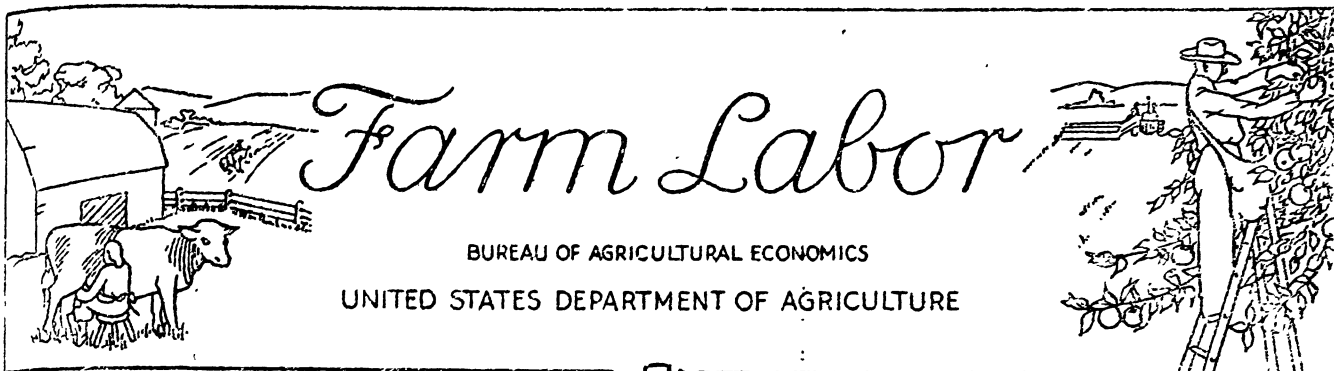




Washington, D. C.

BAE

February 12, 1948

FARM EMPLOYMENT LIMITED BY COLD WEATHER

A total of 8,133,000 persons were at work on farms on February 1, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. This was 2 percent below a year earlier, largely owing to severe winter weather. The decrease was almost entirely in the number of hired workers. Hired workers totaled 1,472,000 -- 7 percent under the number employed a year ago.

Farm activities during the last week of January were restricted by severe winter weather. Below normal temperatures were recorded in all parts of the country except central and southern Florida. Damaging frosts were reported in the Imperial Valley of California, the southern valleys of Arizona and South Texas. Precipitation in the form of snow in the North and rain and sleet in the South extended over the entire area east of the Rockies with the greatest amounts in the southeastern States. At the end of the week snow covered much of the country except the Pacific Coast, extending as far South as northern Texas, central Georgia and northwestern South Carolina.

Persons working on farms in late January were mostly engaged in livestock and poultry care and maintenance work except in a few areas. Outdoor work was at a low level because of the weather. Wet fields prevented most preparations for spring planting in the southern South Atlantic and Gulf Coast States, except in Florida. Here, preparations for planting spring truck crops were very active. Citrus harvest in Florida continued. Cotton harvest was nearly completed in Arizona. Cantaloupes and watermelons were being planted and plowing for cotton was in progress in the southern irrigated valleys. Pruning trees and vines was one of the most important jobs in California. Citrus harvest was progressing rather slowly. Some vegetables were being harvested but plantings of later vegetable crops were being held up because of dry cool weather. Thinning of lettuce and sugar beets was started in coastal areas. In the western valleys of Oregon planting of canning and freezing peas was getting off to an early start.

There were fewer hired workers than a year ago in all geographic regions. The decreases were largest in the three southern regions and the West North Central States. In the Middle Atlantic States the percentage decrease was the same as the U. S. average.

Continued on last page.

