

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service

FARM LABOR REPORT

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Washington, D. C. ----- August 15, 1941 -----

FARM EMPLOYMENT;  
DOWN ON AUGUST 1

The total number of persons working on farms in the United States--estimated at 10,633,000 workers on August 1--was lower by 1,136,000 than a month earlier, the Department of Agriculture reported today. This decline is slightly less than for the same period last year, when the number of workers dropped from 12,037,000 on July 1 to 10,867,000 on August 1, but it was enough to reduce farm employment to the lowest August 1 level recorded in the series of estimates which began in 1925. The number of workers was lower than last year in all sections of the country except the West North Central, the Mountain, and the Pacific Coast States.

The larger-than-usual reduction in total employment is a result of declines in the number of both family and hired workers. The number of family workers on August 1 at 7,766,000 was 898,000 lower than on July 1 and 220,000 lower than on August 1, 1940. The 2,867,000 hired workers estimated for August 1 compare with 3,105,000 a month earlier and with 2,881,000 for August of last year. A shift of unpaid family workers to a paid status --on the farm or elsewhere--probably accounts for part of the decrease in family workers.

Generally favorable weather conditions for farm work and efficient use of the workers employed have enabled farmers to continue normal operations with a smaller labor force. There is every evidence that total farm production is being maintained at a very high level with no curtailment or loss because of a reduced supply of labor. Milk and egg production was reported at record rates on August 1, harvesting of the largest wheat crop since 1919 is almost completed, midseason fruit and truck crops are moving to market in larger volume than a year earlier, and the progress of all important late crops except cotton and some types of tobacco is reported to be unusually good.

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Farm employment, August 1, 1941, with comparisons

FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)

Item	June 1 1940	July 1 1940	Aug. 1 1940	June 1 1941	July 1 1941	Aug. 1 1941
All farm workers-						
Unadjusted.....	99	100	90	97	98	88
Adjusted for seasonality.....	85	88	87	84	87	85
Family labor-						
Unadjusted.....	100	97	87	97	95	85
Adjusted for seasonality.....	87	87	85	84	86	83
Hired labor-						
Unadjusted.....	96	108	100	96	107	99
Adjusted for seasonality.....	81	89	90	90	88	89

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

Item	May 1940	June 1940	July 1940	May 1941	June 1941	July 1941
	<u>1,000's</u>	<u>1,000's</u>	<u>1,000's</u>	<u>1,000's</u>	<u>1,000's</u>	<u>1,000's</u>
Farm employment <u>1/</u> .....	11,419	11,966	11,452	11,204	11,709	11,201
Family workers.....	8,771	9,028	8,456	8,603	8,769	8,215
Hired workers.....	2,648	2,938	2,996	2,601	2,940	2,986
Nonagricultural employment <u>2/</u> .....	<u>3/</u> 35,163	<u>3/</u> 35,425	35,176	<u>3/</u> 38,306	<u>3/</u> 38,790	-
Total employment.....	<u>3/</u> 46,582	<u>3/</u> 47,391	46,628	<u>3/</u> 49,510	<u>3/</u> 50,499	-

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

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. camps, and military and naval forces.

3/ Revised.

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

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Geographic division	June 1, 1940	July 1, 1940	Aug. 1, 1940	June 1, 1941	July 1, 1941	Aug. 1, 1941
	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's	1,000's
United States.....	11,896	12,037	10,867	11,649	11,769	10,633
New England.....	268	273	288	261	287	274
Middle Atlantic.....	625	709	738	611	692	680
East North Central....	1,560	1,600	1,591	1,506	1,594	1,524
West North Central....	1,810	1,911	1,886	1,812	1,964	1,921
South Atlantic.....	2,398	2,423	2,080	2,361	2,236	2,012
East South Central....	2,072	1,912	1,542	1,969	1,812	1,450
West South Central....	2,139	2,085	1,676	2,092	2,059	1,609
Mountain.....	479	537	501	476	531	552
Pacific.....	545	587	565	561	594	602

