

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

Release:
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FARM LABOR REPORT

Washington, D. C. -----

March 14, 1941 -----

FARM EMPLOYMENT UP LESS
THAN USUAL IN FEBRUARY

The number of persons working on United States farms increased only slightly during February and totaled 8,968,000 on March 1, the Agricultural Marketing Service reported today. The March 1 estimate was 74 percent of the 1910-14 average and about 1 percent smaller than a year ago.

Farm employment during February ordinarily increases about 4 percent, but cold weather east of the Rockies and heavy to excessive precipitation in the Far West retarded spring work around March 1 this year and farm employment was up only 186,000 or 2 percent over a month earlier. Spring oats were being seeded in some localities in southern Kansas on the first of this month, but plantings were delayed in most of the Southern Plains area because of wet soil. Corn and cotton plantings were late in Florida, and preparations for planting spring crops were retarded in all Gulf States. Heavy rainfall in Arizona has necessitated the use of considerable hand labor for weeding lettuce and carrot fields. The 1940 cotton crop is still being picked in that State.

The number of family workers (including farm operators) employed on March 1 was estimated to be 78 percent of the 1910-14 average or 7,111,000 persons. The employment of family labor was up seasonally over a month earlier but, as on February 1, down slightly from a year ago.

Approximately 1,857,000 hired workers were employed on March 1, an increase of only 64,000 hands for the February 1 estimate. This rise was only about one-third of the usual seasonal upturn. There were small increases in the number of hired workers in all States except the North Atlantic group; in this area contraseasonal declines were recorded.

United States farm employment indexes, March 1, 1941, with comparisons
(1910-14 = 100)

	Jan.1, 1940	Feb.1, 1940	Mar.1, 1940	Jan.1, 1941	Feb.1, 1941	Mar.1, 1941
Total farm employment:						
Unadjusted.....	72	73	75	71	73	74
Adjusted for seasonality..	89	87	85	88	87	84
Family labor:						
Unadjusted.....	77	77	79	76	76	79
Adjusted for season- ality.....	92	89	98	90	87	87
Hired labor:						
Unadjusted.....	55	59	64	57	62	64
Adjusted for season- ality.....	79	82	80	81	86	80

Persons employed in the United States, February 1941, with comparisons

	Dec. 1939	Jan. 1940	Feb. 1940	Dec. 1940	Jan. 1941	Feb. 1941
	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's
Farm employment <u>1</u> /.....	8,980	8,712	8,927	8,967	8,698	8,875
Family workers.....	7,140	7,076	7,159	7,089	6,977	7,050
Hired workers.....	1,840	1,636	1,768	1,878	1,721	1,825
Nonagricultural employment <u>2</u> /..	35,641	34,475	34,381	37,299	36,343	---
Total employment.....	44,621	43,187	43,308	46,266	45,041	---

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

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, and military and naval forces.

Farm employment, United States and geographic divisions,
March 1, 1941, with comparisons

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Geographic division	Jan.1, 1940	Feb.1, 1940	Mar.1, 1940	Jan.1, 1941	Feb.1, 1941	Mar.1, 1941
	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's
United States.....	8,641	8,781	9,073	8,614	8,782	8,968
New England.....	227	234	233	228	240	242
Middle Atlantic.....	532	546	556	542	559	546
East North Central....	1,329	1,330	1,350	1,325	1,328	1,379
West North Central....	1,427	1,476	1,482	1,431	1,453	1,490
South Atlantic.....	1,569	1,587	1,717	1,562	1,590	1,675
East South Central....	1,761	1,767	1,422	1,305	1,352	1,375
West South Central....	1,777	1,412	1,474	1,426	1,442	1,460
Mountain.....	372	371	379	367	374	382
Pacific.....	447	458	460	428	444	459

FAMILY WORKERS 1/

United States.....	7,063	7,088	7,230	6,965	6,989	7,111
New England.....	162	163	164	162	162	165
Middle Atlantic... ..	399	400	404	400	400	400
East North Central....	1,106	1,102	1,105	1,102	1,096	1,104
West North Central....	1,208	1,246	1,234	1,190	1,190	1,224
South Atlantic.....	1,245	1,243	1,309	1,224	1,224	1,291
East South Central....	1,213	1,204	1,248	1,162	1,185	1,186
West South Central....	1,150	1,152	1,187	1,147	1,152	1,163
Mountain.....	279	277	278	277	279	277
Pacific.....	301	301	301	301	301	301

HIRED WORKERS

United States.....	1,578	1,693	1,843	1,649	1,793	1,857
New England.....	65	71	39	66	78	77
Middle Atlantic.....	133	146	152	142	159	146
East North Central....	223	228	245	223	232	235
West North Central....	219	230	248	241	263	266
South Atlantic.....	324	344	408	338	366	384
East South Central....	148	163	174	143	167	189
West South Central....	227	260	287	279	290	297
Mountain.....	93	94	101	90	95	105
Pacific.....	146	157	159	127	143	158

1/ Including farm operators.

