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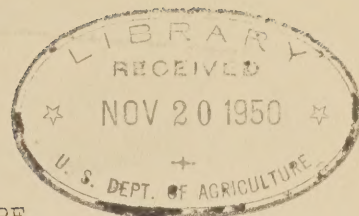
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Numbers, Distribution, Composition, and
Employment Status of the Farm Labor Group
in the United States

Tables and charts presented at the hearings
before the Subcommittee on Senate Resolution 266 (74th Congress),
of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, May 8, 1940,
by William T. Ham, in charge of Labor and Tenancy Studies,
and Josiah C. Folsom, Associate Agricultural Economist,
Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare.

From this chart three things are apparent: (1) A decrease in the proportion of owners and an increase in the proportion of tenants; (2) An increase from 1920 to 1930 in the proportion of sharecroppers and a decrease in this proportion from 1930 to 1935; (3) A slight upward trend from 1910 to 1930 in the proportion of hired workers and a similarly gradual downward trend in the proportion of unpaid family workers. After 1930 there is a decided drop in the proportion of hired workers. The figures on which this chart is based are as follows:

Table 1.- Number and percentage in each tenure class gainfully employed in agriculture, United States, 1880 to 1935

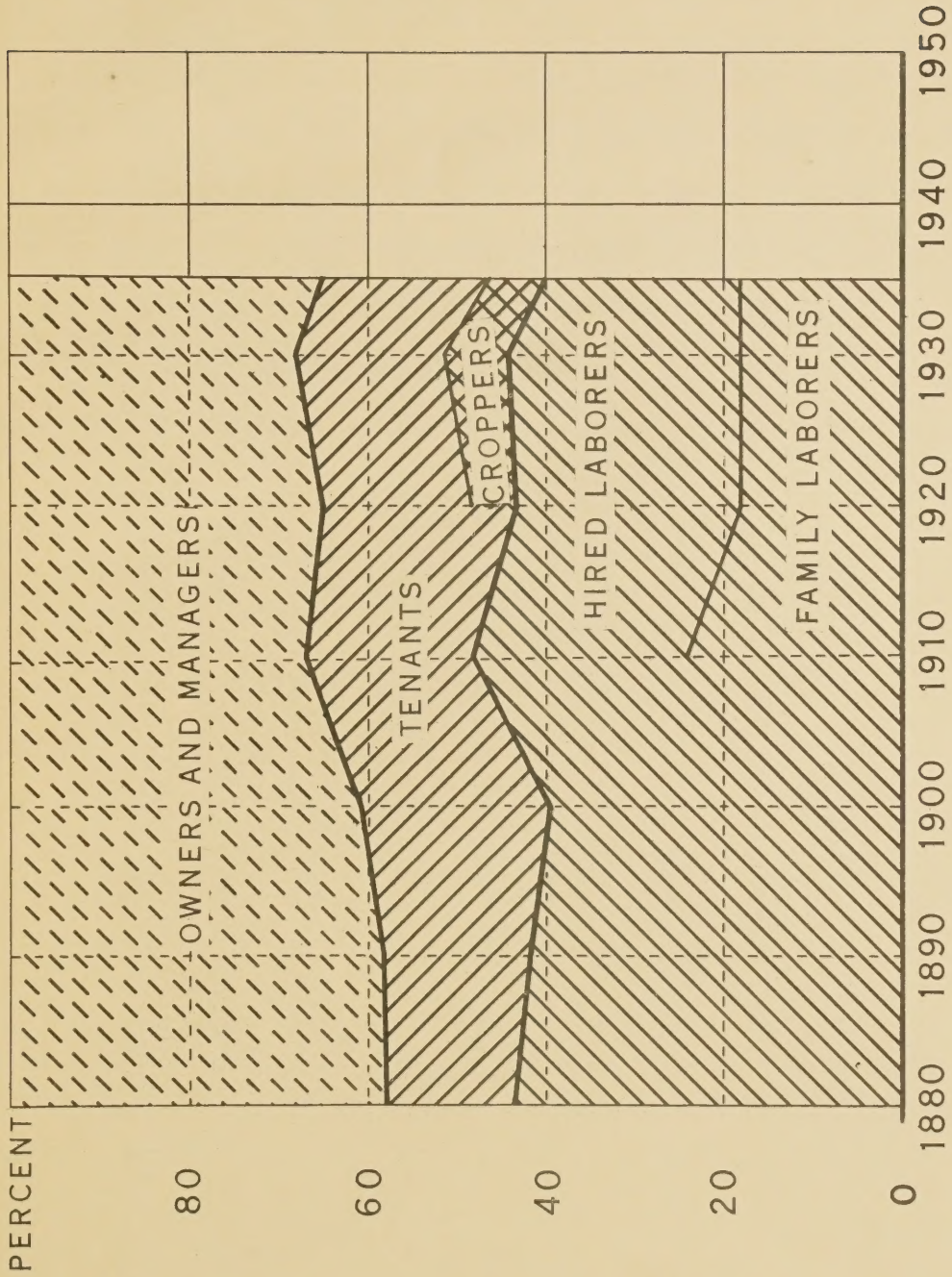
Year	Total (U.P.A.)		Owners and managers (Census)		Tenants (Census)		Croppers (Census)		Hired (W.P.A.)		Family (W.P.A.)	
	Thous- ands	Pct.	Thous- ands	Pct.	Thous- ands	Pct.	Thous- ands	Pct.	Thous- ands	Pct.	Thous- ands	Pct.
1935	11,172	100.0	3,947	35.0	2,149	19.0	716	6.0	2,468	22.0	1,892	18.0
1930	11,173	100.0	3,624	32.0	1,838	17.0	776	7.0	2,850	26.0	2,035	18.0
1920	11,362	100.0	3,994	35.0	1,993	17.0	561	5.0	2,883	25.0	2,031	18.0
1910	12,146	100.0	4,007	33.0	Thousands		Percent		2,877	24.0	2,907	24.0
1900	9,490	100.0	3,712	39.1	2,025		21.3		3,753		39.6	
1890	7,861	100.0	3,269	41.6	1,295		16.5		3,297		41.9	
1880	7,113	100.0	2,934	41.9	1,025		14.4		3,109		43.7	

Source of data:

1880-1900: Unpublished manuscript entitled "Farm-Occupied Persons with and without Land: United States and Regional Trends since 1850," by C. L. Stewart and A. H. Harrington, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, November 1939.

1910-1935: U. S. Census and U.P.A. National Research Project, "Trends in Employment in Agriculture, 1909-1936."

PERCENTAGE IN EACH TENURE CLASS GAINFULLY
EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE, UNITED STATES, 1880-1935



Composition of the Farm Labor Group by States

Owners and tenants (including sharecroppers) made up 57.4 percent of the total working population on the farms of the United States in 1930, unpaid family workers 15.7 percent, wage workers 26 percent. From 1930 to 1935 the proportion of hired workers decreased.

In the Southern States there is a larger proportion of family workers than elsewhere. Especially large proportions of hired workers will be noted in California, Nevada, Arizona, Florida, Maryland, and New Jersey.

Persons gainfully occupied in Agriculture, April 1, 1930*

State and geographic divisions	Classes of workers										
	Number					Percentage of total					
	Owners and tenants	Managers and foremen	Wage Laborers	Unpaid family	Other Occupations	Total	Owners and tenants	Managers and foremen	Wage Laborers	Unpaid family	Other occupations
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Maine	31,163	478	16,776	3,005	97	51,519	60.5	0.9	32.6	5.8	0.2
New Hampshire	12,019	406	8,941	674	51	22,091	54.5	1.8	40.5	3.0	0.2
Vermont	20,742	390	14,781	2,179	49	38,141	54.4	1.0	38.8	5.7	0.1
Massachusetts	21,125	1,487	30,347	2,472	584	56,015	37.7	2.7	54.2	4.4	1.0
Rhode Island	3,001	172	5,292	314	94	8,873	33.8	1.9	59.6	3.6	1.1
Connecticut	14,759	786	19,458	1,381	303	36,687	40.3	2.1	53.0	3.8	0.8
New England	102,809	3,719	95,595	10,025	1,178	213,326	48.2	1.7	44.8	4.7	0.6
New York	148,144	3,052	103,893	11,997	893	267,979	55.3	1.1	38.8	4.5	0.3
New Jersey	25,649	1,187	34,320	2,720	595	64,471	39.8	1.8	53.3	4.2	0.9
Pennsylvania	145,795	2,660	84,264	18,004	720	251,443	57.9	1.1	33.5	7.2	0.3
Middle Atlantic	319,588	6,899	222,477	32,721	2,208	583,893	54.7	1.2	38.1	5.6	0.4
Ohio	200,775	2,449	89,714	18,247	1,033	312,218	64.3	0.8	28.8	5.8	0.3
Indiana	166,429	1,726	65,652	15,967	376	250,150	65.5	0.7	26.2	6.4	0.2
Illinois	208,435	2,737	113,234	27,345	773	352,524	59.1	0.8	32.1	7.8	0.2
Michigan	158,819	1,750	64,117	22,792	485	247,963	64.1	0.7	25.8	9.2	0.2
Wisconsin	177,287	1,751	78,420	32,417	259	290,134	61.1	0.6	27.0	11.2	0.1
East North Central	911,745	10,413	411,137	116,768	2,926	1,452,989	62.8	0.7	28.3	8.0	0.2
Minnesota	183,645	1,518	77,236	41,004	419	303,822	60.5	0.5	25.4	13.5	0.1
Iowa	211,917	2,024	89,048	27,745	418	331,152	64.0	0.6	26.9	8.4	0.1
Missouri	246,581	2,096	82,435	39,660	479	371,251	66.4	0.6	22.2	10.7	0.1
North Dakota	78,653	846	38,888	15,955	109	134,451	58.5	0.6	28.9	11.9	0.1
South Dakota	84,237	574	32,561	13,351	63	130,786	64.5	0.4	24.9	10.2	1/
Nebraska	129,958	1,089	47,070	19,023	202	197,342	65.8	0.6	23.9	9.6	0.1
Kansas	162,847	1,121	46,702	18,663	211	229,544	70.9	0.5	20.4	8.1	0.1
West North Central	1,029,838	9,268	413,940	175,401	1,901	1,698,348	64.7	0.5	24.4	10.3	0.1
Delaware	9,141	177	6,693	1,295	35	17,341	52.7	1.0	38.6	7.5	0.2
Maryland	38,632	1,135	37,830	6,447	182	84,226	45.9	1.3	44.9	7.7	0.2
District of Columbia	258	24	780	11	26	1,099	23.5	2.2	71.0	1.0	2.3
Virginia	150,450	2,299	81,938	35,888	261	270,836	55.6	0.8	30.3	13.2	0.1
West Virginia	69,724	663	29,886	17,838	51	118,162	59.0	0.6	25.3	15.1	1/
North Carolina	270,187	2,027	93,874	133,687	148	499,923	54.1	0.4	18.8	26.7	1/
South Carolina	152,224	1,427	82,286	108,598	106	344,641	44.2	0.4	23.9	31.5	1/
Georgia	249,991	2,665	114,788	130,037	235	497,716	50.3	0.5	23.1	26.1	1/
Florida	52,962	2,050	62,288	15,833	515	133,648	39.6	1.5	46.6	11.9	0.4
South Atlantic	993,569	12,467	510,363	449,634	1,559	1,967,592	50.5	0.6	25.9	22.9	0.1
Kentucky	234,776	1,429	69,078	53,143	149	358,575	65.5	0.4	19.3	14.8	1/
Tennessee	234,627	1,283	68,784	71,784	145	376,623	62.3	0.3	18.4	19.0	1/
Alabama	253,182	1,371	80,021	158,088	156	492,838	51.4	0.3	16.2	32.1	1/
Mississippi	306,885	1,641	55,071	193,357	448	557,402	55.1	0.3	9.8	34.7	0.1
East South Central	1,029,470	5,724	272,954	476,372	898	1,785,418	57.6	0.3	15.3	26.7	0.1
Arkansas	240,108	1,476	59,516	83,194	318	384,612	62.4	0.4	15.5	21.6	0.1
Louisiana	159,260	1,912	72,057	63,414	596	297,239	53.7	0.6	24.2	21.3	0.2
Oklahoma	199,486	1,327	64,852	40,321	154	306,140	65.1	0.4	21.2	13.2	0.1
Texas	488,697	4,490	198,760	149,236	818	842,001	58.0	0.5	23.6	17.8	0.1
West South Central	1,087,551	9,205	395,185	336,165	1,886	1,829,992	59.4	0.5	21.6	18.4	0.1
Montana	47,490	820	25,416	5,726	226	79,678	59.6	1.0	31.9	7.2	0.3
Idaho	40,199	676	20,287	4,218	181	65,561	61.3	1.0	31.0	6.4	0.3
Wyoming	16,210	509	12,169	1,853	86	30,827	52.5	1.7	39.5	6.0	0.3
Colorado	58,352	1,029	38,170	8,383	300	106,234	54.9	1.0	35.9	7.9	0.3
New Mexico	30,438	606	22,018	5,799	110	58,971	51.6	1.0	37.3	9.9	0.2
Arizona	14,497	716	20,502	2,492	490	38,697	37.4	1.9	53.0	6.4	1.3
Utah	24,786	451	12,446	3,513	87	41,283	60.0	1.1	30.1	8.6	0.2
Nevada	3,528	278	4,735	347	60	8,948	39.4	3.1	52.9	3.9	0.7
Mountain	235,500	5,085	155,743	32,331	1,540	430,199	54.7	1.2	36.2	7.5	0.4
Washington	63,336	1,336	34,313	4,920	389	104,294	60.7	1.3	32.9	4.7	0.4
Oregon	49,917	1,013	26,650	4,174	277	82,031	60.9	1.2	32.5	5.1	0.3
California	126,399	8,871	188,678	6,712	3,581	334,241	37.8	2.7	56.4	2.0	1.1
Pacific	239,652	11,220	249,641	15,806	4,247	520,566	46.0	2.2	48.0	3.0	0.8
United States	6,017,722	74,000	2,727,035	1,645,223	18,343	10,482,323	57.4	0.7	26.0	15.7	0.2

