UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

FARM LABOR REPORT

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October 16, 1942

FARM WAGE RATES CONTINUE TO RISE

Farm wage rates on October 1 were the second highest on record, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported today. The index, at 220 percent of the 1910-14 period was the highest since 1920.

The October 1 figure represents an 18-point rise since the last quarterly report on July 1. Usually there is no seasonal change from July to October. The index is also 57-points above October 1, 1941. This is the greatest increase ever recorded within a year's time.

Monthly wage rates including board increased between July 1 and October 1 in all sections of the country. Gains over October 1, 1941, ranged from 21 percent in the South Atlantic States to 52 percent in the Pacific States, where rates around $90 were reported.

The average rate per day without board, $2.76, was up 31 cents since July and up 72 cents since the previous October. Increases, noted in all States except Vermont, were generally greater in States west of the Mississippi than in those to the east.

Supply and Demand Data Now Published in Index Form

The supply of and demand for farm labor are being presented for the first time in the form of indexes, that is, the current reported averages are expressed as percentages of base period figures. The quarterly reported data for the years 1935-39 were used in determining the base averages. This is a rather recent period and one for which more factual information of all kinds is available than for some earlier periods that might otherwise have been adopted. An index, of course, simply registers relative change. This is precisely the reason farmers are requested periodically to report on the supply and demand situation in their respective communities--to furnish their idea of the changes which have occurred. A comparison of the current year's index with that for the previous year provides an indication of the year-to-year change, as well as the change from the base period. It is obvious, of course, that no numerical significance can be attached to the indexes, that is, it is not possible to apply these figures to some enumerated or estimated number of workers to arrive at a numerical increase or decrease in farm labor supply or demand.

Farm Labor Supply Smallest on Record

The index of farm labor supply of 54 for October 1942 indicates the sharp reduction in available farm labor supply at current wage rates, compared with that obtainable during the period 1935-39. It is a decline of 16 points from the supply index for the same date in 1941, and 8 points below the July index of this year. The supply indexes

show some variation over the country with the highest indexes shown in the South Atlantic and East South Central States, and the lowest indexes in the Mountain area and in the West Coast.

Opening of schools during the past month and further inroads by urban employment and the armed services have contributed to the problems of obtaining sufficient workers. With fall harvesting in full sway in most communities, farmers are having to make the most strenuous efforts to accomplish the necessary work. Careful planning of farm work, efficient and extensive use of available machinery, more exchange of labor than customary in the past, and the help of women and older men, have aided in saving many crops and accomplishing other work which might otherwise have been left undone. The magnitude of the task confronting farmers is augmented by the record breaking proportions of this season's crop and livestock production.

The index of demand of 125 for hired farm labor is 8 points above that for October last year, and is 4 points above the index for July 1942. An index 25 points above the base period (1935-39) reflects the relative change in the demand for workers at current wages, compared with the demand for workers during the base period at wages then prevailing. For past years demand for farm labor is closely correlated with cash farm income and the present high level of demand may be an indication of the cash income now being secured by farmers. The demand indexes range from 116 in New England to 139 in the West North Central division.

Farm wage rates and related data, United States, October 1, 1942, with comparisons

	Annual average 1910-14	July 1, 1941	Oct. 1, 1941	July 1, 1942	Oct. 1, 1942
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES:					
Unadjusted	100	160	165	202	220
Adjusted for seasonal variation	100	155	160	196	214
FARM WAGE RATES:					
Per month, with board	$22.09	$36.45	$37.45	$47.29	$50.83
Per month, without board	29.18	44.95	45.47	56.97	59.25
Per day, with board	1.16	1.80	1.88	2.16	2.54
Per day, without board	1.42	1.98	2.08	2.45	2.76
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES:					
Total -					
Unadjusted	100	99	99	100	99
Adjusted for seasonal variation	100	85	86	86	87
Family labor-					
Unadjusted	100	95	94	96	94
Adjusted for seasonal variation	100	85	85	86	85
Hired labor-					
Unadjusted	100	111	118	110	113
Adjusted for seasonal variation	100	86	87	85	83
FARM EMPLOYMENT:					
(Thousands of persons)					
Total	12,052	11,929	11,988	12,009	11,921
Family labor	9,160	8,721	8,567	8,827	8,653
Hired labor	2,892	3,208	3,421	3,182	3,268
RELATED INDEXES:					
Prices received by farmers 1/	100	121	139	155	2/163
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	100	76	84	76	73
Industrial wage rates 3/	---	264	--	310	--
Industrial employment 4/	---	131	133	142	--
Industrial pay rolls 4/	---	153	157	205	--

1/Average of 15th of given month and 15th of previous month.
2/Sept. 15 index.
3/Average weekly earnings, New York State factories, June 1914 = 100.
4/Bureau of Labor Statistics indexes for manufacturing industries adjusted to the 1939 Census of Manufactures 1923-25 = 100.

