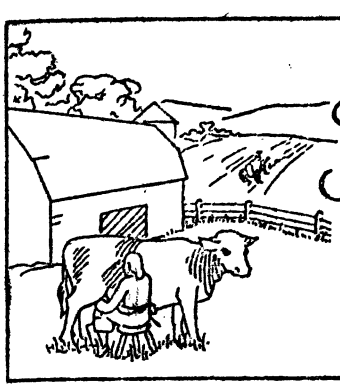

Farm Labor

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C. BAE January 13, 1949

1D
1925
43

FARM WAGE RATES UP, EMPLOYMENT DOWN

Wage rates paid to hired farm workers on January 1 continued their rise, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. They were up 3 percent from a year earlier. Farm employment was curtailed by unfavorable weather. There were 7,155,000 persons at work on farms during the week ended December 25, a third of a million less than a year earlier.

Farm wage rates on January 1, 1949 averaged 60 cents per hour when all cash rates were converted to per hour equivalents and weighted by the number of workers receiving each type of rate (see page 3). This was 2 cents per hour more than on January 1 a year ago and 2 cents less than on October 1. The decrease from October 1 was less than usual as shown by the 3 percent increase in the seasonally adjusted index of farm wage rates. The seasonally adjusted index indicates that while wage rates are still increasing as of the first of this year the rate of increase is less this year than it has been in the past few years. It appears likely that lower prices received by farmers and prospective lower net incomes are tending to limit increases in farm wage rates.

Comparisons by type of wage rates for this January with those for the previous year and the previous quarter show about the same pattern of change for each type. The level of wage rates was higher on January 1 than a year earlier and less than on October 1, 1948. The per week and per hour without board or room categories are exceptions where the October 1 rates were below January 1, 1949. The changes in both the per hour rates probably need some explanation. The October 1 per hour with house rate is high in comparison with January rates, mainly because payment at hourly rates is of greatest importance in the West during the harvest season while during the winter and spring months it is used in the South The per hour rate without board or room shows an opposite trend. The October rate was lower than in January in either year. The lower rate in October was due to a very large proportion of workers employed at these rates in the South.

Weather during the week ended December 25 was very unfavorable for farm work. Heavy rains along the Atlantic Coast, which turned to snow from Maryland northward early in the week, limited field work in the area during the entire week except in Florida. Heavy snow also fell in the upper Mississippi Valley and eastward. By the end of the week the coldest weather of the season, which had moved into the West early in the week, had covered the entire country. Additional snow accompanied the movement of cold weather across the country.

Outdoor work was largely confined to the extreme southern sections of the country. Citrus and vegetable harvests continued in Florida, Texas, Arizona,

and California. Little progress was made in the South in harvesting the small amounts of corn, cotton, and peanuts still in fields. Over most of the country farmers were doing little more than necessary chores. In some cases odd jobs were being taken care of.

With unfavorable weather during the reporting week and especially good progress with fall harvest a 5 percent decrease in farm employment from a year ago is not surprising. An additional factor was the unusually pleasant weather during the survey week last year which held employment up. Both family and hired employment dropped below a year ago with a slightly larger percentage decline in hired employment. The percentage decrease in family employment was fairly evenly distributed by regions. However, the change in the number of hired workers was not consistent over all regions. There were more hired workers this year than a year earlier in New England and the Middle Atlantic States and about the same number in the South Atlantic States. The decreases were all in the Central and Western Regions. In these regions the decline ranged from 7 to 12 percent with the larger changes in the West where weather was most unfavorable.

The number of people working on farms decreased nearly 2 millions from late November to late December. The decrease in family workers amounted to a little more than a million and a quarter and that for hired workers to a little more than a half million. The seasonal decline in total employment was about 150,000 larger than a year earlier. The largest decreases this year occurred in the South where they ranged from 39 percent in the East South Central States to 23 percent in the South Atlantic and 22 percent in the West South Central States. The smallest decrease, 10 percent, was in the West North Central States. The number of family workers decreased most in the South Atlantic and East South Central States. Family employment was down a fourth in the South Atlantic States and a third in the East South Central Region. The number of hired workers was about 60 percent less than a month earlier in the East and West South Central Regions. Decreases in the number of family workers were smallest in the West while for hired workers the drop was least in the Middle and South Atlantic States.

REVISED FARM EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE RATE ESTIMATES

This issue of Farm labor carries revised series of farm employment estimates and of farm wage rates. Revised definitions of farm employment and new benchmark data were used to establish the employment estimates. Changes in the wage rate series are due to the use of new wage rate categories and to the use of a somewhat different weighting method.

Farm employment. - Farm employment estimates have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics since 1936 as an extension of the series in "Trends in Employment in Agriculture 1909-36." 1/ Revisions in this series have now been made in line with improved definitions and basic data as planned by B.A.E. when extensive farm employment and wage surveys were undertaken in 1945. The new surveys also provided benchmark data for better measurement of seasonal change.

1/ Eldon E. Shaw and John A. Hopkins, WPA National Research Project, Report No. A-8.

