

week specified on the agricultural census schedule; also, a person working the equivalent of 2 or more days on the farm may have had some nonfarm occupation as his principal employment or he may not have been included in the labor force.

For the United States as a whole, persons working on farms the equivalent of 2 or more days during the first week of January 1945 totaled 8,373,239, or 52.2 percent of the farm population 14 years old and over. The average per farm based on all farms was 1.43 persons and on farms reporting, 1.32. Of the total number of persons working on farms, 59.4 percent were farm operators, 31.6 percent were unpaid members of the operator's family, and 8.9 percent were hired workers. Of the 5,859,169 farm operators, 85.0 percent were reported as working on their farms the equivalent of 2 or more days the first week in January. Family workers other than the operator were reported on 33.2 percent of all farms and hired labor on 6.9 percent.

The distribution of persons working on farms during the first week of January 1945, as either family labor or hired labor, varied considerably from State to State. Persons working for wages constituted over 25 percent of the total farm labor in California, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, and New Jersey and under 4 percent in Mississippi, West Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama. The ratio of hired workers to total workers ranged from 2.0 percent in Mississippi to 39.7 percent in Arizona and 39.9 percent in California.

Cash paid for farm labor.—The 1945 inquiry called for the total cash paid in 1944 for farm labor (wage, contract, and piecework labor). Expenditures for machine hire and for labor included in the cost of such machine hire and expenditures for housework and contract construction work were not to be included. For certain types of labor, cash wages are often supplemented by the furnishing of board, housing, fuel, products of the farm for the use of the laborer's family, feed, pasturage for animals, etc.

For country-estate areas the wages reported for many of the farms quite often exceeded the receipts from the sales of agricultural products. In citrus areas where it is a common practice to charge a fixed amount per acre for the care of groves, this charge was quite often reported in lieu of wages. Reports of this nature were accepted as it was not possible to determine the amount paid for farm labor not included with machine hire.

An inquiry on expenditures for farm labor has been included in each census, except 1935, beginning with 1870. However, no figures on expenditures for labor appear in the 1880 and 1890 reports. From 1870 to 1900, the inquiry called for the amount paid for farm labor, including the value of board furnished. Beginning with 1900, the inquiry in each census has expressly excluded housework. Contract construction work and expenditures for machine hire and for labor included in the cost of such machine hire were expressly excluded only for the 1945 and 1940 Censuses. Specific mention of the inclusion of expenditures for contract and piecework labor was first made on the 1940 inquiry. The questions covering expenditures for farm labor for the Censuses of 1930 and 1925 related to the amount actually expended in cash, that is, money wages exclusive of the value of rent, board, and other prerequisites furnished; for the Censuses of 1920 and 1910, separate figures were obtained for the cash expenditure and for the estimated value of rent and board furnished farm laborers; and for the Census of 1900, one inquiry covered the combined cash expenditure and estimated value of board furnished.

The number of farms reporting cash paid for farm labor in 1944 was 2,799,026, or 47.8 percent of all farms. The comparable number for 1939 was 2,260,237, or 37.1 percent of all farms. In the 1930 Census, 41.8 percent of the farms reported such expenditures. The cash expenditure for farm labor for 1944 totaled \$1,861,026,434, as compared with \$781,791,558 in 1939 and \$955,420,313 in 1929.

When the index of wage rates for 1944 is taken into account (see accompanying table) it appears that the amount of labor hired in 1944 was slightly below that in 1939. Although there was about as much labor employed in 1944 as in previous years, it is probable that less full-time labor was hired. This is

indicated by the relatively low number of hired workers during the week ending Jan. 6, 1945. Farm income-per dollar spent for farm labor averaged \$9.73 in 1944 and \$9.99 in 1939. Wage rates were much higher in 1944 than in 1939 in comparison with prices of farm products.

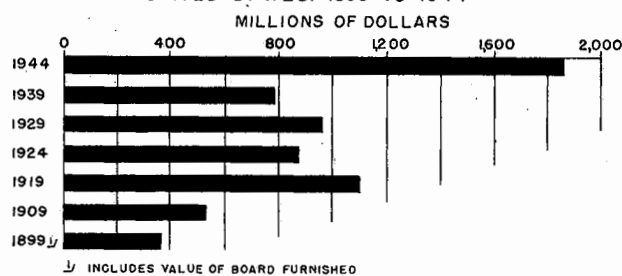
CASH WAGES PAID FOR FARM LABOR AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD OR USED BY HOUSEHOLDS ON THE FARM WITH THE INDICES FOR FARM WAGES AND FARM PRICES FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1899 TO 1944

\$ 865 026 434

YEAR	Cash wages	Index of wage rates ¹	Value of farm products sold or used	Index of prices received by farmers ¹
1944.....	1,861,026,434	315	18,108,132,494	195
1939.....	781,791,558	123	7,813,644,567	95
1934.....	(*)	95	(*)	90
1929.....	955,420,313	180	11,011,329,335	149
1924.....	864,982,384	173	(*)	143
1919.....	1,098,712,517	207	(*)	215
1914.....	(*)	101	(*)	101
1909.....	521,729,941	98	(*)	(*)
1904.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
1899.....	357,391,930	(*)	3,742,129,357	(*)

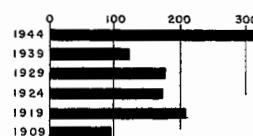
*Data not available.
¹From Agricultural Statistics, 1946 and 1941; 1909-1914 = 100.

CASH WAGES PAID FOR HIRED LABOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1899 TO 1944



INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE FARM-WAGE RATES FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1909 TO 1944

(CALENDAR YEARS 1910-1914=100)



SOURCE FOR INDEX NUMBERS: BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CASH WAGES PAID FOR HIRED LABOR AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD OR USED BY FARM HOUSEHOLDS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1944, 1939 AND 1929