Based on data from approximately 19,900 reports from farmers.

Farm wage rates, by geographic divisions, October 1, 1942, with comparisons

Geographic division	Annual average 1910-14	July 1, 1941	Oct. 1, 1941	July 1, 1942	Oct. 1 1942
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
FARM WAGE RATES					
Per month with board					
New England	24.18	42.94	46.31	54.05	59.40
Middle Atlantic	22.25	39.24	39.68	48.00	50.15
East North Central	23.75	39.03	39.67	46.12	49.99
West North Central	26.32	36.37	38.25	49.29	56.01
South Atlantic	14.62	20.57	21.75	24.49	26.21
East South Central	14.71	18.99	19.87	23.41	25.89
West South Central	17.35	23.58	25.48	30.31	34.97
Mountain	32.48	45.04	47.33	60.32	67.99
Pacific	33.45	55.50	59.65	78.29	90.93
Per month without board					
New England	37.70	71.57	72.12	85.69	89.70
Middle Atlantic	33.41	57.76	57.75	72.39	73.78
East North Central	32.80	52.04	53.75	62.81	67.17
West North Central	36.86	47.67	50.23	63.26	72.00
South Atlantic	20.97	29.73	30.84	36.02	36.92
East South Central	20.80	26.31	27.83	32.86	35.30
West South Central	24.93	32.72	35.24	41.96	47.34
Mountain	46.42	62.84	64.01	79.77	89.62
Pacific	48.16	78.47	85.19	105.77	123.52
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	2.27	2.45	2.89	3.10
Middle Atlantic	1.24	2.30	2.42	2.73	3.06
East North Central	1.31	2.23	2.29	2.58	2.96
West North Central	1.46	2.10	2.30	2.60	3.59
South Atlantic	.81	1.09	1.17	1.28	1.42
East South Central	.81	.90	1.02	1.13	1.37
West South Central	.98	1.25	1.36	1.58	1.86
Mountain	1.50	2.18	2.38	2.88	3.61
Pacific	1.49	2.63	2.97	3.53	4.43
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	3.22	3.39	3.76	4.06
Middle Atlantic	1.63	2.93	3.09	3.48	3.88
East North Central	1.68	2.79	2.89	3.20	3.67
West North Central	1.88	2.69	2.90	3.29	4.33
South Atlantic	1.05	1.40	1.54	1.64	1.82
East South Central	1.05	1.16	1.33	1.42	1.75
West South Central	1.25	1.55	1.72	1.92	2.30
Mountain	2.05	2.82	2.96	3.53	4.34
Pacific	2.06	3.33	3.73	4.56	5.60

Farm employment, United States and geographic divisions, October 1, 1942, with comparisons

Geographic division	Aug. 1, 1941	Sept. 1, 1941	Oct. 1, 1941	Aug. 1, 1942	Sept. 1, 1942	Oct. 1 1942
	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's
TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT						
United States	11,138	11,421	11,988	11,249	11,390	11,921
New England	290	275	272	313	295	295
Middle Atlantic	743	723	705	737	732	719
East North Central	1,565	1,408	1,463	1,575	1,527	1,445
West North Central	1,880	1,789	1,723	1,883	1,828	1,675
South Atlantic	2,064	2,119	2,216	2,146	2,193	2,315
East South Central	1,542	1,861	2,131	1,524	1,804	2,187
West South Central	1,802	1,859	2,313	1,833	1,887	2,153
Mountain	533	531	500	520	518	477
Pacific	719	776	665	698	826	663
FAMILY WORKERS 1/						
United States	8,082	8,254	8,567	8,122	8,191	8,653
New England	166	163	162	176	175	181
Middle Atlantic	453	438	423	457	447	434
East North Central	1,194	1,172	1,123	1,225	1,189	1,140
West North Central	1,427	1,376	1,331	1,414	1,334	1,321
South Atlantic	1,576	1,573	1,642	1,590	1,599	1,695
East South Central	1,283	1,519	1,677	1,284	1,478	1,740
West South Central	1,364	1,364	1,608	1,354	1,276	1,522
Mountain	313	303	297	318	313	296
Pacific	306	346	304	304	350	324
HIRED WORKERS						
United States	3,056	3,167	3,421	3,127	3,199	3,268
New England	124	112	110	137	110	104
Middle Atlantic	290	285	282	300	285	285
East North Central	371	316	340	350	338	305
West North Central	453	413	392	469	464	554
South Atlantic	488	546	574	556	584	620
East South Central	259	342	454	240	326	447
West South Central	438	495	705	479	411	633
Mountain	220	228	203	202	205	181
Pacific	413	430	361	394	476	339

