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# NEW JERSEY FARM LABOR REPORT 1970

State of New Jersey  
Department of  
Labor and Industry

NEW JERSEY STATE  
TRAINING AND  
EMPLOYMENT  
SERVICE



*Affiliated with United States Training and Employment Service*

BUREAU OF FARM PLACEMENT



# ANNUAL FARM LABOR REPORT

*prepared by:*

New Jersey State Training & Employment Service  
Bureau of Farm Placement  
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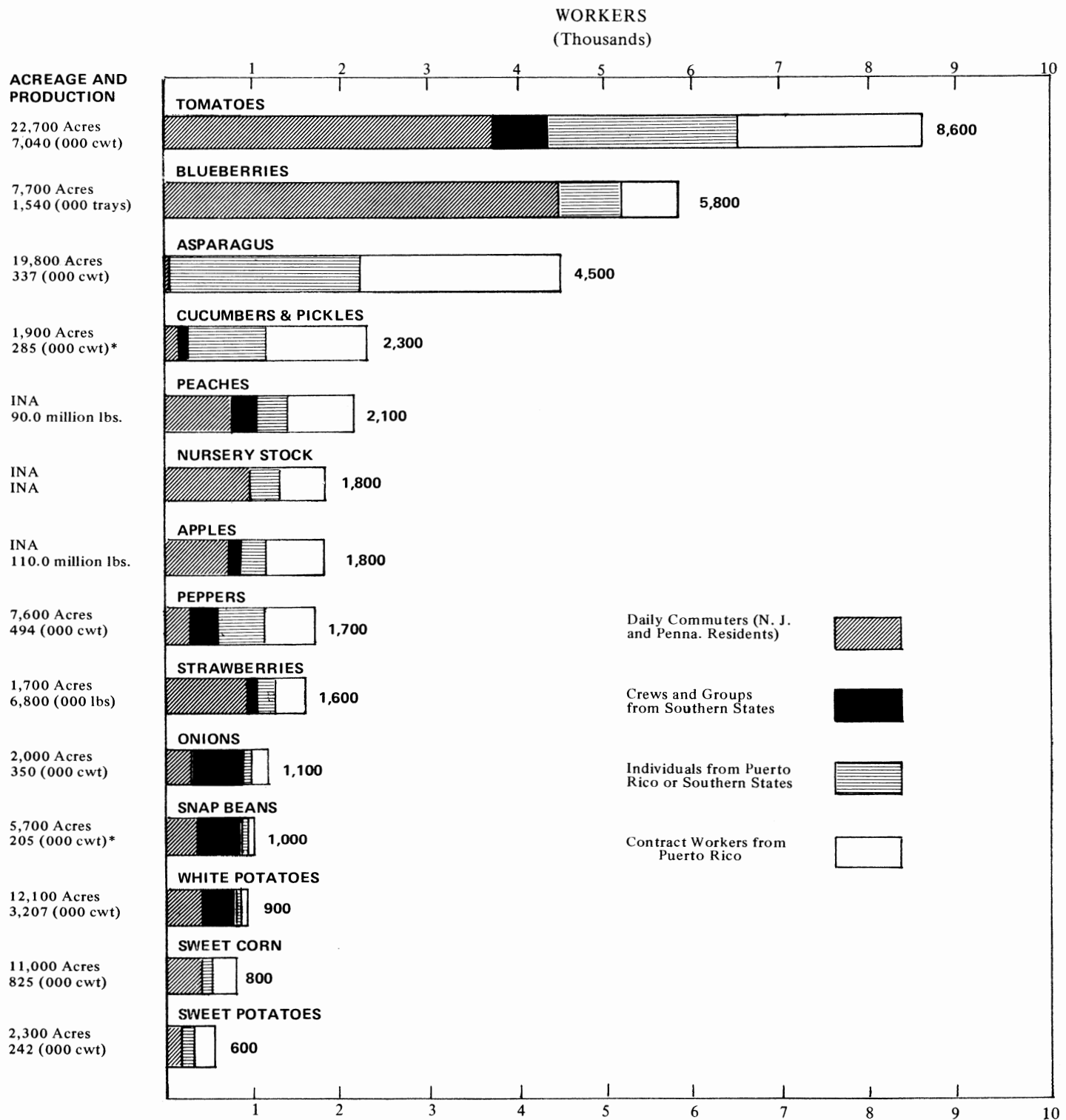
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# COMPOSITION OF THE PEAK SEASONAL WORK FORCE – PRINCIPAL LABOR-USING CROPS

1970



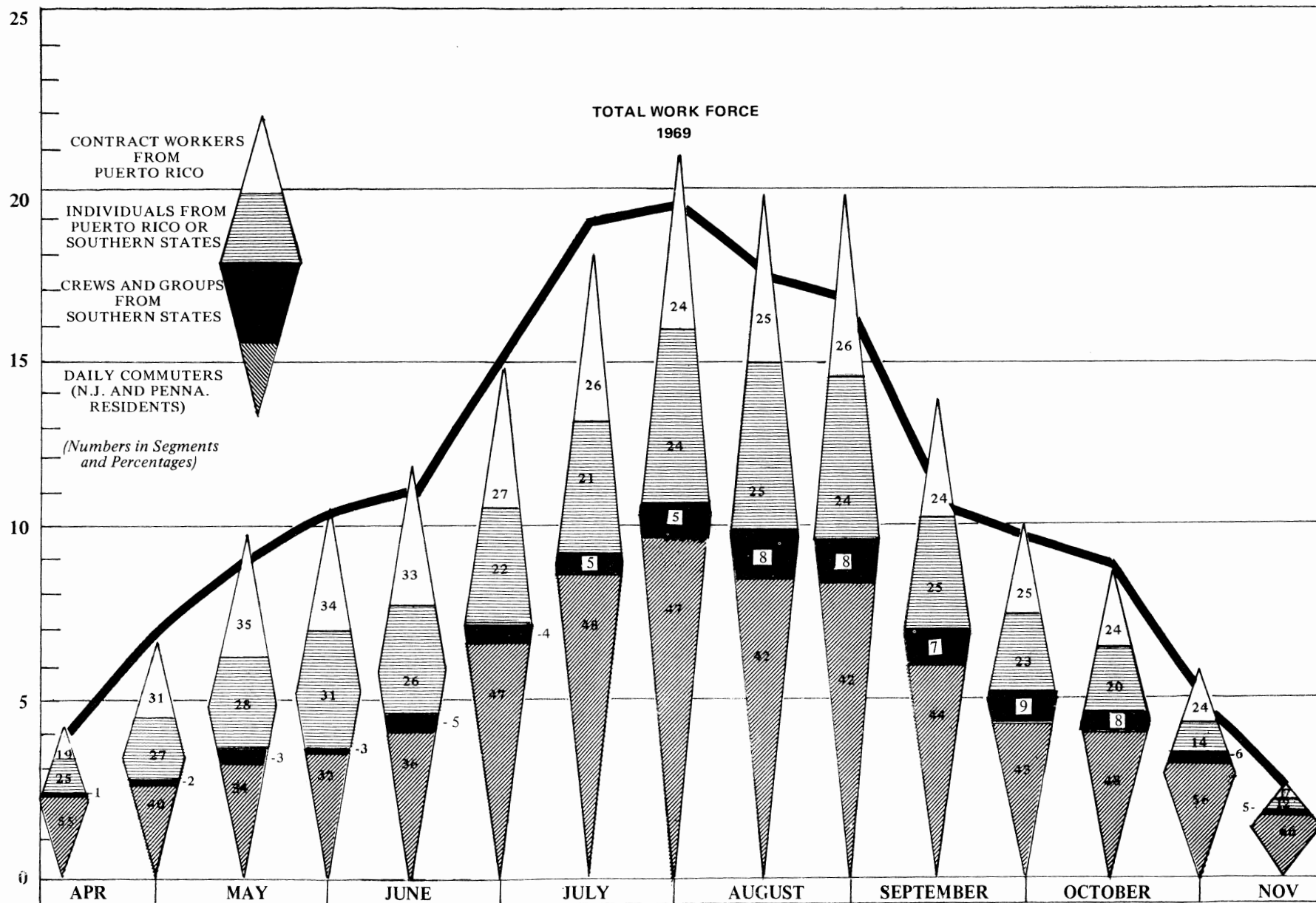
\* Fresh market only. Work force data includes the entire crop.