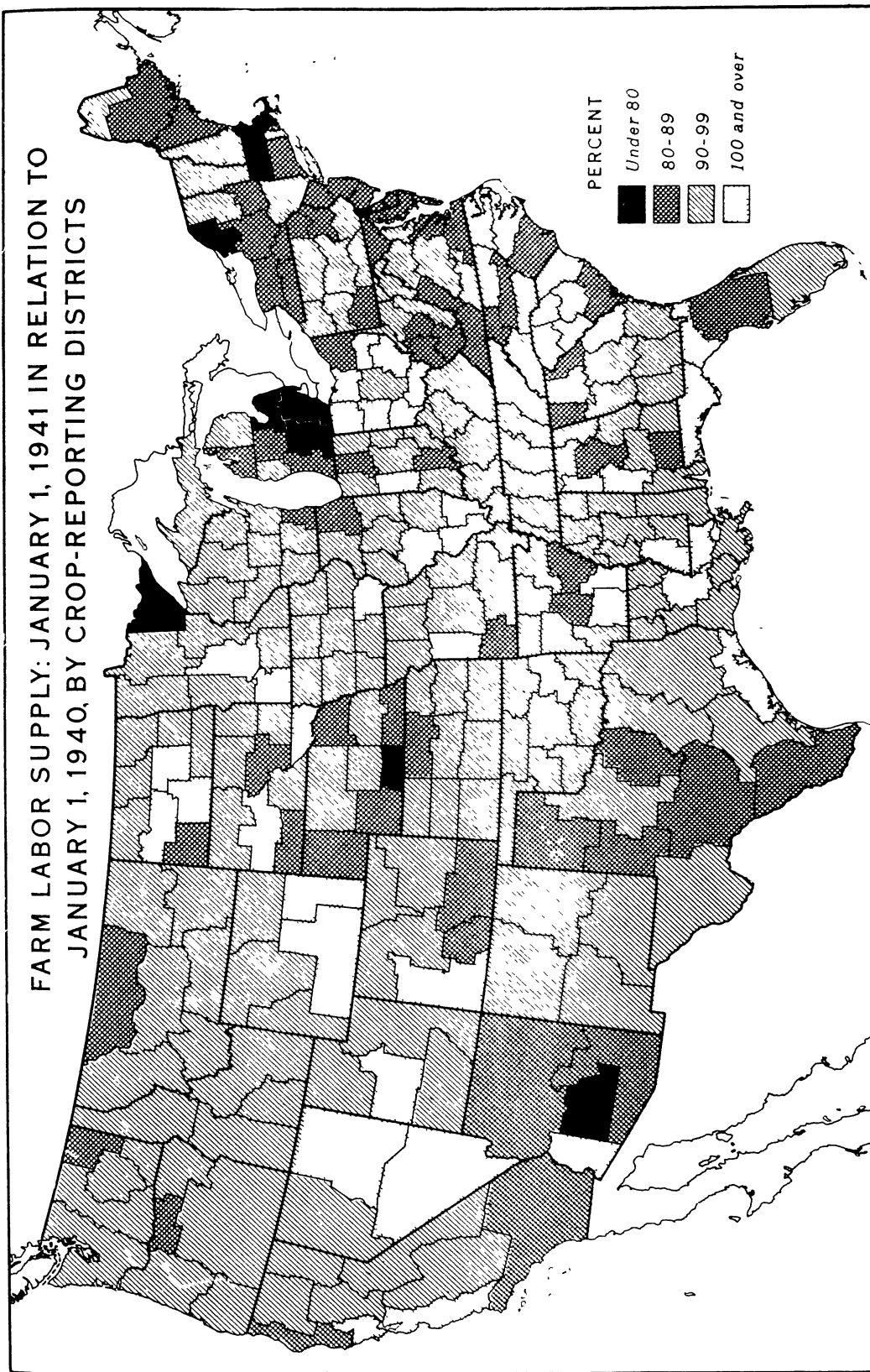
Based on reports from 25,278 farmers.

Farm Labor Supply - January 1, 1941 in Relation to January 1, 1940
by Crop Reporting Districts

(January 1, 1940 = 100)

	Crop-Reporting Districts																		State
State	1	1N	1S	2	2A	3	4	4A	5	5A	6	6A	7	8	9	9A	10		
	Percent																		
Maine	92	-	-	89	-	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
N.H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	
Vt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	
Mass.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	
R.I.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	
Conn.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	
N.Y.	-	-	-	76	-	96	89	-	85	-	88	-	83	89	93	96	-	-	
N.J.	-	-	-	82	-	-	-	-	84	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	
Pa.	93	-	-	92	-	85	93	-	92	-	88	-	88	91	96	-	-	-	
Ohio	100	-	-	103	-	89	100	-	98	-	100	-	104	106	113	-	-	-	
Ind.	92	-	-	88	-	93	100	-	92	-	93	-	94	89	99	-	-	-	
Ill.	93	-	-	-	-	89	94	100	92	-	96	95	105	-	103	-	-	-	
Mich.	92	-	-	89	-	94	92	-	88	-	79	-	88	79	75	-	-	-	
Wis.	93	-	-	92	-	90	95	-	91	-	92	-	93	90	87	-	-	-	
Minn.	97	-	-	95	-	77	95	-	100	-	96	-	101	94	91	-	-	-	
Iowa	98	-	-	94	-	97	99	-	96	-	93	-	98	97	100	-	-	-	
Mo.	91	-	-	96	-	94	102	-	90	-	94	-	84	99	98	-	-	-	
N.Dak.	92	-	-	95	-	93	105	-	100	-	94	-	85	103	95	-	-	-	
S.Dak.	94	-	-	92	-	94	102	-	88	-	97	-	83	96	100	-	-	-	
Nebr.	83	-	-	96	-	87	-	-	95	-	90	-	88	76	85	-	-	-	
Kans.	90	-	-	87	-	94	98	-	91	-	92	-	99	91	94	-	-	-	
Del.	-	-	-	73	-	-	-	-	88	-	-	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	
Md.	91	-	-	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	82	-	-	-	
Va.	-	-	-	97	-	-	89	-	94	-	81	-	86	91	85	-	-	-	
W.Va.	98	-	-	97	-	98	89	-	86	-	92	-	-	86	-	-	-	-	
N.C.	89	-	-	92	-	95	91	-	85	-	94	-	-	91	85	-	-	-	
S.C.	98	-	-	96	-	98	96	-	93	-	-	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	
Ga.	86	-	-	90	-	87	93	-	90	-	100	-	98	90	91	-	-	-	
Fla.	109	-	-	-	-	103	-	-	82	-	-	-	-	97	-	-	-	-	
Ky.	93	-	-	98	-	96	95	-	98	-	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tenn.	92	-	-	95	-	97	92	-	93	-	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ala.	102	-	-	95	82	91	104	-	94	-	90	-	90	86	94	-	-	-	
Miss.	95	-	-	92	-	99	100	-	98	-	99	-	108	102	96	-	-	-	
Ark.	96	-	-	98	-	97	91	-	87	-	87	-	99	103	101	-	-	-	
La.	91	-	-	99	-	99	90	-	100	-	107	-	96	96	98	-	-	-	
Okla.	94	-	-	91	-	95	90	-	91	-	101	-	94	92	97	-	-	-	
Tex.	-	86	84	90	-	82	91	-	94	-	98	-	84	94	101	-	89	-	
Mont.	96	-	-	88	-	99	-	-	96	-	-	-	90	93	93	-	-	-	
Idaho	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97	97	94	-	-	-	
Wyo.	92	-	-	91	-	98	107	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Colo.	99	-	-	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	-	103	89	86	-	-	-	
N.Mex.	90	-	-	-	-	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	-	78	-	-	-	
Ariz.	-	-	-	88	-	-	-	-	73	-	-	-	101	-	86	-	-	-	
Utah	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	99	-	96	-	-	-	-	-	
Nev.	93	-	-	-	-	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	
Wash.	90	-	-	90	-	88	-	-	91	-	-	-	-	-	95	-	-	-	
Oreg.	91	-	-	89	-	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	91	-	-	-	-	
Calif.	83	-	-	98	-	98	102	-	92	92	96	-	-	88	-	-	-	-	

