UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Washington, D. C.
April 14, 1939

FARM WAGE RATES UP SEASONALLY SINCE JANUARY

The general level of farm wage rates increased about the usual seasonal amount from January 1 to April 1 of this year, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics said today. At 121 percent of the pre-war level on the first of this month, wage rates paid hired hands averaged 4 points higher than on January 1, and the same as on April 1 last year.

All farm wage rates advanced from January 1 to April 1, except day rates without board which remained unchanged. Monthly rates rose seasonally in all areas except the South Atlantic States and on the Pacific Coast. Average day rates without board showed no change during the first quarter but on April 1 ranged from 80 cents in South Carolina to $3 per day in New Hampshire.

A slight decline in the supply of workers available for hire in rural areas and a seasonal upturn in the demand for their services have been the principal factors in the rise in wage rates since the first of the year. Available data indicate that factory employment increased slightly during the first 2 months of 1939 and on April 1 was somewhat above the levels of a year earlier. Crop correspondents reported a supply of farm labor 93 percent of normal on the first of this month as compared with 94.8 on January 1 and 93.9 percent on April 1, 1938.

The increase in farm labor requirements incident to the preparation for seeding and planting of spring crops has raised the demand for farm labor to 82.8 percent of normal, 3.6 points higher than on January 1 but only nine-tenths of a point above that of April 1, 1938.

The supply demand relationship reflects the improvement in business activit as compared with the same time last year. Expressed as a percentage of demand for hired help, the supply of labor available for farm work was about 112 percent of normal on April 1, as compared with a supply-demand ratio of 120 on January 1 and 115 on April 1 of last year.

Farm Employment up Seasonally

The Bureau estimated the number of people working on farms April 1 at 9,960,000 or seasonally higher than 3 months earlier when only 8,767,000 persons were so employed. Over 500,000 hired hands were added to the farm payroll during the first quarter, while about 635,000 more family workers were employed on the first of this month than on January 1. The April 1 total of persons working on farms was nearly 2 percent less than a year earlier.

Weather Bureau reports indicate that the soil was too wet for field work during the week ended April 4 over much of the area from the Mississippi Valley eastward. Cotton was being planted, however, in many parts of the South. Corn and potato planting was under way as far north as Virginia. Oats were being seede in some parts of the Corn Belt, but the season was backward in most States in this area. The citrus harvest continued in full swing in California and the cutting of alfalfa hay had started in the Salt River Valley of Arizona.

The number of unpaid family workers (including farm operators) was estimated at 7,773,000 on April 1 as compared with 7,844,000 a year ago and a pre-war annual average of 9,160,000. The April 1 estimate for hired workers was 2,187,000 or 100,000 less than on the same date last year. The number of hired hands employed on farms was 2,892,000 during the period 1910-14. The sharp reduction in the tota number of farm workers during the past 25 years is in no small degree a reflection of the rapid strides made in farm mechanization during the past two decades.

Industrial Employment Up; Supply-Demand Ratio Lower

Considerable interest in the relationship between industrial employment and the supply of workers available for hire in rural areas has developed in recent years. Included in this issue, therefore, are revised figures on the supply of farm labor, the demand for its services, and supply-demand ratios as of April 1, during the period 1918 to date. The series of United States and regional averages have been recalculated, using current employment estimates as weighting factors in place of the 1930 Census of Occupation data previously used for all months

A comparison of these new series of supply figures, expressed as a percentag of demand, with factory employment statistics, as shown in the chart on page 11, indicates that when off-the farm employment increases, the number of persons avail able for farm work invariably declines. During the past 21 years, however, report from farmers indicate that there has seldom been an actual scarcity of farm help with the possible exception of some localized areas. The supply-demand ratios wer 100 in 1919 and 1920 when war activity was at its height. The depression of 1921 and 1922 sent many unemployed industrial workers back to the country and created a surplus of farm hands. The ratios dropped below 100 in 1923 and 1934, however, and again in 1936.