* Source: U. S. Census of Occupations, 1930.
1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

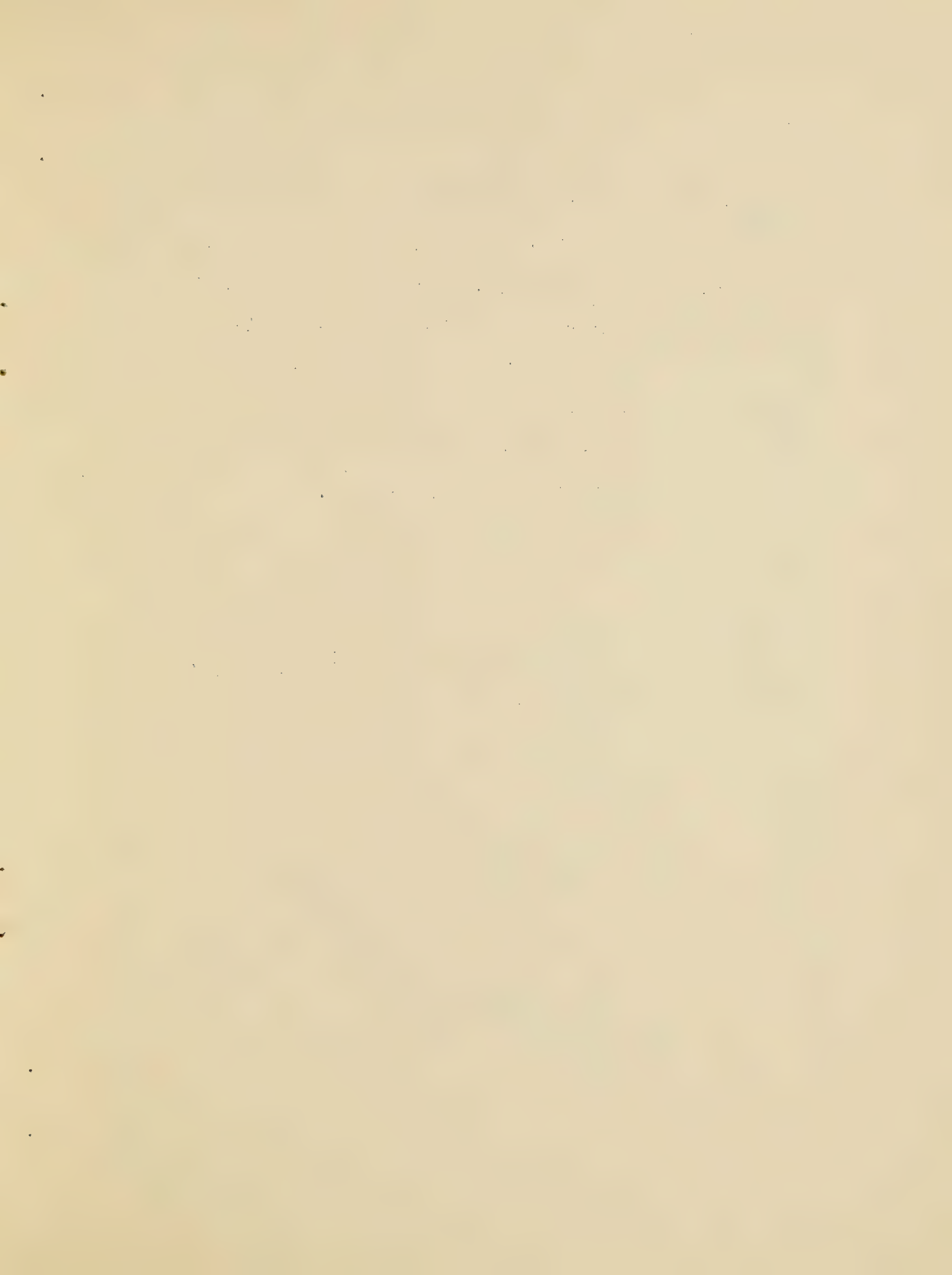
Sharecroppers in the United States

The total number of sharecroppers in 1930 was 776,278; according to the agricultural census of 1935 the number was reduced to 716,000. Although classed as tenants in the Census, their economic and social status is in many respects similar to that of the wage hands, with whom they are constantly changing places, year by year. It will be noted that croppers are proportionately less numerous in Texas and Oklahoma than in the Delta and Eastern cotton areas.

Table 3.- Sharecroppers in the United States, 1930

State and region	Number	Percentage of total farm operators
Delaware	225	2.3
Maryland	1,646	3.8
Virginia	17,253	10.1
West Virginia	1,834	2.2
North Carolina	69,091	24.7
South Carolina	48,939	31.0
Georgia	100,854	39.4
Florida	4,816	8.2
South Atlantic	244,658	23.1
Kentucky	30,250	12.3
Tennessee	50,304	20.5
Alabama	65,134	25.3
Mississippi	135,293	43.3
East South Central	280,981	26.5
Arkansas	75,034	31.0
Louisiana	49,428	30.6
Oklahoma	21,055	10.3
Texas	105,122	21.2
West South Central	250,639	22.7
United States	776,278	12.3

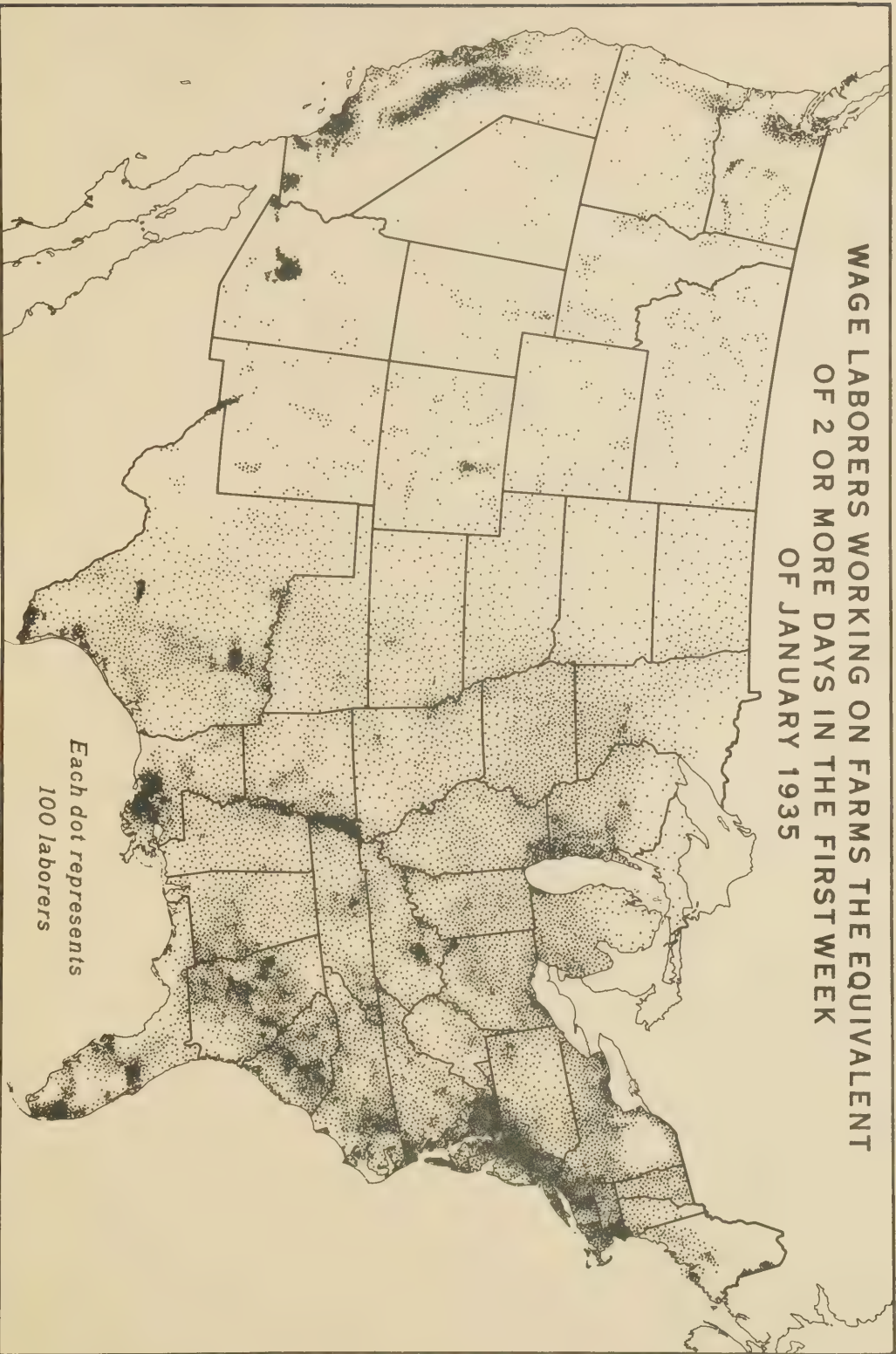
Source: 1930 Census.



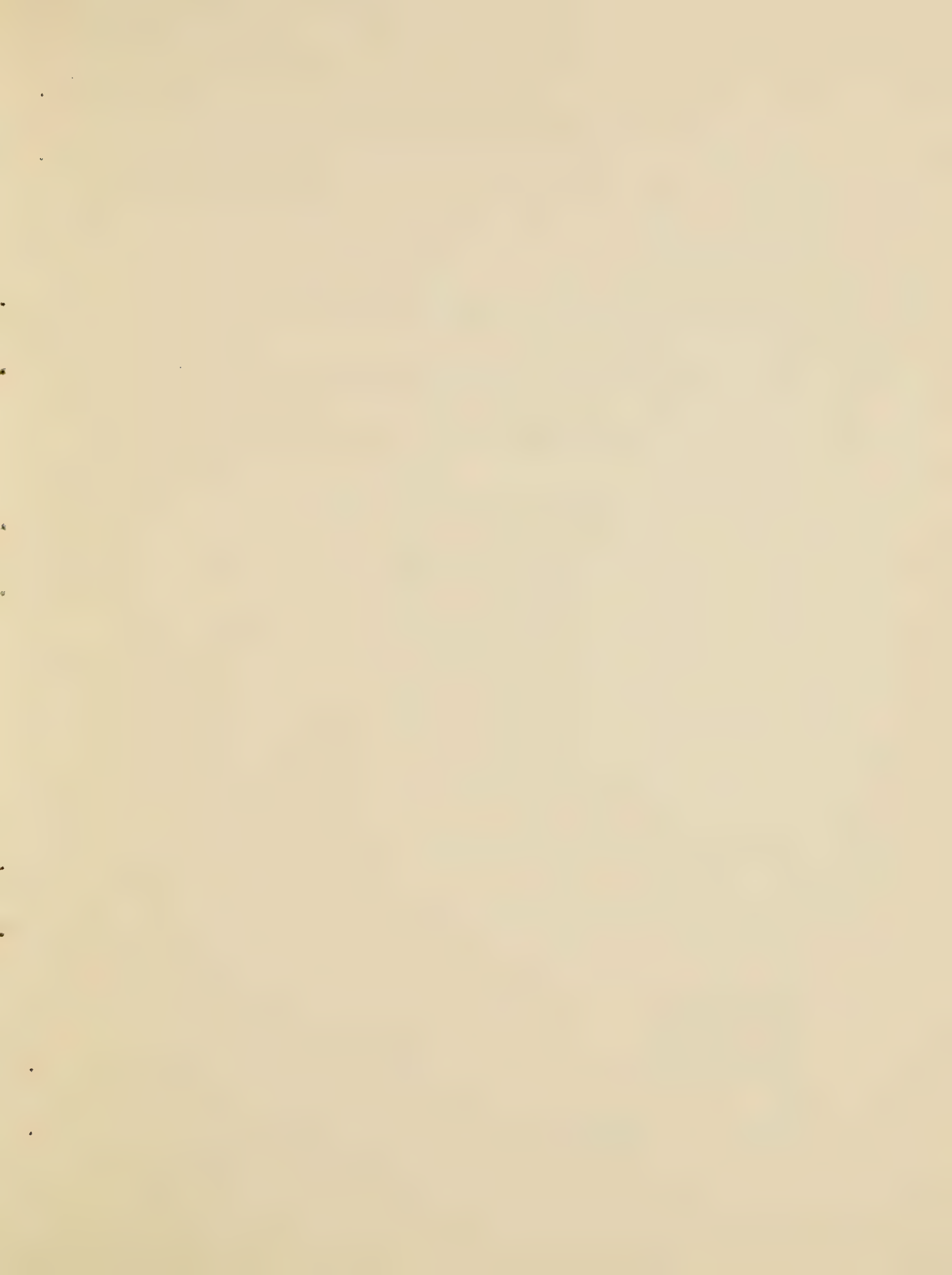
Hiring of wage labor is widely distributed east of the Mountain States, even at the time of low employment when these data were secured, January 1935. Heavy concentrations will be noted in the Salt River district of Arizona, in the Rio Grande, Corpus Christi and Black Prairie districts of Texas, in the sugarcane district of Louisiana, in the Mississippi and Arkansas Delta cotton areas, and in scattered fruit and truck crop districts in Florida and along the Atlantic Coast.

Sharecroppers, who in many respects are not to be distinguished from wage hands, were not included in the Census data on which this map was based. If they had been, the cotton-producing States would show a much heavier labor concentration than appears in this figure.