Farm labor: Persons employed, wage rates, indexes and related data,
United States, February 1, 1948, with comparisons

	Annual: average: 1910-14:	February: average: 1935-39:	February: 1, : 1947 :	January: 1, : 1948 :	February: 1, : 1948
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons)					
Total	12,052	9,019	8,280	8,129	8,133
Family labor	9,160	7,191	6,693	6,641	6,661
Hired labor	2,892	1,828	1,587	1,488	1,472
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation)					
Total	100	91	84	85	83
Family labor	100	91	85	86	86
Hired labor	100	90	82	78	74
	Annual: average: 1910-14:	January: average: 1935-39:	January: 1, : 1947 :	October: 1, : 1947 :	January: 1, : 1948
FARM WAGE RATES					
Per month, with board	\$22.09	\$22.60	\$88.40	\$97.80	\$95.00
Per month, without board	20.13	32.02	106.00	112.00	113.00
Per day, with board	1.16	1.10	4.15	4.79	4.50
Per day, without board	1.42	1.42	4.83	5.25	5.20
Composite rate per month ^{1/}	24.73	26.68	94.80	103.00	101.00
FARM WAGE RATE INDENTS					
Unadjusted	100	108	383	416	408
Adjusted for seasonal variation:	100	112	399	404	425
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES BY REGION					
New England	100	135	379	402	402
Middle Atlantic	100	119	371	414	400
East North Central	100	102	350	364	391
West North Central	100	78	322	397	349
South Atlantic	100	109	370	362	386
East South Central	100	98	309	337	336
West South Central	100	98	357	391	382
Mountain	100	94	322	383	357
Pacific	100	122	426	431	426
RELATED INDEXES					
Prices received by farmers ^{2/}	100	108	262	288	304
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	100	100	68	69	75
Average weekly factory earnings ^{3/}	100	194	419	453	--

^{1/} Weighted average of monthly rates with and without board, and daily rates with and without board converted to a monthly basis.

^{2/} Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.

^{3/} Factory payroll per employed worker; average of all weeks during the designated month. Revised April 1946.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed, United States and geographic
divisions, February 1, 1948; with comparisons

Geographic divisions	: February: January: February: January: February				
	: average:	1,	: 1,	: 1,	: 1,
	: 1935-39:	1947	: 1947	: 1948	: 1948
	: Thousands				
	: TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT				
United States	: 9,019	8,272	8,280	8,129	8,133
New England	: 222	207	212	198	209
Middle Atlantic	: 533	510	492	497	489
East North Central	: 1,327	1,244	1,209	1,239	1,209
West North Central	: 1,439	1,432	1,383	1,422	1,341
South Atlantic	: 1,697	1,450	1,514	1,450	1,493
East South Central	: 1,449	1,265	1,281	1,195	1,238
West South Central	: 1,523	1,357	1,359	1,311	1,344
Mountain	: 372	346	357	354	352
Pacific	: 452	453	473	463	458
	: FAMILY WORKERS ^{1/}				
United States	: 7,191	6,747	6,693	6,641	6,661
New England	: 151	155	159	150	158
Middle Atlantic	: 382	360	354	360	360
East North Central	: 1,034	1,072	1,040	1,065	1,044
West North Central	: 1,252	1,255	1,212	1,251	1,192
South Atlantic	: 1,295	1,164	1,183	1,158	1,195
East South Central	: 1,244	1,116	1,103	1,063	1,075
West South Central	: 1,233	1,027	1,082	1,057	1,092
Mountain	: 276	262	277	270	274
Pacific	: 233	270	233	267	271
	: HIRED WORKERS				
United States	: 1,828	1,525	1,587	1,438	1,472
New England	: 71	52	53	48	51
Middle Atlantic	: 150	144	138	137	129
East North Central	: 243	172	169	174	165
West North Central	: 207	177	171	171	149
South Atlantic	: 402	286	331	292	298
East South Central	: 205	152	178	132	163
West South Central	: 290	270	277	254	252
Mountain	: 96	84	80	84	78
Pacific	: 164	138	190	196	187

^{1/} Includes farm operators and members of their families working without wages.