1/ Including farm operators.

Based on reports from 19,900 farmers.

Farm wage rates, by States, October 1, 1941 and October 1, 1942

State	Per month, with board		Per month, without board		Per day, with board		Per day, without board	
	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Maine	45.75	59.75	67.50	84.75	2.50	3.35	3.15	4.15
N. H.	41.00	55.75	67.50	82.75	2.40	3.05	3.40	3.95
Vt.	44.00	55.50	64.25	79.00	2.45	2.95	3.10	3.75
Mass.	43.25	60.75	75.75	95.00	2.30	3.00	3.55	4.15
R. I.	53.75	59.00	80.00	96.00	2.60	3.00	3.55	4.20
Conn.	53.50	61.00	79.00	95.50	2.55	3.10	3.70	4.05
N. Y.	43.75	56.75	61.75	79.25	2.55	3.35	3.30	4.25
N. J.	45.00	56.00	69.50	85.50	2.65	3.25	3.35	4.00
Pa.	34.75	41.75	51.25	65.00	2.25	2.70	2.85	3.45
Ohio	35.25	43.75	49.00	60.25	2.25	2.90	2.85	3.55
Ind.	36.25	45.25	48.25	60.50	2.15	2.80	2.65	3.45
Ill.	42.00	53.50	53.75	67.75	2.40	3.10	2.95	3.75
Mich.	40.00	49.25	56.75	69.00	2.35	3.05	3.00	3.80
Wis.	42.50	55.00	58.00	75.75	2.25	2.90	2.90	3.75
Minn.	41.50	59.00	55.25	76.25	2.55	3.80	3.30	4.60
Iowa	43.25	58.50	53.00	71.50	2.55	3.50	3.10	4.15
Mo.	29.25	40.00	39.25	53.00	1.50	2.10	1.90	2.70
N. Dak.	47.00	70.00	63.00	91.00	3.25	5.20	3.85	6.20
S. Dak.	39.75	62.00	52.50	78.50	2.40	4.15	3.10	4.85
Nebr.	35.50	53.75	47.00	67.25	2.10	3.30	2.65	4.10
Kans.	33.75	50.00	46.75	67.75	2.10	3.10	2.65	3.95
Del.	36.00	42.00	49.00	61.00	2.60	3.40	3.25	4.30
Md.	35.00	43.00	49.50	59.75	2.10	2.95	2.75	3.75
Va.	28.00	34.00	38.75	48.00	1.50	1.95	2.00	2.55
W. Va.	27.00	33.50	38.00	48.25	1.35	1.80	1.80	2.30
N. C.	21.50	29.25	30.25	40.25	1.15	1.60	1.50	2.05
S. C.	16.00	20.50	22.75	28.00	.75	.95	1.00	1.25
Ga.	16.25	21.00	22.75	29.50	.90	1.15	1.15	1.45
Fla.	21.50	29.50	33.25	45.75	1.10	1.55	1.55	2.05
Ky.	25.25	33.75	34.75	46.00	1.20	1.80	1.60	2.30
Tenn.	21.50	27.75	30.25	38.75	1.05	1.35	1.35	1.75
Ala.	17.75	24.50	24.75	33.50	.95	1.30	1.25	1.65
Miss.	17.75	22.75	25.00	30.75	.95	1.25	1.25	1.60
Ark.	22.00	29.00	31.75	40.75	1.15	1.55	1.55	2.05
La.	18.50	25.50	26.25	34.75	1.00	1.40	1.30	1.70
Okla.	28.00	40.50	39.25	54.25	1.55	2.30	1.95	2.80
Tex.	28.25	41.25	38.25	55.00	1.50	2.15	1.85	2.60
Mont.	52.25	78.00	73.25	99.75	2.90	4.75	3.70	5.80
Idaho	54.50	76.75	70.00	98.75	2.85	4.10	3.45	4.85
Wyo.	54.50	68.50	65.50	88.00	2.45	3.65	3.10	4.50
Colo.	40.25	57.25	57.00	81.00	2.25	3.35	2.90	4.30
N. Mex.	36.25	51.50	50.75	65.50	1.80	2.45	2.20	2.85
Ariz.	50.50	79.50	68.25	102.00	1.95	2.80	2.55	3.50
Utah	57.25	81.50	72.25	105.00	2.70	3.60	3.15	4.20
Nev.	50.00	65.00	75.00	88.00	2.45	3.65	3.50	4.60
Wash.	54.75	87.50	78.00	122.00	3.15	4.65	4.00	6.10
Oreg.	53.25	89.75	73.25	116.00	2.80	4.60	3.45	5.40
Calif.	62.25	92.00	89.50	125.00	2.95	4.35	3.70	5.50
U. S.	37.45	50.83	45.47	59.25	1.88	2.54	2.08	2.76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