WAGE LABORERS WORKING ON FARMS THE EQUIVALENT
OF 2 OR MORE DAYS IN THE FIRST WEEK
OF JANUARY 1935



*Each dot represents
100 laborers*



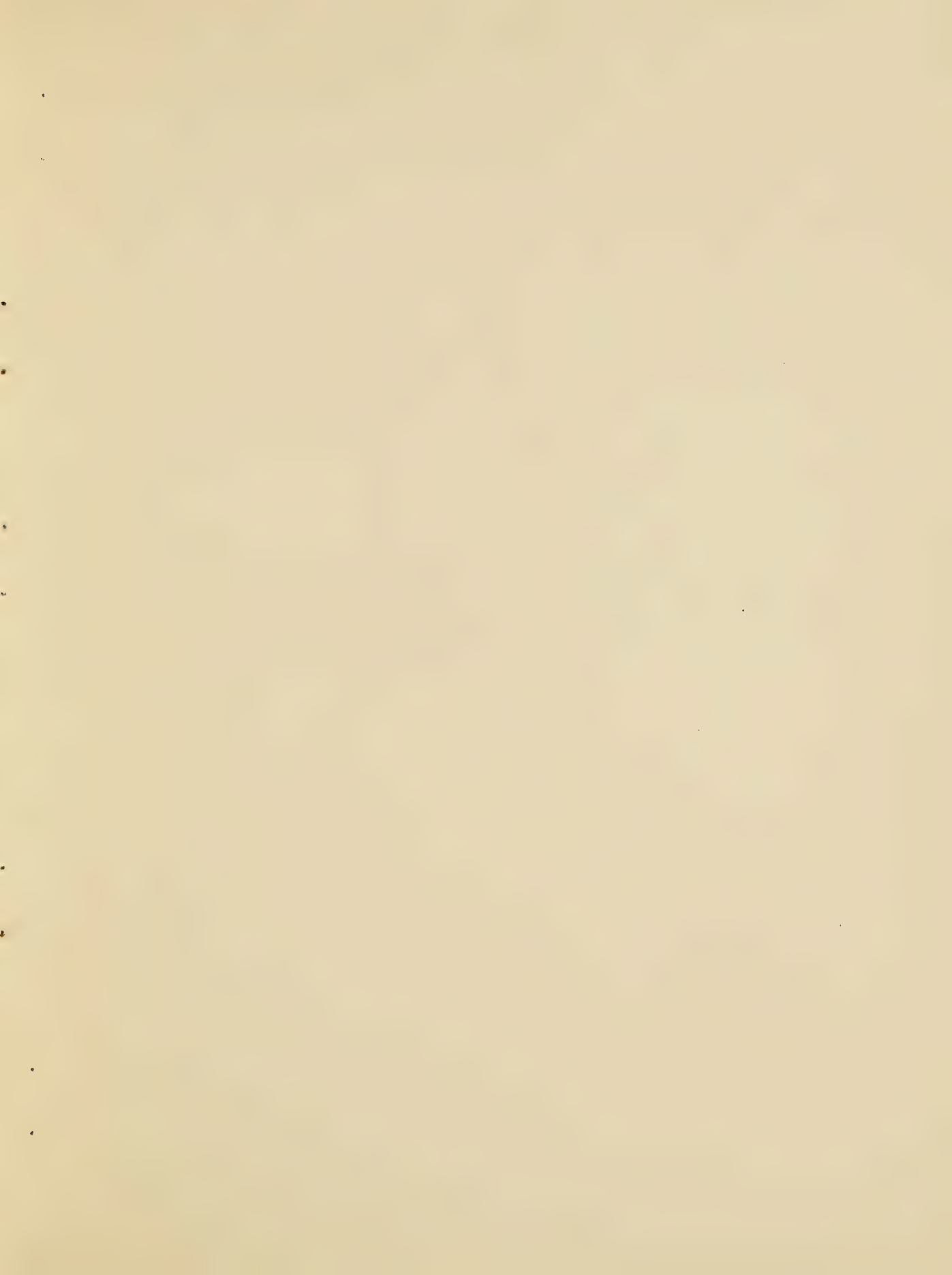
Farms Hiring Laborers and Numbers Hired

In January 1935 there were 5,844,756 farms which hired no laborers and 967,594 which hired one or more. While 722,645 hired only one laborer, 11,410 hired ten or more laborers. The total number of laborers on these farms hiring ten or more was 244,132. This was 14.84 percent of the total hired laborers in the country. These farms which hired considerable labor per farm were most numerous in the South Atlantic, West South Central and Pacific States.

It should be noted that these data relate to January the month of lowest employment. At the peak of the season, in June, July, or August, there are at least a million additional hired farm laborers.

PLANS HIRING LABORERS FOR THE EQUIPMENT OF 2 ON MORE DAYS DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY, 1935, IN THE UNITED STATES, AND NUMBERS OF LABORERS HIRED, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

Geographic Division	Farm Hired										Total Farm Hired	Total Laborers Hired	
	1 Laborers	2 Laborers	3 Laborers	4 Laborers	5 Laborers	6 Laborers	7 Laborers	8 Laborers	9 Laborers	10 or more Laborers			
New England	159,082	74,716	6,038	1,075	904	468	311	190	126	77	141	31,279	159,211
Middle Atlantic	304,015	72,713	13,109	3,713	2,713	1,512	504	270	212	131	131	32,859	376,827
East North Central	908,391	112,968	13,290	1,429	1,157	761	504	285	232	72	72	117,859	1,026,250
West North Central	1,024,116	132,637	15,619	3,172	1,575	759	404	205	151	72	72	256	1,179,856
South Atlantic	1,064,518	128,062	18,920	11,076	6,295	3,164	2,179	1,030	1,118	148	148	2,818	1,197,335
West Atlantic	1,012,135	124,551	20,151	4,954	2,882	1,624	1,014	404	141	148	148	2,894	1,137,219
West South Central	1,012,135	124,551	20,151	4,954	2,882	1,624	1,014	404	141	148	148	2,894	1,137,219
Mountain	232,111	82,287	6,410	2,330	1,281	755	519	286	213	86	86	2,966	274,571
Pacific	231,956	141,008	10,480	4,237	2,135	1,539	1,037	533	518	266	266	2,158	392,567
United States	5,041,756	722,645	137,670	43,170	22,166	12,533	5,280	3,730	4,331	1,595	1,110	67,754	6,822,550
New England	96,716	12,316	5,295	3,716	2,410	1,266	719	1,050	1,008	673	770	7,730	64,110
Middle Atlantic	72,713	18,518	12,567	6,132	3,895	2,061	1,061	1,113	1,056	616	616	11,518	121,067
East North Central	118,968	36,580	4,590	6,132	3,795	1,924	1,061	1,113	1,056	616	616	8,948	158,158
West North Central	132,637	31,238	11,196	5,130	2,510	1,274	644	1,145	1,148	718	718	5,037	158,158
South Atlantic	128,062	69,810	12,928	3,172	1,710	810	414	210	9,180	1,047	1,047	5,816	160,065
West Atlantic	124,551	14,286	2,882	1,148	614	311	164	1,038	2,528	2,647	2,647	1,928	259,025
West South Central	81,286	14,286	2,882	1,148	614	311	164	1,038	2,528	2,647	2,647	1,928	259,025
Mountain	62,287	13,280	6,920	2,330	1,281	755	519	1,037	1,101	828	828	2,100	82,828
Pacific	141,008	21,600	12,711	5,044	2,510	1,274	644	1,038	1,101	828	828	2,100	150,728
United States	722,645	275,310	130,110	59,911	32,655	15,730	6,222	3,731	4,331	1,595	1,110	211,132	1,637,502
New England	71,637	15,237	4,402	2,537	1,710	810	414	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
Middle Atlantic	77,614	10,415	2,402	1,402	810	414	210	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
East North Central	81,917	10,415	2,402	1,402	810	414	210	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
West North Central	67,952	11,115	2,402	1,402	810	414	210	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
South Atlantic	70,855	15,955	5,531	3,288	1,977	1,068	547	1,068	1,068	616	616	1,068	100,000
West Atlantic	67,935	6,935	1,402	3,288	1,977	1,068	547	1,068	1,068	616	616	1,068	100,000
West South Central	66,935	16,930	5,531	3,288	1,977	1,068	547	1,068	1,068	616	616	1,068	100,000
Mountain	46,935	12,930	5,531	3,288	1,977	1,068	547	1,068	1,068	616	616	1,068	100,000
Pacific	74,281	11,493	4,493	2,471	1,530	782	409	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
United States	71,637	15,237	4,402	2,537	1,710	810	414	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
New England	16,877	3,321	1,252	5,955	3,355	2,289	2,931	1,465	1,593	1,038	1,038	12,288	100,000
Middle Atlantic	18,428	3,321	1,252	5,955	3,355	2,289	2,931	1,465	1,593	1,038	1,038	12,288	100,000
East North Central	13,775	1,669	492	1,111	616	311	157	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
West North Central	82,458	1,669	492	1,111	616	311	157	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
South Atlantic	83,472	10,988	2,768	4,493	2,510	1,274	644	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
West Atlantic	91,716	5,814	1,382	4,493	2,510	1,274	644	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
West South Central	99,282	7,137	2,402	4,493	2,510	1,274	644	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
Mountain	74,281	3,286	1,402	4,493	2,510	1,274	644	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
Pacific	95,700	10,611	2,402	4,493	2,510	1,274	644	1,038	1,038	616	616	1,038	100,000
United States	76,414	16,877	3,321	5,955	3,355	2,289	2,931	1,465	1,593	1,038	1,038	12,288	100,000
New England	12,316	18,518	4,590	6,132	3,895	2,061	1,061	1,113	1,056	616	616	7,400	100,000
Middle Atlantic	18,518	13,290	15,619	3,172	1,575	759	404	205	151	72	72	7,400	100,000
East North Central	36,580	13,290	11,196	5,130	2,510	1,274	644	1,038	1,038	616	616	7,400	100,000
West North Central	31,238	69,810	12,928	3,172	1,710	810	414	210	9,180	1,047	1,047	7,400	100,000
South Atlantic	69,810	14,286	2,882	1,148	614	311	164	1,038	2,528	2,647	2,647	7,400	100,000
West Atlantic	14,286	14,286	2,882	1,148	614	311	164	1,038	2,528	2,647	2,647	7,400	100,000
West South Central	14,286	14,286	2,882	1,148	614	311	164	1,038	2,528	2,647	2,647	7,400	100,000
Mountain	13,280	13,280	6,920	2,330	1,281	755	519	1,037	1,101	828	828	7,400	100,000
Pacific	21,600	12,711	5,044	2,510	1,274	644	311	1,038	1,101	828	828	7,400	100,000
United States	12,316	18,518	4,590	6,132	3,895	2,061	1,061	1,113	1,056	616	616	7,400	100,000
New England	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
Middle Atlantic	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
East North Central	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
West North Central	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
South Atlantic	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
West Atlantic	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
West South Central	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
Mountain	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
Pacific	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000
United States	1,038	1,038	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	616	11,477	100,000



Farm Workers in Principal Crop Areas

In Table 5, employment data, as estimated for 1936, are related to the crop areas rather than to geographic subdivisions or States. It will be noted that wage laborers are especially numerous, as compared with family laborers -- which in this table include the farm operator as well as unpaid members of his family who work on the farm, -- in the Range area and the Eastern Dairy area. Hired workers are least important in the cotton and tobacco district of the Middle East, in the three cotton areas, where sharecroppers are numerous, and in the small grain area.

The "miscellaneous" group includes certain States which have higher percentages of hired farm workers than any of those listed, -- e.g., California (43 percent) and Florida (38 percent).

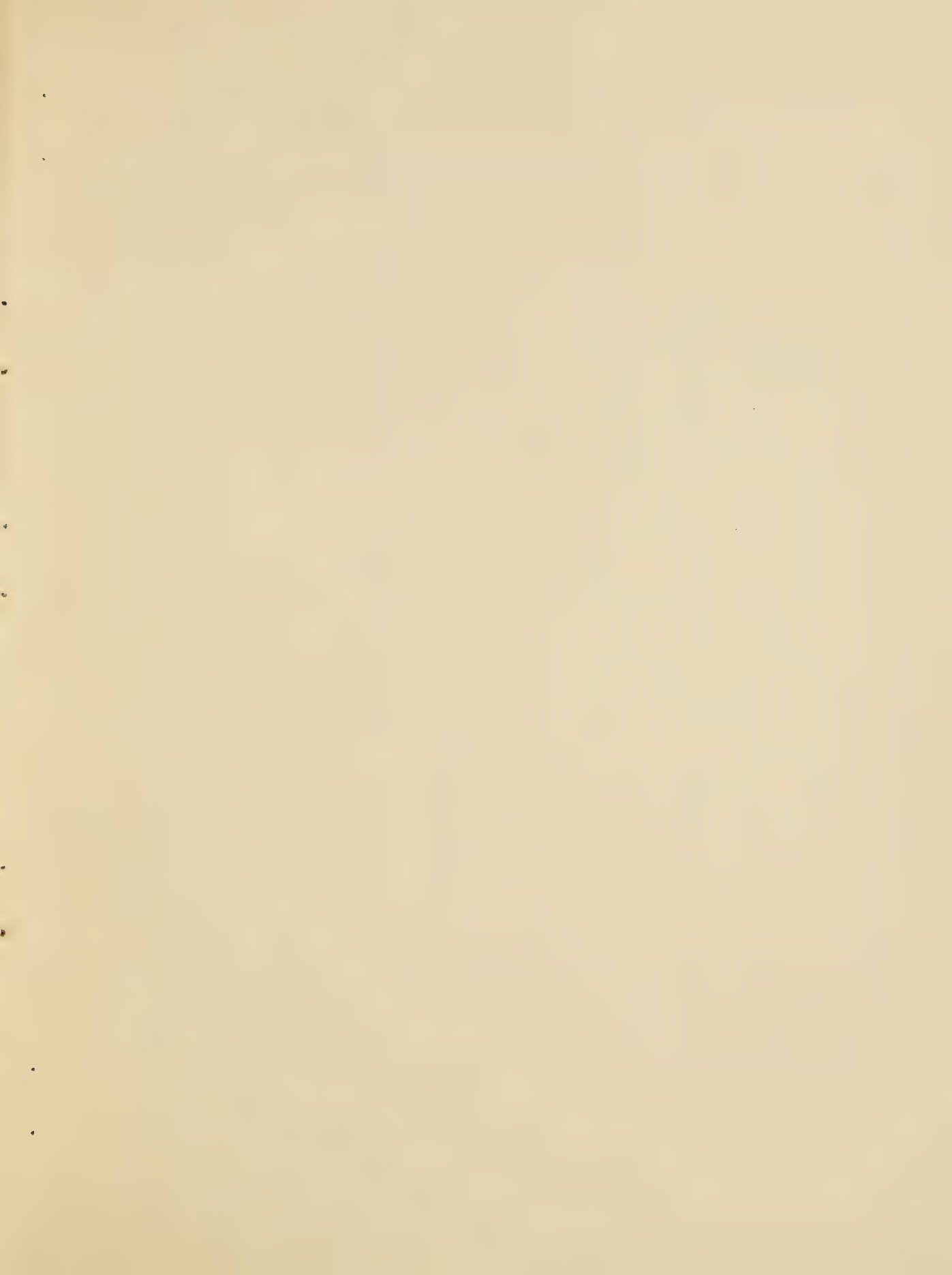
Table 5.- Estimated number of farm workers in principal farming areas of the United States in 1936 ^{1/}

Area	Total	Family workers		Hired workers	
	(thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percentage of total	Number (thousands)	Percentage of total
Total	10,997	8,502	77	2,494	23
Corn area	1,235	950	77	285	23
Eastern dairy area	737	502	68	235	32
Western dairy area	922	714	77	208	23
Middle eastern area	1,904	1,576	83	328	17
Eastern cotton area	1,383	1,091	79	292	21
Delta cotton area	1,342	1,099	82	242	18
Western cotton area	1,145	909	79	236	21
Small grain area	742	606	82	136	18
Range area	308	196	64	112	36
Northwestern area	292	212	73	80	27
Miscellaneous ^{2/}	987	647	66	340	34

^{1/} Data are from U. S. Works Progress Administration, National Research Project, Report No. A-8: Trends in Employment in Agriculture, 1909-36.