SOURCE: Farm Placement Representatives (Work Force Data)  
N. J. Crop Reporting Service (Acreage & Production Information)



# PROPORTION OF WORKER GROUPS TO THE TOTAL SEASONAL FARM WORK FORCE – 1970

WORKERS  
(Thousands)



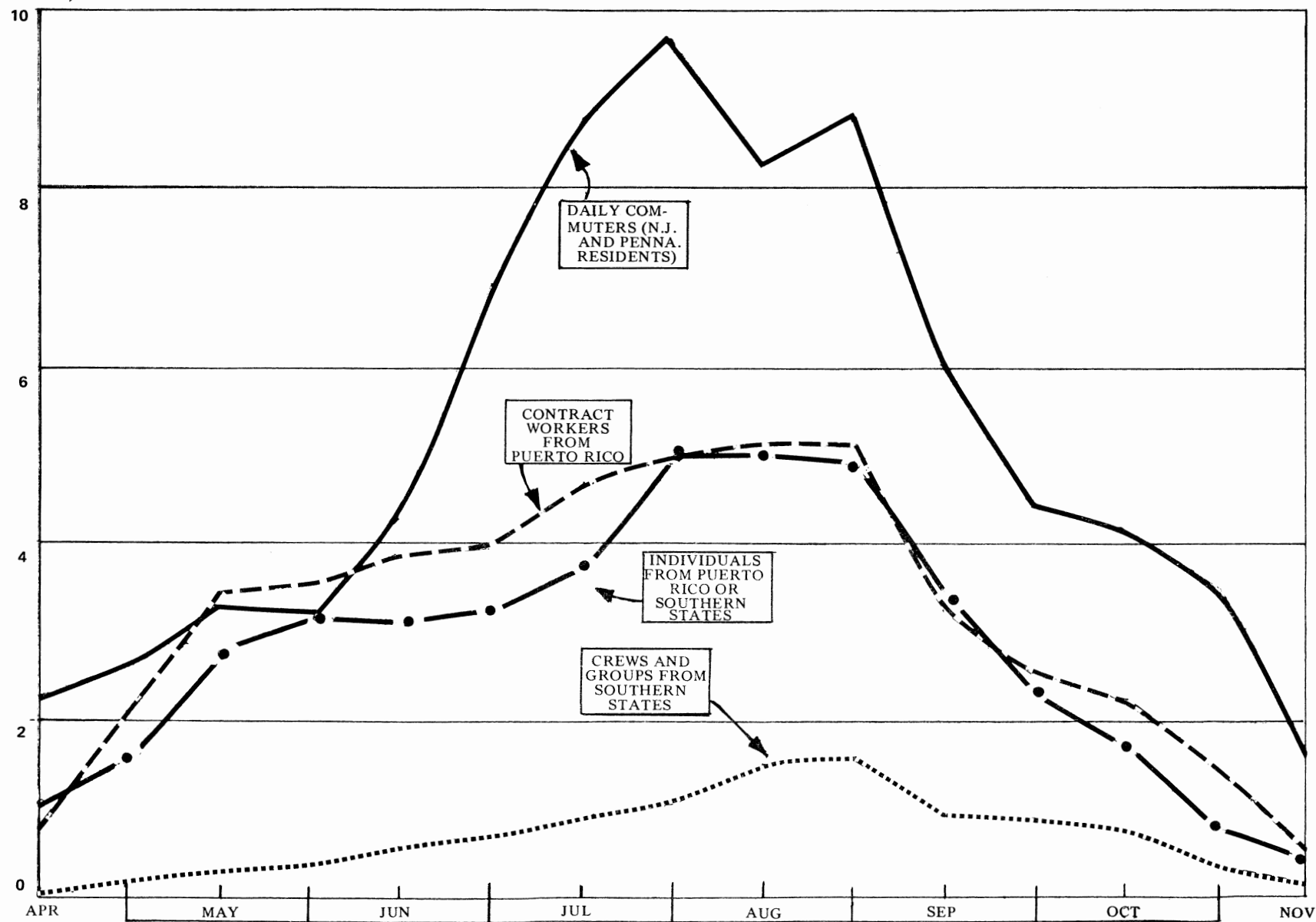
Source: In-Season Farm Labor Report



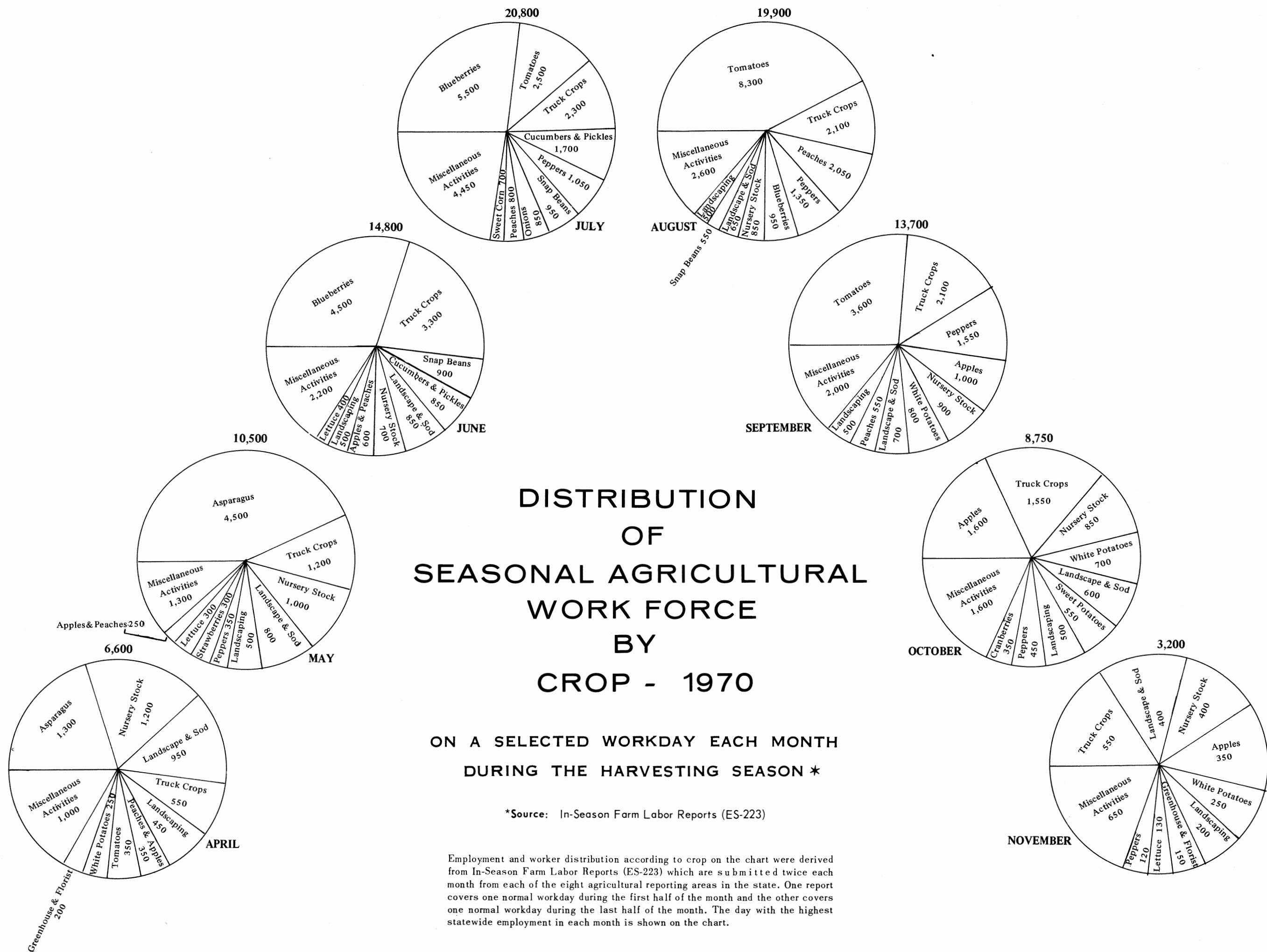


# EMPLOYMENT OF WORKER GROUPS – 1970

WORKERS  
(Thousands)



Source: In-Season Farm Labor Report





### ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Restructuring New Jersey's Department of Labor and Industry in 1970 placed the Bureau of Farm Placement within the newly created NEW JERSEY STATE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

Formerly a part of the abrogated New Jersey State Employment Service, the Bureau of Farm Placement and a non-agricultural employment service program bureau and other employment program units were joined with all state, district and local office level employment service operational functions (formerly the Field Operations Service) to form the aforementioned NEW JERSEY STATE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

Under the reorganization, seventeen local office farm placement representatives came under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Farm Placement. Previously, the Bureau maintained only functional supervision over local office farm placement personnel.

Beginning in November, the addition of four units of personnel was necessary to staff a rural manpower program patterned after the highly successful project conducted by the Iowa Employment Security Commission. The aim of the Iowa program, named the "Ottumwa Project" after the rural community which centers the 12 county project area, was to develop a more economical and effective means of delivering comprehensive manpower services to residents of rural areas.

The purpose of the New Jersey program is the same. Entitled "Cowtown Rural Manpower Project" the coverage area includes 15 townships and 7 boroughs in Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland counties. Cowtown is near the project area's midpoint and is also the location of the Bureau of Farm Placement field office from which the program is administered.

### PRE-SEASON AND IN-SEASON MEETINGS

The more important of the numerous meetings and conferences which were attended by Bureau of Farm Placement personnel in 1970 are listed below:

National Farm Labor Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada

Farm Placement Committee of the Interstate Conference of  
Employment Security Agencies, Washington, D.C.

New Jersey Food Processing Committee - Sub-Committee on  
Labor, Hammonton, New Jersey

New Jersey-Pennsylvania Crew Leader Pre-Season Conference,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Farmers Week - General Session, Trenton, New Jersey