Continued on page 6.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, APRIL 1, 1939, WITH COMPARISONS

	Annual average 1910-14	Jan.1, 1938	Apr.1, 1938 1/	Jan.1, 1939	Apr.1, 1939
FARM WAGE INDEX	100	118	121	117	121
FARM WAGE RATES:					
Per month, with board	$22.09	$25.18	$27.60	$24.86	$27.08
Per month, without board	29.18	34.70	33.82	34.92	35.42
Per day, with board	1.16	1.22	1.25	1.20	1.23
Per day, without board	1.42	1.55	1.55	1.53	1.53
SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR: (Percentage of normal)					
Supply	--	92.5	93.9	94.8	93.0
Demand	--	80.00	81.9	79.2	82.8
Supply as a percentage of demand	--	115.6	114.7	119.7	112.3
FARM EMPLOYMENT: 2/ (Thousands of persons)					
Family labor	9,160	7,051	7,844	7,138	7,773
Hired labor	2,892	1,711	2,287	1,629	2,187
Combined	12,052	8,762	10,131	8,767	9,960
RELATED INDEXES:					
Prices received by farmers 3/	100	102	94	94	4/ 91
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	100	86	78	80	75
Industrial wage rates 5/	--	204	204	211	7/ 213
Industrial employment 6/	--	88	86	90	7/ 91
Industrial payrolls 6/	--	75	75	83	7/ 85

1/Revised. See Release dated Jan.13, 1939, p.10, or Crops and Markets, Jan.1939, pp.8 and 9.

2/Estimates of actual employment are shown in place of number of persons employed per 100 crop-reporting farms.

3/As of the 15th of the month.

4/March 1939 - latest data available.

5/Average weekly earnings, New York State factories, June 1914 = 100.

6/Bureau of Labor Statistics indexes for manufacturing industries, revised 1923-1925 = 100.

7/ Febuary 1939 - latest data available.

Based on reports from approximately 20,444 correspondents. The data for previous quarters, by States, appear in Crops and Markets for January, April, July and October.

Farm Wage Rates and Related Data, by Geographic Divisions, April 1, 1939, with Comparisons

Geographic division	Annual average 1910-14	Jan. 1, 1938	Apr. 1 1938	Jan. 1, 1939	Apr. 1, 1939
FARM WAGE RATES -	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Per month with board:					
New England	24.18	31.32	31.83	31,08	31,92
Middle Atlantic	22.25	27.33	29.18	27.05	28.48
East North Central	23.75	26.70	29.11	25.40	28.80
West North Central	26.32	21.85	28.35	21.98	23.31
South Atlantic	14.62	16.63	16.50	16.54	16.10
East South Central	14.71	15.70	15.78	15.54	15.97
West South Central	17.35	18.80	18.70	18.08	18.54
Mountain	32.48	32.30	34.95	30.96	35.03
Pacific	33.45	43.00	44.39	41.35	40.89
Per month without board					
New England	37.70	53.55	55.66	54.71	56.23
Middle Atlantic	33.41	44.58	46.01	44.15	45.39
East North Central	33.80	39.10	41.03	37.95	40.91
West North Central	36.86	32.87	38.93	33.33	38.41
South Atlantic	20.97	25.06	24.43	24.93	24.32
East South Central	20.80	23.43	22.73	22.47	22.95
West South Central	24.93	27.57	27.29	26.83	26.94
Mountain	46.42	47.52	51.00	46.22	51.00
Pacific	48.16	67.00	66.68	62.49	62.31
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	1,71	1.73	1.72	1.73
Middle Atlantic	1.24	1.72	1.69	1.61	1.64
East North Central	1.31	1.54	1.53	1.43	1.50
West North Central	1.46	1.24	1.39	1.25	1.38
South Atlantic	.81	.89	.86	.86	.84
East South Central	.81	.79	.78	.77	.78
West South Central	.98	.95	.93	.92	.92
Mountain	1.50	1.55	1.63	1.53	1.61
Pacific	1.49	2.01	1.95	1.92	1.96
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	2.54	2.55	2.56	2.72
Middle Atlantic	1.63	2.32	2.32	2.20	2.36
East North Central	1.68	2.04	2.02	1.94	2.03
West North Central	1.88	1.77	1.92	1.74	1.87
South Atlantic	1.05	1.19	1.15	1.18	1.14
East South Central	1.05	1.02	1.00	1.03	1.03
West South Central	1.25	1.25	1.22	1.19	1.18
Mountain	2.05	2.09	2.19	2.09	2.23
Pacific	2.06	2.86	2.81	2.62	2.66

Farm Labor Supply and Demand, and Farm Employment, by Geographic Divisions, April 1, 1939, with Comparisons