Based on reports from 19,155 farmers who reported for their own farms the number of family and hired workers doing 2 or more days of work during the week of inquiry.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Total, family and hired workers, United States specified
annual averages, and by months, January 1, 1946 -February 1, 1948 ^{1/}

Year and month	Total farm employment	Family workers ^{2/}	Hired workers
	Thousands		
1910-14 average	12,052	9,160	2,892
1935-39 average	10,920	8,352	2,568
1939 average	10,740	8,145	2,595
1940 average	10,585	8,019	2,566
1941 average	10,361	7,829	2,532
1942 average	10,397	7,855	2,542
1943 average	10,263	7,857	2,406
1944 average	10,037	7,810	2,227
1945 average	9,844	7,726	2,118
1946 average	10,010	7,862	2,148
January 1	7,732	6,412	1,320
February 1	7,799	6,375	1,424
March 1	8,263	6,774	1,489
April 1	9,121	7,469	1,652
May 1	10,366	8,391	1,975
June 1	11,422	8,969	2,453
July 1	11,586	8,875	2,711
August 1	11,044	8,258	2,786
September 1	11,111	8,334	2,777
October 1	11,458	8,834	2,624
November 1	10,809	8,308	2,503
December 1	9,405	7,345	2,060
1947 average	10,157	7,930	2,227
January 1	8,272	6,747	1,525
February 1	8,280	6,693	1,587
March 1	8,591	7,046	1,545
April 1	9,242	7,571	1,671
May 1	10,280	8,281	1,999
June 1	11,394	8,913	2,481
July 1	11,518	8,833	2,685
August 1	11,140	8,301	2,839
September 1	11,132	8,259	2,873
October 1	11,700	8,896	2,804
November 1	10,933	8,320	2,618
December 1	9,402	7,298	2,104
1948 average	--	--	--
January 1	8,129	6,641	1,488
February 1	8,133	6,661	1,472

^{1/} Annual averages are straight averages of first of month employment estimates.

^{2/} Includes farm operators and members of their families working without wages.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Annual average rates and index numbers, by States, 1947

State and region	Per month		Per day		Composite: rate per month 1/	Indexes of composite rates (1910-14 = 100%)
	With board	Without board	With board	Without board		
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Maine	92.00	128.00	5.20	6.40	115.00	394
New Hampshire	96.00	139.00	5.10	6.40	122.00	433
Vermont	96.00	134.00	5.30	6.70	120.00	427
Massachusetts	101.00	148.00	4.95	6.50	126.00	439
Rhode Island	96.00	144.00	4.90	6.30	130.00	435
Connecticut	97.00	144.00	4.85	6.30	122.00	463
New England	97.00	140.00	5.10	6.50	122.00	392
New York	103.00	139.00	5.20	6.50	119.00	413
New Jersey	102.00	142.00	5.40	6.50	120.00	451
Pennsylvania	78.00	112.00	4.55	5.50	95.00	384
Middle Atlantic	93.00	128.00	4.95	6.10	110.00	400
Ohio	79.00	107.00	4.80	5.50	93.00	359
Indiana	79.00	107.00	4.60	5.50	93.00	388
Illinois	97.00	121.00	5.00	5.90	108.00	403
Michigan	93.00	127.00	5.20	6.40	109.00	394
Wisconsin	100.00	133.00	4.90	6.10	113.00	382
East North Central	90.00	120.00	4.85	5.90	104.00	373
Minnesota	102.00	132.00	5.60	6.80	112.00	363
Iowa	109.00	133.00	5.80	7.00	117.00	372
Missouri	74.00	98.00	3.95	4.75	81.00	369
North Dakota	122.00	155.00	6.40	8.20	132.00	387
South Dakota	109.00	141.00	5.70	7.50	119.00	380
Nebraska	106.00	135.00	5.80	7.10	116.00	393
Kansas	96.00	126.00	5.50	6.90	108.00	432
West North Central	100.00	128.00	5.40	6.60	109.00	369
Delaware	78.00	104.00	5.10	6.10	101.00	491
Maryland	79.00	107.00	4.80	5.70	100.00	539
Virginia	66.00	88.00	3.85	4.35	80.00	452
West Virginia	56.00	77.00	3.00	3.85	69.00	299
North Carolina	55.00	77.00	3.50	4.05	71.00	442
South Carolina	39.00	55.00	2.30	2.85	50.00	398
Georgia	40.50	57.00	2.65	3.20	54.00	348
Florida	58.00	88.00	3.25	4.35	77.00	434
South Atlantic	52.00	73.00	3.10	3.80	67.00	365
Kentucky	57.00	78.00	3.05	3.85	71.00	376
Tennessee	47.50	68.00	2.55	3.20	60.00	352
Alabama	42.50	58.00	2.00	3.15	56.00	355
Mississippi	42.50	58.00	2.70	3.30	57.00	366
East South Central	46.50	65.00	2.70	3.35	60.00	320
Arkansas	55.00	76.00	3.05	3.85	71.00	364
Louisiana	46.00	63.00	2.65	3.25	60.00	377
Oklahoma	80.00	107.00	4.35	5.10	98.00	410
Texas	78.00	105.00	4.10	4.70	93.00	415
West South Central	68.00	83.00	3.70	4.35	84.00	373
Montana	134.00	167.00	6.30	7.30	138.00	352
Idaho	146.00	181.00	7.00	7.90	150.00	423
Wyoming	120.00	164.00	5.60	7.20	126.00	339
Colorado	108.00	148.00	5.40	6.60	115.00	378
New Mexico	92.00	122.00	4.65	5.30	97.00	390
Arizona	120.00	156.00	4.85	6.00	121.00	396
Utah	137.00	168.00	5.60	6.30	135.00	424
Nevada	129.00	166.00	5.20	6.30	124.00	345
Mountain	122.00	158.00	5.60	6.70	126.00	365
Washington	149.00	192.00	7.10	9.10	168.00	454
Oregon	145.00	181.00	7.00	8.00	158.00	455
California	152.00	191.00	6.80	8.10	164.00	439
Pacific	151.00	191.00	6.80	8.30	164.00	426
UNITED STATES	96.00	111.00	4.50	5.10	101.00	408