New Jersey Rural Areas Development State Technical  
Action Panel, Trenton, New Jersey

Thirteenth Annual New Jersey Marketing Institute,  
Princeton, New Jersey

### PLANNING

Seasonal manpower needs of fruit and vegetable growers in New Jersey are primarily influenced by: (1) the large variety of crops to be cared for and harvested; (2) highly fluid worker demand, for varying periods of time, during the agricultural season; and (3) a work force with a high rate of labor turnover that must be recruited from as far away as Puerto Rico, Florida and other Atlantic Seaboard states. The sum total strongly suggests the necessity of practical, effective manpower planning, long before the agricultural season begins.

Annually, during the winter months, the Bureau of Farm Placement of the New Jersey State Training and Employment Service predetermines the seasonal labor needs of all fruit and vegetable producers in the state, even though not all growers avail themselves of the job placement services offered by the NJST&ES. This is necessary because of the significant amount of labor movement, from grower to grower, during the agricultural season. Interdependence among employers, for workers, demands up-to-date knowledge of the entire farm labor picture in order to plan prudently.

Individual grower production and worker demand and supply data is recorded, by farm placement personnel, for each principal labor using crop, in a documentary report entitled, "Pre-Season Estimates of Crop Production and Manpower Needs." Used for the first time in 1969, the report has become an important vehicle in the planning process. Also, data from the report is summarized on a local office area, agricultural reporting area and statewide basis for determining and analyzing manpower trends. Budgetary requests for employment service personnel working in the specialized field of agricultural job placement are documented in a Plan of Service which is prepared for each fiscal year. Farm placement plans are outlined separately within the overall Plan of Service of the New Jersey State Training and Employment Service.

Also within the purview of planning was a 1970 undertaking by the Bureau of Farm Placement which collected and reported basal information related to rural New Jersey and the rural disadvantaged unemployed. (The report furnished elemental data for the Cowtown Rural Manpower Project, see under Administrative Organization.) Except for that part which referred specifically to areas of local office responsibility, the report follows:

#### Introduction and Methodology

"The purpose of this report is twofold: (1) To determine and delineate rural areas of New Jersey and (2) To estimate the number of disadvantaged, unemployed, with some labor force attachment, who reside therein.