^{2/} California, Missouri, Florida, Delaware, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maine.

Source: Three Decades of Farm Labor, by Witt Bowden, from the Monthly Labor Review, June, July, and August 1939 issues.



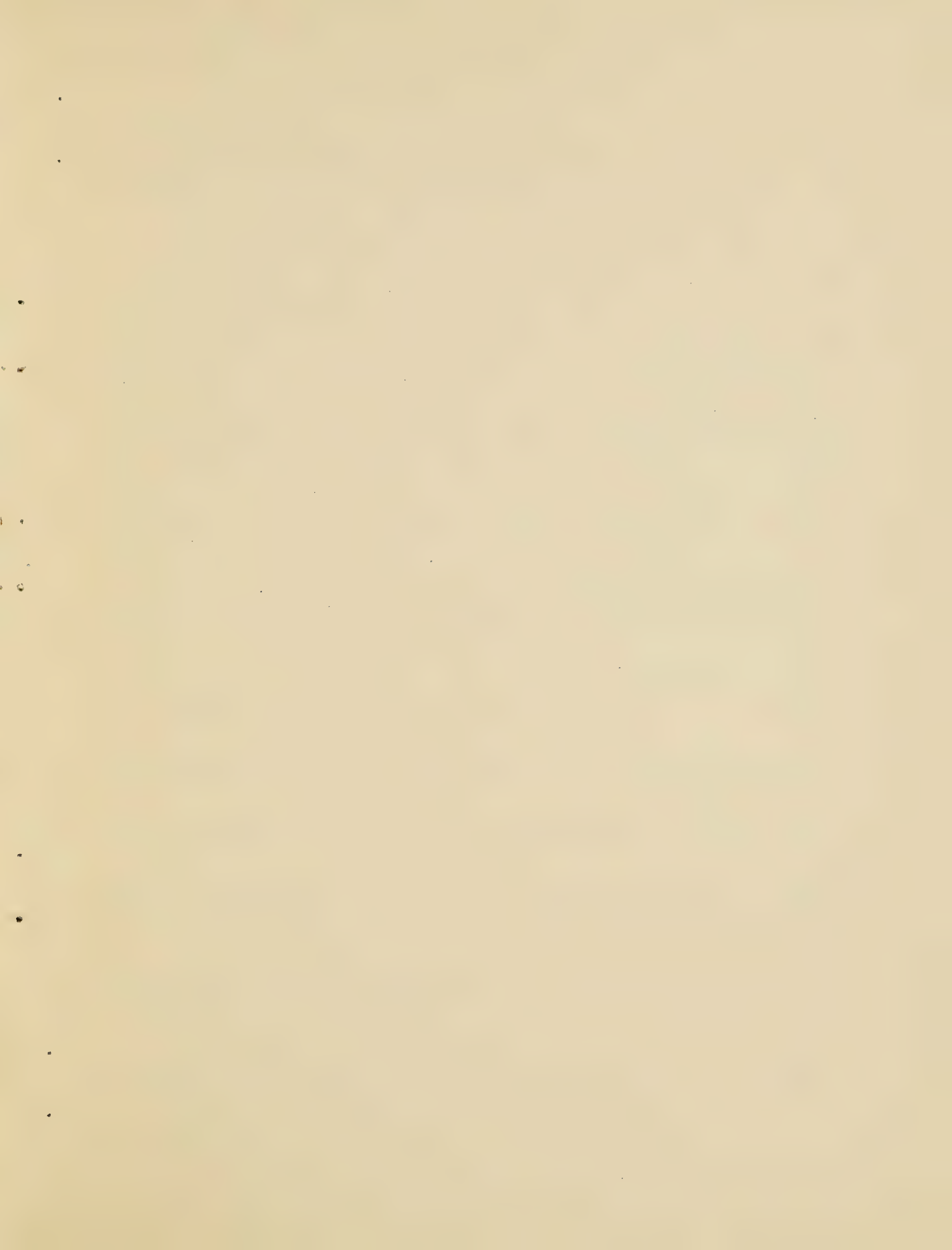
Proportions of Hired Workers, 1909-1936

Hired workers were .23 percent of the total number of farm workers in 1909; from 1926 to 1930 they were 26 percent; in 1935 they had fallen to 22 percent. The percentage of hired farm workers decreased from 1909 to 1936 in the Corn, Eastern Dairy, Middle Eastern, Delta Cotton, Small Grain, Range, and Northwestern areas; it remained the same in the Western Dairy area; in the Eastern and Western Cotton areas the percentage increased.

Table 6.- Hired farm workers as percentages of total agricultural workers,
by area, 1909-36 ^{1/}

Year:	United States:	Corn: dairy:	Eastern: dairy:	Western: dairy:	Middle eastern:	Eastern: cotton:	Delta: cotton:	Western: cotton:	Small grain:	Range:	North-western:
1909	23	26	35	23	20	18	19	19	23	40	33
1910	24	26	35	23	21	18	19	20	23	40	33
1911	24	26	35	23	20	18	19	20	23	40	33
1912	24	26	35	24	21	18	19	21	23	40	33
1913	24	26	35	24	21	18	19	21	23	40	33
1914	24	27	35	24	21	18	19	22	23	40	33
1915	24	27	35	24	21	18	19	22	23	41	32
1916	25	27	35	24	21	18	19	22	23	41	33
1917	25	27	35	25	21	18	19	23	23	41	32
1918	24	28	35	25	21	18	19	23	23	41	32
1919	25	28	35	25	21	18	19	23	23	41	32
1920	25	28	35	25	21	18	19	24	23	41	32
1921	25	28	35	26	21	19	19	24	24	41	32
1922	25	27	35	26	21	19	19	24	24	41	32
1923	25	27	35	27	21	19	18	24	24	40	31
1924	25	27	34	27	21	20	17	24	24	40	30
1925	25	28	33	27	20	20	16	23	25	39	29
1926	26	29	35	30	21	22	18	24	26	40	30
1927	26	29	35	29	20	23	17	23	27	40	28
1928	26	29	35	29	21	21	17	23	27	39	31
1929	26	29	35	28	22	23	16	25	26	39	32
1930	26	28	36	27	21	21	16	23	26	38	30
1931	24	26	34	25	19	20	15	21	25	36	30
1932	23	23	33	24	18	20	14	21	23	34	25
1933	22	22	33	23	17	20	16	19	21	36	25
1934	22	21	32	22	16	20	17	19	19	35	26
1935	22	23	31	22	17	21	17	19	20	36	27
1936	23	23	32	23	17	21	18	21	18	36	27

^{1/} Data are from U. S. Works Progress Administration, National Research Project, Report No. A-8, p. 78.

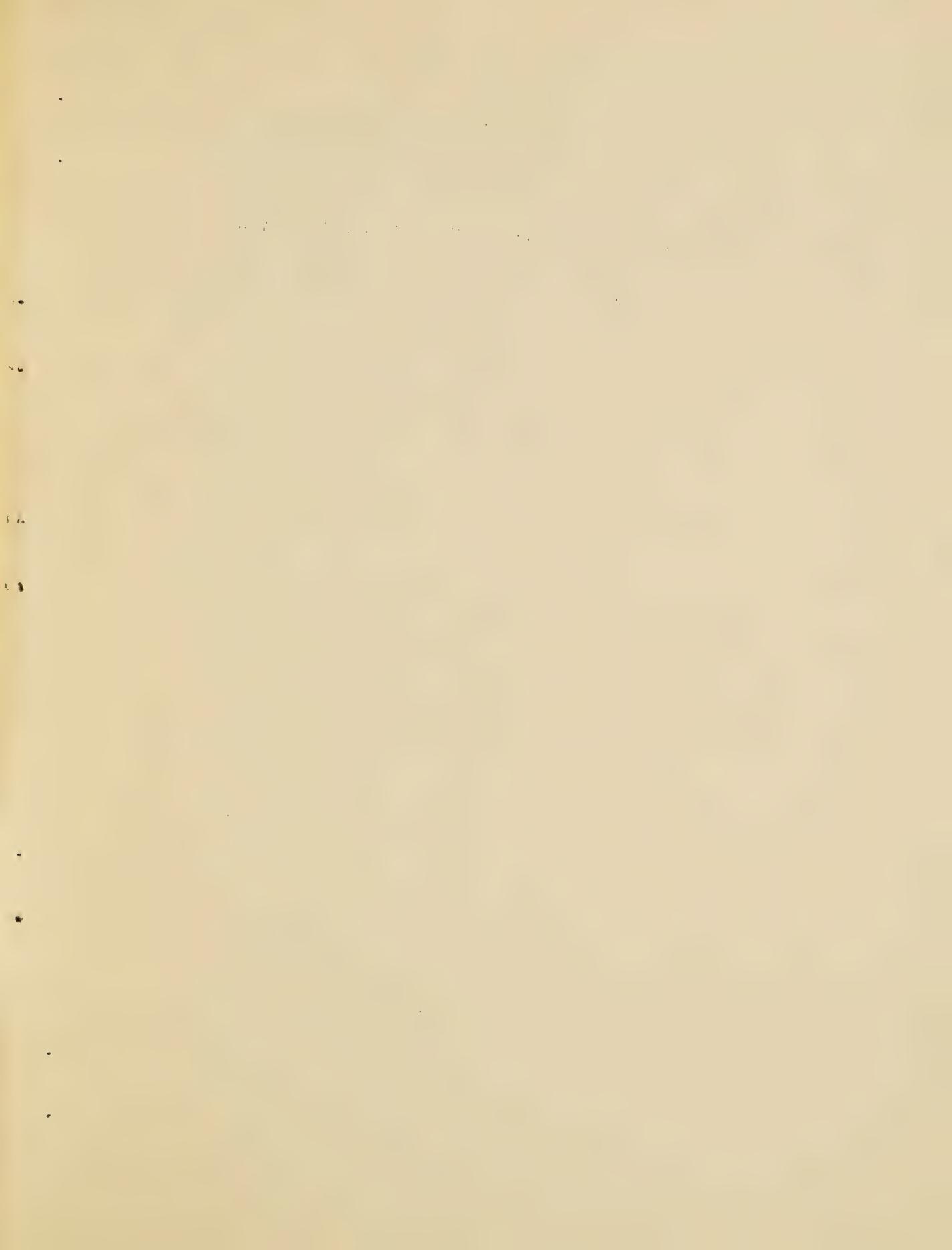


Numbers of Hired Laborers on Farms, by States, January 1935

Of the 967,594 hired farm workers reported as working the equivalent of two or more days during the first week of January 1935, 722,645 were on farms on which only one worker was hired, 130,410 were on farms on which three workers were hired, 30,672 were on farms hiring eight workers each, and 244,132 were on farms hiring ten or more each. Of this total on the large-scale farms, 58,116 were in the South Atlantic States, mostly Florida, with 25,609; 66,448 were in the West South Central States, in which Louisiana and Texas had the largest numbers, and 47,737 were in California. It should be noted that when this Census was taken employment, in most areas, was at its minimum.

