

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service

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FARM EMPLOYMENT AT  
RECORD DECEMBER LOW

Employment on farms in the United States during November declined less than usual for the month, the Agricultural Marketing Service reported today. Total employment of both family and hired workers, however, on December 1 was estimated to be the smallest figures of record for that date - 9,320,000 persons. The number of persons employed decreased by 1,442,000 from November 1 to December 1, and on the latter date was 162,000 below a year earlier.

Farm operators and unpaid family workers accounted for 7,216,000 of the total employment; 2,104,000 workers were hired. The numbers of both family and hired workers showed smaller than seasonal declines during November. Both groups were below the December 1 figures for a year earlier, while the number of family workers was the smallest of record for December.

Greater than average declines in employment during November were recorded in the Mountain and Pacific States, but the decline in other sections was less than normal. Continued deficiency of moisture over most of the country was unfavorable for fall plowing and seeding operations. Unusually warm weather in most sections, however, permitted a greater volume of other outside farm work than is normal for the time of year.

Farm employment, December 1, 1936, with comparisons

| Geographic division     | Oct. 1, 1938  | Nov. 1, 1938  | Dec. 1, 1938  | Oct. 1, 1939  | Nov. 1, 1939  | Dec. 1, 1939  |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                         | 1,000 persons | 1,000 persons | 1,000 persons | 1,000 persons | 1,000 persons | 1,000 persons |
| <u>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</u> |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| United States.....      | 12,054        | 11,166        | 9,482         | 11,886        | 10,762        | 9,300         |
| New England.....        | 268           | 255           | 247           | 265           | 248           | 254           |
| Middle Atlantic....     | 633           | 597           | 568           | 625           | 611           | 571           |
| East North Central:     | 1,551         | 1,518         | 1,408         | 1,516         | 1,498         | 1,418         |
| West North Central:     | 1,741         | 1,721         | 1,602         | 1,745         | 1,722         | 1,585         |
| South Atlantic.....     | 2,380         | 2,144         | 1,711         | 2,353         | 2,090         | 1,629         |
| East South Central:     | 2,176         | 1,842         | 1,486         | 2,124         | 1,730         | 1,411         |
| West South Central:     | 2,177         | 2,078         | 1,609         | 2,191         | 1,878         | 1,507         |
| Mountain.....           | 506           | 475           | 398           | 493           | 467           | 375           |
| Pacific.....            | 622           | 536           | 457           | 574           | 518           | 448           |
| <u>FAMILY WORKERS</u>   |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| United States.....      | 8,896         | 8,433         | 7,366         | 8,864         | 8,123         | 7,214         |
| New England.....        | 166           | 160           | 152           | 166           | 163           | 163           |
| Middle Atlantic....     | 401           | 401           | 399           | 403           | 410           | 395           |
| East North Central:     | 1,139         | 1,139         | 1,117         | 1,122         | 1,123         | 1,110         |
| West North Central:     | 1,329         | 1,316         | 1,272         | 1,305         | 1,285         | 1,235         |
| South Atlantic.....     | 1,784         | 1,626         | 1,313         | 1,767         | 1,525         | 1,285         |
| East South Central:     | 1,857         | 1,579         | 1,267         | 1,839         | 1,495         | 1,215         |
| West South Central:     | 1,616         | 1,620         | 1,260         | 1,653         | 1,470         | 1,211         |
| Mountain.....           | 286           | 273           | 278           | 284           | 284           | 270           |
| Pacific.....            | 318           | 313           | 301           | 319           | 308           | 301           |
| <u>HIRED WORKERS</u>    |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| United States.....      | 3,158         | 2,733         | 2,116         | 3,022         | 2,639         | 2,104         |
| New England.....        | 102           | 95            | 84            | 99            | 85            | 78            |
| Middle Atlantic....     | 232           | 196           | 169           | 232           | 201           | 172           |
| East North Central:     | 412           | 379           | 291           | 386           | 375           | 305           |
| West North Central:     | 412           | 405           | 330           | 440           | 437           | 371           |
| South Atlantic.....     | 596           | 518           | 398           | 586           | 505           | 414           |
| East South Central:     | 313           | 263           | 219           | 285           | 235           | 198           |
| West South Central:     | 561           | 458           | 349           | 538           | 408           | 327           |
| Mountain.....           | 220           | 196           | 120           | 205           | 183           | 116           |
| Pacific.....            | 304           | 223           | 156           | 255           | 210           | 166           |

Based on reports from 22,706 correspondents.