"All local offices situated in rural New Jersey were visited and their managers, local farm placement representative, area supervising farm placement representative and two members of the Bureau of Farm Placement's Trenton staff met and delineated the rural portion of the local office coverage area. (An overall hard and fast rule distinguishing between urban and rural, or defining either, was attempted but unsuccessful. That is why each office was contacted individually.)

"Each township, town and borough in the local office area was determined to be either rural or nonrural. The following criteria were used: (a) Population, (b) Population density, (c) Improved and unimproved land, (d) General complexion of the area. It is realized that this approach differs from the rural concept used by the Employment Security Automated Reporting System which determines rural on a county basis. Under ESARS, a county is designated as rural if 50 percent or more of its population reside in rural areas, as defined in the U.S. Census. According to ESARS, rural New Jersey is Salem, Sussex, Hunterdon and Ocean counties.

"At each local office meeting, an agreement was reached between all parties regarding the rural or nonrural designation of each community in the local office area. Overall, the greatest number of rural communities were townships. Some managers and farm placement representatives included boroughs and towns in the rural category, especially if they were located in a rural setting.

"After the rural geography question had been resolved, the local office manager was asked to gather information relating to the number of disadvantaged, unemployed prospective wage earners residing in the rural portion of the office area, to briefly describe the rural area and to assess employment opportunities therein. In order to secure this information, it was suggested to the managers that the following sources could be utilized: (1) The manager's factual knowledge of rural disadvantaged within the office area; (2) The farm placement representative's wide and expert knowledge of the rural area and its inhabitants; (3) Local office reports prepared by the office regarding poor or disadvantaged in the area; (4) Welfare officials; (5) Community Action people and reports; (6) Data from the Department of Conservation and Economic Development; (7) U.S. Census data; (8) Industrial Commissions; (9) Rural employers. Each local office manager was requested to prepare a memorandum combining appropriate information from any of the above sources with a description of the agreed upon rural portion of the local office area. Findings for this report were based primarily on memoranda from 22 local offices.

"Although all of the above nine sources were used, all 22 managers relied heavily on statistics from local and county welfare officials in specifying the number of unemployed, disadvantaged in rural communities. Most managers reported the number of disadvantaged, prospective wage earners per rural township or borough.

"Projections of the 1960 U.S. Census - to July 1, 1969 - by the N.J. Department of Conservation and Economic Development, provided the population data for this report.

## Findings

"Approximately 792 thousand (11 percent) of New Jersey's 7.3 million reside in rural areas of the Garden State which cover 4,993, or 66 percent, of the state's 7,520 square miles and where population density averages 159 people per square mile, compared to 2,568 people per square mile in urban areas and 968 per square mile statewide. Rural New Jersey spreads over all counties except Essex, Hudson and Union and includes: 142 townships, 28 boroughs, 2 cities plus the perimeter area of another and one town and another town's periphery. There are 257 boroughs, 234 townships, 53 cities, 21 towns and 2 villages in the state.

"A substantial number of full-time employment opportunities exist in, or close to, almost all rural areas and they are increasing and will increase as all types of employing establishments move to areas which are now rural. Rural areas are intermingled with urban and suburban areas. The outlook for New Jersey is nonrural.

"Approximately 2,650 people or one-third of one percent of rural New Jerseyans can be classified as disadvantaged, unemployed with some attachment to the labor force. The basic reasons for unemployment of these 2,650 people appears to be: (1) their employability is severely hampered by their lack of skills (2) they are uncompetitively attached to the labor force, probably because of lack of knowledge and/or experience with the world of work; (3) they lack the wherewithal to travel from their home to a significant number of employers in order to find a job and/or they can not get from home to a job on a regular basis."

## SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECRUITMENT

For the fifth consecutive year, local offices of the New Jersey State Training and Employment Service recruited workers for the Green Thumb Program. Green Thumb, sponsored by the National Farmers Union and funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, affords male senior citizen retirees with an opportunity of supplementing their retirement income through employment on highway and park beautification programs. In 1970, Green Thumb provided employment for 142 New Jerseyans.

Green Light, a program for female senior citizens, was in its second year of operation during 1970 at the Ringwood Museum and Skylands State Park Manor House, both in Passaic County. Fourteen women were employed as guides and housekeepers.

Automobile-mounted loud speaker apparatus was used by farm placement personnel in Bridgeton, Camden and Paterson to notify urban residents of crop harvesting job opportunities. The sound system was also used in the Bridgeton area to help recruit workers for food processing plants.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The following report was obtained from the Agricultural Review which is

prepared annually by the Crop Reporting Service of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture:

"The 1970 growing season was mostly favorable for crop production. Topsoil moisture was above normal going into the season because significantly above normal rainfall occurred during December 1969. Wintering crops in most areas were protected with snow during the extreme low temperatures of January. Above normal rainfall during April helped alleviate the shortage in March. Cool temperatures during much of the spring and early summer period put the growing season about a week behind schedule for most crops. Rainfall was also below normal during most of this period.

"Shallow-rooted vegetables were being irrigated on a regular basis, and crop prospects continued favorable. August was generally dry over many areas but was beneficial for harvest of maturing crops. Late September was marked with record breaking high temperatures and adversely affected some fall lettuce and resulted in poor coloring of some fall maturing apples. Rainfall was limited during early October but heavy late in the month as the crop season was drawing to a close.

"Preliminary estimates for the major vegetable crops in 1970 in the Garden State indicate total acreage at 68,300 acres was 5 percent less than in 1969 and 8 percent below 1968. Aggregate production totaled 5.5 million hundredweight and was 2 percent below 1969 and 7 percent below 1968. Generally higher yields were more than offset by the fewer acres harvested.

"It was generally a good production year for most crops. Some notable exceptions included low yields on blueberries and asparagus. Tomatoes and cranberries, however, yielded bumper crops. Peach, apple and strawberry production was below a year ago. Production of eggs and milk continued to decline resulting from fewer numbers of layers and cows on farms.

"Crop production increased for corn and rye, while reduced production is estimated for hay, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, wheat, barley and soybeans.

"Prices received by New Jersey farmers averaged above a year ago through mid-summer for many crops, but lower prices have prevailed for most commodities since then. Earlier higher prices being offset by more recent lower prices are likely to maintain gross cash receipts from farm marketings at the 249 million dollar level of 1969. With increasing production costs in 1970, average net income per farm at \$7,672 in 1969 is likely to remain at about last year's level from fewer farming units."

#### EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

##### Seasonal Workers

Seasonal farm labor supply conformed closely to the highly changeable manpower demands of fruit, vegetable and nursery stock growers during the 1970 agricultural season and produced one of the smoothest farm labor seasons within memory.