Geographic division	Jan. 1, 1937	Apr. 1, 1937	Jan. 1, 1938	Apr. 1, 1938	Jan. 1, 1939	Apr. 1, 1939
SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)						
New England	91.2	87.0	97.8	99.9	92.5	92.0
Middle Atlantic	85.0	81.0	86.7	88.2	92.5	90.3
East North Central	86.4	83.4	94.0	96.4	96.2	94.1
West North Central	95.4	91.8	94.6	94.7	96.8	95.0
South Atlantic	87.7	82.7	88.6	89.1	90.5	88.6
East South Central	89.0	85.9	89.0	89.3	90.6	88.2
West South Central	95.2	91.0	92.4	91.7	94.5	92.1
Mountain	96.0	93.7	99.2	102.9	100.3	99.4
Pacific	97.1	96.4	100.0	104.9	104.8	104.0
DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)						
New England	86.2	92.3	85.7	84.3	87.9	86.2
Middle Atlantic	87.4	90.8	83.0	86.3	80.9	84.3
East North Central	86.2	92.0	81.9	83.5	81.8	84.5
West North Central	71.0	79.4	73.1	79.5	74.8	80.1
South Atlantic	88.5	91.3	83.4	84.4	81.2	87.0
East South Central	85.5	90.2	83.1	84.4	80.2	86.1
West South Central	75.0	79.7	73.9	76.9	73.1	75.0
Mountain	80.7	85.2	75.4	78.4	75.9	81.4
Pacific	87.2	89.5	82.3	79.9	81.3	80.8
SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (Percentage of normal)						
New England	105.8	94.3	114.1	118.5	105.2	106.0
Middle Atlantic	97.3	89.2	104.5	102.2	114.3	107.7
East North Central	100.2	90.7	114.8	115.4	117.6	111.4
West North Central	134.4	115.6	129.4	119.1	129.4	118.6
South Atlantic	99.1	90.6	106.2	105.6	111.5	101.8
East South Central	104.1	95.2	107.1	105.8	113.0	102.4
West South Central	136.9	114.2	125.0	119.2	129.3	122.8
Mountain	119.0	110.0	131.6	131.2	132.1	122.1
Pacific	111.4	107.7	121.5	131.3	128.9	128.7
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons)						
Total family and hired						
New England	228	248	220	253	228	241
Middle Atlantic	539	586	541	605	546	594
East North Central	1,333	1,476	1,343	1,469	1,335	1,451
West North Central	1,400	1,575	1,407	1,590	1,439	1,582
South Atlantic	1,658	1,981	1,613	1,983	1,596	1,975
East South Central	1,411	1,659	1,374	1,665	1,404	1,603
West South Central	1,440	1,632	1,435	1,630	1,403	1,573
Mountain	375	442	367	404	359	415
Pacific	451	534	482	527	457	526

Farm Labor Supply and Demand, and Farm Employment, by Geographic Divisions, April 1, 1939, with Comparisons (Continued)

Geographic division	Jan.1, 1937	Apr.1, 1937	Jan.1, 1938	Apr.1, 1938	Jan.1, 1939	Apr.1, 1939
FARM EMPLOYMENT						
Farm Labor						
New England	157	162	157	163	159	161
Middle Atlantic	397	406	397	412	399	410
East North Central	1,099	1,153	1,097	1,156	1,106	1,148
West North Central	1,203	1,288	1,208	1,278	1,224	1,286
South Atlantic	1,312	1,486	1,253	1,511	1,272	1,496
East South Central	1,220	1,398	1,199	1,441	1,233	1,386
West South Central	1,189	1,322	1,164	1,298	1,169	1,268
Mountain	278	296	278	286	275	290
Pacific	298	311	298	299	301	328
Hired Labor						
New England	71	86	63	90	69	80
Middle Atlantic	142	180	144	193	147	184
East North Central	234	323	246	313	229	303
West North Central	197	287	199	312	215	296
South Atlantic	346	495	360	477	334	479
East South Central	191	241	175	334	171	217
West South Central	251	310	271	332	234	305
Mountain	97	146	89	118	84	125
Pacific	153	223	164	228	156	198

---0----

Continued from page 2.