FARM LABOR SUPPLY: JANUARY 1, 1941 IN RELATION TO JANUARY 1, 1940, BY CROP-REPORTING DISTRICTS



U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

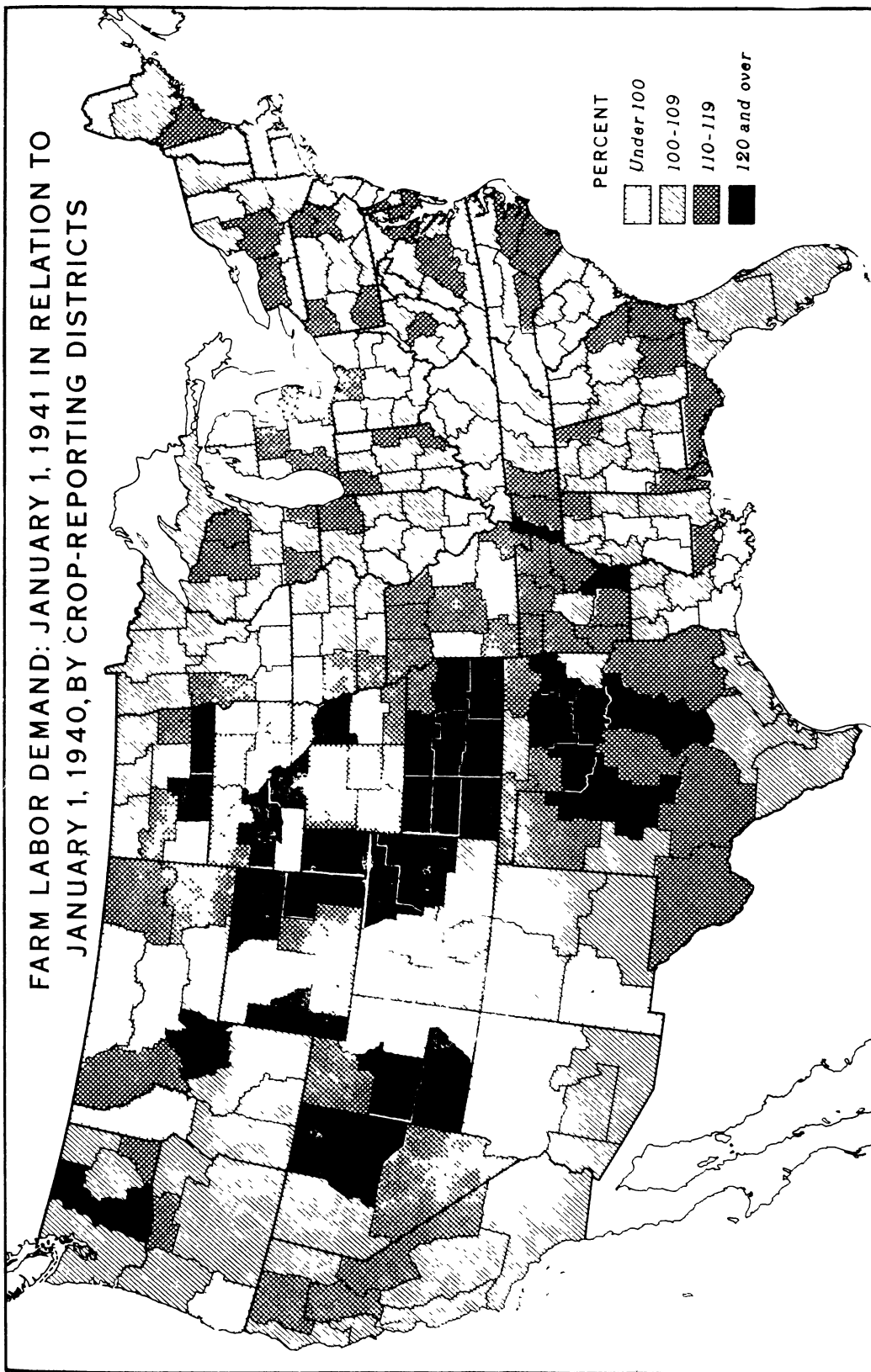
NEG 384 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

