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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Washington, D. C.
February 14, 1940

FARM EMPLOYMENT
UP SLIGHTLY

The number of people working on farms increased by approximately 140,000 persons from January 1 to February 1, the Agricultural Marketing Service reported today. This raised the total of family and hired workers to 8,781,000 persons or 73 percent of the 1910-14 average on the first of this month as compared with 74 percent a year earlier. This was the lowest February 1 total for the 15-year period covered by the monthly record.

Normally there is about a 3 percent rise in the number of people employed on farms during the month of January. This year, the increase was somewhat less than usual with subnormal temperatures continuing in the south-east on February 1 and snow hampering outdoor farm activities in the northern half of the country. Some of the truck-crop acreage killed by the freeze during the latter part of January was being replanted in Florida and spring oats seeding had begun in Texas. Elsewhere, on February 1, farm work was limited largely to chores and routine care of livestock.

The number of family workers (including farm operators) employed on February 1 was estimated at 7,088,000 or only 25,000 more than a month earlier. This was considerably less than the usual seasonal increase and about 27,000 under a year ago. Changes in the employment of family labor were small during January of this year with slight declines estimated for the South Atlantic, East Central, and Mountain Divisions and less than the usual seasonal increases occurring elsewhere.

The number of hired hands working on farms on the first of this month was estimated at 1,693,000 persons. This was an increase of 115,000 hired workers over the estimate for January 1, but 106,000 less persons than were working on farms for pay a year ago.

N O T I C E

A pamphlet entitled Reliability and Adequacy of Farm Wage Data has recently been released by the Agricultural Marketing Service. Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained upon request to -

Secretary, Crop Reporting Board,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Farm Employment: February 1, 1940, with comparisons

FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)

	Dec. 1, 1938	Jan. 1, 1939	Feb. 1, 1939	Dec. 1, 1939	Jan. 1, 1940	Feb. 1, 1940
Total -						
Unadjusted.....	79	73	74	77	72	73
Adjusted for seasonality	90	90	88	88	89	87
Family labor -						
Unadjusted.....	80	78	78	79	77	77
Adjusted for seasonality	90	93	90	89	92	89
Hired labor -						
Unadjusted.....	73	56	62	73	55	59
Adjusted for seasonality	87	80	86	87	79	82

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons)

United States	9,482	8,767	8,914	9,320	8,641	8,781
New England.....	243	228	234	234	227	234
Middle Atlantic.....	568	546	563	571	532	546
East North Central.....	1,408	1,335	1,345	1,413	1,329	1,330
West North Central.....	1,602	1,439	1,455	1,587	1,427	1,476
South Atlantic.....	1,711	1,596	1,641	1,699	1,569	1,587
East South Central.....	1,486	1,404	1,364	1,411	1,361	1,367
West South Central.....	1,609	1,403	1,476	1,538	1,377	1,412
Mountain.....	398	359	379	395	372	371
Pacific.....	457	457	457	466	447	458

FAMILY WORKERS (Thousands of persons)

United States.....	7,366	7,138	7,115	7,216	7,063	7,088
New England.....	159	159	159	162	162	163
Middle Atlantic.....	399	399	399	399	399	400
East North Central.....	1,117	1,106	1,102	1,110	1,106	1,102
West North Central.....	1,272	1,224	1,226	1,256	1,208	1,246
South Atlantic.....	1,313	1,272	1,272	1,285	1,245	1,243
East South Central.....	1,267	1,233	1,187	1,213	1,213	1,204
West South Central.....	1,260	1,169	1,189	1,211	1,150	1,152
Mountain.....	278	275	280	279	279	277
Pacific.....	301	301	301	301	301	301

HIRED WORKERS (Thousands of persons)

United States.....	2,116	1,629	1,799	2,104	1,578	1,693
New England.....	84	69	75	72	65	71
Middle Atlantic.....	163	147	164	172	133	146
East North Central.....	291	223	243	309	223	228
West North Central.....	330	215	229	331	219	230
South Atlantic.....	398	324	369	414	324	344
East South Central.....	219	171	177	198	148	163
West South Central.....	349	234	287	327	227	260
Mountain	120	84	99	116	93	94
Pacific.....	156	156	156	165	146	157

Based on reports from 24,679 farmers.