From 1929 to 1933, there was an uninterrupted increase in the ratio of supply to demand as industrial activity slackened. At the peak in 1933, the farm labor supply averaged 212 percent of demand as people roamed the country seeking jobs. The supply fell from this record high thereafter until 1937 when the ratio to demand was again below 100. While reports indicate that the supply-demand ratio was under 100 only in States east of the Mississippi, the ratio of supply to demand averaged 99.7 for the country as a whole. The recession in 1938 again supplied more farm help than was actually needed, but this surplus has been cut down slightly this year.

Farm Employment Trend Down in East North Central Region

The Bureau also presents in this report monthly employment statistics covering the 9 years 1930-38 for the East North Central States. Total agricultural employment in this region has tended almost continuously downard during the present decade. The decline in farm income during the early part of the period and the mechanization of agriculture in recent years have contributed largely to this tendency.

The average number of persons employed on farms in this area is estimated at 1,559,000 during 1930. A steady decline followed in the years 1931-33. The severe drought in 1934 extended into most of this region. And requirements that year were severely cut and employment dropped sharply. Employment total recovered to the

Continued on page 9

Farm Wage Rates and Related Data, by States, April 1, 1939

State	Per month		Per day		Supply of and demand for farm labor		
	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	Supply as percentage of normal	Demand as percentage of normal	Supply as percentage of demand
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	Percent
Maine	27.25	44.00	1.55	2.10	98	78	126
N.H.	31.00	54.75	2.05	3.00	87	92	95
Vt.	31.25	48.25	1.60	2.45	91	90	101
Mass.	32.00	61.75	1.80	2.85	90	86	105
R.I.	39.00	65.50	1.80	2.75	95	90	106
Conn.	34.25	62.25	1.80	2.90	94	88	107
N.Y.	29.25	45.50	1.60	2.25	90	83	108
N.J.	32.00	53.50	1.75	2.45	93	87	107
Pa.	26.25	42.00	1.65	2.20	91	85	107
Ohio	26.25	38.75	1.50	2.05	90	84	107
Ind.	27.00	37.75	1.40	1.85	95	85	112
Ill.	32.25	43.25	1.60	2.10	94	86	109
Mich.	27.50	41.50	1.55	2.15	94	81	116
Wis.	28.75	41.75	1.40	1.95	98	85	115
Minn.	29.50	41.25	1.45	2.15	96	83	116
Iowa	33.50	42.50	1.65	2.15	98	89	110
Mo.	29.75	30.75	1.05	1.35	89	79	113
N.Dak.	27.75	40.75	1.30	1.95	92	68	135
S.Dak.	28.75	40.50	1.35	1.95	91	71	128
Nebr.	25.50	36.00	1.30	1.85	101	71	142
Kans.	28.50	35.00	1.25	1.75	94	73	129
Del.	25.00	38.00	1.50	1.85	98	88	111
Md.	25.50	37.25	1.25	1.70	96	91	105
Va.	21.25	30.25	1.05	1.40	92	88	105
W.Va.	21.50	32.00	1.05	1.45	92	84	110
N.C.	16.75	24.75	.90	1.15	89	89	100
S.C.	12.25	18.00	.60	.80	82	84	98
Ga.	12.00	17.50	.65	.85	86	87	99
Fla.	14.75	26.50	.80	1.25	91	86	106
Ky.	20.00	28.75	.95	1.25	90	84	107
Tenn.	16.25	23.75	.80	1.00	89	85	105
Ala.	13.50	19.50	.65	.90	87	87	100
Miss.	14.50	20.50	.70	.95	87	88	99
Ark.	16.00	23.50	.80	1.05	89	80	111
La.	16.25	23.00	.80	1.05	89	78	114
Okla.	19.75	29.25	1.00	1.35	95	70	136
Tex.	20.75	29.50	1.00	1.25	94	73	129
Mont.	37.00	53.25	1.85	2.55	90	78	127
Idaho	36.75	52.25	1.75	2.25	106	85	125
Wyo.	35.75	52.75	1.60	2.30	100	90	111
Colo.	29.25	45.75	1.40	2.00	97	80	121
N.Mex.	26.75	39.00	1.25	1.65	96	78	123
Ariz.	39.75	57.00	1.60	2.10	98	81	121
Utah	42.00	53.50	2.05	2.50	101	85	119
Nev.	39.75	64.25	1.70	2.35	104	82	127
Wash.	35.25	53.25	1.85	2.55	103	80	129
Oreg.	34.75	51.00	1.75	2.30	102	81	126
Calif.	45.00	68.50	2.05	2.80	105	81	130
U.S.	27.08	35.42	1.23	1.53	93.0	82.8	112.3

