286	331
East South Central	188	133	144	152	178
West South Central	267	211	236	270	277
Mountain	87	74	71	84	80
Pacific	157	176	174	188	190

1/ Including farm operators and members of their families working without wages.

Based on reports from 18,352 farmers who reported for their own farms the number of family and hired workers doing 2 or more days of work during the week of inquiry.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Total, family and hired workers, United States, specified annual averages and by months, Jan. 1945-Feb. 1947 1/

Year and Month	Total farm employment	Family Workers 2/	Hired Workers
	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's
1910-14 av.	12,052	9,160	2,892
1935-39 av.	10,920	8,353	2,567
1939 av.	10,740	8,145	2,595
1940 av.	10,585	8,019	2,566
1941 av.	10,361	7,829	2,532
1942 av.	10,397	7,855	2,542
1943 av.	10,263	7,857	2,406
1944 av.	10,037	7,810	2,227
1945 av.	9,843	7,726	2,117
January 1	8,005	6,571	1,434
February 1	8,051	6,557	1,494
March 1	8,414	6,894	1,520
April 1	8,982	7,322	1,660
May 1	10,017	8,153	1,864
June 1	10,994	8,637	2,357
July 1	11,100	8,556	2,544
August 1	10,612	7,970	2,642
September 1	10,907	8,094	2,813
October 1	11,052	8,558	2,494
November 1	10,747	8,178	2,569
December 1	9,245	7,217	2,028
1946 av.	10,012	7,864	2,148
January 1	7,732	6,412	1,320
February 1	7,799	6,375	1,424
March 1	8,263	6,774	1,489
April 1	9,121	7,469	1,652
May 1	10,366	8,391	1,975
June 1	11,422	8,969	2,453
July 1	11,586	8,875	2,711
August 1	11,044	8,258	2,786
September 1	11,111	8,334	2,777
October 1	11,486	8,862	2,624
November 1	10,809	8,306	2,503
December 1	9,405	7,345	2,060
1947 av.			
January 1	8,272	6,747	1,525
February 1	8,280	6,693	1,587

1/ Annual averages are straight averages of first of month employment estimates.

2/ Includes farm operators and members of their families working without wages.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm Wage Rates: Annual average wage rates and index numbers, by States, 1946

