

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
CROP REPORTING BOARD

Washington, D. C.
June 11, 1934

EMPLOYMENT ON FARMS OF CROP REPORTERS, JUNE 1, 1934,
WITH COMPARISONS

Estimated number of persons employed per 100 farms on farms of crop reporters as based on reports from 21,102 farmers. Data for previous months appear in current issues of Crops and Markets.

Month & Year	United States	New Eng-land	Middle Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	East South Central	West South Central	Mountain	Pacific
<u>Family Labor</u>										
Apr. 1, 1933	222	158	167	171	180	290	372	254	189	172
May 1, 1933	225	160	166	171	179	287	394	262	189	170
June 1, 1933	234	158	173	177	183	298	411	281	191	172
Apr. 1, 1934	223	159	167	169	178	287	367	269	192	175
May 1, 1934	216	154	170	167	175	285	356	237	184	173
June 1, 1934	227	163	177	172	182	304	382	252	189	179
<u>Hired Labor</u>										
Apr. 1, 1933	79	112	71	42	41	149	115	77	52	154
May 1, 1933	86	105	72	51	48	143	101	76	60	285
June 1, 1933	96	125	76	59	51	157	131	99	76	221
Apr. 1, 1934	80	98	72	46	43	143	105	77	67	185
May 1, 1934	80	108	79	54	47	131	97	61	64	204
June 1, 1934	92	127	80	53	49	163	115	81	77	232
<u>Family and Hired Labor Combined</u>										
Apr. 1, 1933	301	270	238	213	221	439	487	331	241	326
May 1, 1933	311	265	238	222	227	430	495	338	249	455
June 1, 1933	330	283	249	236	234	455	542	380	267	393
Apr. 1, 1934	303	257	239	215	221	430	472	346	259	360
May 1, 1934	296	262	249	221	222	416	453	298	248	377
June 1, 1934	319	290	257	225	231	467	497	333	266	411

FARM EMPLOYMENT

A seasonal upturn in employment on farms of crop reporters indicated that agricultural employment in the United States increased considerably during the month of May. On June 1, 227 family workers and 92 hired hands were employed on every 100 farms operated by crop reporters as compared with 216 family and 80 hired workers per hundred farms a month earlier. The increase during this period was

fairly general over the entire United States except in the case of hired workers in Middle Atlantic and East North Central States where the change was too small to be significant. Spring planting of other than emergency feed crops largely had been completed by June 1 but farmers were busily engaged in making hay and cultivating row crops. Cotton chopping and harvesting of early vegetable and small grain crops were other tasks requiring an increase in the labor force on the first of this month.

Less labor was required on farms of crop reporters on the first of this month, however, than a year ago. Although the total number of persons employed had increased somewhat over June 1, 1933 in Atlantic and Pacific Coast States, decreases in the interior of the country, where crop acreages have declined because of drouth and other factors, dropped the average number of persons employed 11 persons per hundred farms for the country as a whole.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Washington, D. C.
July 12, 1934.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, JULY 1, 1934, WITH COMPARISONS.

Estimated Farm Wage rates, the supply of and demand for hired farm workers, and farm employment, as based on reports to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, for the United States. These data for previous quarters appear in "Crops and Markets" for February, April, July and October, and in the United States Agricultural Yearbook, 1933, tables 467 and 468. These data will be published in the July issue of "Crops and Markets".

	:Annual :	:	:	:	:
	:Average:	April	July	April	July
	:1910-14:	1933	1933	1934	1934
FARM WAGE INDEX	100	73	78	88	90
FARM WAGE RATES					
Per month, with board	\$20.41	\$14.67	\$15.84	\$17.70	\$18.18
Per month, without board	29.09	22.98	24.27	26.88	27.29
Per day, with board	1.10	.75	.82	.93	.97
Per day, without board	1.43	1.05	1.12	1.27	1.30
SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (% of normal)					
Supply	-	125.8	116.2	107.0	105.7
Demand	-	58.9	65.5	69.4	70.0
Supply as a percentage of demand	-	213.5	177.5	154.2	151.0
FARM EMPLOYMENT ^{1/} (Persons per 100 farms)					
Family Labor	-	222	237	223	2.37
Hired Labor	-	79	101	80	102
Combined	-	301	338	303	3.39
RELATED INDEXES					
Farm price index ^{2/}	100	53	76	74	77 ^{3/}
Ratio of farm prices to farm wages	100	73	97	84	86
Industrial wages ^{4/}	-	165	176	183	183 ^{5/}
Industrial employment ^{6/}	-	60 ^{7/}	72 ^{7/}	82 ^{7/}	82 ^{5/}
Industrial payrolls ^{6/}	-	39 ^{7/}	51 ^{7/}	67 ^{7/}	67 ^{5/}

^{1/} On farms of crop reporters.