Farm Labor: Supply and Demand Statistics, by Geographic Divisions, April 1, 1918-1939 1/

Year	New England	Middle Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	East South Central	West South Central	Mountain	Pacific	United States
					SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL)					
1918	64.0	62.5	74.8	74.0	73.5	73.5	76.0	75.1	78.8	73.4
1919	85.0	83.6	86.6	85.7	81.7	82.9	83.2	89.5	91.4	84.9
1920	61.7	62.1	68.6	78.2	72.8	72.5	72.6	82.5	82.5	72.9
1921	92.1	91.8	95.3	96.9	94.3	92.5	96.4	106.2	99.6	95.8
1922	102.3	97.9	101.5	101.3	97.3	94.6	99.6	108.4	106.6	100.2
1923	77.3	71.4	76.8	89.1	82.5	82.8	91.4	91.3	92.7	84.3
1924	84.0	78.1	78.5	93.3	77.4	79.1	87.9	95.6	99.8	85.0
1925	92.0	84.8	90.3	95.2	83.0	86.0	92.4	98.9	101.7	90.6
1926	92.3	85.9	91.1	95.3	81.0	84.4	91.2	97.4	99.3	89.7
1927	93.3	85.5	91.0	96.6	84.3	88.3	90.3	99.1	100.3	91.2
1928	97.3	95.2	97.7	98.8	91.6	90.0	94.5	99.7	103.6	95.8
1929	96.7	93.1	93.8	97.3	92.7	89.7	91.4	98.8	101.2	94.2
1930	101.4	97.3	102.4	100.1	97.1	95.4	98.8	104.5	104.8	99.7
1931	116.8	109.7	119.0	112.7	109.0	109.3	113.8	118.4	119.9	113.6
1932	126.9	121.7	131.8	123.1	113.5	117.0	123.3	131.4	125.9	122.4
1933	136.4	137.9	136.9	137.8	115.6	116.2	125.4	136.5	136.3	126.3
1934	109.5	107.2	114.0	114.1	96.3	99.9	106.1	118.6	110.5	106.8
1935	107.1	102.9	103.3	105.5	95.3	95.3	102.1	111.8	106.5	101.8
1936	96.1	91.0	91.5	96.4	91.1	90.7	97.4	99.3	96.7	93.8
1937	87.0	81.0	83.4	91.8	82.7	85.9	91.0	93.7	98.4	87.4
1938	99.9	98.2	96.4	94.7	89.1	89.3	91.7	102.9	104.9	93.9
1939	92.0	90.8	94.1	95.0	88.6	88.2	92.1	99.4	104.0	93.0
					DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL)					
1918	99.8	98.6	99.5	99.8	104.4	103.3	102.4	97.1	101.9	101.3
1919	102.5	100.6	101.2	101.0	104.0	103.2	98.9	103.0	102.5	101.7
1920	99.6	110.8	106.7	103.7	107.7	106.2	101.3	103.3	103.1	105.2
1921	94.8	88.2	91.3	89.3	86.5	85.3	81.0	83.1	93.6	87.8
1922	94.0	90.0	91.1	89.5	88.2	89.0	83.5	84.1	94.7	89.5
1923	95.3	95.1	95.4	95.6	94.2	95.7	91.8	92.3	95.6	94.5
1924	91.5	89.6	87.9	91.1	93.6	90.4	93.4	90.6	86.3	90.4
1925	88.1	87.9	90.1	94.1	91.2	92.7	86.3	88.8	88.9	90.3
1926	90.2	90.0	90.0	94.0	89.8	90.7	91.0	90.5	94.5	91.2
1927	90.6	88.4	90.4	90.9	88.1	88.0	83.6	91.2	93.5	88.5
1928	87.5	87.6	88.6	91.2	88.8	89.9	84.0	92.2	91.2	88.8
1929	90.0	88.3	89.7	93.2	89.7	89.6	89.3	92.5	92.4	90.4
1930	88.8	86.4	84.2	87.4	84.7	86.0	79.7	85.0	87.5	85.0
1931	76.9	80.0	71.9	74.8	73.0	70.3	61.2	71.6	74.5	71.7
1932	72.8	72.2	64.8	61.4	66.1	63.4	56.5	58.9	67.3	64.0
1933	68.3	67.0	59.6	53.3	64.0	61.4	53.6	53.5	59.5	59.5
1934	77.9	77.1	70.0	65.9	73.1	72.3	62.1	66.9	74.6	70.1
1935	79.5	79.2	78.0	67.3	80.6	77.0	63.1	64.5	78.3	74.1
1936	85.1	86.4	87.5	81.7	85.0	82.9	72.4	78.4	86.3	82.5
1937	92.3	90.8	92.0	79.4	91.3	90.2	79.7	85.3	89.5	87.7
1938	84.3	86.3	83.5	79.5	84.4	84.4	76.9	78.4	79.9	81.9
1939	86.8	84.3	84.5	80.1	87.0	86.1	75.0	81.4	80.8	82.8