Nation-wide interview surveys in March, May, and September 1945, July 1946, and January 1947 have furnished data on farm employment for various seasons. In addition, more precise definitions of farm employment have been used. The major changes from the old employment series include the counting of all farm operators doing any farm work instead of only those working 2 or more days; the change from the old indefinite 2 or more days work requirement for family workers and hired workers to the new 15 or more hours work for family workers and any paid work for hired workers; and the use of a specified week for counting employment rather than the indefinite "during the past week" wording used formerly. The new series covers employment on all farms whereas in the old series adjustments were made to exclude employment on some of the part-time farms. There are also some changes in level and changes in seasonal distribution due to the use of interview survey data which furnished information not previously available.

The revised series of employment estimates is presented only for the 1944 to 1948 period. Extension of the series to earlier dates will be presented later.

Wage rates.- The same four categories of wage rates have been carried since 1866. Hiring practices change over time and it is probable that changes have been accelerated in recent decades. Less than half of the hired farm workers employed in the harvest season are now paid the monthly and daily rates that made up the old series. It is no longer true that regular workers are hired only by the month and furnished a house or room and board and that seasonal workers are paid only at day rates either with or without room and meals. Hourly and daily rates are now often paid full-time regular workers who are furnished major perquisites. In the South, for instance, croppers are often hired as day hands and paid daily rates or hourly rates and also receive a house. Weekly rates for regular workers with and without perquisites are popular in the Northeast. On the Pacific Coast, operators of large enterprises sometimes furnish housing to seasonal workers, but generally pay all seasonal workers either hourly or piece work rates.

Under the new program, 9 different categories of wage rates are used. Only the most important types are estimated for each region and States within the region. The number by regions varies from 3 to 6. Wage rates, on the new basis, are presented for January 1, 1948 and 1949 and October 1, 1948. Two schedules were used last year, one with the new questions and one with the old, so that wage rates are available on both the new and old basis for 1948.

Weights used for combining State estimates into regional estimates and different categories of rates into a "composite" of all rates were obtained from interview survey data which showed the percentage of hired workers receiving each wage rate at different seasons. Factors to convert monthly, weekly, and daily rates to hourly equivalent rates were also obtained from interview survey data. These equivalent hourly rates are combined to obtain a weighted average of all rates which is called the "composite" rate. The composite is used to calculate the index of farm wage rates.

More detailed information on the sample, definitions, and methods of revision may be obtained from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Employment.- Farm employment estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics cover persons doing farm work on all farms. Mailed questionnaires are received every month from 15,000 to 20,000 farmers who report the number of persons working on their farms. Interview surveys of farmers are used less frequently to provide benchmark data on employment. The survey week for the mailed questionnaire each month is the last complete calendar week in the month except when that week includes the last day of the month; in that case the survey week is the next to the last full calendar week.

Employment Concepts.- All farm operators are counted as employed if they spend 1 hour or more during the survey week at farm work, chores, or in the transaction of farm business. Members of the operator's family or household doing unpaid farm work, or chores, are counted if they put in 15 hours or more during the survey week. Operators plus unpaid members of their families or households who meet these criteria of employment are called family workers. All persons doing 1 or more hours of farm work or chores for pay during the survey week are counted as hired workers. Members of the operator's family doing farm work for cash wages are counted as hired workers. Croppers are considered family workers when working on their own crops, but hired workers when doing farm work for pay off their own tracts. If a person is employed both as a family worker and a hired worker during the week on the same farm he is counted as a hired worker.

Comparability with Other Data.- The data on farm employment published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics differ from those on agricultural employment published by the Bureau of the Census in the Monthly Report on the Labor Force. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics collects information from the employer (the farmer) who reports the number of persons working on his farm during the week, regardless of the other jobs held by those workers. The Census data, on the other hand, are obtained through interviews with approximately 25,000 farm and nonfarm households with the housewife or some other member of the household reporting on the labor force status of the household members. They relate only to persons 14 years of age and over who are in the civilian population and not in institutions.

The difference between the BAE and the Census data is attributable mainly to the different treatment of three groups of workers. Children under 14 years of age who meet the criteria of employment are included in the BAE estimates, but not in the Census Bureau's. It is estimated that this number may reach a summer peak as high as two million. Persons working on more than one farm during the survey week are counted only once by the Census Bureau, but they are counted by the BAE on each farm where they work and meet the minimum hour requirements. This group is also more numerous during the harvest season when the demand for farm labor is greatest. The additional count of workers attributable to this duplication is estimated at a minimum of a quarter of a million and may be considerably larger. The third group is composed of persons who work in both agricultural and nonagricultural employment, but work longer at the nonagricultural job; they are classified by Census as working in

nonagricultural employment, but by the BAE as working on a farm. This last group may range from one-half million to a million in different seasons of the year.