BASED ON REPORTS FROM ABOUT 22,000 CROP CORRESPONDENTS, THE SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR WAS INDICATED TO BE LESS THAN A YEAR AGO IN ALL EXCEPT A FEW SCATTERED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE SUPPLY OF WORKERS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE WAS LOWER IN THE NEW ENGLAND AND MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES THAN ELSEWHERE, AVERAGING 86 AND 88 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE FARM LABOR SUPPLY IN THOSE AREAS A YEAR AGO.

Farm Labor Demand - January 1, 1941, in relation to January 1, 1940
by Crop-Reporting Districts
(January 1, 1940 = 100)

State	Crop-reporting district																			State
	1	1N	1S	2	2A	3	4	4A	5	5A	6	6A	7	8	9	9A	10			
	Percent																			
Me.	98	-	-	104	-	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N.H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105
Vt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107
Mass.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101
R.I.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103
Conn.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101
N.Y.	-	-	-	109	-	97	111	-	111	-	103	-	104	107	107	117	-	-	-	-
N.J.	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	106	-	-	-	-	99	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pa.	112	-	-	102	-	112	106	-	104	-	112	-	111	108	105	-	-	-	-	-
Ohio	105	-	-	114	-	105	104	-	100	-	105	-	107	101	109	-	-	-	-	-
Ind.	110	-	-	106	-	106	104	-	103	-	111	-	102	102	113	-	-	-	-	-
Ill.	104	-	-	-	-	110	102	101	100	-	105	104	106	-	99	-	-	-	-	-
Mich.	109	-	-	102	-	98	99	-	112	-	106	-	114	103	112	-	-	-	-	-
Wis.	103	-	-	112	-	110	106	-	103	-	107	-	111	109	112	-	-	-	-	-
Minn.	105	-	-	100	-	108	113	-	107	-	106	-	109	107	99	-	-	-	-	-
Iowa	106	-	-	106	-	109	114	-	104	-	107	-	110	107	103	-	-	-	-	-
Mo.	117	-	-	110	-	110	109	-	110	-	104	-	115	107	111	-	-	-	-	-
N.Dak.	108	-	-	100	-	105	118	-	104	-	115	-	101	137	124	-	-	-	-	-
S.Dak.	118	-	-	110	-	96	122	-	105	-	117	-	96	124	118	-	-	-	-	-
Nebr.	127	-	-	115	-	123	-	-	111	-	108	-	119	108	116	-	-	-	-	-
Kans.	135	-	-	130	-	119	170	-	129	-	126	-	159	120	126	-	-	-	-	-
Del.	-	-	-	111	-	-	-	-	114	-	-	-	-	102	-	-	-	-	-	-
Md.	108	-	-	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	113	118	-	-	-	-	-
Va.	-	-	-	109	-	-	108	-	110	-	105	-	104	107	108	-	-	-	-	-
W.Va.	100	-	-	102	-	107	101	-	113	-	101	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
N.C.	105	-	-	98	-	100	98	-	101	-	115	-	-	110	112	-	-	-	-	-
S.C.	101	-	-	100	-	100	92	-	101	-	-	-	-	99	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ga.	102	-	-	102	-	101	107	-	101	-	112	-	107	111	118	-	-	-	-	-
Fla.	112	-	-	-	-	105	-	-	103	-	-	-	-	106	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ky.	102	-	-	105	-	109	103	-	107	-	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tenn.	125	-	-	115	-	114	108	-	104	-	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ala.	109	-	-	108	106	117	95	-	102	-	102	-	114	95	101	-	-	-	-	-
Miss.	105	-	-	101	-	116	103	-	99	-	104	-	99	94	104	-	-	-	-	-
Ark.	114	-	-	113	-	111	111	-	109	-	118	-	117	118	122	-	-	-	-	-
La.	101	-	-	108	-	100	90	-	101	-	118	-	78	80	76	-	-	-	-	-
Okla.	115	-	-	108	-	110	118	-	127	-	137	-	137	126	108	-	-	-	-	-
Tex.	-	112	104	133	-	113	123	-	111	-	114	-	118	107	104	-	101	-	-	-
Mont.	114	-	-	95	-	111	-	-	96	-	-	-	122	109	119	-	-	-	-	-
Idaho	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	100	105	-	-	-	-	-
Wyo.	104	-	-	120	-	120	117	-	129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colo.	102	-	-	121	-	-	-	-	-	-	129	-	118	110	104	-	-	-	-	-
N.Mex.	105	-	-	-	-	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	-	107	-	-	-	-	-
Ariz.	-	-	-	62	-	-	-	-	109	-	-	-	108	-	107	-	-	-	-	-
Utah	113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	129	-	100	-	126	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nev.	104	-	-	-	-	136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wash.	109	-	-	124	-	104	-	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	111	-	-	-	-	-
Oreg.	105	-	-	118	-	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	102	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calif.	101	-	-	119	-	102	106	-	111	103	113	-	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	-