Continued

Farm Labor: Supply and Demand Statistics, by Geographic Divisions, April 1, 1918-1939 1/ (Continued)

Year	New England	Middle Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	East South Central	West South Central	Mountain	Pacific	United States
	SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL)									
918	64.1	63.4	75.2	74.1	70.4	71.2	74.2	77.3	77.3	72.5
919	82.9	83.1	85.6	84.9	78.6	80.3	84.1	86.9	89.2	83.5
920	61.9	56.0	64.3	75.4	67.6	63.3	71.7	79.9	80.0	69.3
921	97.2	99.6	104.4	108.5	109.0	108.4	119.0	127.8	107.6	109.1
922	108.8	108.1	111.4	113.2	110.3	106.3	119.3	128.9	112.6	112.2
923	80.7	75.1	80.5	93.2	87.6	86.5	99.6	98.9	97.0	89.2
924	91.3	87.2	89.3	102.4	83.6	87.5	95.1	105.5	115.8	94.0
925	104.4	95.4	100.2	101.2	91.0	93.8	107.1	111.4	114.4	100.3
926	103.3	95.4	101.2	101.4	90.2	95.1	100.2	107.6	105.0	98.4
927	108.5	96.7	100.7	106.3	96.3	100.3	108.0	108.7	107.2	102.6
928	109.8	102.7	110.3	108.3	103.2	100.1	112.5	102.1	113.6	107.9
929	107.4	104.3	104.6	104.4	103.3	100.1	102.4	106.8	109.5	104.2
930	114.2	112.6	121.6	114.5	114.6	110.9	124.0	122.9	119.8	117.3
931	151.9	137.1	165.5	150.7	149.3	155.3	185.9	165.4	160.9	158.4
932	174.3	168.6	203.4	200.5	171.7	184.5	218.1	223.1	187.1	191.2
933	199.7	190.9	229.7	239.8	180.6	189.3	234.0	255.1	229.1	212.3
934	140.6	139.0	162.9	173.1	131.7	138.2	170.9	177.3	148.1	152.4
935	134.7	129.9	132.4	156.8	118.2	123.8	161.8	173.3	133.2	137.4
936	112.9	105.3	104.6	118.0	107.2	109.4	134.5	126.5	112.2	113.7
937	94.3	89.2	90.7	115.6	90.6	95.2	114.2	110.0	107.7	99.7
938	118.5	102.2	115.4	119.1	105.6	105.8	119.2	131.2	131.3	114.7
939	106.0	107.7	111.4	118.6	101.8	102.4	122.8	122.1	128.7	112.3

1/ Revised for dates prior to April 1, 1939.

---0---

ontinued from page 6.

063 level in 1935, but continued their downward trend thereafter and averaged ,503,000 persons last year.

Fluctuations in the two classes of farm workers, however, do not follow this ame pattern. The number of unpaid family workers (including farm operators) increased rather steadily from an average of 1,121,000 persons in 1930 to 1,189,000 n 1935 except for a slight dent in the upward trend during the drought year 1934. his was a reflection of the increase in the number of farms during the depression ears and of a shift of some family members from a wage-hand to an unpaid worker tatus during the period of relatively low income. In 1936 and 1937, the number of npaid family workers declined, with a slight increase in 1938 to an estimated average of 1,162,000 persons.