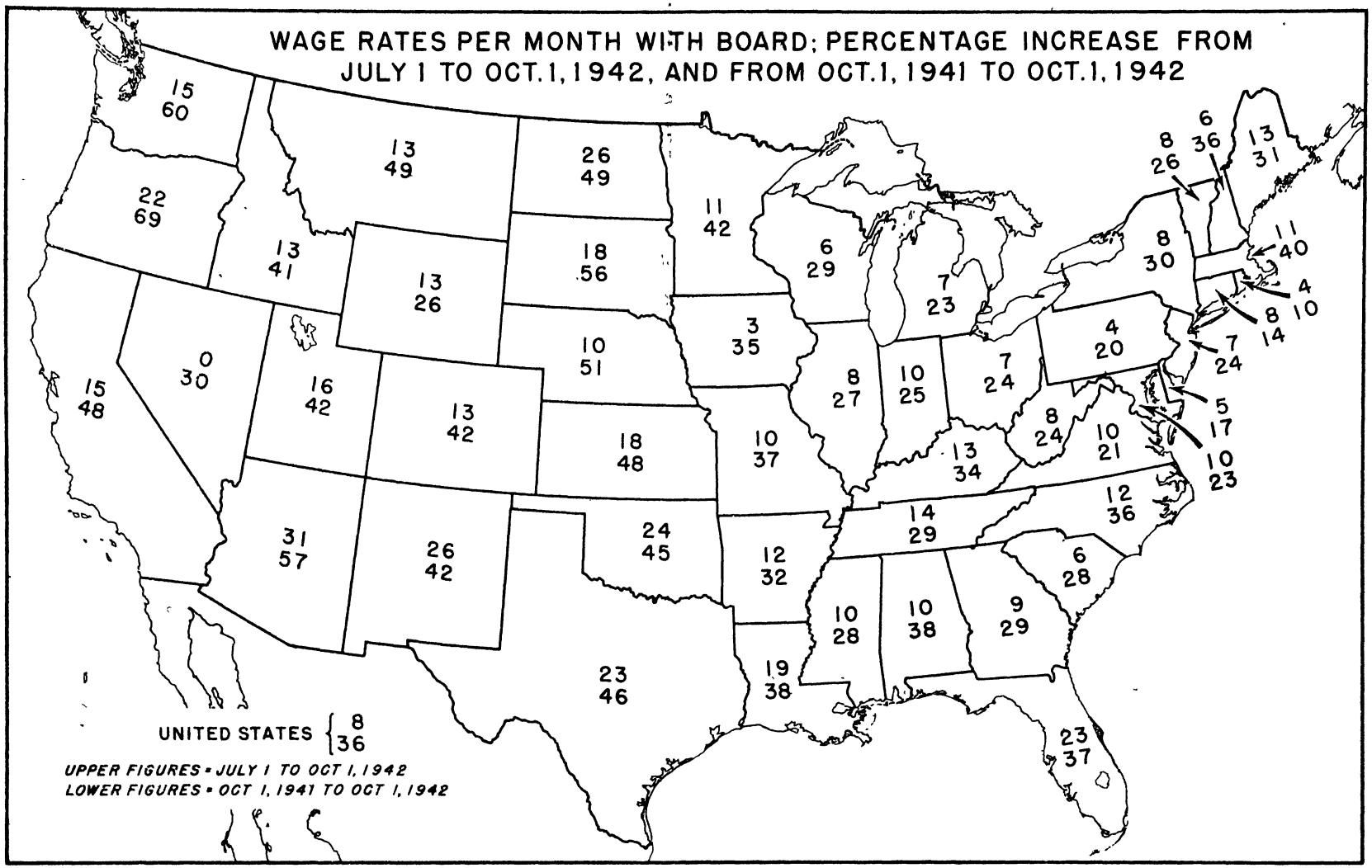
Farm Wage Rates and Index Numbers, United States, by quarters, January 1934 to date.

