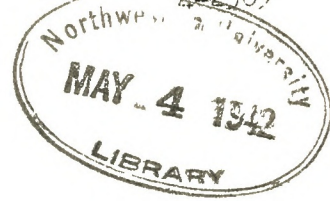


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FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



For Release to Afternoon Papers
Thursday, April 9, 1942

EMPLOYMENT UP 1,800,000 IN MARCH AS LABOR FORCE INCREASES BY 1,400,000

Employment increased by 1,800,000 persons between February and March, according to the WPA Monthly Report of Unemployment released today by Howard O. Hunter, Commissioner of Work Projects. During the same period the labor force increased by 1,400,000 persons and unemployment decreased by 400,000.

The survey found that the labor force increased from 52,600,000 in February to 54,000,000 in March. The number of employed persons rose from 48,600,000 in February to 50,400,000 in March, and the number of unemployed declined from 4,000,000 to 3,600,000.

The impetus of war activity, the report stated, accounts for the more-than-normal expansion of the nation's working force. The decline in unemployment was actually no greater than was to be expected normally at this time of year from seasonal expansion in agricultural and other outdoor work.

"The large increase in the labor force should be encouraging to those who have been concerned over the possible development of a general labor shortage," the report said. "As long as the labor force continues to expand, however, unemployment cannot be expected to decrease in amounts equal to the increases in employment."

Mobilization of industry and agriculture in a total war effort far more than counterbalanced displacements arising from conversion of industry to war production, shortage of materials and restrictions on retail sales, the report stated.

Increases in the working force and in employment were found generally throughout the country. Rural counties reported increased activity and, for a number of important crops, increased acreage. The seasonal upturn in agricultural employment was earlier this year than last, possibly because of the appeals for increased production and the favorable farm price situation.

The "Monthly Report of Unemployment" is prepared by the WPA Division of Research and Statistics from a representative cross-section sampling of the entire population.

(For more detailed analysis, see table on reverse side. The figures exclude institutional population and the estimated number of persons in the armed forces.)

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Estimates of the Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment
April 1940 to March 1942

Total United States

(Millions of Persons)

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment
<u>1940</u>			
April	53.9	45.1	8.8
May	54.7	46.3	8.4
June	56.3	47.7	8.6
July	57.0	47.7	9.3
August	56.7	47.8	8.9
September	55.2	48.1	7.1
October	54.8	47.4	7.4
November	53.9	46.3	7.6
December	53.2	46.1	7.1
<u>1941</u>			
January	52.8	45.2	7.6
February	52.7	45.5	7.2
March	52.4	45.6	6.8
April	53.3	46.7	6.6
May	54.0	48.3	5.7
June	55.7	49.8	5.9
July	56.0	50.4	5.6
August	55.8	50.5	5.3
September	54.3	49.8	4.5
October	53.5	49.6	3.9
November	53.3	49.4	3.9
December	53.3	49.5	3.8
<u>1942</u>			
January	52.4	48.2	4.2
February	52.6	48.6	4.0
March	54.0	50.4	3.6

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Work Projects Administration
Division of Research and Statistics