FARM LABOR DEMAND: JANUARY 1, 1941 IN RELATION TO JANUARY 1, 1940, BY CROP-REPORTING DISTRICTS



U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

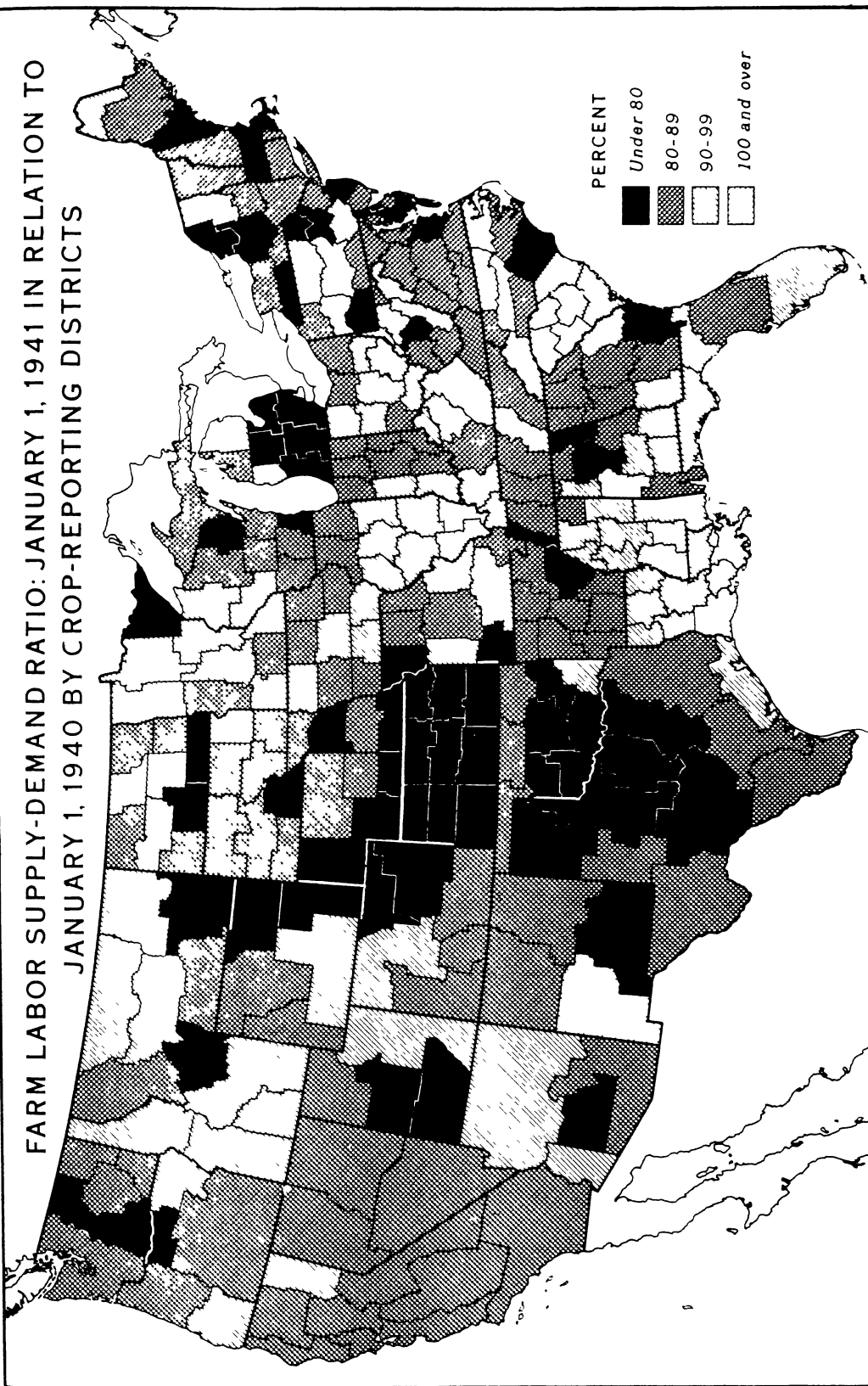
NEG 385 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

IN CONTRAST TO THE SMALLER SUPPLY OF WORKERS, THE DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR ON JANUARY 1, 1941, WAS GREATER THAN A YEAR EARLIER. COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, THE INCREASES IN THE DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR RANGED FROM 4 PERCENT IN THE NEW ENGLAND STATES TO 12 PERCENT IN THE WEST SOUTH CENTRAL STATES. DEMAND AVERAGED LESS THAN A YEAR AGO IN ONLY A FEW CROP-REPORTING DISTRICTS.

Farm Labor Supply and Demand Ratio:
January 1, 1941, in relation to January 1, 1940
by Crop-Reporting Districts
(January 1, 1940 = 100)