State	Per month		Per Day		Composite rate per month 1/	Indexes of composite rates
	With Board	Without Board	With Board	Without Board		
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	(1910-14 = 100)
Maine	90.40	128.00	5.18	6.32	113.00	387
N. H.	92.50	130.00	4.68	5.78	114.00	405
Vt.	89.50	126.00	4.91	5.98	111.00	395
Mass.	93.50	137.00	4.62	5.76	116.00	404
R. I.	91.50	137.00	4.50	5.66	117.00	437
Conn.	92.80	135.00	4.65	5.80	114.00	433
N. E.	91.90	133.00	4.86	5.92	114.00	367
N. Y.	94.10	126.00	4.77	5.97	108.00	375
N. J.	96.10	133.00	4.90	6.10	112.00	421
Pa.	72.20	103.00	4.33	5.09	87.80	355
M. A.	86.20	118.00	4.59	5.66	101.00	367
Ohio	71.60	98.30	4.10	4.98	84.60	327
Ind.	73.00	99.00	4.18	4.99	85.50	357
Ill.	88.90	112.00	4.64	5.47	99.10	370
Mich.	85.70	118.00	4.74	5.80	100.00	361
Wis.	88.70	120.00	4.47	5.51	101.00	341
E. N. C.	82.40	110.00	4.42	5.35	94.80	340
Minn.	94.60	123.00	5.18	6.33	104.00	337
Iowa	101.00	124.00	5.33	6.33	108.00	343
Mo.	67.50	89.30	3.65	4.39	73.90	336
N. Dak.	111.00	142.00	5.51	7.01	119.00	349
S. Dak.	100.00	130.00	5.14	6.63	109.00	348
Nebr.	98.60	124.00	5.28	6.40	107.00	362
Kans.	88.10	115.00	5.23	6.45	99.80	400
W. N. C.	92.30	119.00	4.94	6.07	101.00	342
Del.	75.80	97.90	4.97	6.02	96.80	471
Md.	71.60	97.10	4.44	5.32	90.90	490
Va.	59.40	79.80	3.46	4.12	73.90	427
W. Va.	52.60	72.50	2.84	3.55	65.00	282
N. C.	52.30	72.20	3.20	3.73	66.50	414
S. C.	37.40	51.40	2.09	2.68	46.90	373
Ga.	41.00	55.30	2.48	2.98	51.70	333
Fla.	58.50	82.10	3.14	4.22	73.80	416
S. A.	49.40	67.60	2.88	3.53	62.20	338
Ky.	52.10	71.60	2.82	3.56	65.50	347
Tenn.	43.50	61.30	2.25	2.90	54.40	319
Ala.	39.10	52.10	2.28	2.93	50.80	322
Miss.	39.70	54.80	2.42	3.00	52.50	337
E. S. C.	43.00	59.10	2.43	3.08	55.30	295
Ark.	49.60	69.90	2.89	3.62	65.50	336
La.	40.90	57.60	2.54	2.98	54.30	341
Okla.	72.90	97.50	4.16	4.77	90.20	377
Tex.	72.20	97.40	3.82	4.40	86.70	387
W. S. C.	62.80	85.60	3.42	4.03	77.40	344
Mont.	126.00	154.00	6.11	7.08	131.00	334
Idaho	138.00	171.00	6.48	7.39	141.00	398
Wyo.	114.00	153.00	5.19	6.38	118.00	318
Colo.	100.00	137.00	5.07	6.06	107.00	352
N. Mex.	80.70	107.00	4.09	4.58	85.40	343
Ariz.	108.00	144.00	4.56	5.45	110.00	360
Utah	124.00	150.00	5.14	5.93	122.00	383
Nev.	122.00	151.00	4.99	5.98	114.00	317
MOUNT.	112.00	144.00	5.24	6.07	116.00	336
Wash.	144.00	191.00	6.84	8.79	164.00	443
Oreg.	140.00	176.00	6.76	7.78	153.00	441
Calif.	150.00	186.00	6.68	8.10	162.00	433
PAC.	148.00	186.00	6.72	8.19	161.00	418
U.S.	88.90	103.00	4.15	4.74	93.70	378

1/ Weighted average of all classes of payments. Daily rates were multiplied by 20 to obtain approximate monthly rates.

Farm labor program: Foreign workers employed in agriculture, February 1, 1947 1/

State	Mexicans	Jamaicans	Bahamians	British Hondurans	Barbadians	Newfoundlanders	Total
Maine		3				29	32
N. H.	2/ 16	9				31	56
Vt.	2/ 17					61	78
Mass.		14				23	37
R. I.						5	5
Conn.		993				44	1,037
N. Y.		233	8		2	74	317
N. J.		145				6	151
Pa.		7				12	19
Ohio		135					135
Ind.							---
Ill.	6	22	2				30
Mich.	28	127					155
Wis.	18	16		2			36
Minn.							---
Iowa							---
Mo.		24					24
N. Dak.	1						1
S. Dak.	44						44
Nebr.	143						143
Kans.	1						1
Del.		58	17			3	78
Md.		152	55			5	212
Va.							---
W. Va.							---
N. C.			2				2
S. C.							---
Ga.							---
Fla.		2,029	3,937		500		6,466
Ky.							---
Tenn.							---
Ala.							---
Miss.							---
Ark.							---
La.		209					209
Okla.							---
Tex.							---
Mont.	17						17
Idaho							---
Wyo.	5						5
Colo.	17						17
N. Mex.							---
Ariz.	1,721						1,721
Utah	20						20
Nev.	67						67
Wash.							---
Oreg.	73						73
Calif.	12,493						12,493
U. S. 3/	14,687	4,176	4,021	2	502	293	23,681

1/ Data provided by Requirements and Certifications Section, Program Division, Labor Branch, P.M.A. 2/ Canadians. 3/ Including Canadians.