Numbers of hired laborers on farms reporting specified numbers of hired laborers working the equivalent of two or more days in the first week of January, 1935

State	Number of laborers on farms reporting specified numbers of hired laborers working the equivalent of two or more days in the first week of January, 1935											Total		
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight	Nine	Ten or more	Total			
United States	722,445	275,340	130,410	89,944	62,665	49,320	26,110	30,672	14,344	244,132	1,445,602	5,844,756	967,594	6,812,350
New England	26,716	12,176	5,925	3,776	2,440	1,866	1,050	1,068	693	7,790	33,440	120,962	37,279	158,241
Maine	6,156	2,126	963	672	410	306	140	136	63	1,718	11,440	33,993	7,921	41,914
New Hampshire	2,995	1,246	599	348	200	141	70	72	36	432	6,067	13,701	3,994	17,695
Vermont	6,489	2,890	699	352	200	174	105	80	34	397	10,822	18,984	8,077	27,061
Massachusetts	5,480	3,518	2,073	1,452	950	888	427	456	315	3,108	19,247	26,120	6,974	35,094
Rhode Island	710	470	270	176	135	66	66	96	90	181	2,456	3,160	1,167	4,327
Connecticut	4,916	2,926	1,344	776	555	348	266	168	135	2,294	13,328	25,004	7,153	32,157
Middle Atlantic	72,713	26,318	11,307	6,388	4,020	3,024	1,715	1,896	846	10,848	139,065	304,015	93,669	397,684
New York	37,414	12,558	5,604	2,924	1,860	1,266	784	864	351	3,396	67,751	129,194	47,931	177,085
New Jersey	9,886	3,200	1,701	1,176	795	558	322	336	311	1,944	17,132	20,497	8,978	29,575
Pennsylvania	29,115	9,980	4,002	2,286	1,365	1,220	699	696	354	4,508	54,132	154,324	36,960	191,284
East North Central	146,228	56,580	12,717	6,132	3,895	3,024	1,743	1,896	711	8,948	224,444	908,291	175,296	1,083,687
Ohio	30,394	7,986	3,045	1,692	1,050	606	490	312	180	1,442	49,537	218,627	36,519	255,146
Indiana	22,677	5,104	2,007	1,040	610	588	310	212	108	1,026	34,070	174,156	28,679	203,835
Illinois	32,446	7,800	2,838	1,340	810	598	312	300	30	2,499	49,294	192,995	38,327	231,322
Michigan	26,075	5,662	2,250	1,184	855	576	171	225	225	1,390	39,192	166,076	30,444	196,517
Wisconsin	37,436	9,728	2,577	872	470	348	189	192	108	731	92,351	156,347	43,330	199,677
West North Central	132,637	31,238	11,196	6,300	3,795	2,424	1,435	1,448	648	5,077	196,158	1,024,116	195,440	1,219,556
Minnesota	29,235	5,678	1,644	772	410	222	217	120	81	1,418	79,846	170,283	33,019	203,302
Iowa	35,950	6,926	2,418	1,040	595	342	151	168	54	1,118	148,372	181,340	40,646	228,986
Missouri	22,927	6,592	2,232	1,050	612	497	288	288	108	1,977	119,572	249,599	68,595	278,194
North Dakota	9,176	2,526	717	408	180	102	119	68	81	58	13,405	17,417	10,879	23,287
South Dakota	5,969	1,284	393	148	110	66	42	24	27	116	8,902	12,170	6,833	18,006
Nebraska	13,703	3,358	1,167	544	335	288	172	128	45	527	20,500	117,410	16,109	133,519
Kansas	15,677	4,874	1,896	1,156	760	462	224	192	72	721	26,034	155,224	19,305	174,529
South Atlantic	126,062	63,480	33,220	25,120	17,040	14,224	7,220	9,124	4,014	58,116	358,175	960,518	166,618	1,127,135
Delaware	1,480	504	207	120	110	70	63	40	180	444	3,057	8,483	1,898	10,381
Maryland	9,975	5,274	2,160	1,296	865	570	364	408	9	1,884	22,973	30,279	14,133	44,412
District of Columbia	20	20	12	16	5	7	-	9	-	175	257	44	12	279
Virginia	23,109	10,812	5,228	3,188	2,010	1,174	770	928	576	3,945	58,310	156,333	32,279	197,609
West Virginia	7,930	3,044	1,380	896	570	504	126	152	45	3,995	15,032	46,333	10,444	56,777
North Carolina	29,480	11,328	5,280	3,696	2,690	1,918	1,095	1,128	444	2,375	59,321	261,804	39,153	299,957
South Carolina	15,500	5,457	2,477	1,776	1,390	918	1,316	1,976	954	6,593	53,140	139,737	25,767	165,504
Georgia	26,497	9,156	3,458	2,152	1,402	1,082	635	594	1,278	16,649	91,458	207,843	42,701	250,544
Florida	12,071	7,280	4,358	2,700	2,205	1,411	1,111	1,196	549	25,609	60,627	52,642	20,215	72,857
East South Central	66,598	29,982	14,982	11,448	8,120	6,084	2,888	3,528	1,647	14,928	160,025	1,043,315	93,904	1,137,219
Kentucky	16,240	7,158	3,499	2,484	1,680	1,194	518	448	270	2,114	36,915	224,679	23,449	278,828
Tennessee	18,639	8,284	4,272	2,922	1,985	1,412	753	608	360	2,212	39,496	248,351	25,442	273,783
Alabama	19,206	8,284	4,272	2,922	1,985	1,412	753	608	360	2,212	39,496	248,351	25,442	273,783
Mississippi	11,713	5,952	3,079	2,168	2,230	1,602	698	992	621	4,446	18,072	246,181	27,274	273,455
West South Central	81,766	40,266	21,344	15,936	11,975	9,258	4,440	5,704	2,286	66,448	299,426	1,016,132	121,449	1,137,571
Arkansas	10,010	5,388	3,111	2,512	2,090	1,404	745	1,136	269	13,201	29,974	237,074	15,939	253,013
Louisiana	10,059	6,654	4,023	3,168	2,295	1,612	1,045	1,356	715	27,305	36,416	182,697	17,579	200,276
Oklahoma	15,927	6,170	2,892	1,848	1,340	900	336	336	171	1,305	131,444	192,249	21,076	213,325
Texas	45,770	22,954	11,358	8,468	6,230	4,932	2,410	2,992	1,293	26,641	131,592	434,172	66,845	503,017
Mountain	26,287	13,280	6,990	5,044	3,775	3,114	1,995	1,704	828	21,224	84,411	232,111	39,284	271,392
Montana	2,580	1,221	696	596	595	510	282	232	108	1,224	44,411	122,717	19,817	162,534
Idaho	4,012	1,724	807	588	390	306	175	176	72	1,225	13,523	42,747	7,817	50,564
Wyoming	2,182	762	480	480	350	330	231	184	72	1,297	6,812	19,618	5,485	25,103
Colorado	6,402	3,004	1,626	1,192	760	546	448	256	142	1,987	7,001	44,085	3,444	47,529
New Mexico	3,694	2,020	987	776	610	492	280	232	114	1,222	15,220	31,446	9,158	40,604
Arizona	2,351	1,400	888	692	610	528	343	466	135	1,424	21,304	37,719	6,680	44,400
Utah	1,445	1,020	477	320	340	258	175	112	81	1,193	14,524	21,457	4,297	18,254
Nevada	503	392	222	160	120	114	63	56	81	395	2,462	26,087	2,608	30,695
Pacific	411,008	21,660	12,711	9,740	7,695	6,222	3,731	4,384	2,644	90,893	160,728	234,896	44,671	299,567
Washington	7,361	3,344	1,896	1,180	815	570	392	352	207	1,431	17,568	73,936	10,445	84,381
Oregon	6,203	2,816	1,425	912	610	654	357	312	243	1,725	15,287	50,928	8,768	59,696
California	27,424	15,530	9,390	7,618	6,210	4,998	2,992	3,750	2,211	47,737	127,873	104,992	19,458	150,350



Hired Workers on the Larger Farms in the Crop Areas

This table relates the employment data from the Census of January 1935 to the principal crop areas. The cotton areas show a high percentage of their hired labor on farms hiring four or more and also on those hiring eight or more. This is a reflection of the plantation system. The Range area showed a relatively high proportion of its hired workers on the larger farms. In the Corn area the farms hiring ten or more accounted for few of the hired laborers at this time of the year. In the Eastern Dairy area a larger proportion of the hired workers were on the larger farms than in the Western Dairy area.

In the miscellaneous group, which included California and Florida, half the hired workers were on farms hiring four or more and a third on farms hiring ten or more.

Sharecroppers were not included in these figures.

Table 8.- Distribution of hired farm laborers in principal farming areas by number of laborers employed per farm, January 1935 ^{1/}

Area	: Number of	: Number of	: Total	: Percentage of hired	
	: farms re-	: farms re-	: number of	: laborers on farms	
	: porting no	: porting	: hired	: reporting--	
	: hired	: hired	: hired	: 4 or	: 8 or
	: laborers	: laborers	: laborers	: more	: more
United States	: 5,844,756	967,594	1,645,602	31.4	17.6
Corn	: 767,108	142,171	181,433	11.9	5.3
Eastern dairy	: 367,327	112,989	171,347	22.1	10.7
Western dairy	: 492,906	106,790	130,339	8.0	3.0
Middle eastern	: 1,055,043	144,885	226,304	23.1	8.3
Eastern cotton	: 593,761	95,742	192,670	40.9	19.2
Delta cotton	: 635,615	51,297	131,932	54.5	37.4
Western cotton	: 626,421	87,921	163,036	36.1	20.0
Small grain	: 465,681	60,997	81,561	14.1	4.9
Range	: 149,746	25,969	61,806	50.3	33.9
Northwestern	: 169,612	24,708	41,667	28.9	12.3
Miscellaneous ^{2/}	: 473,536	114,125	263,457	49.7	34.0

^{1/} Data are from Monthly Labor Review, September 1937: "Distribution of Hired Farm Laborers in the United States." The information was derived from the special Agricultural Census of 1935. Employment during most of the year is normally larger than in January.

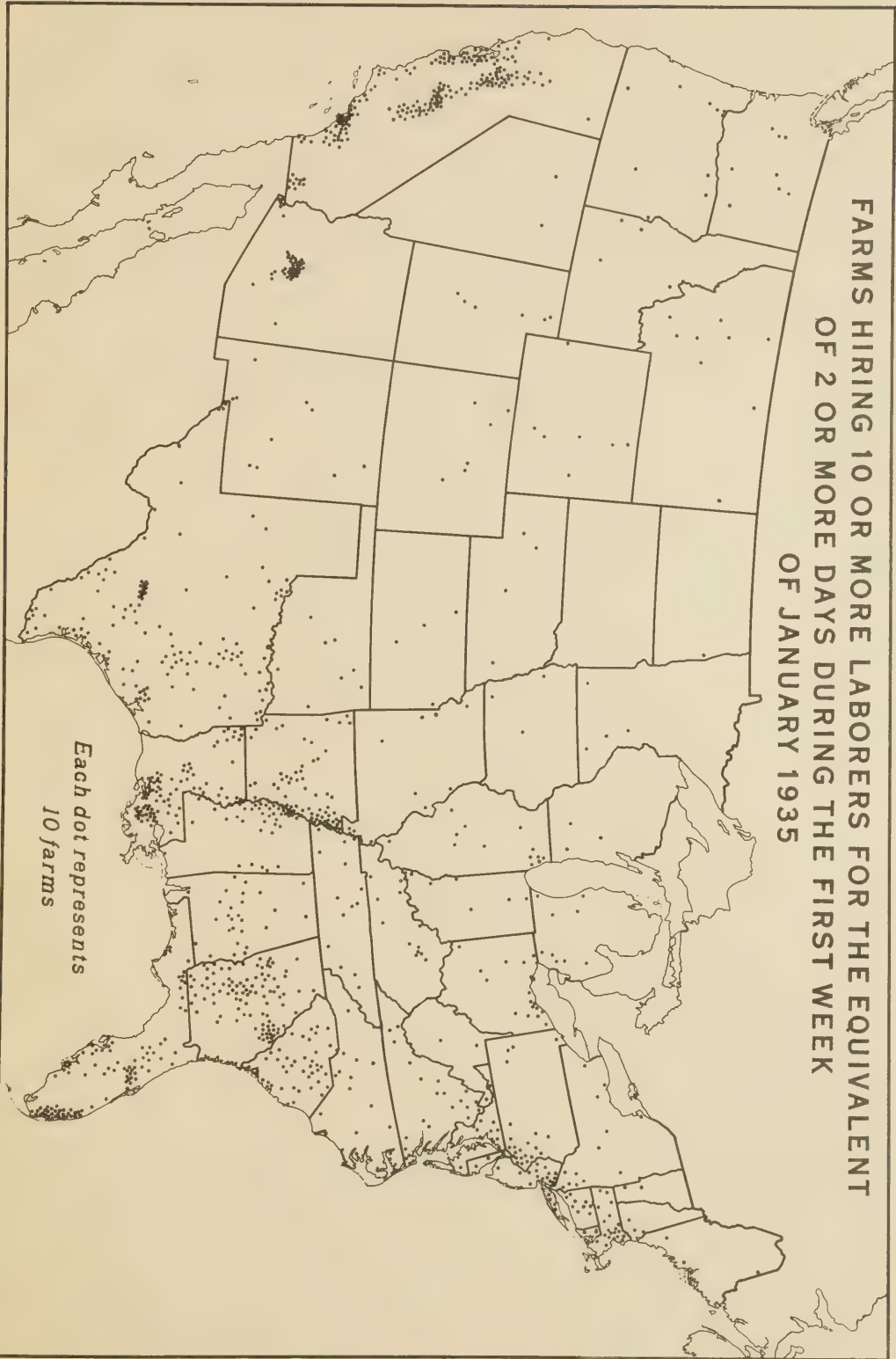
^{2/} Maine, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Florida, Missouri, California.

Source: Three Decades of Farm Labor, by Witt Bowden, from the Monthly Labor Review, June, July, and August 1939 issues.



This map will serve to indicate the location of the farms which hire labor in greatest number. The distribution is similar to that of the so-called "large-scale farms." Prominent among them are truck and fruit farms, cotton plantations, crop specialty farms, such as those specializing in sugarcane, sugar beets, beans, tobacco, potatoes and hay, eastern dairy farms and stock ranches. A similar map for summer would show probably twice as many farms hiring 10 or more laborers. In summer in these areas the concentration of laborers would be more pronounced; and in addition their numbers in many all parts of the country would be decidedly larger.