State	1	1N	1S	2	2A	3	4	4A	5	5A	6	6A	7	8	9	9A	10	State
	Crop-reporting district																	
	Percent																	
Me.	94	-	-	86	-	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N.H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
Vt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
Mass.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
R.I.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
Conn.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
N. Y.	-	-	-	70	-	99	80	-	77	-	85	-	79	83	86	82	-	-
N. J.	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	79	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	-	-
Pa.	83	-	-	80	-	77	81	-	90	-	78	-	79	84	92	-	-	-
Ohio	90	-	-	82	-	85	90	-	-	-	90	-	88	97	91	-	-	-
Ind.	84	-	-	82	-	87	97	-	80	-	83	-	92	87	87	-	-	-
Ill.	89	-	-	-	-	82	91	99	91	-	91	91	99	-	105	-	-	-
Mich.	85	-	-	87	-	95	95	-	-	-	75	-	78	77	65	-	-	-
Wis.	90	-	-	81	-	77	90	-	88	-	86	-	84	83	77	-	-	-
Minn.	92	-	-	84	-	73	84	-	93	-	91	-	93	89	92	-	-	-
Iowa	92	-	-	89	-	83	87	-	81	-	87	-	89	91	97	-	-	-
Mo.	79	-	-	87	-	86	94	-	82	-	90	-	73	72	89	-	-	-
N. Dak.	85	-	-	95	-	88	90	-	96	-	81	-	83	76	76	-	-	-
S. Dak.	80	-	-	84	-	97	84	-	84	-	83	-	87	78	84	-	-	-
Nebr.	69	-	-	84	-	70	-	-	85	-	83	-	74	70	74	-	-	-
Kans.	66	-	-	67	-	79	58	-	70	-	72	-	62	76	73	-	-	-
Del.	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-	77	-	-	-	-	88	-	-	-	-
Md.	84	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	69	-	-	-
Va.	-	-	-	89	-	-	82	-	86	-	76	-	82	85	84	-	-	-
W. Va.	98	-	-	94	-	91	88	-	76	-	92	-	-	87	-	-	-	-
N. C.	87	-	-	98	-	90	91	-	92	-	82	-	-	37	77	-	-	-
S. C.	97	-	-	97	-	98	105	-	92	-	-	-	-	91	-	-	-	-
Ga.	84	-	-	88	-	86	87	-	89	-	90	-	91	81	77	-	-	-
Fla.	97	-	-	-	-	98	-	-	86	-	-	-	-	91	-	-	-	-
Ky.	91	-	-	94	-	88	92	-	92	-	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tenn.	73	-	-	82	-	85	85	-	91	-	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ala.	94	-	-	39	77	73	109	-	92	-	88	-	80	91	93	-	-	-
Miss.	90	-	-	90	-	84	97	-	97	-	95	-	101	102	93	-	-	-
Ark.	84	-	-	86	-	83	81	-	80	-	74	-	84	87	83	-	-	-
La.	90	-	-	92	-	98	101	-	98	-	91	-	122	120	129	-	-	-
Okla.	81	-	-	84	-	86	76	-	71	-	74	-	68	73	90	-	-	-
Tex.	-	77	81	67	-	73	74	-	84	-	86	-	71	87	97	-	88	-
Mont.	84	-	-	95	-	90	-	-	99	-	-	-	74	85	79	-	-	-
Idaho	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	97	90	-	-	-
Wyo.	88	-	-	77	-	82	92	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colo.	96	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	87	80	83	-	-	-
N. Mex.	86	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	102	-	73	-	-	-
Ariz.	-	-	-	99	-	-	-	-	67	-	-	-	94	-	80	-	-	-
Utah	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	99	-	76	-	-	-	-	-
Nev.	89	-	-	-	-	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	-	-	-	-
Wash.	83	-	-	72	-	85	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	-	86	-	-	-
Oreg.	86	-	-	76	-	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	89	-	-	-	-
Calif.	82	-	-	82	-	96	86	-	83	89	85	-	-	85	-	-	-	-

FARM LABOR SUPPLY-DEMAND RATIO: JANUARY 1, 1941 IN RELATION TO JANUARY 1, 1940 BY CROP-REPORTING DISTRICTS



U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

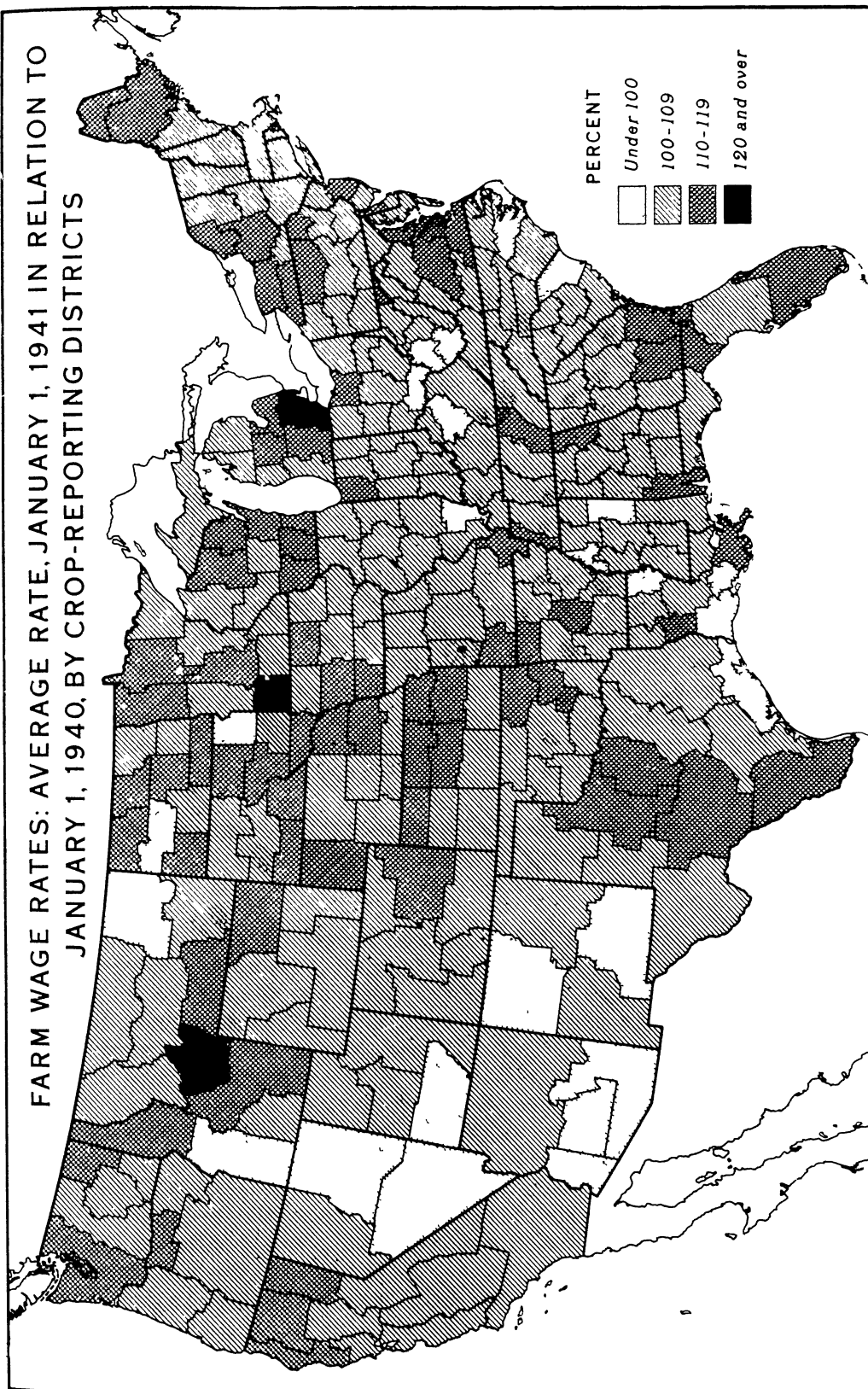
NEG 386 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AS A RESULT OF THE SMALLER SUPPLY OF LABOR AND THE GREATER DEMAND FOR FARM WORKERS, THE SUPPLY-DEMAND RATIO ON JANUARY 1, 1941, AVERAGED ABOUT 14 PERCENT LOWER THAN A YEAR AGO. THIS DECREASE WAS DUE LARGELY TO WIDESPREAD EMPLOYMENT IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AND ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Farm wage rates: Average rate January 1, 1941, in relation to January 1, 1940,
by crop reporting districts
(January 1, 1940 = 100)