^{2/} As of the 15th of the month.

^{3/} June 1934 - Latest data available.

^{4/} Average weekly earnings, New York State factories, June 1914 = 100.

^{5/} May 1934 - Latest data available.

^{6/} Bureau of Labor Statistics, Index of factory employment 1923-1925 = 100.

^{7/} Revises.

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FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,
July 1, 1934, with comparisons.

Geographic Divisions	: Annual : average : 1910-14	: April 1 : 1933	: July 1 : 1933	: April 1 : 1934	: July 1 : 1934
FARM WAGE RATES	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>
Per month with board					
New England	24.23	23.22	24.73	25.74	27.52
Middle Atlantic	22.08	19.91	21.18	22.39	23.17
East North Central	23.79	15.91	17.03	18.95	19.24
West North Central	26.02	16.28	17.26	18.88	19.26
South Atlantic	14.65	10.62	11.53	13.38	13.71
East South Central	14.65	10.39	11.01	12.60	13.09
West South Central	17.65	12.10	13.08	15.59	15.67
Mountain	32.36	21.58	24.17	26.45	28.08
Pacific	33.33	24.74	28.29	30.29	31.46
Per month without board					
New England	37.54	42.31	42.87	46.56	48.12
Middle Atlantic	33.19	33.87	34.51	36.80	37.49
East North Central	32.86	24.86	25.71	28.29	28.48
West North Central	36.45	24.77	25.89	27.92	27.69
South Atlantic	20.96	16.37	17.52	20.18	20.41
East South Central	20.72	15.36	16.05	18.12	18.46
West South Central	25.33	18.44	19.57	22.90	22.98
Mountain	46.15	32.72	35.52	39.54	41.02
Pacific	47.97	40.57	46.27	48.42	51.39
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	1.26	1.37	1.47	1.62
Middle Atlantic	1.23	1.18	1.25	1.31	1.39
East North Central	1.31	.87	.96	1.04	1.08
West North Central	1.44	.83	.92	.97	1.03
South Atlantic	.81	.54	.60	.72	.76
East South Central	.81	.52	.55	.66	.65
West South Central	.99	.58	.67	.80	.82
Mountain	1.50	1.00	1.08	1.23	1.31
Pacific	1.50	1.12	1.21	1.40	1.56
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	1.87	1.96	2.16	2.27
Middle Atlantic	1.62	1.66	1.73	1.82	1.95
East North Central	1.68	1.18	1.31	1.39	1.43
West North Central	1.85	1.19	1.27	1.37	1.41
South Atlantic	1.05	.75	.79	.96	.97
East South Central	1.04	.67	.73	.86	.86
West South Central	1.26	.82	.87	1.02	1.01
Mountain	2.04	1.40	1.51	1.71	1.78
Pacific	2.06	1.66	1.79	2.11	2.23

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, by geographic divisions,
July 1, 1934, with comparisons (Cont'd.)

Geographic divisions	: April 1, 1932	: July 1, 1932	: April 1, 1933	: July 1, 1933	: April 1, 1934	: July 1, 1934
SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (percent of normal)						
New England	126.7	132.0	135.8	124.1	109.3	100.1
Middle Atlantic	121.6	122.9	127.7	115.5	107.3	102.6
East North Central	132.6	130.1	136.5	122.6	113.8	111.3
West North Central	123.0	126.1	127.3	120.6	114.1	113.6
South Atlantic	113.6	114.5	115.6	108.3	97.3	95.7
East South Central	117.3	118.0	116.2	109.1	100.7	99.8
West South Central	122.6	124.8	126.1	116.0	107.0	109.9
Mountain	131.9	132.8	138.1	126.0	118.9	113.3
Pacific	126.9	132.7	137.8	124.7	110.8	108.5
DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (percent of normal)						
New England	72.4	73.2	67.5	75.1	77.3	81.1
Middle Atlantic	71.9	72.7	66.6	74.5	76.8	77.8
East North Central	64.4	64.1	59.7	69.4	69.7	70.4
West North Central	61.1	59.0	53.5	61.1	65.2	59.1
South Atlantic	65.7	64.7	63.3	69.1	72.6	78.5
East South Central	63.2	59.7	61.4	64.3	71.5	72.6
West South Central	56.2	54.8	53.0	56.8	62.2	61.0
Mountain	58.1	59.6	52.1	63.2	66.3	65.2
Pacific	66.8	66.2	58.6	68.8	74.2	77.2
SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (percent of normal)						
New England	175.0	180.3	201.2	165.2	141.4	123.4
Middle Atlantic	169.1	169.1	191.9	155.1	139.7	131.9
East North Central	205.7	202.9	228.5	176.5	163.3	158.1
West North Central	201.3	213.6	238.2	197.4	175.0	192.2
South Atlantic	173.0	176.8	182.6	156.7	134.0	121.9
East South Central	185.6	197.7	189.1	169.7	140.8	137.5
West South Central	218.1	227.7	237.8	204.1	172.0	180.2
Mountain	227.0	222.9	265.2	199.3	179.3	173.8
Pacific	190.0	200.5	235.0	181.4	149.3	140.5
FARM EMPLOYMENT (persons per 100 farms)^{1/}						
Family Labor						
New England	156	169	158	166	159	174
Middle Atlantic	165	181	167	183	167	182
East North Central	175	188	171	185	169	179
West North Central	134	192	180	138	178	187
South Atlantic	313	343	290	297	287	321
East South Central	371	419	372	390	367	396
West South Central	279	296	254	282	269	268
Mountain	192	211	189	203	192	198
Pacific	171	183	172	186	175	197