FARMS HIRING 10 OR MORE LABORERS FOR THE EQUIVALENT
OF 2 OR MORE DAYS DURING THE FIRST WEEK
OF JANUARY 1935



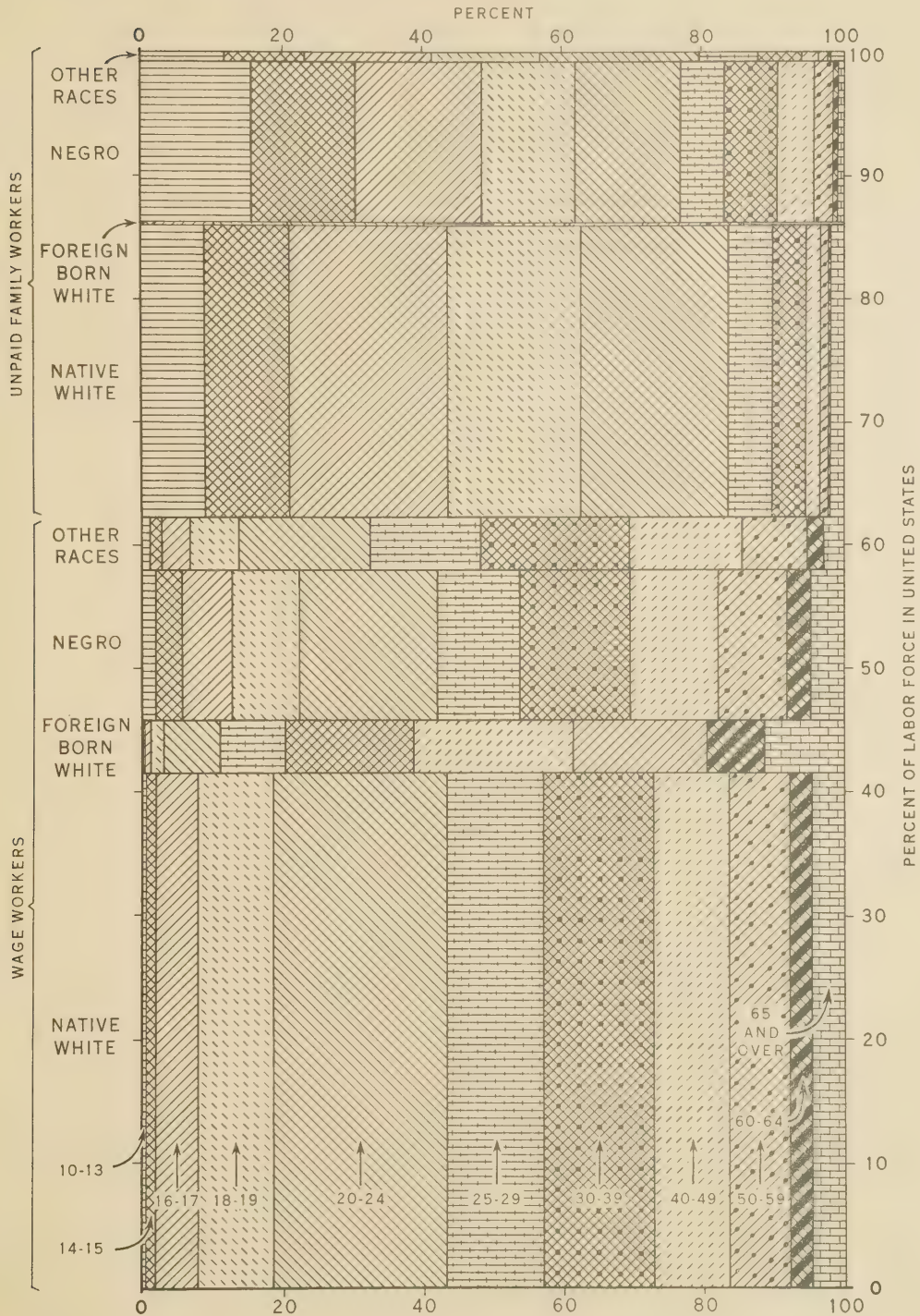
Each dot represents
10 farms

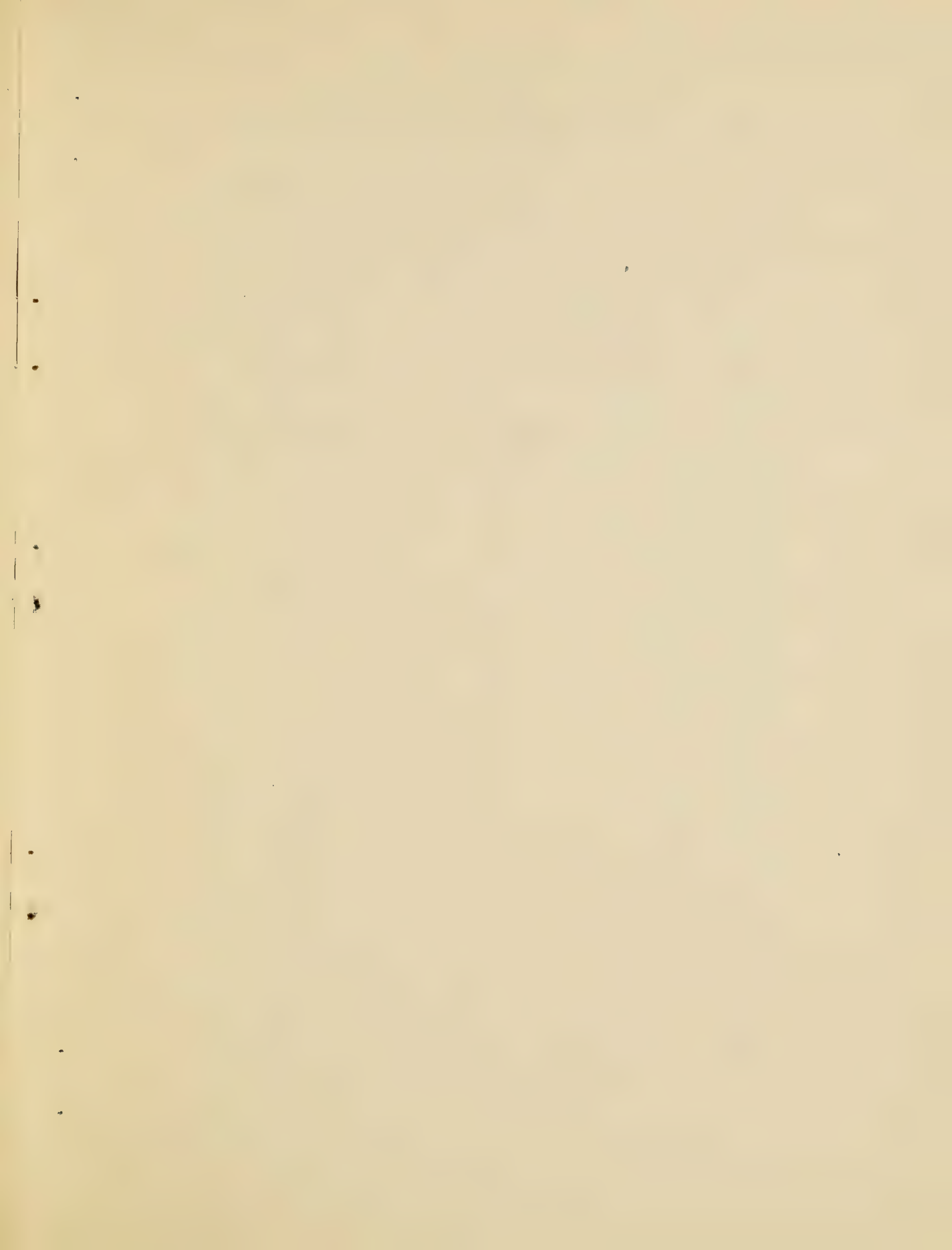
It appears from this figure that in 1930, of the wage workers, 66.69 percent were native white persons, 19.73 percent were Negro, and 6.79 were foreign-born whites, as compared with similar percentages of 62.74, 34.53, 0.83 for the unpaid family workers.

At this time the unpaid workers were 37.8 percent and the hired workers 62.2 percent of the total of both groups. By the time of the Census of 1935 the family workers were much more numerous than the wage workers.

The comparative youthfulness of the unpaid family workers, as compared with the hired workers, is apparent. Over 60 percent of the former group were under 20 years of age, as compared with 20 percent of the wage laborers. Very little of the child labor in agriculture appears among the hired group.

PERCENTAGES OF FARM LABORERS BY WAGE STATUS, RACE, AND AGE, UNITED STATES, 1930



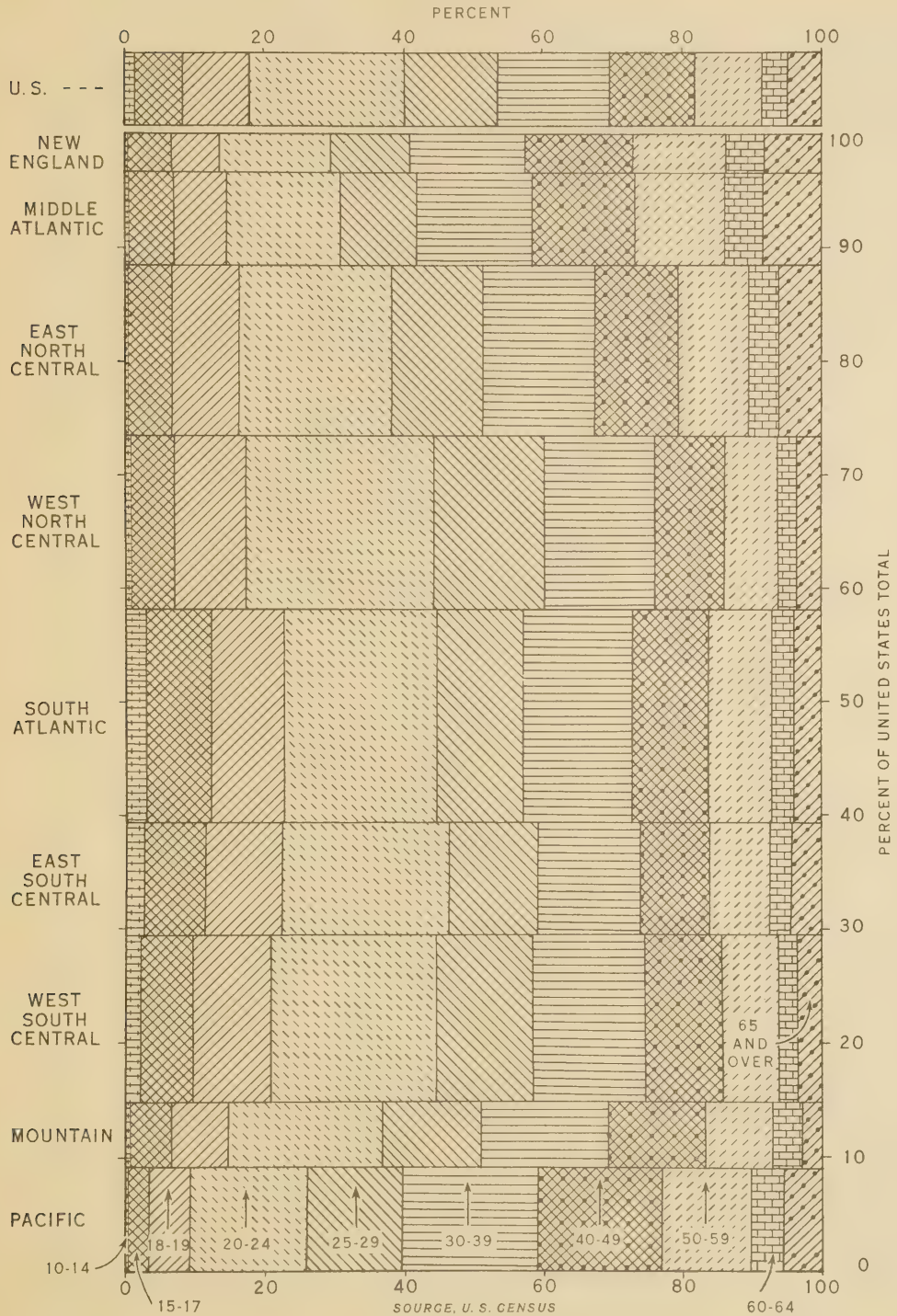


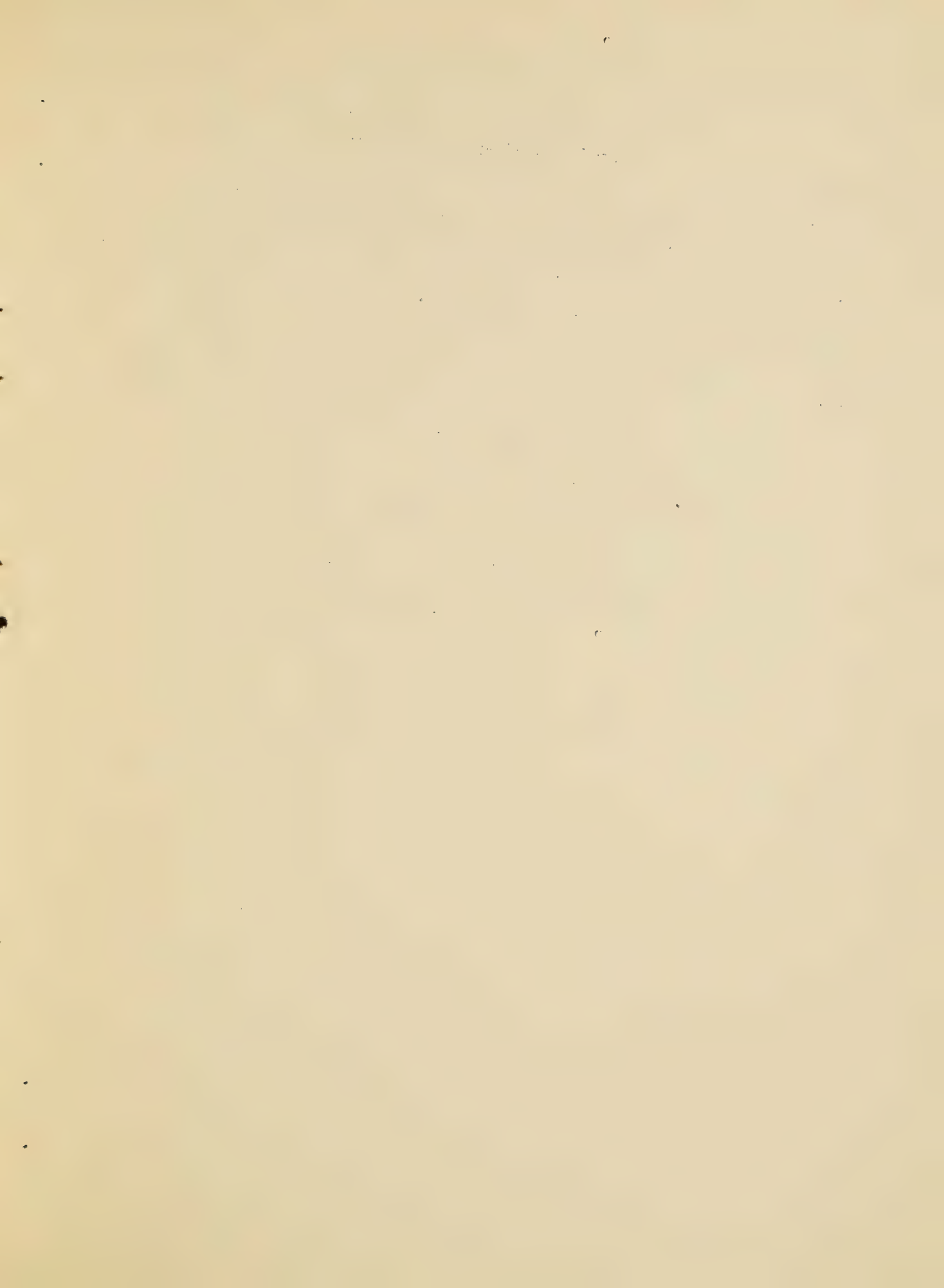
Age and Distribution of Hired Farm Laborers

This chart illustrates the wide distribution of hired farm laborers throughout the country, the Pacific States having 9.19 percent of the total, the South Atlantic 18.71, the West North Central 15.17, the East North Central 15.08, the West South Central 14.48, the East South Central 9.97, the Middle Atlantic 8.17, the Mountain States 5.72, and the New England States 3.52.