An ample supply of nursery stock workers in April and asparagus cutters in May was an indication of the upcoming labor situation during later-season crop harvests. This year's supply of asparagus labor (4,500 workers at peak) was particularly heartening. (Ten percent of last year's crop was lost because of insufficient manpower during the peak harvest period.)

The arrival of several southern migrant crews in southern New Jersey coincided with increasing labor demands of strawberry growers at harvest time. The 1970 strawberry harvest was free of labor problems. And so were the lettuce, onion and cucumber and pickle harvests.

Adequate manpower was on hand during the entire harvest period of the 1970 blueberry crop. Worker demand was less than usual, early in the harvest, as the Weymouth variety was down in yield, more than 60 percent, because of insufficient pollination caused by cold and rainy weather during the pollination period. The blueberry harvest peak was reached during the last week in July. The peak work force numbered 5,770 (4,920 pickers, 550 packers and 300 people working on or around harvesting machinery). Principally because of an increase in the number of harvesting machines, 1970's manpower needs, at harvest peak, were approximately 800 below the 1969 peak. Harvesting machinery this year included: 19 over-the-row machines, 5 wind machines, 5 semi-mechanical vibrating harvesters plus innumerable hand-vibrators.

For several weeks, extending from July through early August, Farm Worker Pick-up Stations operated by the New Jersey State Training and Employment Service in Bridgeton, Camden, Cowntown and Trenton sent an average of 400 workers per day to area growers.

The size of the peak 1970 statewide seasonal farm work force (20,800) was 1,600 more than in 1969 and countered the annual downtrend in the peak work force, which had been occurring uninterruptedly since 1964. Possibly reflecting a recessive economy, an increase in the number of people seeking farm work was evident this year. During several mid season weeks, more people than needed were available for agricultural employment in the Garden State.

Picking of processing tomatoes began during the last week in July and the harvesting work force rose sharply to 1,725 workers as all major processors began processing the first of the 1970 crop. After having reached harvest peak with a work force numbering between 7,900 and 8,000 (approximately 1,500 workers more than in 1969) picking continued until processing of red tomatoes ended on September 23rd. Plenty of labor was available during the entire harvest.

On September 15th, Garden State Service Cooperative, recruiter of contract Puerto Rican workers for the Glassboro Service Association and Farmers and Gardeners Association, reported difficulties in securing workers during September. From August 31st through September 14th, Garden State ordered 540 workers but were able to deliver only 247. This followed the pattern of late season recruitment problems in Puerto Rico which has been occurring for the past several years.

Harvesting of apples, cranberries and sweet potatoes, all significant labor-using late season crops, proceeded with a minimal number of labor problems.

Peak numbers, in 1970, of the four major seasonal worker classifications were: (1) Daily-commuting residents of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, 9,730 on July 31st; (2) Non-contract Puerto Ricans, 5,000 on July 31st; (3) Contract Puerto Ricans, 5,170 on August 15th and (4) Crews and groups from southern states, 1,570 on August 31st. During 1969, peak numbers, in the same order as above, were: 10,000; 4,970; 4,840 and 1,320.

According to reporting procedures used by the Bureau of Farm Placement, seasonal worker employment is documented twice each month, from April to November. Each report represents normal employment on one day within a two week period. The table below compares days of highest employment, each month, during the harvest seasons of 1969 and 1970.

<u>Month</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
April	6,900	6,600
May	10,500	10,500
June	15,100	14,800
July	19,200	20,800
August	17,500	19,900
September	10,900	13,700
October	8,850	8,750
November	2,500	3,200

#### Year-Round Workers

Declining from 4,100 workers in 1969, the year-round farm work force numbered 4,000 in 1970 as it followed its perennial, gradual decrease which, for the past several years, has been moving with the trend of the disappearance of farms and farmland in New Jersey. The greatest number of year-round farm employees work on dairy and poultry farms.

In recent years, an increasing number of agricultural employers have been securing the services of experienced foreign workers for year-round farm employment in New Jersey. New Jersey State Training and Employment Service local offices and the Bureau of Farm Placement are responsible for insuring that the importation of foreign workers does not adversely effect employment opportunities of local workers and that the pay rates offered to foreign workers are not below prevailing rates in New Jersey. In 1970, 25 aliens were certified for agricultural employment in New Jersey.

#### IMPACT OF MECHANIZATION AND OTHER CHANGES IN PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Advances of crop harvesting mechanization and the adoption of labor-saving methods didn't move forward as rapidly as expected in 1970 because of the more-than-ample number of people who were looking for and working in seasonal farm jobs throughout the harvest season.

A portion of the asparagus, blueberry and tomato crops, three significant labor-users, were harvested mechanically this year. Intermittently, the following number of harvesters were used: 11 selective and 7 non-selective asparagus cutters; 33 blueberry pickers (both large and small over-the-row types and wind machines); and 6 tomato harvesters.

During the greater part of the harvest period however, these machines were idle. The blueberry harvesters were closer to perfection than the asparagus and tomato machines. Most blueberry harvesters were held in reserve to be used in "tight" labor situations, but since adequate help was available, their utilization was limited.

On those crops where mechanization has already taken hold (white potatoes, cranberries and snap beans), little change in labor displacement was noted from a year ago.

Advances in mechanization and labor displacing technology will be watched closely during the 1971 harvesting season.

The table below lists the number of harvesting machines owned by growers in New Jersey in 1970:

Snap Bean Harvesters (fresh market)	10
Snap Bean Harvesters (processing)	60
Asparagus Harvesters (selective)	11
Asparagus Harvesters (non-selective)	7
Tomato Harvesters	6
White Potato Harvesters	99
Sweet Potato Harvesters	7
Cranberry Harvesters (original wet)	75
Cranberry Harvesters (new wet)	138
Cranberry Harvesters (wet, operator rides)	3
Blueberry Harvesters (includes large & small over-the-row harvesters & wind machines)	33
Onion Toppers	5
Fruit Tree Shakers	5
Carrot Toppers	12
Lima Bean & Pea Combines	30
Sugar Beet Harvesters	4
Grape Harvesters	1
Apple Machine (picks up drops)	1

#### RECRUITMENT

Seasonal agricultural employees in New Jersey can be divided into four major classifications: (1) daily commuting residents of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, (2) contract Puerto Ricans, (3) noncontract Puerto Ricans, (4) southern migrants. The New Jersey State Training and Employment Service is involved in the initial recruitment of all except the noncontract Puerto Rican category.

A substantial portion of those Philadelphians who commute daily to farm work in New Jersey are recruited through the Philadelphia day-haul program which is operated jointly by the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Employment Service agencies.

Approximately 8,540 contract workers from Puerto Rico were brought into New Jersey this year through the Interstate Clearance system of

the federal-state employment security network. The all male contract Puerto Rican workers lived in rent-free housing provided by their employers; their employment period spanned April to November and included work on all significant labor -using crops. On August 15, contract Puerto Rican employment reached its seasonal peak of 5,170, seven percent above the previous year.