1/ Weighted average of all classes of payments. Daily rates were multiplied by 20 to obtain approximate monthly rates.

Farm labor program: Farm labor placements, December 1947 1/

State	December		January 1 to December 31	
	1946	1947	1946	1947
Maine	72	*	68,407	58,843
New Hampshire	56	*	16,187	10,958
Vermont	38	28	4,177	2,585
Massachusetts	26	*	4,798	1,335
Rhode Island	6	2	213	104
Connecticut	582	354	31,516	24,682
New York	189	275	278,684	162,564
New Jersey	83	0	56,635	16,435
Pennsylvania	1,244	334	48,020	26,061
Ohio	432	*	62,297	34,022
Indiana	124	55	22,400	16,548
Illinois	455	387	58,534	51,177
Michigan	1,338	1,400	181,030	147,325
Wisconsin	205	102	48,151	46,011
Minnesota	267	20	36,381	36,685
Iowa	151	185	42,778	34,984
Missouri	708	0	15,270	5,873
North Dakota	205	280	98,170	97,583
South Dakota	518	*	40,405	30,385
Nebraska	970	389	44,451	28,103
Kansas	25	20	21,225	33,284
Delaware	12	36	14,117	4,495
Maryland	1,144	132	78,030	61,414
Virginia	21	*	40,918	23,904
West Virginia	37	*	1,730	607
North Carolina	3,723	1,488	113,602	171,779
South Carolina	2,433	2,481	46,728	51,637
Georgia	5,906	7,119	147,242	123,693
Florida	2,982	345	43,278	22,209
Kentucky	331	*	17,953	35,144
Tennessee	4,844	*	86,468	62,224
Alabama	663	442	27,523	20,667
Mississippi	8,549	6,786	221,365	157,257
Arkansas	7,331	3,798	282,595	287,680
Louisiana	4,522	1,716	91,383	62,766
Oklahoma	1,845	720	85,678	51,466
Texas	9,382	9,435	335,885	383,709
Montana	175	*	69,933	31,443
Idaho	179	210	247,945	219,391
Wyoming	150	1,373	35,323	33,822
Colorado	6,289	625	134,759	88,687
New Mexico	181	1,506	53,274	27,744
Arizona	944	1,297	30,732	8,546
Utah	398	300	100,028	66,575
Nevada	150	150	4,828	4,895
Washington	1,196	740	281,672	245,636
Oregon	1,657	*	186,658	158,120
California	25,632	23,077	667,741	684,006
Total	98,370	67,607	4,627,117	3,955,063

