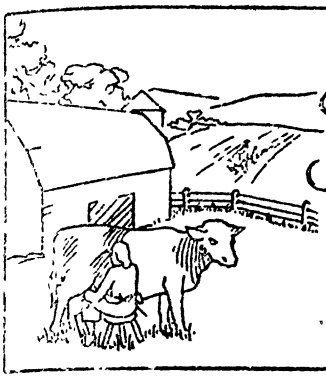

# Farm Labor

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C. BAE August 15, 1945

## FARM EMPLOYMENT DOWN LESS THAN USUAL DURING JULY

For the first time since February 1944, farm employment on the first of the current month did not show a decrease from the same date a year earlier. The number of persons employed on farms August 1 totaled 10,612,000, about the same as a year ago but 8 percent below the pre-war (1935-39) average. Increases in family workers were more than sufficient to offset a decrease in the number of hired workers. This leveling off of the downward trend of persons employed on farms may be temporary, but with present war conditions pointing to an early release of substantial numbers of war workers plus the stepped up tempo of army releases, it is possible that the declining trend in number of workers employed on farms may soon be halted.

Total farm employment of 10,612,000 on the first of this month was nearly a half million less than on July 1. Ordinarily, the decline amounts to around 750,000 persons during the month. This year, the usual between-seasons lull in farm activities in the South was again responsible for the decrease from July 1 to August 1. However, in the Pacific and Mountain States, employment rose after July 1 to meet harvest needs. In the Eastern and North Central Sections of the country, more workers were also employed. Cool, rainy spring weather shifted harvest to later than usual dates in the North Central States, while heavy rains during most of July piled up a heavy work load around the first of August in the Northeast. Compared to a month ago, more persons were working on farms around August 1 in all except the South Atlantic and the South Central States.

Fewer family workers were employed on the first of August than around July 1, as shown by employment of 7,970,000 this month and 8,556,000 last month. Family employment was lower than last month in all except the New England, East North Central, Mountain, and Pacific States. Employment increased in all of these regions except the Pacific States which showed no change. Family employment this August 1 was slightly higher than the 7,914,000 a year earlier. Increases were general, with only the Middle Atlantic, East South Central and Pacific States showing small decreases from last year.

The number of hired workers on farms increased from 2,544,000 persons to 2,642,000 during July, but did not reach the August 1, 1944 total of 2,694,000. Hired worker numbers increased from a month ago in all sections of the country except in the South, where cotton was laid by but not yet ready for picking. Decreases from a year ago in the West North Central, the South Atlantic, and the South Central States were responsible for the decrease from last year in the total number of hired workers, as all other areas were up.

Total farm employment in the New England States rose from 277,000 workers on July 1 to 301,000 on August 1. Frequent heavy rains during July delayed farm work generally. Farmers were using all available help to take full advantage of working weather. As a result, the number of workers employed around August 1 was 12,000 greater than the 289,000 a year earlier.

Both family and hired workers on August 1 exceeded the number employed last month and last year. Family workers, estimated at 176,000 showed increases of 1,000 from a month ago and 7,000 from a year ago. Hired worker numbers were up 5,000 from a year ago and 23,000 from last month, to reach 125,000.

Farm work in the Middle Atlantic States was also delayed by heavy rains in July. Some improvement in weather conditions late in July permitted fuller employmentm as the number of all workers was increased from 734,000 on July 1 to 762,000 around August 1. The increase over August 1, 1944 amounted to 19,000 workers. The number of family workers around August 1, at 457,000 was 4,000 under July 1, and 6,000 less than a year earlier. The hired worker total of 305,000 on August 1 was well above both the 273,000 of July 1 and the 280,000 of August 1944.

In New York, weather was favorable for harvest around August 1, except in some areas where rain and wet ground still hampered operations. Hay making was being pushed along as rapidly as possible and wheat harvest was underway. Sour cherry picking was near completion by August 1. Truck crop harvest in New Jersey had been progressing slowly because of wet weather. Potato pickers had become impatient of delays, and growers were making every effort to hold their labor supply until weather improved.

Later than usual hay making and small grain harvest operations in the East North Central States contributed to a contra-seasonal increase in total farm employment from July 1 to August 1. The number of total workers increased from 1,462,000 on July 1 to 1,528,000 on August 1. The current estimate is also above the 1,504,000 of August 1 a year ago. Family employment increased a little more than 2 percent from July 1 to August 1. The August 1 family employment total this year is 1,220,000, compared with 1,202,000 on the same date last year. Hired workers on August 1 were up about 14 percent from last month and about 2 percent from a year ago. There were 308,000 hired workers on August 1, compared with 269,000 around July 1, and 302,000 a year ago.

Small grain harvest was about completed by August 1 in southern sections of this region, but unfinished in northern Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and in Michigan and Wisconisn. Hay making was still in progress in most of the region. Harvest of early peaches had begun in Michigan and Illinois. In Michigan, some beets were still being blocked in late fields, and early potato harvest had started in the Bay City area.

Increased numbers of workers hired for small grain harvest in the West North Central States raised total farm employment from 1,725,000 on July 1 to 1,741,000 on August 1. However, the number of persons working this year is a little less than the 1,768,000 on August 1 a year earlier. A decrease from a month ago of about 2 percent in the number of family workers was more than offset by an increase of about 12 percent in the number of hired workers. Family employment dropped from 1,447,000 last month to 1,414,000 this month, while hired workers increased in number from 278,000 to 327,000 during July. The August 1 estimate is slightly greater than the 1,402,000 family workers employed a year earlier. Hired workers, at 366,000 persons, were nearly 11 percent fewer.