Other groups counted by the BAE but not by the Census Bureau are imported foreign workers and some migratory workers not living in private households. On the other hand, the Census Bureau includes in its estimates of agricultural employment certain classes of workers which the BAE does not include. Persons with "non-farm" occupations who are working on farms, such as book keepers and typists, some persons in certain agricultural processing activities, and farm operators with no other job who did no farm work are considered as employed in agriculture by the Census Bureau, but are not included by the BAE in its estimates of agricultural employment.

Because the volume of agricultural employment is affected by changes both in season and in weather, the difference in the week of the month for which the data are collected may also make some difference. The BAE data relate to the last full calendar week ending at least 1 day before the end of the month while the Census Bureau information relates to the week containing the eighth of the month.

The BAE estimates farm employment from current reports made by a selected group of farmers adjusted to enumerative survey benchmark data. The Bureau of the Census bases its figures on a sample of dwelling units. Accordingly, the figures in both cases are subject to sampling variation and may differ from the results of a complete census.

Wage Rates.- Wage rates are reported quarterly by the same sample of farm operators that reports employment. The farmer is asked to report average wage rates being paid "at this time" in his locality. The "at this time" on the average probably represents the second or third day before the end of the month.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of December 19-25, 1948, United States, with comparisons

	December average 1944-48 1/	December 21-27, 1947	November 21-27, 1948	December 19-25, 1948
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons)				
Total	7,397	7,487	9,047	7,155
Family labor	6,412	6,449	7,457	6,176
Hired labor	985	1,038	1,590	979
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation 1910-14=100):				
Total	96	96	95	91
Family labor	98	99	98	93
Hired labor	79	82	82	78

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least 1 day before the end of the month.

Farm wage rates: Wage rates, indexes and related data, January 1, 1949 1/

	January 1, 1948	October 1, 1948	January 1, 1949
FARM WAGE RATES			
Per month, with board and room	$100.00	$104.00	$102.00
Per month, with house	117.00	126.00	122.00
Per week, with board and room	23.50	24.50	24.00
Per week, without board or room	29.00	29.25	29.75
Per day, with board and room	4.25	4.60	4.50
Per day, with house	3.45	3.85	3.65
Per day, without board or room	4.40	5.10	4.60
Per hour, with house	.56	.74	.57
Per hour, without board or room	.74	.70	.77
Composite rate per hour 2/	.58	.62	.60
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)			
Unadjusted	408	440	423
Adjusted for seasonal variation	425	427	441
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)			
Prices received by farmers 3/	304	284	4/ 268
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	75	65	63
Average weekly factory earnings 5/	466	487	--

1/ Wage rates on the average refer to a date 2 or 3 days before the first of the month.
2/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
3/ Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.
4/ December 15, 1948 - latest data available.
5/ Factory payroll per employed worker; average of all weeks during the designated month.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed, during week of December 19-25, 1948 United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic divisions	December average 1944-1948 1/	November 23-29, 1947	December 21-27, 1947	November 21-27 1948	December 19-25, 1948
	Thousands				
	TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT				
United States	7,397	9,219	7,487	9,047	7,155
New England	178	199	174	203	172
Middle Atlantic	495	540	495	536	488
East North Central	1,254	1,483	1,271	1,464	1,213
West North Central	1,450	1,563	1,479	1,563	1,406
South Atlantic	1,275	1,684	1,315	1,642	1,256
East South Central	1,071	1,615	1,041	1,615	986
West South Central	986	1,326	995	1,237	972
Mountain	276	320	285	301	264
Pacific	412	489	432	486	398
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/				
United States	6,412	7,607	6,449	7,457	6,176
New England	142	156	140	157	136
Middle Atlantic	406	443	405	432	395
East North Central	1,125	1,290	1,136	1,262	1,088
West North Central	1,339	1,416	1,364	1,406	1,301
South Atlantic	1,063	1,412	1,087	1,370	1,028
East South Central	956	1,343	924	1,343	879
West South Central	886	1,021	887	977	873
Mountain	216	231	220	218	207
Pacific	279	295	286	292	269
	HIRED WORKERS 3/				
United States	985	1,612	1,038	1,590	979
New England	36	43	34	46	36
Middle Atlantic	89	97	90	104	93
East North Central	129	193	135	202	125
West North Central	111	147	115	157	105
South Atlantic	212	272	228	272	228
East South Central	115	272	117	272	107
West South Central	100	305	108	260	99
Mountain	60	89	65	83	57
Pacific	133	194	146	194	129

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least 1 day before the end of the month.
2/ Includes farm operators doing 1 or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.
3/ Includes all persons doing 1 or more hours of farm work during the survey week for pay.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed, total, family and hired, United States and geographic regions, annual averages and by months, 1944-48 revised 1/