Farm labor program: Farm labor placements,
December 1946 1/

State	December		January 1 to December 31,	
	1945	1946	1945	1946
Maine	18	72	24,397	35,295
N. H.	36	56	7,869	20,582
Vt.	60	38	3,598	3,483
Mass.	45	26	10,691	3,338
R. I.	2	6	843	213
Conn.	390	582	26,364	30,640
N. Y.	2,617	189	252,064	208,823
N. J.	2,041	83	132,035	40,769
Pa.	243	1,244	70,829	36,929
Ohio	1,231	432	71,052	33,466
Ind.	158	124	53,753	19,447
Ill.	577	455	73,808	46,855
Mich.	10,522	1,338	215,120	181,031
Wis.	938	205	58,742	35,693
Minn.	296	267	78,191	28,882
Iowa	2,462	151	97,474	35,224
Mo.	825	703	26,537	21,041
N. Dak.	1,970	205	156,970	97,707
S. Dak.	227	518	60,143	33,846
Nebr.	951	970	100,122	25,857
Kans.	29	25	16,235	4,004
Del.	193	12	21,065	13,384
Md.	5,660	1,144	176,422	71,922
Va.	3,507	21	112,548	34,688
W. Va.	35	37	2,279	1,199
N. C.	4,672	3,723	259,385	130,629
S. C.	4,052	2,433	102,289	46,667
Ga.	8,615	5,906	170,142	121,713
Fla.	3,318	2,982	43,320	24,533
Ky.	1,522	331	158,807	14,609
Tenn.	9,917	4,844	131,986	73,163
Ala.	1,579	663	154,538	24,012
Miss.	26,059	8,549	243,688	205,846
Ark.	8,943	7,331	315,029	226,383
La.	13,375	4,522	140,601	71,252
Okla.	4,962	1,845	189,530	75,824
Tex.	18,798	9,382	546,315	307,597
Mont.	200	175	115,179	53,481
Idaho	238	179	324,961	235,263
Wyo.	423	150	66,867	24,436
Colo.	7,983	6,289	166,596	125,598
N. Mex.	7,508	181	65,205	39,133
Ariz.	25,895	944	100,814	30,709
Utah	1,468	398	155,749	73,120
Nev.	141	150	6,431	4,833
Wash.	1,511	1,196	305,132	281,574
Oreg.	710	1,657	182,091	187,789
Calif.	29,492	25,632	746,364	662,471
U.S.	216,414	98,370	6,590,670	4,104,753

1/ Data from monthly reports of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, U. S. D. A., Washington, D. C.

Farm labor program: Placements of World War II veterans on farms, United States, by months, January 1945 - December 1946 1/

Month	As hired hands	As tenants or sharecroppers	All placements
1945			
January	513	80	593
February	730	116	846
March	910	167	1,077
April	1,149	140	1,289
May	1,229	85	1,314
June	1,718	76	1,794
July	3,024	86	3,110
August	3,791	140	3,961
September	3,873	196	4,069
October	5,529	378	5,907
November	4,892	663	5,555
December	4,378	505	4,883
Total	31,736	2,632	34,368
1946			
January	3,186	1,750	4,936
February	3,544	1,844	5,388
March	4,538	1,527	6,065
April	5,707	1,677	7,384
May	8,048	990	9,038
June	12,569	974	13,543
July	16,062	824	16,886
August	21,097	874	21,971
September	12,199	883	13,082
October	12,635	789	13,424
November	6,921	927	7,848
December	4,802	1,507	6,309

1/ Data from monthly reports of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.

Farm labor program: Placements of World War II veterans on farms, by geographic divisions, December, 1946 1/

Area	As hired hands	As tenants or sharecroppers	All placements
New England	40	3	43
Middle Atlantic	75	3	78
East North Central	235	148	383
West North Central	270	33	303
South Atlantic	112	118	230
East South Central	318	375	693
West South Central	681	825	1,506
Mountain	348	2	360
Pacific	2,723	0	2,723

1/ Data from monthly reports of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.

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