Progress of small grain harvest in the West North Central States varied from near completion in Kansas and Missouri on August 1 to an expected starting date of August 10 in North Dakota. Harvest was generally late. In Kansas, labor was ample as harvest was spread over a longer period than usual. In South Dakota, much of the hay was being made with power equipment, power sweeprakes and buck-rakes and over-shot and tractor mounted stackers.

Total employment on farms in the South Atlantic States dropped about 10 percent from July 1 to August 1, as cotton cultivation was practically completed. August 1 employment was 1,922,000 persons, compared to 2,147,000 last month, and 1,962,000 last year. Both the number of family workers and the number of hired workers were less than a month ago; family workers were down 185,000 to 1,518,000 and hired workers down 40,000 to 404,000. The family worker estimate is nearly the same as for August last year and the hired worker total 10 percent less.

Harvest of flue-cured tobacco was off to a slow start in Virginia. Wet weather in eastern North Carolina was interfering with tobacco harvest. In many places, the ground was so soft that tobacco had to be carried from the fields on the backs of the workers. In Georgia, little field work was in progress except in the tobacco area. Peaches were still being harvested in South Carolina and harvest was in progress as far north as northern Virginia and the northeastern part of West Virginia.

The East South Central States showed the greatest decrease from a month ago in total employment, 20 percent. Persons working on farms numbered 1,408,000 on August 1, compared with 1,759,000 on July 1. The number of family workers declined a little over 20 percent during July to 1,224,000, while hired worker totals declined about 14 percent to 184,000. The number of family workers on August 1 was down slightly from the 1,239,000 persons a year earlier. The number of hired hands also decreased slightly from the 193,000 of August a year ago.

Farm work in this region was generally well in hand. However, excessive rain in some areas prevented field work.

Persons employed on farms in the West South Central States totaled 1,723,000 on August 1, a decrease of about 8 percent from the 1,879,000 of the previous month. The numbers of both family and hired workers were less than a month earlier; family workers down 112,000 to 1,329,000, and hired workers down 44,000 to 394,000. Last year, total employment of 1,718,000 on August 1 was made up of 1,298,000 family workers and 420,000 hired workers. The decrease in the number of hired workers was about offset by the increase in the number of family workers.

Harvest of the peach crop in the Nashville-Highland area of Arkansas was using some of the labor employed around the first of August. In Oklahoma, demands were for hay hands, broom corn harvesters, workers for threshing crews, and tractor operators for plowing stubble land. In Texas, cotton picking was well underway in southern counties. Plowing of stubble fields was in progress, as was the harvest of the "farm" crop of grain sorghums in the southern part of the State.

Total employment in the Mountain States advanced seasonally from 443,000 a month ago to 500,000 around August 1. Both family and hired workers figured in this increase. The number of family workers increased from 282,000 to 322,000 and hired workers from 161,000 to 178,000. In comparison with the 491,000 workers a year earlier, August 1 total employment is 9,000 persons greater. The

increase was practically all in the number of family workers, as the number of hired workers was only 1,000 greater on August 1 this year.

Hay making, small grain harvest and the irrigation of crops were general over most of the Mountain States. In Montana, dry pea picking had started in Flathead County and cherry picking was in full swing in Lake County. Hoeing of beans, potatoes, and beets was keeping part of the farm workers busy in Idaho while in the southwestern part of the State, early potatoes were being dug. Apricot picking was starting in Utah and labor requirements for fruit harvest were expected to be heavy for the rest of the season.

Farm employment on August 1 in the Pacific States totaled 727,000 persons, compared to 674,000 a month earlier, and 701,000 a year earlier. The number of family workers at 310,000 was the same as on July 1, but 6,000 under the 316,000 of the previous August. Hired workers, at 417,000 were almost 15 percent more than the 364,000 of Julyl, and about 8 percent above the 385,000 on August 1, 1944.

Harvest of cane berries and truck crops utilized the time of a considerable number of seasonal workers in Washington. Hay making, combining of wheat, and the cultivation of row crops were also drawing on the labor supply. In the central Washington irrigated districts, harvest of a large potato crop was expected to require a large number of workers shortly after the first of August. In Oregon, harvest of the mid-season potato crop was at its peak in Malheur County about August 1. Activities in California requiring large numbers of seasonal workers were: citrus harvest in southern California; picking, packing and drying apricots; harvest of early peaches, pears, plums and early apples; harvest of potatoes, market tomatoes, lettuce, carrots and other commercial vegetables, alfalfa hay cutting and balling; and grain harvest