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Month	United States					New England				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
	Thousands					Thousands				
January	7,983	7,644	7,648	7,847	7,764	189	179	183	188	184
February	8,712	8,427	8,619	8,643	8,608	192	187	185	183	180
March	10,669	9,858	10,098	10,085	10,016	217	203	213	210	215
April	11,317	11,142	11,568	11,481	11,558	231	231	239	241	234
May	12,548	12,082	12,577	12,537	12,326	255	254	254	258	245
June	12,422	12,097	12,538	12,478	12,102	268	276	280	271	265
July	11,553	11,526	11,876	12,131	12,123	274	276	266	279	280
August	11,945	11,655	11,852	11,970	12,131	257	253	245	256	250
September	13,458	12,427	12,796	13,182	13,093	258	257	251	257	252
October	12,210	11,913	11,958	12,069	12,135	226	221	233	235	234
November	9,298	9,080	9,271	9,219	9,047	200	196	202	199	203
December	7,370	7,331	7,643	7,487	7,155	177	181	185	174	172
Average	10,790	10,431	10,703	10,761	10,671	228	226	228	229	226
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/									
January	6,791	6,626	6,646	6,762	6,740	150	146	149	151	149
February	7,279	7,157	7,289	7,318	7,272	150	150	149	148	145
March	8,970	8,132	8,363	8,339	8,194	164	152	157	156	160
April	9,315	9,316	9,629	9,510	9,488	172	178	183	182	174
May	9,997	9,707	10,091	10,052	9,833	186	184	186	186	179
June	9,259	9,150	9,428	9,394	8,999	193	206	215	194	200
July	8,236	8,204	8,462	8,556	8,395	193	198	192	202	206
August	8,783	8,552	8,783	8,728	8,677	179	175	177	182	176
September	10,126	9,635	9,875	9,960	9,664	186	178	180	180	183
October	9,539	9,370	9,502	9,509	9,363	170	164	169	172	172
November	7,655	7,526	7,688	7,607	7,457	158	157	160	156	157
December	6,406	6,421	6,610	6,449	6,176	143	144	148	140	136
Average	8,530	8,316	8,530	8,515	8,354	170	169	172	171	170
	HIRED WORKERS 3/									
January	1,192	1,018	1,002	1,085	1,024	39	33	34	37	35
February	1,433	1,270	1,330	1,325	1,336	42	37	36	35	35
March	1,699	1,726	1,735	1,746	1,822	53	51	56	54	55
April	2,002	1,826	1,939	1,971	2,070	59	53	56	59	60
May	2,551	2,375	2,486	2,485	2,493	69	70	68	72	66
June	3,163	2,947	3,110	3,084	3,103	75	70	65	77	65
July	3,317	3,322	3,414	3,575	3,728	81	78	74	77	74
August	3,162	3,103	3,069	3,242	3,454	78	78	68	74	74
September	3,332	2,792	2,921	3,222	3,429	72	79	71	77	69
October	2,671	2,543	2,456	2,560	2,772	56	57	64	63	62
November	1,643	1,554	1,583	1,612	1,590	42	39	42	43	46
December	964	910	1,033	1,038	979	34	37	37	34	36
Average	2,260	2,115	2,173	2,246	2,317	58	57	56	58	56

Continued ---

Farm Employment: Persons employed, total, family and hired, United States and geographic regions, annual averages and by months, 1944-48, revised 1/ --Cont'd.

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Month	Middle Atlantic					East North Central				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
	Thousands					Thousands				
January	517	490	478	484	481	1,249	1,193	1,227	1,232	1,232
February	538	522	519	519	506	1,355	1,347	1,352	1,377	1,368
March	609	560	557	557	546	1,636	1,500	1,546	1,541	1,492
April	591	581	588	596	582	1,645	1,616	1,662	1,665	1,666
May	633	620	630	640	633	1,791	1,741	1,797	1,753	1,820
June	747	750	757	744	730	1,839	1,780	1,835	1,821	1,830
July	747	748	734	748	730	1,849	1,876	1,894	1,907	1,897
August	701	686	703	713	716	1,742	1,742	1,758	1,772	1,752
September	630	599	626	615	588	1,733	1,665	1,748	1,743	1,781
October	570	595	581	581	581	1,597	1,558	1,584	1,598	1,598
November	553	560	557	540	536	1,452	1,462	1,507	1,483	1,464
December	497	488	509	495	488	1,241	1,266	1,281	1,271	1,213
Average	611	600	603	603	593	1,594	1,562	1,599	1,597	1,593
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/									
January	432	416	405	401	405	1,104	1,068	1,101	1,107	1,107
February	446	434	429	426	426	1,181	1,183	1,188	1,213	1,204
March	517	469	457	453	439	1,433	1,308	1,343	1,339	1,290
April	485	476	477	471	464	1,413	1,414	1,449	1,444	1,435
May	506	480	495	498	477	1,520	1,501	1,555	1,512	1,560
June	570	564	567	550	540	1,500	1,491	1,536	1,522	1,531
July	556	542	526	540	522	1,491	1,501	1,517	1,531	1,512
August	531	504	509	519	522	1,413	1,405	1,430	1,435	1,396
September	492	480	477	477	453	1,336	1,328	1,362	1,358	1,348
October	460	469	453	453	453	1,297	1,279	1,304	1,319	1,290
November	457	466	457	443	432	1,258	1,270	1,294	1,290	1,262
December	413	408	412	405	395	1,116	1,140	1,146	1,136	1,088
Average	489	476	472	470	461	1,338	1,324	1,352	1,350	1,335
	HIRED WORKERS 3/									
January	85	74	73	83	76	145	125	126	125	125
February	92	88	90	93	80	174	164	164	164	164
March	92	91	100	104	107	203	192	203	202	202
April	106	105	111	125	118	232	202	213	221	231
May	127	140	135	142	156	271	240	242	241	260
June	177	186	190	194	190	339	289	299	299	299
July	191	206	208	208	208	358	375	377	376	385
August	170	182	194	194	194	329	337	328	337	356
September	138	119	149	138	135	397	337	386	385	433
October	110	126	128	128	128	300	279	280	279	308
November	96	94	100	97	104	194	192	213	193	202
December	84	80	97	90	93	125	126	135	135	125
Average	122	124	131	133	132	256	238	247	247	258