Most noncontract Puerto Rican workers return to the same employers year after year. Their employment pattern is established and there is little need for initial recruitment involvement by the New Jersey State Training and Employment Service. However, during lulls in harvesting activity with their primary employer (on whose farm they reside), local office farm labor personnel placed a significant number of noncontract workers in jobs with alternate employers.

Participation in the Annual Worker Plan by the New Jersey State Training and Employment Service provided 525 southern migrant workers (19 crews) with farm work in New Jersey in 1970. Under the Annual Worker Plan, orders for crews of workers, by growers in New Jersey, were transmitted to Florida where the Florida State Employment Service contacted resident crew leaders and solicited acceptance of orders for 26 crews. In July, a New Jersey farm placement representative was sent to the eastern shore of Virginia to confirm work commitments made in Florida in April. A number of southern migrant crews work in Virginia immediately preceding employment in New Jersey.

On numerous occasions in 1970, the Bureau of Farm Placement's automobile-mounted sound apparatus was used to spur recruitment efforts. The sound unit helped secure crop harvesting and processing workers in Bridgeton, Paterson, Camden, and smaller communities (See SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECRUITMENT).

#### HOUSING AND CREW LEADER REGISTRATION

The Bureau of Migrant Labor of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry is responsible for the inspection and regulation of migrant worker housing.

Cooperative arrangements have been agreed upon between the Migrant Labor Bureau and the Bureau of Farm Placement to insure that both federal and state migrant worker housing rules and regulations are implemented.

All orders for farm worker crews and groups from southern states were referred to the Migrant Labor Bureau for a housing check before being put into interstate clearance.

During 1970, 22 Migrant Labor Bureau Inspectors completed 16,013 inspections of 1,296 housing facilities. In addition to preoccupancy registration inspections and general inspections after housing units were occupied, inspections included advisory visits during the winter months and heating, fire prevention and sanitary inspections throughout the year.

#### WAGES

The New Jersey State Minimum Wage and Hour Law guaranteeing agri-

cultural workers \$1.50 per hour and the negotiated minimum hourly rate of \$1.65 per hour for contract Puerto Rican workers (\$1.70 for work on nursery stock), for all practical purposes, established the prevailing hourly pay rates for 1970. For these reasons, prevailing wage surveys were not conducted.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Building and maintaining sound and productive relations with the agricultural community and the public at large is of primary importance to the Bureau of Farm Placement.

In order to acquaint the Public with the Bureau's activities, staff members addressed church, civic, social and farm organizations and made appearances on radio and television programs in 1970.

Also serving to maintain good relations with the public is the dissemination of accurate up-to-date farm labor information which plays an important role in the farm manpower program. Such information is contained in the weekly Farm Labor Bulletin, semi-monthly Seasonal Employment Report and this Annual Report. All three publications are prepared by the Bureau of Farm Placement and are available to the public free of charge. A copy of the Bulletin and Seasonal Employment Report are contained in this report.

#### STATE FORECAST

In the 1969 Farm Labor Report it was predicted that the 1970 seasonal farm work force would peak at between 17,500 and 18,000 workers.

This estimate proved to be approximately 17 percent in error as the 1970 work force countered its five year downtrend and peaked at 20,800 during the peak period of blueberry harvesting. The peak work force of 20,800 more-than-adequately met the needs of all farm employers in the State. Blueberry mechanization advances marked time because of the abundance of labor. Farm work days were shorter than usual throughout the Garden State. For the first time in years, an oversupply of workers existed for an extremely long period of time. These events were unforeseen six months in advance of their happening. Perhaps the following forecast will be closer to actuality.

During the 1971 agricultural season the demand for seasonal farm workers will be less than in 1970 throughout New Jersey because: (1) fewer acres will be harvested; (2) mechanization of crop harvesting is expected to make further advances, and (3) by necessity, an increasing number of growers will turn to a variety of labor saving techniques.

Lessening of demand during 1971 should result in a smaller work force with an employment pattern similar to 1970 (See Chart - Proportion of Worker Groups to the Total Seasonal Farm Work Force, 1970). The season's work force will reach its peak in July during the blueberry harvest and should number between 18 and 19 thousand. If the tempo of blueberry mechanization quickens, worker demand will lessen and the season's peak, also foreseen to be between 18 and 19 thousand workers, will be attained during the tomato harvest in mid or late August.

Major labor problems are not expected in 1971. An ample supply of labor from each of the four major worker classifications will combine to get the job done.

Percentagewise, the average work force will consist of: Local Workers, 45 percent; Contract Puerto Ricans, 25 percent; Non-Contract Puerto Ricans, 25 percent and Southern Migrants, 5 percent.

If an oversupply of people is available for seasonal farm employment in 1971, as in 1970, the season's worker peak will be higher than predicted. So will the peak for most principal labor-using crops.

### AREA OUTLOOK

#### SOUTHERN AREA

##### Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem and Camden Counties

A harvesting work force similar in size to 1970's is the outlook for 1971 in this area of significant fruit and vegetable production. Changes in producing acreage, from 1970, are expected for several major labor-using crops.

Early season labor demand should lessen as fewer acres of asparagus and strawberries will require a smaller work force. Sweet potatoes, in late season, will also need fewer workers to correspond with reduced acreage. Peppers, cucumbers and pickles and peaches will demand more harvesting workers as acreage increases are foreseen. Producing acreage comparable to 1970 is anticipated for the following crops: tomatoes (both processing and fresh market), nursery stock, snap beans, lettuce, onions, apples and white potatoes.

Mechanization advances are not expected to influence the demand for harvesting workers on any crop except fresh market snap beans. An additional two or three harvesters — ten were used in 1970 — probably will be used in the 1971 harvest.

A slightly smaller number of workers from southeastern seaboard states is expected to be employed in this area in 1971. Good piece rate earnings in 1970 of local workers (individuals and day-haul crew members) and Puerto Rican workers (both contract and non-contract) should assure an adequate worker supply during the 1971 harvesting season.

##### Atlantic County and Southeasterly Camden County

The blueberry crop is the area's dominant user of seasonal labor (80 percent of the 1970 peak work force of 5,400 worked on blueberries) and any exertive push on blueberry labor demand and/or supply significantly influences the area's aggregate farm manpower situation.

In 1971, acreage of new high-yielding blueberry varieties coming into production will more than replace the loss of older varieties going out of production. By itself, this would increase worker demand. But expected increases in the utilization of harvesting machinery in 1971, especially if the labor supply is incapable of matching demand, would result in an overall reduction in manpower needs. In any event,

worker demand should lessen in 1971 and each year thereafter.

Blueberry harvests in the future are firmly committed to total mechanization. The rate of progress toward that goal is difficult to predict.