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Farm employment indexes and related data, United States, August 1, 1945
with comparisons

| | Annual average 1910-14 | Annual average 1935-39 | August 1, 1944 | July 1, 1945 | August 1, 1945 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FARM EMPLOYMENT (thousands of persons): | | | | | |
| Total | 12,052 | 11,515 | 10,608 | 11,100 | 10,612 |
| Family labor | 9,160 | 8,532 | 7,914 | 8,556 | 7,970 |
| Hired labor | 2,892 | 2,983 | 2,694 | 2,544 | 2,642 |
| FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES: | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| Unadjusted | 100 | 91 | 88 | 92 | 88 |
| Adjusted for seasonal variation | 100 | 91 | 82 | 80 | 83 |
| Family labor | | | | | |
| Unadjusted | 100 | 91 | 86 | 93 | 87 |
| Adjusted for seasonal variation | 100 | 91 | 84 | 83 | 85 |
| Hired labor | | | | | |
| Unadjusted | 100 | 89 | 93 | 88 | 91 |
| Adjusted for seasonal variation | 100 | 89 | 76 | 69 | 75 |
| RELATED INDEXES | | | | | |
| Prices received by farmers 1/ | 100 | 107 | 192 | 206 | 2/ 206 |
| Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates | 100 | 91 | — | 57 | — |

1/ Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.

2/ July 15, 1945 - latest data available.

Based on reports from 17,481 farmers.

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Farm employment, United States and geographic divisions
August 1, 1945 with comparisons

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

| Geographic division | August average 1935-39 | July 1, 1944 | August 1, 1944 | July 1, 1945 | August 1, 1945 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,000's | 1,000's | 1,000's | 1,000's | 1,000's |
| United States | 11,515 | 11,355 | 10,608 | 11,100 | 10,612 |
| New England | 297 | 268 | 289 | 277 | 301 |
| Middle Atlantic | 732 | 710 | 743 | 734 | 762 |
| East North Central | 1,635 | 1,515 | 1,504 | 1,462 | 1,528 |
| West North Central | 1,891 | 1,787 | 1,768 | 1,725 | 1,741 |
| South Atlantic | 2,305 | 2,197 | 1,962 | 2,147 | 1,922 |
| East South Central | 1,669 | 1,754 | 1,432 | 1,759 | 1,408 |
| West South Central | 1,855 | 1,985 | 1,718 | 1,879 | 1,723 |
| Mountain | 502 | 465 | 491 | 443 | 500 |
| Pacific | 629 | 674 | 701 | 674 | 727 |
| **FAMILY WORKERS 1/** | | | | | |
| United States | 8,532 | 8,623 | 7,914 | 8,556 | 7,970 |
| New England | 178 | 163 | 169 | 175 | 176 |
| Middle Atlantic | 457 | 454 | 463 | 461 | 457 |
| East North Central | 1,223 | 1,202 | 1,202 | 1,193 | 1,220 |
| West North Central | 1,422 | 1,459 | 1,402 | 1,447 | 1,414 |
| South Atlantic | 1,772 | 1,735 | 1,511 | 1,703 | 1,518 |
| East South Central | 1,425 | 1,520 | 1,239 | 1,544 | 1,224 |
| West South Central | 1,410 | 1,485 | 1,298 | 1,441 | 1,329 |
| Mountain | 309 | 290 | 314 | 282 | 322 |
| Pacific | 336 | 315 | 316 | 310 | 310 |
| **HIRED WORKERS** | | | | | |
| United States | 2,983 | 2,732 | 2,694 | 2,544 | 2,642 |
| New England | 119 | 105 | 120 | 102 | 125 |
| Middle Atlantic | 275 | 256 | 280 | 273 | 305 |
| East North Central | 412 | 313 | 302 | 269 | 308 |
| West North Central | 469 | 328 | 366 | 278 | 327 |
| South Atlantic | 533 | 462 | 451 | 444 | 404 |
| East South Central | 244 | 234 | 193 | 215 | 184 |
| West South Central | 445 | 500 | 420 | 438 | 394 |
| Mountain | 193 | 175 | 177 | 161 | 178 |
| Pacific | 293 | 359 | 385 | 364 | 417 |

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

Based on reports from 17,481 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.

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Farm employment: Hired, family and total labor, United States, specified annual averages and by months, January 1944 to August 1945 1/

| Year and month | Total farm employment 1,000's | Family workers 2/ 1,000's | Hired workers 1,000's |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1910-14 average | 12,052 | 9,160 | 2,892 |
| 1935-39 average | 10,920 | 8,353 | 2,567 |
| 1939 average | 10,740 | 8,145 | 2,595 |
| 1940 average | 10,585 | 8,019 | 2,566 |
| 1941 average | 10,361 | 7,829 | 2,532 |
| 1942 average | 10,397 | 7,855 | 2,542 |
| 1943 average | 10,263 | 7,857 | 2,406 |
| 1944 average | 10,037 | 7,810 | 2,227 |
| January 1 | 8,202 | 6,622 | 1,580 |
| February 1 | 8,383 | 6,702 | 1,681 |
| March 1 | 8,562 | 6,935 | 1,627 |
| April 1 | 9,080 | 7,401 | 1,679 |
| May 1 | 10,068 | 8,079 | 1,989 |
| June 1 | 11,285 | 8,845 | 2,440 |
| July 1 | 11,355 | 8,623 | 2,732 |
| August 1 | 10,608 | 7,914 | 2,694 |
| September 1 | 11,040 | 8,223 | 2,817 |
| October 1 | 11,839 | 8,928 | 2,911 |
| November 1 | 10,690 | 8,168 | 2,522 |
| December 1 | 9,337 | 7,289 | 2,048 |
| 1945 average | -- | -- | -- |
| 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 |