Continued--

Farm employment: Persons employed, total, family and hired, United States and geographic regions, annual averages and by months, 1944-48 revised 1/ --Cont'd.

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Month	West North Central					South Atlantic				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
	Thousands					Thousands				
January	1,454	1,439	1,454	1,489	1,458	1,469	1,334	1,329	1,412	1,414
February	1,486	1,460	1,485	1,500	1,500	1,736	1,636	1,697	1,662	1,739
March	1,718	1,565	1,600	1,626	1,605	2,144	1,980	2,044	2,009	2,022
April	1,697	1,638	1,705	1,752	1,762	2,294	2,292	2,324	2,334	2,348
May	1,792	1,710	1,779	1,836	1,794	2,627	2,571	2,626	2,693	2,554
June	2,002	1,898	2,030	2,004	1,941	2,552	2,475	2,584	2,628	2,543
July	2,066	2,003	2,071	2,213	2,130	2,423	2,485	2,638	2,693	2,696
August	1,887	1,825	1,841	1,910	1,920	2,466	2,410	2,389	2,498	2,489
September	1,707	1,607	1,664	1,731	1,678	2,509	2,249	2,292	2,421	2,369
October	1,655	1,595	1,632	1,678	1,689	2,294	2,249	2,281	2,324	2,327
November	1,571	1,554	1,579	1,563	1,563	1,672	1,646	1,675	1,684	1,642
December	1,440	1,412	1,511	1,479	1,406	1,248	1,254	1,303	1,315	1,256
Average	1,706	1,642	1,696	1,732	1,704	2,120	2,049	2,098	2,139	2,116
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/									
January	1,328	1,335	1,349	1,374	1,353	1,190	1,119	1,113	1,184	1,207
February	1,349	1,345	1,370	1,385	1,385	1,372	1,345	1,373	1,347	1,380
March	1,549	1,398	1,443	1,458	1,437	1,726	1,560	1,622	1,575	1,565
April	1,507	1,471	1,506	1,563	1,563	1,865	1,894	1,913	1,900	1,913
May	1,528	1,491	1,538	1,574	1,532	2,123	2,087	2,140	2,183	2,065
June	1,528	1,491	1,559	1,563	1,511	1,780	1,765	1,827	1,857	1,728
July	1,518	1,502	1,548	1,605	1,553	1,662	1,689	1,784	1,792	1,761
August	1,486	1,439	1,464	1,490	1,490	1,876	1,883	1,881	1,922	1,859
September	1,412	1,398	1,423	1,448	1,416	2,048	1,851	1,892	1,987	1,891
October	1,402	1,366	1,402	1,437	1,427	1,919	1,894	1,924	1,933	1,881
November	1,402	1,387	1,412	1,416	1,406	1,404	1,377	1,416	1,412	1,370
December	1,325	1,318	1,385	1,364	1,301	1,044	1,059	1,097	1,087	1,028
Average	1,444	1,412	1,450	1,473	1,448	1,668	1,627	1,665	1,681	1,637
	HIRED WORKERS 3/									
January	126	104	105	115	105	279	215	216	228	207
February	137	115	115	115	115	364	291	324	315	359
March	169	167	157	168	168	418	420	422	434	457
April	190	167	199	189	199	429	398	411	434	435
May	264	219	241	262	262	504	484	486	510	489
June	474	407	471	441	430	772	710	757	771	815
July	548	501	523	608	577	761	796	854	901	935
August	401	386	377	420	430	590	527	508	576	630
September	295	209	241	283	262	461	398	400	434	478
October	253	229	230	241	262	375	355	357	391	446
November	169	167	167	147	157	268	269	259	272	272
December	115	94	126	115	105	204	195	206	228	228
Average	262	230	246	259	256	452	422	433	458	479

Continued --

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed, total, family and hired, United States and geographic regions, annual averages and by months, 1944-48, revised 1/--Cont'd.