# LENGTH OF FARM WORKDAY

September 1 and December 1, 1933, by Geographic Divisions

| Division                | Length of workday |        |            |        |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|------------|--------|
|                         | Operator          |        | Hired help |        |
|                         | Sept. 1           | Dec. 1 | Sept. 1    | Dec. 1 |
|                         | 1932              | 1932   | 1932       | 1932   |
|                         | Hours             | Hours  | Hours      | Hours  |
| New England.....        | 12.0              | 11.5   | 9.9        | 9.9    |
| Middle Atlantic.....    | 12.3              | 11.1   | 10.2       | 9.8    |
| East North Central..... | 12.1              | 11.0   | 10.5       | 10.0   |
| West North Central..... | 12.3              | 10.5   | 10.3       | 9.7    |
| South Atlantic.....     | 11.3              | 10.0   | 9.8        | 9.0    |
| East South Central..... | 11.0              | 9.8    | 10.0       | 8.9    |
| West South Central..... | 11.4              | 9.9    | 10.0       | 9.0    |
| Mountain.....           | 11.9              | 10.1   | 9.9        | 9.0    |
| Pacific.....            | 11.2              | 10.0   | 9.4        | 8.5    |
| United States           | 11.7              | 10.3   | 10.1       | 9.3    |

December 1, 1933, by States

| State      | Length of workday |       | State      | Length of workday |       |
|------------|-------------------|-------|------------|-------------------|-------|
|            | Operator          | Hired |            | Operator          | Hired |
|            | Hours             | Hours |            | Hours             | Hours |
| Maine..... | 12.0              | 9.5   | W. Va..... | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| N.H. ....  | 11.0              | 9.3   | N.C.....   | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Vt.....    | 12.0              | 10.7  | S.C.....   | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Mass.....  | 11.0              | 9.9   | Ca.....    | 9.2               | 9.3   |
| R.I.....   | 11.0              | 10.0  | Fla.....   | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Conn.....  | 11.0              | 10.0  | Ky.....    | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| N.Y.....   | 11.0              | 10.0  | Tenn.....  | 9.8               | 8.3   |
| N.J.....   | 11.0              | 9.8   | Ala.....   | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Pa.....    | 11.3              | 9.7   | Miss.....  | 9.3               | 9.8   |
| Ohio.....  | 11.3              | 9.5   | Ark.....   | 9.6               | 8.3   |
| Ind.....   | 10.5              | 9.2   | La.....    | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Ill.....   | 10.0              | 10.0  | Okla.....  | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Mich.....  | 11.3              | 10.1  | Tex.....   | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Wis.....   | 11.8              | 10.2  | Mont.....  | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Minn.....  | 11.0              | 10.0  | Idaho..... | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Iowa.....  | 11.0              | 10.0  | Wyo.....   | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Mo.....    | 10.7              | 9.1   | Colo.....  | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| N.D.....   | 10.1              | 9.7   | N.Mex..... | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| S.D.....   | 10.0              | 10.0  | Ariz.....  | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Nebr.....  | 10.0              | 10.0  | Utah.....  | 10.6              | 8.6   |
| Kans.....  | 10.0              | 9.0   | Nev.....   | 10.4              | 8.6   |
| Del.....   | 10.6              | 9.2   | Wash.....  | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Md.....    | 11.0              | 9.5   | Oreg.....  | 10.0              | 9.0   |
| Va.....    | 10.0              | 9.0   | Calif..... | 9.9               | 8.9   |

### Farm Workday Shorter

The seasonal decline in farm operations resulted in shortening the farm workday by about one hour from September 1 to December 1, the Agricultural Marketing Service reported. Long hours were still the rule on December 1, however. On that date farm operators worked 10.3 hours per day, or 1.4 hours less than in September. During the same period the workday for hired workers declined 0.8 hour, and on December 1 was 9.3 hours long.

In general, the geographic differences in the length of the farm workday in December were about the same as in September. Farm operators in northern and eastern dairy sections worked longer hours than those in Southern and Western States. The range was from 12.0 hours in Maine and Vermont to 9.3 in Mississippi. The number of hours worked by the farm operator decreased most in the West North Central and Mountain States where a drop of 1.8 hours was noted. In New England the average decrease was only 0.5 hour. New England farmers, working 11.5 hours, averaged the longest workday in the country on December 1, while farmers in the East South Central States worked 9.8 hours on that date.

Hired workers also worked longer hours in the North and East than in other sections. The longest workday was recorded in Vermont where hired hands in December put in 10.7 hours. In Utah and Nevada, 8.6 hours were reported. By regions, the workday for hired hands averaged the longest at 10.0 hours in the East North Central States, and was the shortest at 8.9 hours in the East South Central and Pacific States.