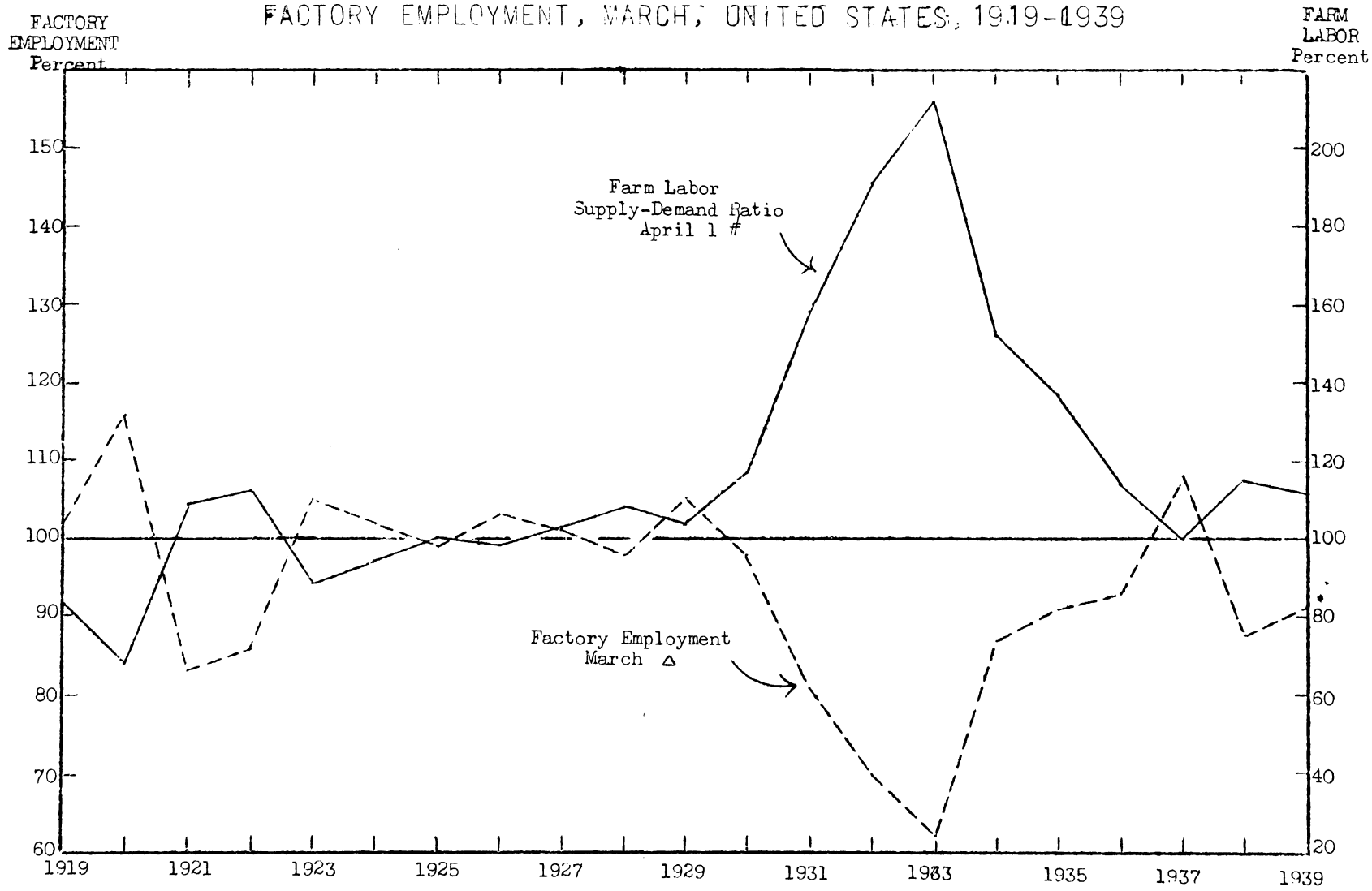
The number of hired hands working on farms in the East North Central States ropped sharply from 1930 to 1934. The demand for farm labor declined rapidly from 930 to 1933, and in the following year labor requirements were cut by drought. An ncrease in the number of wage hands occurred from 1935 to 1937 as farm income limbed, but a large proportion of this gain was lost last year. Monthly estimates f the number of wage workers in this area averaged 341,000 in 1938. This was 2,000 more than in 1934, but nearly 100,000 less than in 1930.