FAMILY WORKERS 1/

United States.....	9,131	8,925	7,986	8,874	8,664	7,766
New England.....	166	170	169	173	178	165
Middle Atlantic.....	413	461	463	411	452	441
East North Central....	1,192	1,216	1,175	1,180	1,189	1,150
West North Central....	1,407	1,419	1,381	1,391	1,429	1,386
South Atlantic.....	1,834	1,846	1,571	1,815	1,724	1,545
East South Central....	1,799	1,643	1,341	1,694	1,561	1,256
West South Central....	1,714	1,563	1,288	1,598	1,522	1,214
Mountain.....	293	303	293	302	302	303
Pacific.....	313	304	305	310	307	306

HIRED WORKERS

United States.....	2,765	3,112	2,881	2,775	3,105	2,867
New England.....	102	103	119	38	109	109
Middle Atlantic.....	212	248	275	200	240	239
East North Central....	368	384	416	326	405	374
West North Central....	403	492	505	421	535	535
South Atlantic.....	564	577	509	546	512	467
East South Central....	273	269	201	275	251	203
West South Central....	425	522	388	494	537	395
Mountain.....	136	234	203	174	229	249
Pacific.....	232	283	260	251	287	296

1/ Including farm operators.

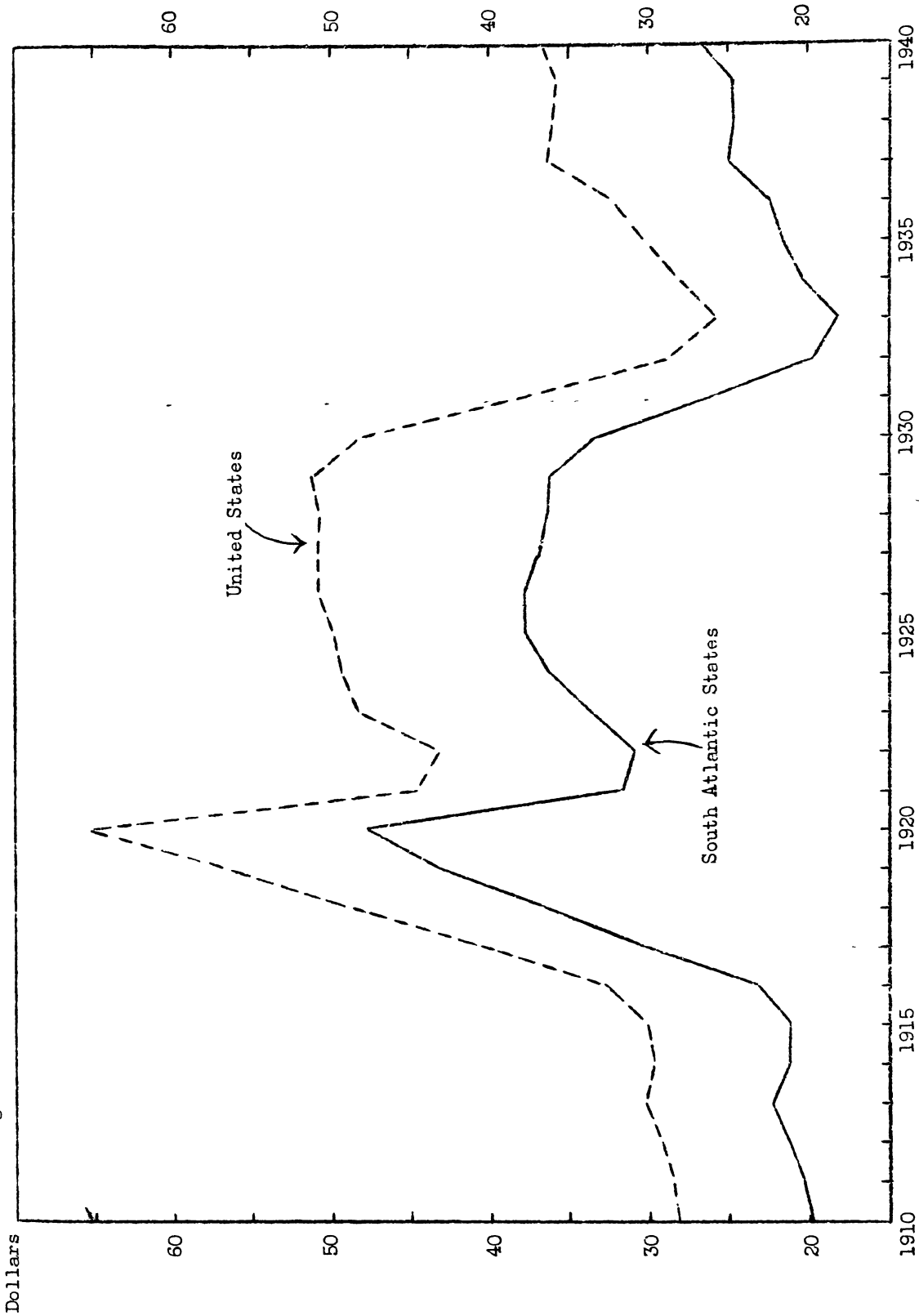
Based on reports from 21,370 farmers.