Since the large majority of blueberry pickers are part of day-haul crews which assemble each morning in Philadelphia, economic and sociologic factors affecting employment in that city have a positive or negative affect on the supply of blueberry workers.

Tomatoes, strawberries and peaches are three other significant labor-using crops in the area for which labor demands are expected to vary from 1970. A slight decrease in tomato acreage will cause a lessening of labor demand. (In 1970, the tomato harvest work force peaked at 1,000 workers.) An increase in strawberry and peach acreage will demand more harvest workers compared to 1970.

#### CENTRAL AREA

##### Burlington and Ocean Counties

Increased use of harvesting machinery and differences in producing acreage, from 1970, will influence the demand for fruit and vegetable farm workers during the 1971 agricultural season.

A drop in blueberry acreage because of older varieties going out of production and an increase in the utilization of mechanical pickers will cut into the need for blueberry workers next year.

More machines are also expected to be used in the sweet corn harvest. Labor needs will diminish somewhat.

The number of harvesting workers and producing acreage of tomatoes and cranberries will be similar to 1970.

The loss of apple orchards to housing developments and highways will cause a decrease in harvesting manpower demand.

Increased production of nursery stock and sod will demand more workers in 1971.

##### Mercer, Monmouth and Middlesex Counties

A slight decline in the seasonal farm work force in 1971, in this tri-county area, will result from a drop in potato acreage (about eight percent) and the loss of approximately 800 acres of nursery stock as a large acreage grower has sold his land and will not be in business in 1971.

Producing acreage of truck farm crops, tomatoes, peaches, apples and blueberries will approximate 1970's and also bearing a close resemblance, on these crops, will be seasonal worker demand.

Except for a decline in southern migrant workers (because of the drop in potato acreage), area growers will use a mix of local workers, contract Puerto Ricans and non-contract Puerto Ricans, each similar in number to 1970.

Fruit and vegetable farmland will decline as new dwelling units and service facilities will be constructed to help ease a housing shortage in this area which is gaining population mainly because of its location within easy commuting distance to an increasing number of jobs in the metropolitan areas fanning out from New York City and Philadelphia.

#### NORTHERN AREA

##### Warren, Sussex, Morris, Hunterdon and Somerset Counties

A slightly smaller year-round work force and a seasonal work force similar in size to 1970's is the outlook for this area where dairy farming is the principal type of agricultural activity.

Both large and small acreage truck farms will again use mostly contract and non-contract Puerto Rican workers.

Area peach and apple acreage will be similar to 1970 and will be harvested by local workers and a mix of contract and non-contract Puerto Ricans.

##### Bergen and Passaic Counties

Acreage of truck crops, apples, peaches and strawberries will continue to decline in this area in 1971 as an increasing population demands more fruit and vegetable farmland for a variety of non-agricultural uses.

Seasonal farm manpower demand, on all crops, is expected to lessen in 1971 and to meet the demands of a growing population, expansion of area landscape concerns and/or nursery and greenhouse retailers will require a somewhat larger work force in 1971.



### FARM LABOR SERVICE ASSOCIATIONS

Two grower-owned farm labor associations are located in New Jersey. Both organizations cooperate with the New Jersey State Training and Employment Service in supplying farm employers with seasonal workers. Information below was supplied by the Associations.

#### GLASSBORO SERVICE ASSOCIATION

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Total Number of Workers Employed	9,603	8,950
Brought in under Puerto Rican Agreement	8,371*	7,675*
Puerto Rican "walk-ins"	1,120	855
Domestic Workers Recruited	112	425
Day-haul Workers Available From Camp	100	100
Total Wages Paid to Workers	\$6,600,000.00	\$6,600,000.00
Average Weekly Worker Earnings	\$86.23	\$92.00
Average Weeks of Employment	8.75	8.75
Transportation Loss (monies advanced to workers)	\$59,490.23	\$59,000.00
Number of Growers who Secured Workers through the Association	900	850
Number of Workers who Received Free Transportation (one-way or return)	1,340	1,100
Amount Paid for Worker Transportation	\$171,937.15	\$150,000.00

\* Includes workers employed in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware

#### FARMERS AND GARDENERS SERVICE ASSOCIATION

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Total number of Workers Employed	1,369	1,054
Brought in under Puerto Rican Agreement	1,109	893
Puerto Rican "walk-ins"	205	161
Day-haul Workers Available From Camp	35	30
Total Wages Paid to Workers	\$964,100.00	\$907,500.00
Average Weekly Worker Earnings	\$72.00	\$74.00
Average Weeks of Employment	11.00	11.00
Transportation Loss (monies advanced to workers)	\$8,462.00	\$4,256.00
Number of Growers who Secured Workers through the Association	137	122

# NEW JERSEY

## *The Garden State*

# FARM LABOR BULLETIN

NEW JERSEY STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
*Affiliated with United States Employment Service*  
Vol. XIV - No. 17

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF MANPOWER

August 7, 1970

THIS WEEK'S PROCESSING TOMATO HARVESTING WORK FORCE was slightly more than 3,000 workers higher than a week ago as the canhouse tomato season went into high gear. Approximately 4,780 people were picking processing tomatoes yesterday in the southern and central areas of the Garden State. The harvest was proceeding smoothly with no labor problems.

THE BLUEBERRY HARVEST neared completion this week and its work force of 1,625 represents a decline of 3,775 workers, compared to a week ago.

CHANGING LABOR DEMAND, principally on the blueberry and tomato crops, resulted in a statewide seasonal farm work force of 18,500 during this first week in August. Last week's 20,800 man work force could be the peak number of workers for the 1970 harvesting season.

THREE SOUTHERN MIGRANT CREWS, without prior work commitments, arrived in New Jersey this week and farm labor personnel of the New Jersey Employment and Training Service, with an ample supply of labor already in the state, are experiencing difficulties in finding work and housing for the recent arrivals. All crew leaders are urged to contact the State Employment Service Agency, where they are employed or reside before coming to New Jersey.

#### AREA SUMMARY:

South - Increasing by almost 10 percent, compared to a week ago, this week's seasonal farm work force in Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem and Camden counties almost reached the 10 thousand level as an ample labor supply adequately met the increasing demand for processing tomato pickers. Approximately 3,530 people were picking tomatoes for processing yesterday. The pepper harvest was providing jobs for 1,775 people and 1,250 were picking peaches. On truck farms, cabbage, sweet corn, beets, parsley, squash, cantaloupes and watermelon were being harvested by 500 seasonal employees.

In Atlantic County, this week's seasonal farm work force numbered 2,450. Blueberry harvesting activity dropped significantly. Approximately 900 workers were working on blueberry farms yesterday. Processing tomatoes were being picked by a work force of 450.

Central - This week's 2,500 man seasonal farm work force in Mercer, Monmouth and Middlesex counties was comprised of 1,480 local workers, 530 contract Puerto Ricans, 300 southern migrants and 190 non-contract Puerto Ricans. Southern migrant crews numbered 5; day-haul crews totalled 2. Approximately 530 workers were employed on truck farms. Potato farm employment totalled 500.