Year and quarter	Per month		Per day		Weighted average rate per month	Index numbers of farm wage rates (1910-14 = 100)	
	With board	Without board	With board	Without board		Unadjusted	Adjusted
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars		
1934:							
Jan.	17.37	26.31	.88	1.20	21.50	87	91
Apr.	19.97	27.71	.95	1.23	23.17	94	96
July	20.81	28.52	1.01	1.27	24.00	97	94
Oct.	21.23	28.91	1.02	1.30	24.45	99	96
1935:							
Jan.	19.14	28.17	.93	1.26	23.13	93	97
Apr.	21.62	29.57	.99	1.28	24.67	100	102
July	23.33	30.82	1.09	1.35	26.14	106	103
Oct.	23.61	31.04	1.16	1.38	26.63	108	105
1936:							
Jan.	20.89	29.69	1.02	1.32	24.68	100	104
Apr.	23.58	31.13	1.06	1.33	26.23	106	108
July	25.61	32.99	1.21	1.44	28.31	114	111
Oct.	25.74	33.27	1.22	1.49	28.73	116	113
1937:							
Jan.	23.37	32.62	1.12	1.45	27.29	110	115
Apr.	26.90	35.06	1.19	1.49	29.62	120	122
July	29.31	37.24	1.41	1.66	32.35	131	127
Oct.	29.84	38.11	1.46	1.73	33.25	134	130
1938:							
Jan.	25.18	34.70	1.22	1.55	29.26	118	123
Apr.	27.60	33.82	1.25	1.55	29.88	121	123
July	28.95	37.28	1.38	1.63	32.00	129	125
Oct.	28.25	36.09	1.36	1.59	31.20	126	122
1939:							
Jan.	24.86	34.92	1.20	1.53	29.03	117	122
Apr.	27.08	35.42	1.23	1.53	30.03	121	123
July	28.18	36.26	1.36	1.59	31.23	126	122
Oct.	28.28	36.13	1.35	1.57	31.13	126	122
1940:							
Jan.	25.33	35.27	1.22	1.55	29.40	119	124
Apr.	27.45	36.41	1.26	1.55	30.60	124	127
July	29.01	37.18	1.37	1.62	31.94	129	125
Oct.	28.77	36.84	1.39	1.61	31.82	129	125
1941:							
Jan.	26.88	36.61	1.29	1.59	30.73	124	129
Apr.	31.56	40.44	1.41	1.70	34.29	138	141
July	36.45	44.95	1.80	1.98	39.55	160	155
Oct.	37.45	45.47	1.88	2.08	40.76	165	160
1942:							
Jan	37.08	47.77	1.77	2.12	41.21	166	173
Apr.	41.47	50.54	1.83	2.10	43.77	177	181
July	47.29	56.97	2.16	2.45	50.09	202	196

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Annual Farm Wage Rates and Index Numbers, United States, 1909 to date