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Month	East South Central					West South Central				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
	Thousands					Thousands				
January	1,206	1,146	1,111	1,158	1,119	1,205	1,191	1,198	1,200	1,209
February	1,384	1,303	1,355	1,323	1,313	1,313	1,272	1,332	1,371	1,308
March	1,919	1,735	1,813	1,810	1,791	1,609	1,529	1,555	1,532	1,550
April	2,265	2,215	2,359	2,267	2,306	1,708	1,680	1,779	1,693	1,747
May	2,541	2,391	2,525	2,432	2,345	1,842	1,778	1,922	1,837	1,891
June	2,185	2,185	2,194	2,141	2,024	1,709	1,600	1,707	1,693	1,631
July	1,563	1,528	1,599	1,615	1,527	1,474	1,440	1,511	1,497	1,639
August	1,988	1,941	2,028	1,926	2,082	1,717	1,600	1,725	1,720	1,711
September	3,056	2,744	2,798	2,802	2,753	2,427	2,214	2,289	2,420	2,437
October	2,878	2,774	2,749	2,744	2,793	2,004	1,929	1,922	1,953	1,926
November	1,711	1,627	1,697	1,615	1,615	1,340	1,289	1,269	1,326	1,237
December	1,107	1,083	1,138	1,041	986	969	974	1,022	995	972
Average	1,984	1,889	1,947	1,906	1,888	1,610	1,541	1,603	1,603	1,605
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/									
January	1,038	1,009	975	1,002	973	1,043	1,031	1,055	1,039	1,057
February	1,147	1,107	1,131	1,119	1,099	1,115	1,076	1,135	1,156	1,120
March	1,612	1,441	1,511	1,528	1,489	1,366	1,245	1,278	1,263	1,263
April	1,899	1,921	2,057	1,965	1,965	1,357	1,351	1,421	1,353	1,362
May	2,116	2,009	2,106	2,082	2,014	1,366	1,325	1,439	1,371	1,380
June	1,770	1,793	1,804	1,771	1,625	1,268	1,209	1,269	1,290	1,228
July	1,187	1,156	1,238	1,255	1,177	989	987	1,019	995	1,012
August	1,553	1,490	1,580	1,498	1,547	1,124	1,067	1,144	1,075	1,075
September	2,423	2,274	2,320	2,267	2,228	1,618	1,529	1,627	1,649	1,541
October	2,344	2,313	2,330	2,287	2,277	1,366	1,316	1,359	1,344	1,308
November	1,414	1,372	1,424	1,343	1,343	1,034	996	1,010	1,021	977
December	980	985	1,012	924	879	880	876	914	887	873
Average	1,624	1,572	1,624	1,587	1,551	1,211	1,167	1,223	1,203	1,183
	HIRED WORKERS 3/									
January	168	137	136	156	146	162	160	143	161	152
February	237	196	224	204	214	198	196	197	215	188
March	307	294	302	282	302	243	284	277	269	287
April	366	294	302	302	341	351	329	358	340	385
May	425	382	419	350	331	476	453	483	466	511
June	415	392	390	370	399	441	391	438	403	403
July	376	372	361	360	350	485	453	492	502	627
August	435	451	448	428	535	593	533	581	645	636
September	633	470	478	535	525	809	685	662	771	896
October	534	461	419	457	516	638	613	563	609	618
November	297	255	273	272	272	306	293	259	305	260
December	127	98	126	117	107	89	98	108	108	99
Average	360	317	323	319	337	399	374	380	400	422

Continued --

Farm employment: Persons employed, Total, family and hired, United States and geographic regions, annual averages and by months, 1944-48, revised 1/--Cont'd.

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Month	Mountain					Pacific				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
	Thousands					Thousands				
January	282	254	264	264	258	412	418	404	420	409
February	294	285	292	279	285	414	415	402	429	409
March	360	332	325	334	323	457	454	445	466	472
April	384	367	385	401	384	502	522	527	532	529
May	420	392	388	407	412	647	625	656	681	632
June	472	491	475	484	480	648	642	676	692	658
July	493	438	473	490	512	664	682	690	689	712
August	463	462	436	462	465	724	736	727	713	746
September	426	399	410	452	431	712	693	718	741	804
October	390	385	409	393	395	596	607	567	563	592
November	322	298	303	320	301	477	448	482	489	486
December	276	277	277	285	264	415	396	417	432	398
Average	382	369	370	381	376	555	553	559	571	570
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/									
January	222	212	220	218	214	284	290	279	286	275
February	238	230	235	238	233	281	287	279	286	280
March	302	258	264	264	262	301	301	288	303	289
April	302	293	307	303	292	315	318	316	329	320
May	300	278	281	294	283	352	352	351	352	343
June	306	296	303	307	301	344	335	348	340	335
July	311	311	316	316	320	329	318	322	320	332
August	297	285	279	292	286	324	304	319	315	326
September	282	276	275	288	272	329	321	319	306	332
October	266	254	259	264	249	315	315	302	300	306
November	233	226	227	231	218	295	275	288	295	292
December	215	220	216	220	207	290	271	280	286	269
Average	273	262	265	270	261	313	307	307	310	308
	HIRED WORKERS 3/									
January	60	42	44	46	44	128	128	125	134	134
February	56	55	57	41	52	133	128	123	143	129
March	58	74	61	70	61	156	153	157	163	183
April	82	74	78	98	92	187	204	211	203	209
May	120	114	107	113	129	295	273	305	329	289
June	166	195	172	177	179	304	307	328	352	323
July	182	177	157	174	192	335	364	368	369	380
August	166	177	157	170	179	400	432	408	398	420
September	144	123	135	164	159	383	372	399	435	472
October	124	131	150	129	146	281	292	265	263	286
November	89	72	76	89	83	182	173	194	194	194
December	61	57	61	65	57	125	125	137	146	129
Average	109	107	105	111	115	242	246	252	261	262

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least 1 day before the end of the month.