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

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

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Farm Employment by Type of Farming Areas 1/: Total Number of Persons Employed on the First of Each Month and Index Numbers January 1944 to Date 2/

| Year and month | Corn Area | | | Index 3/ | | | Northeastern Dairy Area | | | Index 3/ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total |
| 1944 | 000 | 000 | 000 | | | | 000 | 000 | 000 | | | |
| Jan. | 892 | 152 | 1,044 | 79 | 38 | 68 | 456 | 145 | 601 | 71 | 43 | 61 |
| Feb. | 885 | 158 | 1,043 | 78 | 39 | 68 | 455 | 167 | 622 | 71 | 49 | 64 |
| Mar. | 909 | 147 | 1,056 | 80 | 37 | 69 | 458 | 166 | 624 | 72 | 49 | 64 |
| Apr. | 945 | 163 | 1,108 | 84 | 41 | 72 | 482 | 174 | 656 | 75 | 51 | 67 |
| May | 982 | 4/204 | 1,186 | 87 | 51 | 77 | 484 | 209 | 693 | 76 | 62 | 71 |
| June | 1,038 | 233 | 1,271 | 92 | 58 | 83 | 495 | 227 | 722 | 77 | 67 | 74 |
| July | 1,014 | 264 | 1,278 | 90 | 66 | 83 | 530 | 302 | 832 | 83 | 89 | 85 |
| Aug. | 1,015 | 250 | 1,265 | 90 | 62 | 83 | 547 | 334 | 881 | 86 | 98 | 90 |
| Sept. | 1,014 | 237 | 1,251 | 90 | 59 | 82 | 536 | 292 | 828 | 84 | 86 | 85 |
| Oct. | 1,001 | 210 | 1,211 | 89 | 52 | 79 | 509 | 290 | 799 | 80 | 85 | 82 |
| Nov. | 1,019 | 217 | 1,236 | 90 | 54 | 81 | 489 | 227 | 716 | 77 | 67 | 73 |
| Dec. | 942 | 196 | 1,138 | 83 | 49 | 74 | 473 | 207 | 680 | 74 | 61 | 70 |
| 1945 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 889 | 130 | 1,019 | 79 | 32 | 66 | 444 | 150 | 594 | 69 | 44 | 61 |
| Feb. | 862 | 138 | 1,000 | 76 | 34 | 65 | 444 | 138 | 582 | 70 | 44 | 59 |
| Mar. | 918 | 132 | 1,050 | 81 | 33 | 68 | 454 | 158 | 612 | 71 | 47 | 63 |
| Apr. | 959 | 156 | 1,115 | 85 | 39 | 73 | 436 | 174 | 660 | 75 | 51 | 67 |
| May | 992 | 177 | 1,169 | 88 | 44 | 76 | 488 | 205 | 693 | 76 | 60 | 71 |
| June | 1,035 | 206 | 1,241 | 92 | 51 | 81 | 490 | 250 | 740 | 77 | 74 | 76 |
| July | 1,017 | 231 | 1,243 | 90 | 57 | 81 | 548 | 314 | 862 | 86 | 93 | 88 |
| Aug. | 1,037 | 251 | 1,288 | 92 | 62 | 84 | 550 | 359 | 909 | 86 | 106 | 93 |

| | Western Dairy Area | | | | | | Middle Eastern Area | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1944 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 605 | 116 | 721 | 84 | 52 | 77 | 1,195 | 207 | 1,402 | 73 | 49 | 68 |
| Feb. | 607 | 128 | 735 | 84 | 58 | 78 | 1,223 | 227 | 1,450 | 74 | 53 | 70 |
| Mar. | 619 | 115 | 734 | 86 | 52 | 78 | 1,240 | 225 | 1,465 | 75 | 53 | 71 |
| Apr. | 653 | 120 | 773 | 91 | 54 | 82 | 1,302 | 210 | 1,512 | 79 | 49 | 73 |
| May | 690 | 144 | 834 | 96 | 65 | 89 | 1,435 | 245 | 1,680 | 87 | 58 | 81 |
| June | 722 | 154 | 876 | 100 | 69 | 93 | 1,625 | 263 | 1,888 | 99 | 62 | 91 |
| July | 751 | 179 | 930 | 104 | 80 | 99 | 1,609 | 277 | 1,886 | 98 | 65 | 91 |
| Aug. | 719 | 181 | 900 | 100 | 81 | 96 | 1,463 | 259 | 1,722 | 89 | 61 | 83 |
| Sept. | 692 | 174 | 866 | 96 | 78 | 92 | 1,493 | 310 | 1,803 | 91 | 73 | 87 |
| Oct. | 690 | 179 | 869 | 96 | 80 | 92 | 1,600 | 328 | 1,928 | 97 | 77 | 93 |
| Nov. | 686 | 150 | 836 | 95 | 67 | 89 | 1,457 | 269 | 1,726 | 89 | 63 | 83 |
| Dec. | 669 | 124 | 793 | 93 | 56 | 84 | 1,316 | 246 | 1,562 | 80 | 58 | 76 |
| 1945 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 609 | 103 | 712 | 85 | 46 | 76 | 1,175 | 198 | 1,373 | 72 | 47 | 66 |
| Feb. | 595 | 110 | 705 | 83 | 46 | 75 | 1,173 | 187 | 1,360 | 71 | 44 | 66 |
| Mar. | 631 | 103 | 734 | 88 | 46 | 78 | 1,245 | 187 | 1,432 | 76 | 44 | 69 |
| Apr. | 653 | 112 | 765 | 91 | 50 | 81 | 1,279 | 209 | 1,488 | 78 | 49 | 73 |
| May | 682 | 128 | 810 | 95 | 58 | 86 | 1,434 | 221 | 1,655 | 87 | 52 | 80 |
| June | 705 | 138 | 843 | 98 | 62 | 89 | 1,561 | 256 | 1,817 | 95 | 60 | 88 |
| July | 739 | 144 | 883 | 103 | 65 | 94 | 1,578 | 258 | 1,836 | 96 | 61 | 89 |
| Aug. | 717 | 175 | 892 | 100 | 79 | 95 | 1,470 | 252 | 1,722 | 89 | 59 | 83 |