1/ Final report of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C. December data from monthly reports, and annual data from annual statistical reports. 2/ Revised.

* No report.

Farm labor program: Placements of World War II veterans on farms,
United States, by months, January 1946 -December 1947 1/

Month and year	: As hired hands	: As tenants or sharecroppers	: All placements
1946	:	:	:
January	: 3,186	: 1,750	: 4,936
February	: 3,544	: 1,844	: 5,388
March	: 4,538	: 1,527	: 6,065
April	: 5,707	: 1,627	: 7,334
May	: 8,048	: 990	: 9,038
June	: 12,569	: 974	: 13,543
July	: 16,062	: 824	: 16,886
August	: 21,097	: 874	: 21,971
September	: 12,139	: 883	: 13,082
October	: 12,635	: 789	: 13,424
November	: 6,921	: 927	: 7,848
December	: 4,802	: 1,507	: 6,309
Total	: 111,308	: 14,516	: 125,824
1947	:	:	:
January	: 4,060	: 1,453	: 5,513
February	: 4,763	: 1,982	: 6,745
March	: 5,143	: 1,676	: 6,819
April	: 7,325	: 1,024	: 8,349
May	: 11,622	: 591	: 12,213
June	: 16,369	: 1,300	: 17,669
July	: 18,645	: 593	: 19,238
August	: 15,471	: 700	: 16,171
September	: 17,763	: 785	: 18,548
October	: 13,550	: 784	: 14,334
November	: 4,308	: 790	: 5,098
December	: 2,221	: 523	: 2,804
Total	: 121,240	: 12,261	: 133,501

1/ Final report of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service,
U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C. Data from monthly reports.

Farm labor program: Placements of World War II veterans on farms,
by geographic divisions, December 1947 1/

Area	: As hired hands	: As tenants or sharecroppers	: All placements
New England	: 14	: 0	: 14
Middle Atlantic	: 57	: 5	: 62
East North Central:	: 125	: 37	: 162
West North Central:	: 124	: 6	: 130
South Atlantic	: 143	: 174	: 317
East South Central:	: 146	: 62	: 208
West South Central:	: 651	: 278	: 929
Mountain	: 244	: 21	: 265
Pacific	: 717	: 0	: 717

1/ Final report of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service,
U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C. Data from monthly reports.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE-FL 2/12/48 - 1700
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Hired employment on February 1 was slightly less than a month earlier. Ordinarily, February is nearly 10 percent higher. By regions, the number of hired workers usually increases from 5 to 14 percent during January, but this year there were decreases in 6 of the 9 regions. In five of the regions the decreases amounted to 5 percent or more. In the New England and South Atlantic States the number of hired workers increased from January 1 to February 1 but less than the usual amount. In the East South Central States the seasonal increase was larger than usual but was due to the unusually small number of hired hands at work on January 1. In comparison with a year ago, the number of hired workers on February 1 was down about the same percentage as in the other southern regions.

The number of family workers for the United States was about the same on February 1 as a year ago. Decreases in the New England, West North Central, East South Central and Mountain and Pacific States were offset by increases in the other regions. Changes from a year ago were generally small. For the entire country there was little change in family employment from January 1 to February 1. In the North Central States there were fewer family workers on February 1 than a month earlier. Ordinarily there is a little change. As usual, there were no changes, or only small increases, in the numbers of family workers during January in all other regions.