2/ Includes farm operators doing 1 or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 or more hours during the survey week without cash wages.

3/ Includes all persons doing 1 hour or more of farm work during the survey week for pay.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions, January 1, 1949, with comparisons

Geographic division	January 1, 1948	October 1, 1948	January 1, 1949
		Dollars	
Per month with board and room			
Middle Atlantic	93.00	101.00	100.00
East North Central	93.00	99.00	97.00
West North Central	93.00	107.00	98.00
Mountain	131.00	129.00	121.00
Pacific	141.00	152.00	149.00
Per month with house			
Middle Atlantic	122.00	131.00	131.00
East North Central	117.00	124.00	123.00
West North Central	115.00	130.00	122.00
Mountain	154.00	164.00	158.00
Pacific	183.00	192.00	192.00
Per week with board and room			
New England	26.50	29.50	28.50
Middle Atlantic	25.25	27.00	26.00
Per week without board or room			
New England	35.50	39.25	39.25
Middle Atlantic	34.50	37.25	35.75
Per day with board and room			
East North Central	4.55	5.10	4.90
West North Central	4.75	5.90	5.10
Per day with house			
South Atlantic	3.35	3.40	3.50
East South Central	2.75	3.05	3.00
West South Central	3.70	4.25	3.90
Per day without board or room			
New England	6.50	7.10	6.70
Middle Atlantic	5.90	6.50	6.20
East North Central	5.70	6.30	6.00
West North Central	5.90	7.40	6.40
South Atlantic	4.05	4.05	4.25
East South Central	3.35	3.65	3.65
West South Central	4.35	4.80	4.50
Mountain	6.10	7.10	6.30
Per hour with house			
South Atlantic	.46	--	.47
East South Central	.39	--	.39
West South Central	.48	--	.50
Pacific	.84	.86	.87
Per hour without board or room			
New England	.86	.95	.89
Middle Atlantic	.78	.86	.80
East North Central	.78	.86	.83
West North Central	.79	.91	.85
South Atlantic	.53	.53	.54
East South Central	.48	.50	.49
West South Central	.56	.58	.57
Mountain	.73	.86	.80
Pacific	.92	.94	.95

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States, January 1, 1948 and January 1, 1949 1/

State	Per Month				Per Week			
	With board and room		With house		With board and room		Without board or room	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	Dollars				Dollars			
Maine	-	-	-	-	24.25	26.50	34.00	37.00
New Hampshire	-	-	-	-	25.50	28.00	35.00	38.00
Vermont	-	-	-	-	25.00	27.50	34.50	38.25
Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	28.00	30.00	36.00	41.50
Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	28.50	29.50	37.00	40.00
Connecticut	-	-	-	-	30.00	31.00	38.50	40.00
New York	102.00	105.00	131.00	139.00	27.50	27.75	38.00	38.00
New Jersey	104.00	111.00	140.00	148.00	27.25	29.50	36.25	38.00
Pennsylvania	80.00	90.00	107.00	117.00	22.00	23.25	30.25	32.50
Ohio	83.00	88.00	102.00	112.00	-	-	-	-
Indiana	79.00	90.00	104.00	110.00	-	-	-	-
Illinois	100.00	104.00	122.00	128.00	-	-	-	-
Michigan	98.00	98.00	122.00	128.00	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	97.00	102.00	128.00	136.00	-	-	-	-
Minnesota	93.00	97.00	116.00	121.00	-	-	-	-
Iowa	110.00	114.00	126.00	133.00	-	-	-	-
Missouri	72.00	76.00	89.00	98.00	-	-	-	-
North Dakota	89.00	98.00	125.00	126.00	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	107.00	111.00	137.00	140.00	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	106.00	106.00	132.00	133.00	-	-	-	-
Kansas	98.00	100.00	125.00	127.00	-	-	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kentucky	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Louisiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montana	120.00	125.00	155.00	158.00	-	-	-	-
Idaho	140.00	140.00	174.00	171.00	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	117.00	120.00	155.00	155.00	-	-	-	-
Colorado	114.00	114.00	140.00	151.00	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	90.00	93.00	124.00	121.00	-	-	-	-
Arizona	125.00	130.00	170.00	174.00	-	-	-	-
Utah	130.00	135.00	162.00	165.00	-	-	-	-
Nevada	130.00	130.00	165.00	160.00	-	-	-	-
Washington	153.00	145.00	191.00	185.00	-	-	-	-
Oregon	142.00	140.00	170.00	175.00	-	-	-	-
California	140.00	150.00	184.00	194.00	-	-	-	-

Continued ---

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States January 1, 1948 and January 1, 1949 1/ --Continued.