Continued -

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Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment by type of farming areas 1/: Total number of persons employed on the first of each month and index numbers January 1944 to Date 2/--Continued

| Year and month | Eastern Cotton Area | | | Index 3/ | | | Delta Cotton Area | | | Index 3/ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total |
| | 000 | 000 | 000 | | | | 000 | 000 | 000 | | | |
| 1944 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 650 | 188 | 838 | 46 | 60 | 48 | 744 | 108 | 852 | 68 | 43 | 63 |
| Feb. | 685 | 226 | 911 | 49 | 72 | 53 | 779 | 133 | 912 | 71 | 53 | 68 |
| Mar. | 732 | 225 | 957 | 52 | 72 | 56 | 801 | 127 | 928 | 73 | 50 | 69 |
| Apr. | 829 | 203 | 1,032 | 59 | 65 | 60 | 877 | 130 | 1,007 | 80 | 52 | 75 |
| May | 1,037 | 257 | 1,294 | 74 | 82 | 75 | 1,020 | 142 | 1,162 | 94 | 56 | 87 |
| June | 1,184 | 363 | 1,547 | 84 | 115 | 90 | 1,168 | 212 | 1,380 | 107 | 84 | 103 |
| July | 1,063 | 295 | 1,358 | 75 | 94 | 79 | 1,090 | 235 | 1,325 | 100 | 93 | 99 |
| Aug. | 827 | 286 | 1,113 | 59 | 91 | 65 | 910 | 200 | 1,110 | 84 | 79 | 83 |
| Sept. | 971 | 326 | 1,297 | 69 | 104 | 75 | 972 | 174 | 1,146 | 89 | 69 | 85 |
| Oct. | 1,303 | 406 | 1,709 | 93 | 129 | 99 | 1,288 | 402 | 1,690 | 118 | 159 | 126 |
| Nov. | 1,045 | 363 | 1,408 | 74 | 115 | 82 | 1,060 | 309 | 1,369 | 97 | 122 | 102 |
| Dec. | 742 | 197 | 939 | 53 | 63 | 54 | 893 | 246 | 1,139 | 82 | 97 | 85 |
| 1945 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 625 | 159 | 784 | 44 | 51 | 46 | 745 | 97 | 842 | 68 | 38 | 63 |
| Feb. | 622 | 173 | 795 | 44 | 55 | 46 | 752 | 128 | 880 | 69 | 51 | 66 |
| Mar. | 698 | 199 | 897 | 50 | 63 | 52 | 749 | 105 | 854 | 69 | 41 | 64 |
| Apr. | 820 | 215 | 1,035 | 58 | 68 | 60 | 843 | 128 | 971 | 77 | 51 | 72 |
| May | 1,038 | 258 | 1,296 | 74 | 82 | 75 | 1,056 | 136 | 1,192 | 97 | 54 | 89 |
| June | 1,152 | 336 | 1,488 | 82 | 107 | 86 | 1,130 | 216 | 1,346 | 104 | 86 | 100 |
| July | 1,062 | 286 | 1,348 | 75 | 91 | 78 | 1,119 | 240 | 1,359 | 103 | 95 | 101 |
| Aug. | 815 | 253 | 1,068 | 58 | 80 | 62 | 941 | 167 | 1,108 | 86 | 66 | 83 |