State	1	1-N	1-S	2	2-A	3	4	4-A	5	5-A	6	6-A	7	8	9	9-A	10	State
	Percent																	
Me.	114	-	-	114	-	103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
N.H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102
Vt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108
Mass.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108
R.I.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
Conn.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106
N.Y.	-	-	-	114	-	107	110	-	111	-	106	-	113	102	106	102	-	-
N.J.	-	-	-	103	-	-	-	-	110	-	-	-	-	109	-	-	-	-
Pa.	103	-	-	112	-	110	107	-	100	-	104	-	107	107	107	-	-	-
Ohio	107	-	-	111	-	107	105	-	102	-	109	-	105	99	108	-	-	-
Ind.	110	-	-	107	-	102	101	-	105	-	102	-	105	103	104	-	-	-
Ill.	107	-	-	-	-	108	104	107	105	-	109	107	101	-	98	-	-	-
Mich.	103	-	-	103	-	104	103	-	113	-	113	-	109	111	121	-	-	-
Wis.	107	-	-	114	-	111	107	-	105	-	111	-	111	116	114	-	-	-
Minn.	116	-	-	110	-	100	109	-	112	-	102	-	122	103	100	-	-	-
Iowa	108	-	-	114	-	105	111	-	104	-	104	-	115	104	107	-	-	-
Mo.	107	-	-	107	-	104	109	-	104	-	107	-	110	100	111	-	-	-
N.Dak.	111	-	-	116	-	106	89	-	115	-	103	-	110	103	112	-	-	-
S.Dak.	107	-	-	110	-	99	109	-	110	-	107	-	118	118	115	-	-	-
Nebr.	114	-	-	105	-	114	-	-	102	-	115	-	103	106	101	-	-	-
Kans.	113	-	-	119	-	119	100	-	117	-	119	-	105	105	108	-	-	-
Del.	-	-	-	112	-	-	-	-	118	-	-	-	-	103	-	-	-	-
Md.	119	-	-	107	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110	107	-	-	-
Va.	-	-	-	106	-	-	106	-	112	-	113	-	109	100	111	-	-	-
W.Va.	101	-	-	105	-	109	98	-	102	-	100	-	-	107	-	-	-	-
N.C.	108	-	-	104	-	103	101	-	107	-	96	-	-	109	109	-	-	-
S.C.	101	-	-	105	-	99	101	-	101	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-
Ga.	103	-	-	103	-	109	108	-	106	-	105	-	104	112	117	-	-	-
Fla.	108	-	-	-	-	117	-	-	104	-	-	-	-	119	-	-	-	-
Ky.	107	-	-	100	-	104	101	-	98	-	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tenn.	113	-	-	105	-	107	105	-	111	-	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ala.	104	-	-	105	103	116	106	-	105	-	100	-	113	108	103	-	-	-
Miss.	98	-	-	104	-	106	105	-	104	-	99	-	106	107	106	-	-	-
Ark.	113	-	-	107	-	106	108	-	113	-	108	-	102	105	102	-	-	-
La.	104	-	-	102	-	99	113	-	100	-	103	-	97	89	118	-	-	-
Okla.	109	-	-	104	-	111	105	-	104	-	111	-	108	104	104	-	-	-
Tex.	-	106	104	111	-	114	102	-	107	-	105	-	114	102	99	-	111	-
Mont.	101	-	-	102	-	96	-	-	107	-	-	-	123	110	107	-	-	-
Idaho	112	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	102	111	-	-	-
Wyo.	100	-	-	119	-	105	101	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colo.	103	-	-	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	112	-	100	103	105	-	-	-
N.Mex.	94	-	-	-	-	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	109	-	90	-	-	-
Ariz.	-	-	-	103	-	-	-	-	85	-	-	-	96	-	90	-	-	-
Utah	107	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107	-	108	-	93	-	-	-	-	-
Nev.	101	-	-	-	-	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	-	-	-	-
Wash.	111	-	-	104	-	110	-	-	108	-	-	-	-	-	102	-	-	-
Oreg.	106	-	-	111	-	106	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	106	-	-	-	-
Calif.	111	-	-	119	-	112	107	-	100	105	106	-	-	103	-	-	-	-