Farm Employment: Numbers of Persons Employed on the First of Each Month, East North Central States, 1930-38 1/
(Thousands)

Date	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT				
Jan. 1	1,353	1,369	1,372	1,363	1,327	1,334	1,347	1,333	1,343
Feb. 1	1,391	1,400	1,372	1,374	1,360	1,349	1,354	1,339	1,348
Mar. 1	1,414	1,451	1,439	1,392	1,366	1,388	1,386	1,361	1,370
Apr. 1	1,518	1,524	1,502	1,477	1,462	1,509	1,493	1,476	1,469
May 1	1,636	1,581	1,599	1,590	1,553	1,578	1,563	1,566	1,587
June 1	1,636	1,628	1,654	1,651	1,586	1,624	1,608	1,627	1,597
July 1	1,783	1,688	1,703	1,701	1,638	1,687	1,672	1,666	1,688
Aug. 1	1,700	1,702	1,638	1,671	1,521	1,714	1,627	1,625	1,622
Sept. 1	1,607	1,602	1,544	1,601	1,506	1,588	1,593	1,528	1,535
Oct. 1	1,597	1,577	1,574	1,560	1,515	1,538	1,551	1,558	1,551
Nov. 1	1,621	1,613	1,567	1,571	1,498	1,594	1,530	1,538	1,518
Dec. 1	1,433	1,461	1,451	1,426	1,390	1,471	1,465	1,435	1,408
Average	1,559	1,550	1,534	1,531	1,477	1,531	1,516	1,504	1,503
					FAMILY WORKERS				
Jan. 1	1,036	1,084	1,115	1,117	1,116	1,103	1,109	1,099	1,097
Feb. 1	1,082	1,119	1,117	1,124	1,129	1,117	1,116	1,093	1,099
Mar. 1	1,071	1,110	1,154	1,151	1,138	1,135	1,130	1,111	1,119
Apr. 1	1,116	1,149	1,184	1,186	1,171	1,202	1,167	1,153	1,156
May 1	1,168	1,163	1,217	1,232	1,206	1,224	1,192	1,200	1,223
June 1	1,184	1,192	1,244	1,244	1,233	1,259	1,217	1,230	1,227
July 1	1,203	1,205	1,248	1,261	1,245	1,278	1,250	1,249	1,261
Aug. 1	1,162	1,197	1,226	1,245	1,189	1,257	1,246	1,203	1,200
Sept. 1	1,112	1,173	1,200	1,210	1,179	1,208	1,214	1,166	1,172
Oct. 1	1,091	1,155	1,173	1,177	1,149	1,164	1,159	1,145	1,139
Nov. 1	1,129	1,163	1,164	1,179	1,147	1,179	1,145	1,145	1,139
Dec. 1	1,095	1,124	1,122	1,127	1,109	1,145	1,124	1,109	1,117
Average	1,121	1,153	1,180	1,188	1,168	1,189	1,173	1,159	1,162
					HIRED WORKERS				
Jan. 1	317	285	257	245	211	231	238	234	246
Feb. 1	309	281	255	250	231	232	238	246	249
Mar. 1	343	341	275	241	228	253	256	250	251
Apr. 1	402	375	313	291	291	307	326	323	313
May 1	458	418	382	358	347	354	371	366	364
June 1	482	436	410	407	353	365	391	397	370
July 1	580	483	455	440	393	409	422	417	427
Aug. 1	538	505	412	426	332	457	381	422	422
Sept. 1	495	429	344	391	327	380	379	362	363
Oct. 1	506	422	401	383	366	374	392	413	412
Nov. 1	492	450	403	392	351	415	385	393	379
Dec. 1	338	337	329	299	281	326	341	316	291
Average	438	397	354	343	309	342	343	345	341

1/ Data from 1930 to 1936 based on estimates from Shaw, E.D., and Hopkins, J.A. Trends in Employment in Agriculture, 1909-36, Works Progress Administration, National Research Project Report No.A-8, Philadelphia, Penna., Nov.1938.

FARM LABOR SUPPLY AS PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND, APRIL 1, AND FACTORY EMPLOYMENT, MARCH, UNITED STATES, 1919-1939



Supply as percentage of demand. "Normal" supply with "normal" demand = 100.
△ Employment in manufacturing industries, Monthly average 1923-25 = 100.
* February 1939 - Latest data available.