| | Western Cotton Area | | | | | | Small Grain Area | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1944 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 660 | 224 | 884 | 68 | 89 | 73 | 519 | 75 | 594 | 85 | 41 | 75 |
| Feb. | 632 | 190 | 822 | 66 | 76 | 68 | 515 | 78 | 593 | 84 | 43 | 75 |
| Mar. | 688 | 171 | 859 | 71 | 68 | 71 | 537 | 69 | 606 | 88 | 38 | 76 |
| Apr. | 740 | 175 | 915 | 77 | 70 | 75 | 564 | 74 | 638 | 92 | 41 | 80 |
| May | 809 | 230 | 1,039 | 84 | 92 | 86 | 586 | 105 | 691 | 96 | 58 | 87 |
| June | 898 | 274 | 1,172 | 93 | 109 | 97 | 627 | 134 | 761 | 102 | 74 | 96 |
| July | 890 | 340 | 1,230 | 92 | 136 | 101 | 633 | 164 | 797 | 103 | 91 | 100 |
| Aug. | 768 | 278 | 1,046 | 80 | 111 | 86 | 634 | 189 | 823 | 103 | 104 | 104 |
| Sept. | 819 | 289 | 1,108 | 85 | 115 | 91 | 627 | 222 | 849 | 102 | 123 | 107 |
| Oct. | 909 | 264 | 1,173 | 94 | 105 | 97 | 593 | 165 | 758 | 97 | 106 | 95 |
| Nov. | 830 | 303 | 1,133 | 86 | 121 | 93 | 581 | 129 | 710 | 95 | 71 | 89 |
| Dec. | 745 | 293 | 1,038 | 77 | 117 | 85 | 550 | 98 | 648 | 90 | 54 | 82 |
| 1945 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 639 | 155 | 794 | 66 | 62 | 65 | 528 | 71 | 599 | 86 | 39 | 75 |
| Feb. | 665 | 178 | 843 | 69 | 71 | 69 | 527 | 67 | 594 | 86 | 37 | 75 |
| Mar. | 688 | 198 | 886 | 71 | 79 | 73 | 553 | 65 | 618 | 90 | 36 | 78 |
| Apr. | 730 | 205 | 935 | 76 | 82 | 77 | 573 | 70 | 643 | 93 | 39 | 81 |
| May | 831 | 205 | 1,036 | 86 | 82 | 85 | 592 | 91 | 683 | 97 | 50 | 86 |
| June | 882 | 280 | 1,162 | 92 | 112 | 96 | 626 | 121 | 747 | 102 | 67 | 94 |
| July | 838 | 262 | 1,100 | 87 | 105 | 91 | 629 | 139 | 768 | 103 | 77 | 97 |
| Aug. | 769 | 271 | 1,040 | 80 | 108 | 86 | 637 | 169 | 806 | 104 | 93 | 101 |

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Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm Employment by Type of Farming Area 1/: Total Number of Persons Employed on the First of Each Month and Index Numbers January 1944 to Date 2/--Continued

| Year and month | Range Area | | | Index 3/ | | | Northwestern Area | | | Index 3/ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total | Family | Hired | Total |
| 1944 | 000 | 000 | 000 | | | | 000 | 000 | 000 | | | |
| Jan. | 167 | 64 | 231 | 110 | 63 | 92 | 186 | 45 | 231 | 117 | 58 | 97 |
| Feb. | 175 | 56 | 231 | 116 | 55 | 92 | 194 | 43 | 237 | 122 | 55 | 100 |
| Mar. | 180 | 65 | 245 | 119 | 64 | 97 | 194 | 44 | 238 | 122 | 56 | 100 |
| Apr. | 190 | 60 | 250 | 126 | 59 | 99 | 203 | 48 | 251 | 128 | 62 | 106 |
| May | 192 | 76 | 272 | 127 | 75 | 108 | 207 | 59 | 266 | 130 | 76 | 112 |
| June | 213 | 104 | 317 | 141 | 103 | 126 | 218 | 87 | 305 | 137 | 112 | 129 |
| July | 184 | 107 | 291 | 122 | 106 | 115 | 206 | 159 | 365 | 130 | 204 | 154 |
| Aug. | 199 | 116 | 315 | 132 | 115 | 125 | 218 | 199 | 417 | 137 | 255 | 176 |
| Sept. | 208 | 120 | 328 | 138 | 119 | 130 | 242 | 201 | 443 | 152 | 258 | 187 |
| Oct. | 194 | 105 | 299 | 128 | 104 | 118 | 202 | 138 | 340 | 127 | 177 | 143 |
| Nov. | 189 | 86 | 275 | 125 | 85 | 109 | 199 | 117 | 316 | 125 | 150 | 133 |
| Dec. | 182 | 71 | 253 | 120 | 70 | 100 | 197 | 70 | 267 | 124 | 90 | 113 |
| 1945 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 168 | 63 | 231 | 111 | 62 | 92 | 186 | 40 | 226 | 117 | 51 | 95 |
| Feb. | 172 | 53 | 225 | 114 | 52 | 89 | 197 | 39 | 236 | 124 | 50 | 100 |
| Mar. | 179 | 72 | 251 | 118 | 71 | 99 | 198 | 37 | 235 | 125 | 47 | 99 |
| Apr. | 182 | 69 | 251 | 120 | 68 | 99 | 204 | 46 | 250 | 128 | 59 | 105 |
| May | 188 | 76 | 264 | 124 | 75 | 105 | 216 | 57 | 273 | 136 | 73 | 115 |
| June | 200 | 114 | 314 | 132 | 113 | 124 | 220 | 81 | 301 | 138 | 104 | 127 |
| July | 169 | 107 | 276 | 112 | 106 | 109 | 206 | 157 | 363 | 130 | 201 | 153 |
| Aug. | 204 | 116 | 320 | 135 | 115 | 127 | 214 | 197 | 411 | 135 | 253 | 173 |

1/ Corn Area: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa; Eastern Dairy Area: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania; Western Dairy Area: Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota; Middle Eastern Area: Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee; Eastern Cotton Area: South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama; Delta Cotton Area: Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana; Western Cotton Area: Oklahoma and Texas; Small Grains Area: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Montana; Range Area: Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada; Northwestern Area: Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
2/ Includes farm operators and members of their families doing farm work without wages.
3/ 1910-14 = 100.
4/ Corrected.