FARM WAGE RATES: AVERAGE RATE, JANUARY 1, 1941 IN RELATION TO
JANUARY 1, 1940, BY CROP-REPORTING DISTRICTS



U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG 396 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

WITH THE SUPPLY OF LABOR LESS THAN A YEAR AGO, AND DEMAND GREATER, FARM WAGE RATES PREVAILING ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR AVERAGED HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO IN NEARLY ALL SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY. AT 124 PERCENT OF THE 1910-14 AVERAGE, THE WAGE RATE INDEX ON THE FIRST OF JANUARY WAS THE HIGHEST FOR THAT MONTH SINCE 1931. COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, WAGE RATES AVERAGED HIGHEST IN THE MIDDLE AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES, AND WERE LOWEST IN THE MOUNTAIN AND PACIFIC REGIONS.

Total Employment Down Since November

The total number of persons employed in gainful occupations throughout the United States in January was 36,343,000 persons. The estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate a seasonal decline of 956,000 in the number of persons employed in nonagricultural industries from December to January. But, even with the number of persons working on farms also down seasonally, the January 1941 total was still 5 percent higher than in January 1940. The increase over January of last year was due entirely to the higher level of nonfarm employment.

Labor Supply Cut Sharply in Some Rural Areas

Two months ago, reports from farmers indicated a rather general decline in the supply of labor available in rural areas for work on farms at prevailing wage rates, as compared with the supply on January 1, 1940. As a result of the general current interest in this development and the irregularity of the decline, the Agricultural Marketing Service has included in this issue a special tabulation of the percentages of change in the reported labor supply by crop-reporting districts from January 1, 1940 to January 1, 1941.

Reports from about 22,000 farmers on January 1, 1941 indicated that the supply of labor available for work on farms averaged about 86^{percent} of normal or down 8 percent from a year earlier. This was the collective subjective appraisal of the situation by a large and representative group of well-informed farmers. Only very general instructions are given these voluntary reporters and no specific cues as to the factors to be taken into consideration in answering this question are suggested to them for guidance. An examination of their performance in the past, however, on the basis of the close inverse relationship of their reports to change in factory employment, would indicate that the Department's crop correspondents have been rather shrewd judges of the rural labor supply. Apparently these reports have been based on the relative numbers of persons seeking farm work in their respective localities, and the relative difficulty encountered in hiring new workers at current wage rates. Local reports on the level of factory employment are seldom available to farmers as an aid in appraising the situation.

The 8 percent cut in the rural labor supply compared with a year ago was not distributed evenly throughout the country. In fact, there was a wide variation within States. The attached map showing the percentage decline by crop-reporting districts indicates that the most severe reductions occurred in areas where factories and shipyards are rushing full speed ahead with the production of goods for the defense of the nation. A reduction of 25 percent in the supply of labor available for work on farms was reported, for example in southeast Michigan adjacent to Detroit. Sharp reductions also were reported in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, up-State New York, and the areas around Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, and in southeast Wisconsin--all industrial areas that have been stimulated by activities arising from the National Defense Program. Shipbuilding activities in southeast Virginia, and a pick-up in the chemical industry in the southern part of West Virginia, and the construction of a powder plant in southwest Virginia apparently are reflected in the smaller labor supply indicated in those areas. Other reductions in the supply situation also were indicated in southern California and in the Pacific Northwest. Reductions in the labor supply also occurred in parts of the Central Plains Region where a comparatively large supply relative to demand prevailed a year ago.

These indicated reductions in the labor supply do not necessarily imply a shortage of workers available for hire, especially at the time of year to which these indications relate (January). Farm activity is usually at a low ebb in most parts of the country at that season and supply has been considered in relation to prevailing wage rates. Increased efficiency of the available labor force would also operate to relieve any real shortage that might develop. Longer hours, more days per week, and more complete utilization of family workers--including children now in school--will increase the labor force available for farm work in many areas. Information now available for one Southern State indicates that in recent months farm operators worked on their own farms on the average less than 3 days per week.

The demand for farm workers at prevailing wage rates was higher on January 1 than a year ago. This was in contrast to the generally lower farm labor supply and is reflected in the larger number of hired hands retained on farms during the past winter. The increase in the demand for farm labor reflects, in part, the increased ability of farmers to pay prevailing wage rates as a result of the recent and prospective improvement in farm income. After an allowance for seasonal fluctuations, the index of cash income from farm marketing was at the highest point for the year 1940 in December. A further gain was registered in January. The increase in demand, together with a lower supply, brought the supply-demand ratio below a year ago in nearly all sections of the country.

Farm wage rates on January 1 averaged 5 points higher than a year earlier and at 124 percent of the 1910-14 average the wage rate index in January was the highest for that month since 1931. Compared with a year ago, wage rates were lower in only a few scattered areas in the country. Rates in the West North Central and Middle and South Atlantic States were higher than elsewhere on January 1, 1941, as compared with a year earlier.