Year	Per month		Per day		Weighted average rate per month	Index numbers of farm wage rates (1910-14=100)
	With board	Without board	With board	Without board		
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	
1909	22.21	28.10	1.09	1.30	23.77	96
1910	21.22	28.08	1.12	1.39	23.93	97
1911	21.49	28.54	1.13	1.39	24.15	98
1912	22.23	29.34	1.18	1.43	24.98	101
1913	22.89	30.21	1.20	1.46	25.59	103
1914	22.62	29.74	1.17	1.43	25.13	101
1915	22.97	30.06	1.18	1.44	25.41	103
1916	25.17	32.84	1.31	1.58	27.93	113
1917	31.11	40.52	1.65	1.98	34.79	141
1918	37.96	48.80	2.15	2.54	43.73	177
1919	43.29	56.63	2.54	3.03	51.13	207
1920	51.73	65.40	2.98	3.46	59.88	242
1921	33.62	44.67	1.77	2.12	38.29	155
1922	32.75	43.33	1.73	2.07	37.47	151
1923	37.24	48.25	1.89	2.25	41.87	169
1924	37.92	49.32	1.94	2.29	42.91	173
1925	38.77	49.90	1.97	2.29	43.51	176
1926	39.87	50.83	1.98	2.31	44.36	179
1927	40.11	50.85	1.98	2.28	44.36	179
1928	40.11	50.72	1.98	2.27	44.28	179
1929	40.61	51.22	1.96	2.25	44.52	180
1930	37.59	48.10	1.76	2.08	41.25	167
1931	28.77	38.38	1.32	1.62	32.11	130
1932	20.85	28.88	.94	1.20	23.66	96
1933	18.07	25.67	.85	1.11	21.10	85
1934	20.24	28.19	.98	1.26	23.61	95
1935	22.42	30.24	1.07	1.33	25.53	103
1936	24.53	32.28	1.15	1.42	27.51	111
1937	28.00	36.32	1.33	1.61	31.25	126
1938	27.73	35.97	1.31	1.58	30.84	125
1939	27.39	35.82	1.30	1.56	30.56	123
1940	28.05	36.68	1.36	1.59	31.28	126
1941	34.85	43.64	1.69	1.93	38.14	154



U S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 42682 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Farm Labor Supply: Index Numbers, by Geographic Divisions,

January 1, 1940 - October 1, 1942

Geographic Division	Base period 1935-39 1/	Index of Supply of Farm Labor											
		1940				1941				1942			
		Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Jan.	April	July	Oct.
New England	93.2	99	98	90	87	84	73	60	57	60	56	52	49
Middle Atlantic	88.1	103	103	95	90	92	77	60	61	65	60	57	51
East North Central	91.4	104	102	96	94	95	80	66	66	69	66	64	52
West North Central	94.7	101	100	96	93	96	84	74	71	70	66	61	48
South Atlantic	88.0	99	97	95	92	92	80	75	71	71	70	67	60
East South Central	88.3	100	99	99	98	94	87	82	74	76	71	71	63
West South Central	93.8	99	97	95	90	91	84	76	70	71	69	65	56
Mountain	97.7	102	101	96	94	93	85	72	69	69	64	56	47
Pacific	99.6	103	103	94	95	93	84	73	69	66	66	54	47
United States	92.1	101	99	96	93	93	82	73	70	70	67	62	54

Farm Labor Demand: Index Numbers, by Geographic Divisions,

January 1, 1940 - October 1, 1942

New England	86.9	100	100	103	105	103	112	113	114	109	117	119	116
Middle Atlantic	85.6	96	101	105	105	103	111	111	114	108	117	116	120
East North Central	85.8	99	100	106	106	105	111	115	117	112	118	119	124
West North Central	76.5	102	107	110	112	112	122	127	127	125	130	131	139
South Atlantic	85.0	100	102	103	106	105	108	108	108	110	116	114	118
East South Central	82.6	98	105	103	101	103	111	107	113	116	120	119	123
West South Central	75.2	96	103	109	112	107	114	121	124	120	123	128	136
Mountain	79.4	105	105	109	110	108	115	124	128	119	125	131	131
Pacific	85.3	97	101	105	107	104	111	113	115	113	114	121	122
United States	82.1	99	103	105	107	105	112	115	117	114	119	121	125

1/ Base average of reported data for 20 quarters, January 1935 - October 1939.

Persons employed in the United States, September 1942, with comparisons

	July 1941	Aug. 1941	Sept. 1941	July 1942	Aug. 1942	Sept. 1942
	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's
Farm employment 1/	11,534	11,280	11,704	11,629	11,319	11,656
Family workers	8,402	8,168	8,410	8,475	8,156	8,422
Hired workers	3,132	3,112	3,294	3,154	3,163	3,234
Nonagricultural employment 2/	3/34,939	3/35,457	3/36,056	3/37,234	4/37,789	---

1/ Average of estimates of farm employment as of the first of the given and following month.

2/ Estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Dept. of Labor. Excludes persons employed on W.P.A. or N.Y.A. projects, enrollees in C.C.C. camps, military and naval forces, proprietors, self-employed persons, and domestic help.

3/ Revised.

4/ Preliminary.