State	Per Day						Per Hour			
	With board and room		With house		Without board or room		With house		Without board or room	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	Dollars						Dollars			
Maine	-	-	-	-	6.30	6.20	-	-	.86	.85
New Hampshire	-	-	-	-	6.70	6.80	-	-	.87	.88
Vermont	-	-	-	-	6.40	6.70	-	-	.86	.90
Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	6.60	7.00	-	-	.85	.90
Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	6.60	6.80	-	-	.87	.90
Connecticut	-	-	-	-	6.60	6.60	-	-	.90	.90
New York	-	-	-	-	6.30	6.50	-	-	.88	.86
New Jersey	-	-	-	-	6.60	6.80	-	-	.83	.85
Pennsylvania	-	-	-	-	5.30	5.70	-	-	.66	.72
Ohio	4.05	4.70	-	-	5.30	5.60	-	-	.75	.81
Indiana	4.20	4.80	-	-	5.30	5.70	-	-	.77	.82
Illinois	4.80	5.10	-	-	5.90	6.20	-	-	.79	.85
Michigan	4.90	5.00	-	-	6.20	6.20	-	-	.82	.86
Wisconsin	4.70	4.95	-	-	5.80	6.30	-	-	.77	.81
Minnesota	4.70	5.30	-	-	6.10	6.60	-	-	.84	.89
Iowa	5.50	5.90	-	-	6.90	7.20	-	-	.89	.94
Missouri	3.75	3.85	-	-	4.50	4.85	-	-	.60	.64
North Dakota	4.40	4.60	-	-	5.80	6.20	-	-	.83	.86
South Dakota	5.00	5.60	-	-	6.90	7.30	-	-	.89	.96
Nebraska	5.60	5.50	-	-	6.90	7.00	-	-	.88	.92
Kansas	5.10	5.40	-	-	6.30	6.90	-	-	.84	.92
Delaware	-	-	4.80	4.50	5.30	5.50	.60	.63	.67	.70
Maryland	-	-	4.90	4.60	5.40	5.60	.61	.62	.68	.69
Virginia	-	-	3.30	3.70	4.45	4.70	.49	.51	.57	.59
West Virginia	-	-	3.25	3.45	3.75	4.25	.41	.46	.48	.53
North Carolina	-	-	3.65	3.75	4.45	4.50	.45	.46	.53	.54
South Carolina	-	-	2.35	2.75	3.20	3.25	.40	.38	.47	.45
Georgia	-	-	2.80	2.95	3.35	3.60	.42	.40	.50	.48
Florida	-	-	4.10	3.95	4.60	4.45	.52	.51	.56	.57
Kentucky	-	-	2.95	3.30	3.60	4.10	.41	.45	.51	.56
Tennessee	-	-	2.65	2.70	3.30	3.40	.40	.37	.49	.48
Alabama	-	-	2.85	3.00	3.40	3.55	.39	.38	.47	.46
Mississippi	-	-	2.65	3.00	3.25	3.55	.37	.39	.45	.47
Arkansas	-	-	3.00	3.65	3.85	4.15	.44	.44	.51	.51
Louisiana	-	-	3.15	3.15	3.50	3.55	.43	.44	.51	.51
Oklahoma	-	-	4.25	4.55	5.00	5.20	.58	.61	.68	.71
Texas	-	-	4.00	4.15	4.65	4.75	.50	.52	.57	.59
Montana	-	-	-	-	6.10	6.80	-	-	.76	.90
Idaho	-	-	-	-	7.40	7.50	-	-	.93	.92
Wyoming	-	-	-	-	7.00	6.60	-	-	.90	.90
Colorado	-	-	-	-	6.40	6.40	-	-	.74	.80
New Mexico	-	-	-	-	5.20	5.40	-	-	.60	.64
Arizona	-	-	-	-	5.60	6.10	-	-	.67	.74
Utah	-	-	-	-	6.40	6.60	-	-	.85	.90
Nevada	-	-	-	-	6.10	6.60	-	-	.85	.90
Washington	-	-	-	-	8.00	8.30	.94	.98	1.00	1.04
Oregon	-	-	-	-	7.70	7.90	.88	.90	.93	.95
California	-	-	-	-	7.80	8.10	.83	.86	.91	.94

1/ Certain wage rates are not estimated for some States because they are relatively unimportant.

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Text	1
Revisions	2
Technical Statement	4
Farm employment: Persons employed during week of December 19-25, 1948, United States, with comparisons	6
Farm wage rates: Wage rates, indexes and related data, United States, January 1, 1949	6
Farm employment: Persons employed during the week of December 19-25, 1948, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons	7
Farm employment: Persons employed, total, family and hired, United States and geographic regions, annual averages and by months	8-12
Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions, January 1, 1949, with comparisons	13
Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States, January 1, 1948 and January 1, 1949	14-15