From the data here presented it appears that less than a fifth of the total male and female wage workers were under 20 and about one-half under 30. It also appears from the chart that the hired laborers tend to be somewhat older in the New England, Middle Atlantic, Mountain and Pacific subdivisions than elsewhere. In the South Central, South Atlantic and Pacific regions there is a high proportion of workers over 50.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HIRED FARM LABORERS BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS AND BY AGE, 1930





The Families of Hired Farm Workers-

Tables 9 and 10 present data gathered in 1936 in eleven counties in the first States listed and in three counties in New Jersey. About half of the hired farm laborers were or had been married, although there was considerable variation as between States. Nearly half the laborers in the 11-county study had dependents, consisting, typically, of a wife and two children. Fewer of the New Jersey workers had dependents and their families were smaller by one person. This is because the surveys in the 11 counties included only adult laborers or those doing the work of adults. The New Jersey survey data included some workers who were still below adult age.

Marital Status of Hired Farm Laborers in 12 States, 1936

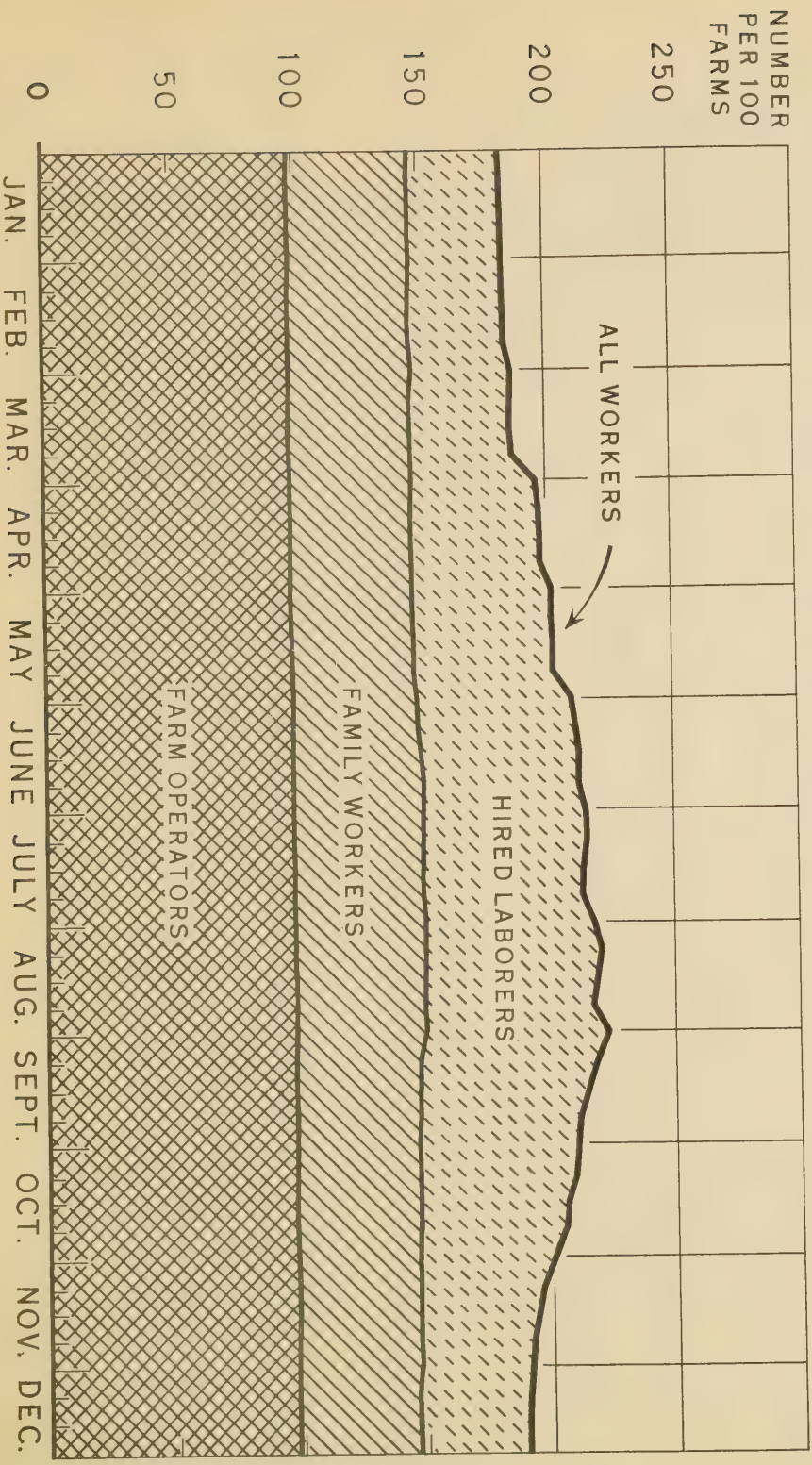
Source, Survey data, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

State	Numbers of persons				Percentages		
	:Unmarried:	:Married:	:separated, :or divorced:	: Total :	:Unmarried:	: Widowed,	
						: Married:	: separated or divorced
Number	Number	Number	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent	
California	60	158	16	234	25.7	67.5	6.8
Colorado	40	23	3	66	60.6	34.9	4.5
Illinois	123	101	7	231	53.3	43.7	3.0
Iowa	150	69	5	224	67.0	30.8	2.2
Kansas	113	52	7	172	65.7	30.2	4.1
Kentucky	93	166	37	296	31.4	56.1	12.5
Louisiana	46	144	53	243	18.9	59.3	21.8
Minnesota	192	12	3	207	92.8	5.8	1.4
Pennsylvania	148	54	12	214	69.2	25.2	5.6
Tennessee	68	90	4	162	42.0	55.5	2.5
Texas	78	230	17	325	24.0	70.8	5.2
New Jersey	708	483	53	1244	56.9	38.8	4.3

Hunterdon is a county in which dairying and general farming predominate; Monmouth County has truck and general farming, while in Gloucester County, truck-growing establishments predominate. It is apparent from these figures that seasonality of employment is much more marked in the truck crop district than in either of the other two and that it is least in the dairying and general farming area. This applies particularly to wage labor, and to some extent to unpaid family labor. Seasonal fluctuations in employment of wage laborers are known to be even more pronounced in some other areas.

