

## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIF.

San Bernardino County is situated in the lower part of California and is one of the most easterly counties of the State. It represents a very unusual area, first in that it contains approximately 12,912,000 acres (20,175 square miles) which is a little more than one-eighth of the area of the State and about one-third the size of the six New England States combined. Again, it is unusual in that it is an area largely of deserts and mountains and only a small portion of the county, the southwestern part, has any extensive habitation. Only 2.2 percent of its land area was in farms in 1935. In 1930, the county had 133,900 inhabitants of which 37 percent were considered to be rural population and of the latter about 34 percent were living on farms. San Bernardino city, the county seat, was the largest city within the confines of the county and had a population of 37,481 persons. Other incorporated places of more than 2,500 persons, ranging from 14,177 persons to 3,118 persons, in descending order were, Redlands, Ontario, Colton, Upland, Needles, and Chino. With the exception of Needles, which is in the extreme eastern part of the county, all of these cities are located in the southwestern part.

Of the 42,025 gainfully occupied males 10 years old and over, 29,785 were engaged primarily in nonagricultural pursuits distributed as follows:

	Number	Percent
<b>Nonagricultural</b> .....	<b>29,785</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Extraction of minerals.....	753	2.5
Manufacturing and mechanical industries.....	9,430	31.7
Building.....	3,084	10.4
Chemical and allied.....	783	2.6
Clay, glass, and stone.....	982	3.3
Bakeries and allied.....	787	2.6
Metal.....	1,671	5.6
Other manufacturing and mechanical.....	2,143	7.2
Transportation.....	6,708	22.5
Trade.....	6,875	23.1
Public service.....	768	2.6
Professional service.....	2,247	7.5
Domestic and personal service.....	1,756	5.9
All other and industry not specified.....	1,248	4.2

The agriculture of this county consists mainly of the growing of fruits—mostly citrus, production of hay, poultry raising, and dairying. The farm enumeration in 1935 listed 7,904 farms which had an average size of 36 acres and a median size of only 10 acres. Crops were harvested from 134,434 acres in 1934 of which 106,233 were under irrigation. This high percentage of land under irrigation and in growing trees had an effect on land values so that the average value per farm was \$15,554, though the median value was \$7,000 and the average value per acre was \$434.

Forty-six percent of the operators of these farms had outside income from their personal services. These part-time farms averaged 24 acres in size and their median size was 8 acres as compared with corresponding figures of 46 and 10 for those of operators who

did no off-farm work. The average value of the part-time farms was \$11,338 and the median value \$5,500, as compared with \$19,175 and \$9,000 for the non-part-time group.

The average size of family, as represented by the number of persons per occupied dwelling, was low for this county, being 3.4 persons for the group of part-time farms and 3.1 for the other group. Twenty-five percent of the farms of the former group reported persons moving back to the land from a nonfarm place in the previous 5-year period with 23 percent of the population on these farms having made such migration. These percentages exceeded those for the non-part-time group which were 20 percent of the farms and 15 percent of the population. For these two main groups of farms, 37 percent of the operators of the former had been on their farms less than 5 years and 72 percent less than 10 years. This compares with 31 and 62 percent, respectively, for the latter group.

Most of the occupations (81.1 percent) which could be classified were ascertained to be along nonagricultural lines. However, the unclassified total, which assumes sizable proportions, if capable of distribution, might affect this relationship somewhat. Ninety percent of the nonagricultural group were employed 100 days or more off their farms as contrasted with 80 for the agricultural group.

Considering tenure, seven-eighths (87.6 percent) of all farms in the county were operated by full owners and 6.9 percent by tenants. There was not much difference in the proportion of the operators in these two tenure classes who reported off-farm work, the percentage for the one being about 47 and for the other 49. Of those operators with off-farm work, 84 percent of the full owners and 78 percent of the tenants were gainfully employed at such work 100 days or more. As between the part-time and non-part-time farms of these two tenure classes there was a smaller spread in the median size of farms for the full owners than for tenants. For the former the medians were 7 acres and 10 acres and for the latter were 10 acres and 20 acres.

Families on farms of full owners averaged 3.1 persons as compared with 3.8 persons on tenant farms. Part-time farmers in the case of full owners had families averaging 3.3 persons against 3 for the non-part-time group and in the other case the corresponding figures were 4 and 3.6. Twenty-three percent of the full owners working off their farms reported a back-to-the-land movement during the previous 5 years, whereas 44 percent of the part-time farmers of the tenant group so reported. Thirty-three percent of the full-owner part-time farmers had been on their farms less than 5 years as compared with 84 percent for the off-farm workers in the tenant group.

SAN BERNARDINO CO., CALIFORNIA