^{1/} On farms of crop reporters.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, by geographic divisions,
July 1, 1934, with comparisons (cont'd.)

Geographic Divisions	April 1, 1932	July 1, 1932	April 1, 1933	July 1, 1933	April 1, 1934	July 1, 1934
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/(Cont'd)						
Hired Labor						
New England	109	136	112	150	98	134
Middle Atlantic	70	96	71	93	72	91
East North Central	44	64	42	66	46	66
West North Central	46	59	41	61	43	55
South Atlantic	143	182	149	151	143	179
East South Central	105	138	115	122	105	130
West South Central	87	99	77	80	77	69
Mountain	57	81	52	94	67	83
Pacific	216	311	154	269	185	276
Combined						
New England	265	305	270	316	257	308
Middle Atlantic	235	277	238	281	239	273
East North Central	219	252	213	251	215	245
West North Central	230	251	221	249	221	242
South Atlantic	456	525	439	448	430	500
East South Central	476	557	487	512	472	526
West South Central	366	395	331	362	346	337
Mountain	249	292	241	297	259	281
Pacific	387	494	326	455	360	473

1/ On farms of crop reporters.

FARM WAGES

The general level of farm wage rates rose 2 points during the second quarter of 1934 to 90 percent of their pre-war average on July 1, according to the farm wage index of the Crop Reporting Board. The advance, however, was only one-third of the seasonal increase usually recorded during this period. On the average, the farm wage index advanced 6 points from April 1 to July 1 during the 6 years, 1924-1929, when a consistent seasonal trend in farm wage rate movements was apparent due to an increase in the demand for harvest labor.

Crop acreages have been cut materially this year, however, and the actual amount of work to be done on farms has been reduced accordingly; moreover, in many drought-stricken areas farmers were reaping exceptionally small harvests. Consequently, the demand for labor has been limited by a prospective reduction in farm income and, in some States, farm wage rates actually dropped during the three months ended July in sharp contrast to the usual sharp upward seasonal trend.

The July 1 index of average farm wage rates throughout the country as a whole at 90 was still 12 points higher than a year earlier. This was the highest July 1 wage index recorded since 1931. Wage rates per day, without board, ranged from \$2.70 in Rhode Island down to 70 cents in South Carolina and averaged \$1.30 for all States. On July 1, 1933, the United States average daily wage without board amounted to only \$1.12.

Reports from crop correspondents indicate that the slight advance in farm wages since April 1 has been accompanied by a decline in the supply of available farm workers, of from 107 percent of normal on April 1 to 105.7 on the first of this month. The July 1 supply of farm labor was considerably lower than in mid-1933 when a figure 116.2 percent of normal was reported, and at the lowest level reported since September, 1930. This reduction was a result of the material