## Preliminary Results from Surveys of Farm Wage Rates in Special Crop Areas of North Carolina

North Carolina Peaches: Workers in the Mongtomery-Moore County area earned an average of 42.4 cents per hour for picking peaches. These are preliminary results from a special enumerative sample survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics during the peak harvest week of July 15-21. Loaders earned an average of 44 cents per hour, haulers 43 cents, graders 39 cents and packers 45 cents. Hourly rates for pickers averaged 42 cents; this type of payment was used in 90 percent of the cases. Pickers employed on a piecework basis averaged 11 cents per bushel and picked 4.6 bushels of peaches per hour with average earnings of 50 cents per hour. The very few pickers hired by the day also averaged 50 cents per hour. Workers for all operations other than picking were paid at hourly rates. Peach harvest laborers worked 47 hours for the week of the survey and averaged 8.4 hours per day for 5.6 days. Daily earnings averaged $3.60 and weekly earnings $20.20 on the farms surveyed.

North Carolina Potatoes, (farm survey): Potato pickers in the Elizabeth City area were paid 6.5 cents per bushel during the week of June 3-9, a peak week of harvest. These are preliminary results from a special enumerative sample survey of farm operators made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Hired workers on the farms covered by the enumeration worked an average of 7.7 hours per day for 2.5 days, a total of 20 hours per farm during the week covered by the survey. The average cash earnings for all potato harvest workers, excluding graders, were 76 cents per hour and $5.90 per day. Earnings for the 2.5-day week averaged $14.90. This probably represents only a portion of the total weekly earnings. Since the survey covered only employment on the reporting farms during the week, some of the hired workers may have worked on other farms in the same week.

The majority of the hired workers were women and children. Less than 25 percent of all workers were men aged 18-44. Local potato pickers working individually, on a piecework basis, earned 51 cents per hour while employed, compared with earnings of 86 cents per hour for pickers working in crews. Crews included both migratory and local workers, largely males. Both local and migratory labor were paid the same piecework rate, but local worked handled a smaller volume per hour. Migratory workers were "professional" harvest laborers, with a larger proportion of men 18-44 than local workers.

North Carolina Potatoes, (camp survey): In crews composed solely of migratory workers, in the Elizabeth City area the individual workers averaged hourly earnings of 78 cents for picking potatoes, 70 cents for loading and 72 cents for grading during the week of June 3-9, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. These are preliminary results from a special enumerative sample survey of workers housed in Labor Supply Centers of the United States Department of Agriculture. Pickers were paid an average of 6.5 cents per bushel, while loaders and graders were paid by the hour. Three-fourths of the workers had average hourly earnings of 50 to 90 cents. Laborers surveyed worked 8.3 hours per day and 4.6 days for the week, with daily earnings averaging $6.30 and weekly earnings $29.00. These earnings represent average total cash earnings for the entire week. Workers housed in Labor Supply Centers were usually "professional" harvest hands from Florida. Slightly more than 50 percent of the workers surveyed were men 18-44 years of age.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Foreign workers and prisoners of war employed in agriculture about August 1945

| State | Mexicans 1/ | Jamaicans 1/ | Bahamains 1/ | Newfoundlanders 1/ | Prisoners of war 2/ | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maine | | 212 | | 93 | | 305 |
| N. H. | | 41 | | 70 | | 111 |
| Vt. | | | | 153 | | 3/ 215 |
| Mass. | | 362 | | 75 | 175 | 612 |
| R. I. | | | | 14 | | 14 |
| Conn. | | 2,641 | | 106 | | 2,747 |
| N. Y. | | 3,072 | | 316 | 1,155 | 4,543 |
| N. J. | | 1,758 | 6 | 80 | 880 | 2,724 |
| Pa. | | 560 | | 87 | 355 | 1,002 |
| Ohio | | 1,271 | | | 519 | 1,790 |
| Ind. | 205 | 317 | 2 | | 667 | 1,191 |
| Ill. | 538 | 643 | 19 | | 862 | 2,062 |
| Mich. | 3,129 | 604 | | | 1,548 | 5,281 |
| Wis. | 1,031 | 1,766 | 30 | | 2,580 | 5,407 |
| Minn. | 1,027 | | 5 | | 274 | 1,306 |
| Iowa | 1,467 | 766 | | | 918 | 3,151 |
| Mo. | | 143 | | | 2,336 | 2,479 |
| N.Dak. | 1,182 | | | | | 1,182 |
| S.Dak. | 573 | | | | | 573 |
| Nebr. | 1,191 | | | | 2,065 | 3,256 |
| Kans. | 97 | 225 | | | 1,608 | 1,930 |
| Del. | | 434 | 343 | 13 | 647 | 1,437 |
| Md. | | 1,297 | 843 | 17 | 2,705 | 4,862 |
| Va. | | | 1,061 | | 1,235 | 2,296 |
| W. Va. | | | | | 147 | 147 |
| N. C. | | | 1,171 | | 1,925 | 3,096 |
| S. C. | | | | | 1,087 | 1,087 |
| Ga. | | | | | 2,045 | 2,045 |
| Fla. | | 2,141 | 1,215 | | 4/ 425 | 3,356 |
| Ky. | | | | | 918 | 918 |
| Tenn. | | | 246 | | 750 | 996 |
| Ala. | | | | | 350 | 350 |
| Miss. | | | | | 2,728 | 2,728 |
| Ark. | | | | | 7,098 | 7,098 |
| La. | | | | | 3,979 | 3,979 |
| Okla. | | | | | 1,539 | 1,539 |
| Tex. | | | | | 4,193 | 4,193 |
| Mont. | 3,327 | | | | 2,327 | 5,654 |
| Idaho | 3,401 | | | | 1,200 | 4,601 |
| Wyo. | 405 | | | | 1,025 | 1,430 |
| Colo. | 1,926 | 99 | | | 2,411 | 4,436 |
| N.Mex. | | | | | 1,549 | 1,549 |
| Ariz. | 1,572 | 5 | | | 1,233 | 2,810 |
| Utah | 1,046 | | | | 1,300 | 2,346 |
| Nev. | 818 | | | | | 818 |
| Wash. | 5,393 | | | | 300 | 5,693 |
| Oreg. | 3,730 | | | | 672 | 4,402 |
| Calif. | 29,629 | 2,693 | | | 6,337 | 38,659 |
| Total | 61,687 | 21,050 | 4,941 | 1,024 | 66,067 | 154,406 |