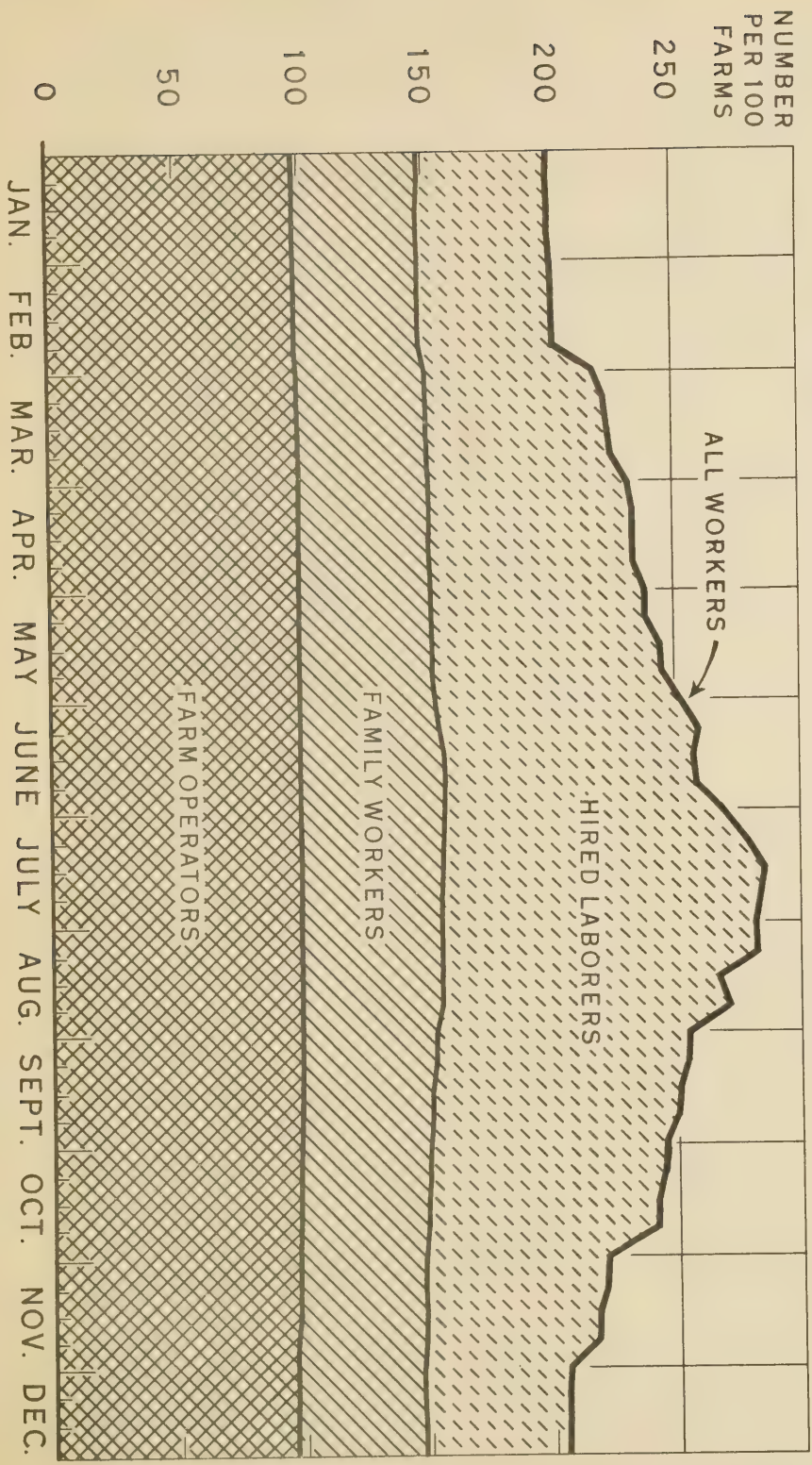
WORKERS PER 100 FARMS IN HUNTERDON COUNTY, N. J., 1935 BY QUARTER MONTH PERIODS

DAIRY AND GENERAL FARMING PREDOMINATE



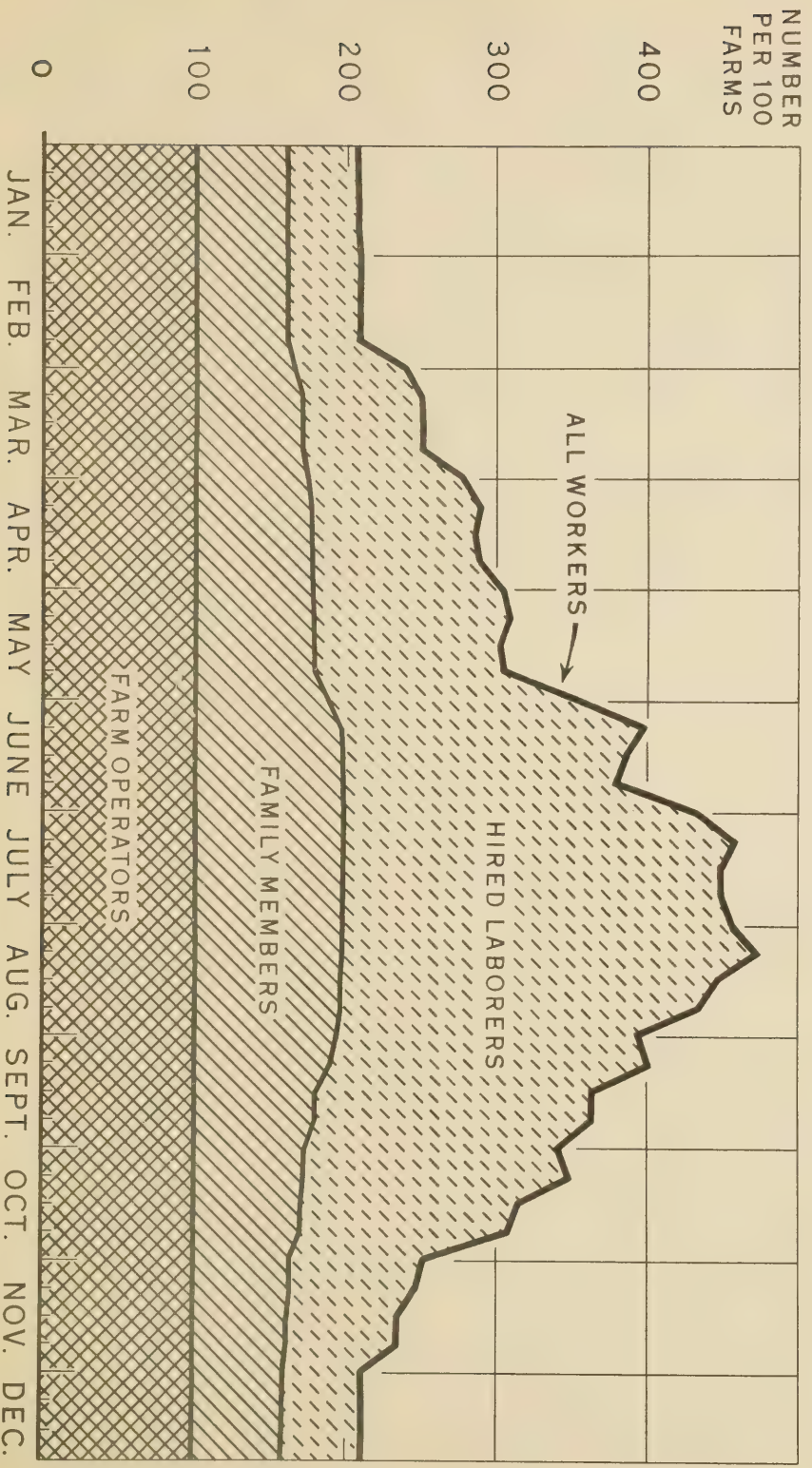
WORKERS PER 100 FARMS IN MONMOUTH COUNTY, N. J., 1935 BY QUARTER MONTH PERIODS

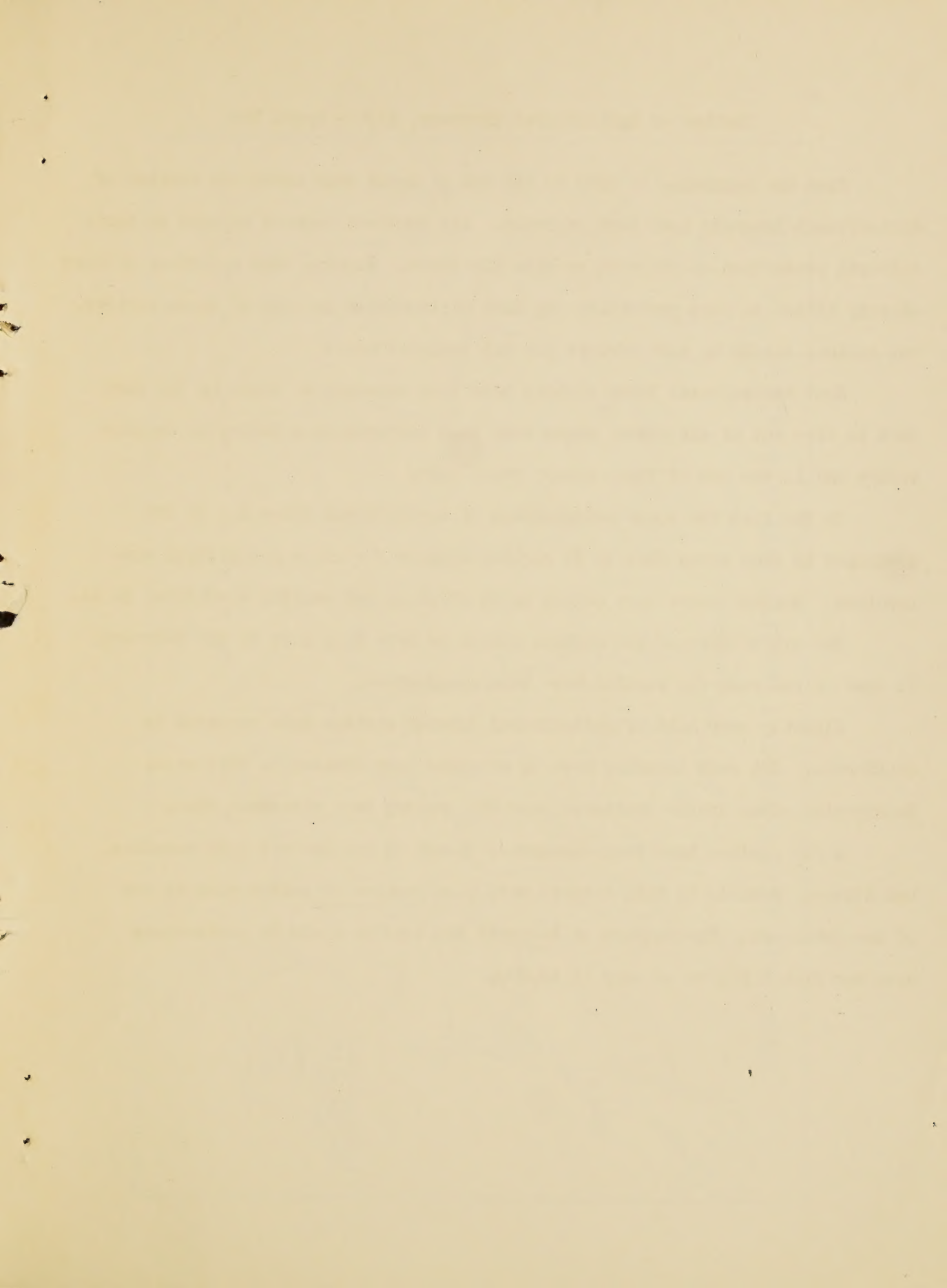
TRUCK AND GENERAL FARMING PREDOMINATE



WORKERS PER 100 FARMS IN GLOUCESTER COUNTY, N. J., 1935 BY QUARTER MONTH PERIODS

TRUCK FARMING PREDOMINATES





Strikes of Agricultural Laborers, 1930 - April 1940

From the beginning of 1930 to the end of April 1940 about 250 strikes of agricultural laborers have been reported. All involved workers engaged in agricultural production on the soil or with livestock. Packing shed and other workers closely allied to farm production may have participated in some of these strikes, but strikes solely by such workers are not included here.

Most agricultural labor strikes have been economic as shown by the fact that in five out of six cases, wages have been involved as a matter of controversy; and in two out of three cases, wages only.

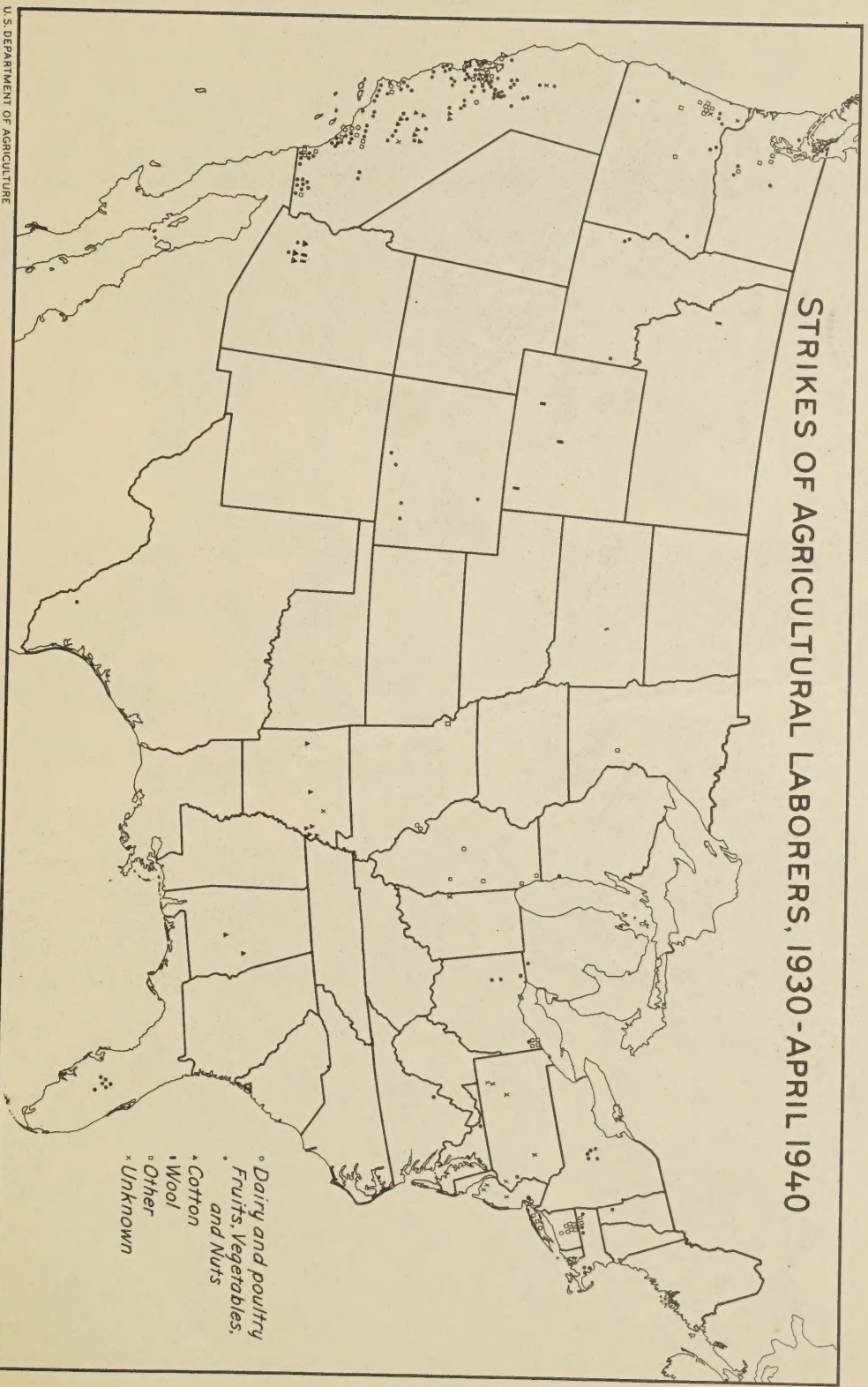
In the last few years unionization of agricultural labor has so far developed in some areas that in 37 strikes demands for union recognition were involved. Working hours were causes in 17 strikes, and working conditions in 14.

Two out of five of the strikes appear to have been lost by the laborers. In some of the rest the results have been compromises.

Slightly over half of agricultural laborer strikes have occurred in California. But such troubles have by no means been limited to that area. Twenty-nine other States scattered over the country have witnessed them.

A few strikes have been widespread enough to involve not only counties, but States. Notable in this respect have been strikes of cotton pickers and of sheepshearers. The numbers of laborers involved in a single controversy have run from a few to as many as 12,000.

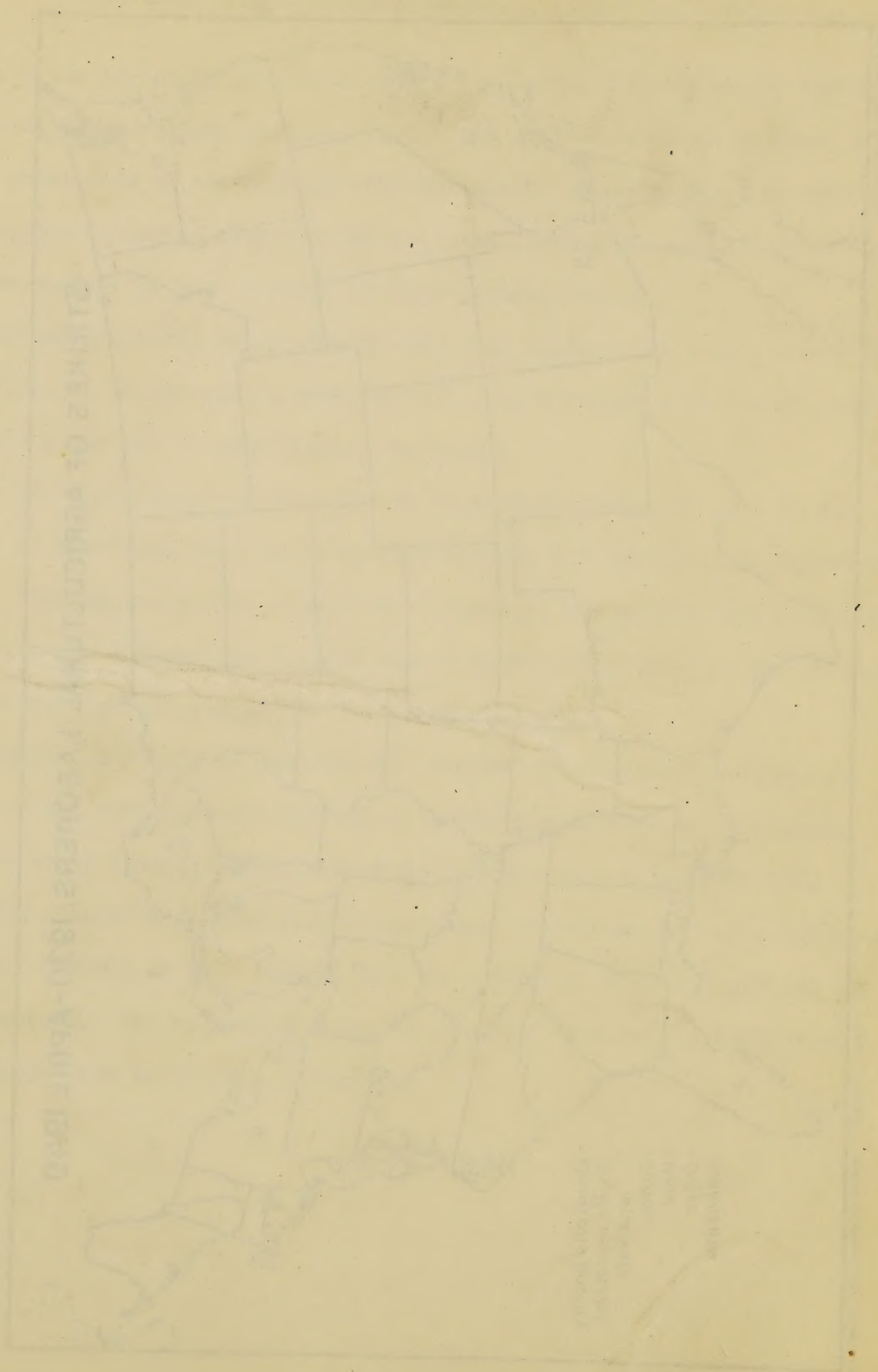
STRIKES OF AGRICULTURAL LABORERS, 1930 - APRIL 1940



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 38300 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

STATES OF AGRICULTURAL LABORERS 1830-1840



Legend
States
Waterways
Transportation