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY STATES, JULY 1, 1934

STATE	WAGE RATES				SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR		
	Per month		Per day		Supply	Demand	Supply
	with	without	with	without	as % of	as % of	as % of
	board	board	board	board	normal	normal	demand
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	27.25	43.50	1.55	2.10	101	78	129
N. H.	28.00	50.00	1.65	2.55	98	85	115
Vt.	24.00	39.75	1.40	1.95	100	84	119
Mass.	29.25	55.00	1.65	2.45	99	76	130
R. I.	37.00	60.75	1.95	2.70	100	85	118
Conn.	26.75	48.75	1.80	2.30	102	86	119
N. Y.	24.00	38.50	1.40	2.00	101	75	135
N. J.	27.00	45.00	1.65	2.10	108	89	121
Pa.	21.00	34.00	1.30	1.85	103	78	132
Ohio	18.00	27.75	1.10	1.45	108	68	159
Ind.	19.25	27.75	1.05	1.35	116	72	161
Ill.	21.00	29.00	1.10	1.40	111	68	163
Mich.	18.50	28.75	1.15	1.60	106	74	143
Wis.	18.75	29.00	1.00	1.40	115	72	160
Minn.	19.50	29.50	1.05	1.60	120	56	214
Iowa	21.00	27.50	1.05	1.40	116	64	181
Mo.	17.50	24.50	.85	1.10	107	62	173
N. Dak.	20.50	31.00	1.00	1.50	112	54	207
S. Dak.	17.50	26.50	.90	1.30	116	42	276
Nebr.	19.50	27.75	1.10	1.50	118	58	203
Kans.	19.50	29.75	1.35	1.65	107	65	165
Del.	18.00	28.00	1.20	1.50	94	82	115
Md.	21.25	33.00	1.20	1.60	98	87	113
Va.	17.00	25.00	.90	1.15	101	80	126
W. Va.	18.50	28.75	.95	1.30	101	66	153
N. C.	14.25	21.25	.80	1.00	95	79	120
S. C.	10.50	15.25	.55	.70	90	79	114
Ga.	10.00	14.75	.60	.75	96	80	120
Fla.	15.00	22.00	.80	1.10	92	66	139
Ky.	16.00	22.25	.75	1.00	102	66	155
Tenn.	14.50	20.25	.70	.90	103	75	137
Ala.	11.00	15.75	.60	.80	98	76	129
Miss.	11.00	15.75	.55	.75	96	73	132
Ark.	13.75	20.00	.65	.90	103	60	172
La.	12.25	17.75	.60	.70	106	73	145
Okla.	17.75	26.25	1.00	1.20	116	64	181
Tex.	17.00	25.00	.90	1.10	112	56	200
Mont.	34.00	45.00	1.40	2.05	114	60	190
Ida.	33.00	47.75	1.60	2.05	105	74	142
Wyo.	28.50	40.75	1.30	1.70	101	67	151
Colo.	21.50	34.25	1.05	1.50	114	72	158
N.Mex.	21.00	34.00	1.05	1.40	102	56	182
Ariz.	32.00	45.00	1.40	1.90	116	70	166
Utah	32.00	45.50	1.55	2.00	134	54	248
Nev.	33.50	45.00	1.45	2.00	146	58	252
Wash.	25.50	43.50	1.50	2.20	108	74	146
Oreg.	26.75	44.00	1.45	1.95	107	77	139
Calif.	34.00	55.00	1.60	2.30	109	78	140
U. S.	18.18	27.29	.97	1.30	105.7	70.0	151.0

gain in employment by manufacturing industries during the past year. Although industrial employment is unofficially reported to have slackened seasonally during June, it is evident that few of the people who regained industrial positions during the past 12 months had attempted to seek jobs on farms prior to July 1.

Changes in the demand for farm labor from April 1 to July 1 varied widely in different sections of the country, demand having increased seasonally east of the Mississippi River and on the Pacific Coast while dropping in West North Central States and other drought affected areas. As a result, reports from crop correspondents averaged only 70 percent of normal for the country as a whole on the first of this month as compared with 69.4 on April 1 and 65.5 percent of normal on July 1, 1933.

A supply-demand ratio 151 percent of normal was recorded on July 1, however, as compared with 154.2 three months earlier and 177.5 percent of normal a year ago. This was the smallest ratio recorded since July, 1931.

Farm employment increased seasonally during June throughout the country as a whole, and on July 1 the number of persons employed on farms of crop reporters indicated that total agricultural employment in the United States was about the same as a year earlier. The peak work load in the harvesting of fall-planted grains and the second-early potato crop together with continued cultivation of row crops on July 1 were primarily responsible for the increase in labor employed over June 1.

Although the number of persons employed on farms of crop reporters on the first of this month roughly equaled the employment a year earlier, gains recorded in Southeastern and Pacific Coast States were entirely responsible for this situation. A decline in employment in other sections and particularly in drought-stricken areas where crop acreages were materially reduced just about offset this rise.