1/ As of August 3, data provided by Requirements and Certification Division, Program Branch, Office of Labor, U.S.D.A. 2/ As of August 2, data provided by Extension Service, War Food Administration, Washington, D. C. 3/ Includes 62 Canadians. 4/ As of July 12.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

## Farm labor placements 1/

| State | June | | January 1 to June 30 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1945 | 1944 | 1945 | 1944 |
| Maine | 697 | 553 | 1,124 | 1,065 |
| N. H. | 708 | 222 | 1,199 | 591 |
| Vt. | 557 | 577 | 1,189 | 1,247 |
| Mass. | 853 | 1,525 | 1,801 | 2,712 |
| R. I. | 89 | 72 | 148 | 160 |
| Conn. | 2,786 | 832 | 7,019 | 3,917 |
| N. Y. | 17,107 | 21,264 | 34,571 | 26,288 |
| N. J. | 7,672 | 4,714 | 12,111 | 8,340 |
| Pa. | 3,077 | 3,528 | 5,914 | 5,325 |
| Ohio | 3,626 | 9,138 | 9,079 | 14,440 |
| Ind. | 6,449 | 6,253 | 9,468 | 9,419 |
| Ill. | 5,838 | 9,204 | 21,862 | 21,780 |
| Mich. | 14,845 | 17,360 | 17,153 | 31,369 |
| Wis. | 1,217 | 8,482 | 4,528 | 13,770 |
| Minn. | 3,071 | 11,137 | 7,030 | 18,270 |
| Iowa | 6,734 | 4,540 | 17,413 | 11,999 |
| Mo. | 825 | 1,201 | 2,315 | 5,902 |
| N. Dak. | 2,882 | 3,793 | 19,601 | 28,221 |
| S. Dak. | 5,684 | 1,940 | 7,125 | 4,251 |
| Nebr. | 11,778 | 1,775 | 27,360 | 6,951 |
| Kans. | 3,912 | 10,845 | 5,072 | 19,769 |
| Del. | 1,730 | 1,305 | 4,391 | 3,681 |
| Md. | 20,857 | 16,416 | 34,360 | 20,858 |
| Va. | 18,090 | 4,156 | 33,783 | 7,126 |
| W. Va. | 386 | 590 | 1,252 | 1,748 |
| N. C. | 24,611 | 25,838 | 47,574 | 34,653 |
| S. C. | 11,212 | 6,884 | 25,932 | 14,983 |
| Ga. | 14,326 | 16,380 | 50,337 | 32,378 |
| Fla. | 2,742 | 6,456 | 22,288 | 64,394 |
| Ky. | 8,299 | 5,247 | 21,433 | 17,233 |
| Tenn. | 20,357 | 8,056 | 79,056 | 47,513 |
| Ala. | 1,463 | 2,119 | 16,391 | 10,639 |
| Miss. | 15,959 | 8,459 | 64,375 | 18,687 |
| Ark. | 64,474 | 73,307 | 146,245 | 120,855 |
| La. | 9,254 | 7,642 | 31,279 | 25,046 |
| Okla. | 27,085 | 27,632 | 88,888 | 47,620 |
| Tex. | 58,818 | 58,978 | 156,369 | 83,613 |
| Mont. | 15,461 | 1,793 | 21,564 | 5,753 |
| Idaho | 52,055 | 31,931 | 74,837 | 47,579 |
| Wyo. | 1,371 | 1,138 | 3,903 | 3,711 |
| Colo. | 17,527 | 8,222 | 28,437 | 14,434 |
| N. Mex. | 4,587 | 6,877 | 22,395 | 16,592 |
| Ariz. | 2,611 | 1,914 | 37,181 | 19,390 |
| Utah. | 29,121 | 14,493 | 34,143 | 17,731 |
| Nev. | 551 | 998 | 2,266 | 2,764 |
| Wash. | 41,889 | 37,548 | 82,358 | 53,672 |
| Oreg. | 8,272 | 36,869 | 23,892 | 45,734 |
| Calif. | 67,356 | 69,273 | 277,965 | 225,723 |
| Total | 640,871 | 599,476 | 1,645,976 | 1,239,896 |

1/ Data from monthly reports of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C. 2/ As of August 2, data provided by Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C. 3/ As of July 12.

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