South Atlantic States: Annual average wage rates, by classes,  
1910-41

Date	Per month	Per month	Per day	Per day
	with board	without board	with board	without board
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1910.....	13.69	19.75	.78	1.02
1911.....	14.17	20.36	.81	1.04
1912.....	14.73	21.25	.83	1.06
1913.....	15.66	22.34	.84	1.08
1914.....	14.85	21.15	.80	1.04
1915.....	14.69	21.13	.79	1.02
1916.....	16.16	23.25	.88	1.13
1917.....	21.79	30.24	1.15	1.50
1918.....	25.56	36.51	1.53	1.98
1919.....	29.78	43.22	1.82	2.36
1920.....	34.81	47.67	2.10	2.70
1921.....	21.85	31.63	1.19	1.55
1922.....	21.49	30.99	1.15	1.51
1923.....	23.47	33.77	1.23	1.63
1924.....	25.42	36.24	1.35	1.77
1925.....	26.52	37.73	1.44	1.88
1926.....	26.79	37.87	1.41	1.85
1927.....	25.77	36.94	1.36	1.80
1928.....	25.56	36.44	1.36	1.78
1929.....	25.23	36.28	1.33	1.73
1930.....	22.87	33.42	1.18	1.55
1931.....	17.50	26.37	.89	1.21
1932.....	12.87	19.63	.66	.89
1933.....	11.88	18.15	.62	.84
1934.....	13.73	20.49	.74	.99
1935.....	14.45	21.69	.76	1.01
1936.....	15.02	22.50	.79	1.06
1937.....	16.83	25.00	.80	1.18
1938.....	16.65	24.72	.87	1.17
1939.....	16.64	24.83	.87	1.18
1940.....	17.46	26.90	.92	1.22
1940 Jan.....	16.76	25.08	.88	1.20
Apr.....	16.92	25.45	.88	1.18
July.....	17.55	25.60	.92	1.21
Oct.....	17.75	25.77	.95	1.24
1941 Jan.....	18.26	27.00	.97	1.27
Apr.....	19.03	27.97	.99	1.28
July.....	20.57	29.73	1.09	1.40

Farm wage rates: Per month without board, South Atlantic States and United States, 1910-40



Improvement in farm wage rates during the first half of 1941 was not as marked in the South Atlantic States as for the country as a whole, and the general level of farm wage rates is still well below that prevailing during the twenties. Competition for labor is not as keen in this region as in some of the more industrialized areas.