Approximately 800 of the 2,650 seasonal workers in Burlington and Ocean counties were harvesting processing tomatoes. The blueberry harvest was using 700 workers.

North - Between 1,300 and 1,400 seasonal workers were employed on area farms and farm related business' this week. Truck farm employment totalled 530.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



The New Jersey State Training and Employment Service provides a complete program of farm labor recruitment for farm workers, individual growers, as well as, for farmer associations. No fee is charged to either the worker or the employer for this service. Listed below and marked by an asterisk are the offices in which a farm placement representative is located. The Trenton and New Brunswick farm placement representatives are stationed at the Special Farm Labor Office in Robbinsville, which is open throughout the year. Other Special Farm Labor Offices, which function year-round, are located in Hammonton, Rosenhayn, Hainesport and Cowtown. Also, a Seasonal Farm Labor Office is situated in Swedesboro.

OFFICE LOCATION	STREET ADDRESS	AREA CODE	TELEPHONE
Asbury Park	500 Summerfield Avenue	201	775-1660
*Atlantic City	1433 Bacharach Boulevard	609	344-6504
*Bridgeton	22 Washington Street	609	451-6350
Burlington	220 West Broad Street	609	386-0686
*Special Office	Rt. 38 (Hainesport), Mt. Holly	609	261-0010
*Camden	910 Broadway	609	365-8820
Dover	10 South Morris Street	201	366-1422
Elizabeth	1115 East Jersey Street	201	352-8360
Englewood	11 Grand Avenue	201	568-9289
*Flemington	Hunterdon Shopping Center	201	782-3711
*Freehold	6 Throckmorton Street	201	462-0200
Hackensack	50 Passaic Street	201	487-6800
Hammonton	110 Railroad Avenue	609	561-1290
*Special Office	N. White Horse Pike at Spring Road	609	561-3468
Jersey City	87 Newkirk Street	201	656-6800
Morristown	5 Schuyler Place, P.O. Box 29M	201	538-4260
New Brunswick	65 Morris Street	201	247-6300
Newark	309 Washington Street	201	648-2035
Newton	6 Union Place	201	383-2775
*Paterson	370 Broadway	201	684-8690
Perth Amboy	347 Maple Street	201	826-3400
Phillipsburg	Hillcrest Shopping Mall -- Route 22	201	859-0400
Plainfield	525 Madison Avenue	201	756-1407
*Red Bank	48 East Front Street	201	741-5050
Ridgewood	32 Franklin Avenue	201	444-5804
Salem	Shopping Center -- Route 45 -- RD-1	609	935-3711
*Special Office	Route # 40 Cowtown (RD # 2-Woodstown)	609	769-1134
Somerville	275 East Main Street	201	725-2600
*Toms River	36 West Water Street	201	349-2192
Trenton	8 East Hanover Street	609	292-6400
*Special Office	Rt. 130 at Woodside Rd., Robbinsville	609	448-1053
Vineland	631 Wood Street	609	691-2200
*Special Office	Morton Avenue, Rosenhayn	609	451-3161
Wildwood	2602 Pacific Avenue	609	522-2450
*Woodbury	814 North Broad Street	609	845-6000
*Seasonal Office (Apr. thru Oct.)	Swedesboro Auction, Swedesboro	609	467-0316

Bureau of  
Farm Placement Operations  
Administrative Office

Labor and Industry Building  
John Fitch Plaza  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Phone: 609 292-2244

# New Jersey SEASONAL



# Farm Labor EMPLOYMENT

Issued Semimonthly During

the Harvesting Season

New Jersey State Employment Service

Office of Manpower

*Affiliated with United States Training and Employment Service*

## ESTIMATES OF THE SEASONAL FARM WORK FORCE ON THE LAST NORMAL WORKDAY DURING THE TWO WEEK PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 1970

	DAILY COM- MUTERS (N. J. AND PENNA. RESIDENTS)	CREWS AND GROUPS FROM SOUTHERN STATES*	INDIVIDUALS FROM PUERTO RICO OR SOUTHERN STATES*	CONTRACT WORKERS FROM PUERTO RICO*	TOTAL
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<u>9,730</u>	<u>1,120</u>	<u>5,010</u>	<u>4,940</u>	<u>20,800</u>
<b>AGRICULTURAL REPORTING AREAS**</b>					
<b>SOUTHERN AREAS</b>					
Bridgeton	1,150	750	2,450	1,800	6,150
Camden	530	150	950	1,020	2,650
Atlantic City	<u>3,750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>950</u>	<u>5,600</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>5,430</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>3,770</u>	<u>14,400</u>
<b>TOTAL (Year Ago)</b>	<u>4,380</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>4,190</u>	<u>3,490</u>	<u>12,900</u>
<b>CENTRAL AREAS</b>					
Burlington	2,100	40	220	370	2,730
Trenton	890	150	40	180	1,260
Freehold	<u>600</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>1,100</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>3,590</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>5,090</u>
<b>TOTAL (Year Ago)</b>	<u>3,290</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>5,040</u>
<b>NORTHERN AREAS</b>					
North Jersey	260	0	70	80	410
Upper Delaware	<u>450</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>900</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>710</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>1,310</u>
<b>TOTAL (Year Ago)</b>	<u>680</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>1,260</u>
STATE TOTAL - Year Ago	8,350	1,120	4,980	4,750	19,200
STATE TOTAL - NOW	9,730	1,120	5,010	4,940	20,800
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	+1,380	0	+ 30	+ 190	+ 1,600
<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	+ 16%	--	+ 1%	+ 4%	+ 8%

\* These workers live on the farm of their employer while working in New Jersey. Their domicile is outside of New Jersey.

\*\* See map on reverse side.

### SEASONAL WORKERS BY CROP

#### STATEWIDE:

BLUEBERRIES (harvest) 5,450; TRUCK CROPS (harvest) 2,280; PROCESSING TOMATOES, 1,730; CUCUMBERS & PICKLES (pick) 1,720; PEPPERS (pick) 1,050; SNAP BEANS (harvest) 980; ONIONS (top) 850; PEACHES (pick) 800; FRESH MARKET TOMATOES, 740; SWEET CORN (harvest) 730; NURSERY LANDSCAPE & SOD, 680; NURSERY STOCK (harvest) 460; LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE, 460; WHITE POTATOES (harvest) 430; NURSERY STOCK (weed & hoe) 400; TRUCK CROPS (weed & hoe) 300; APPLES (pick) 270; GREENHOUSE & FLORIST, 220; CRANBERRIES (preharvest) 100; EGGPLANT (pick) 50; MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES, 1,100.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF MANPOWER  
NEW JERSEY STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
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POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL

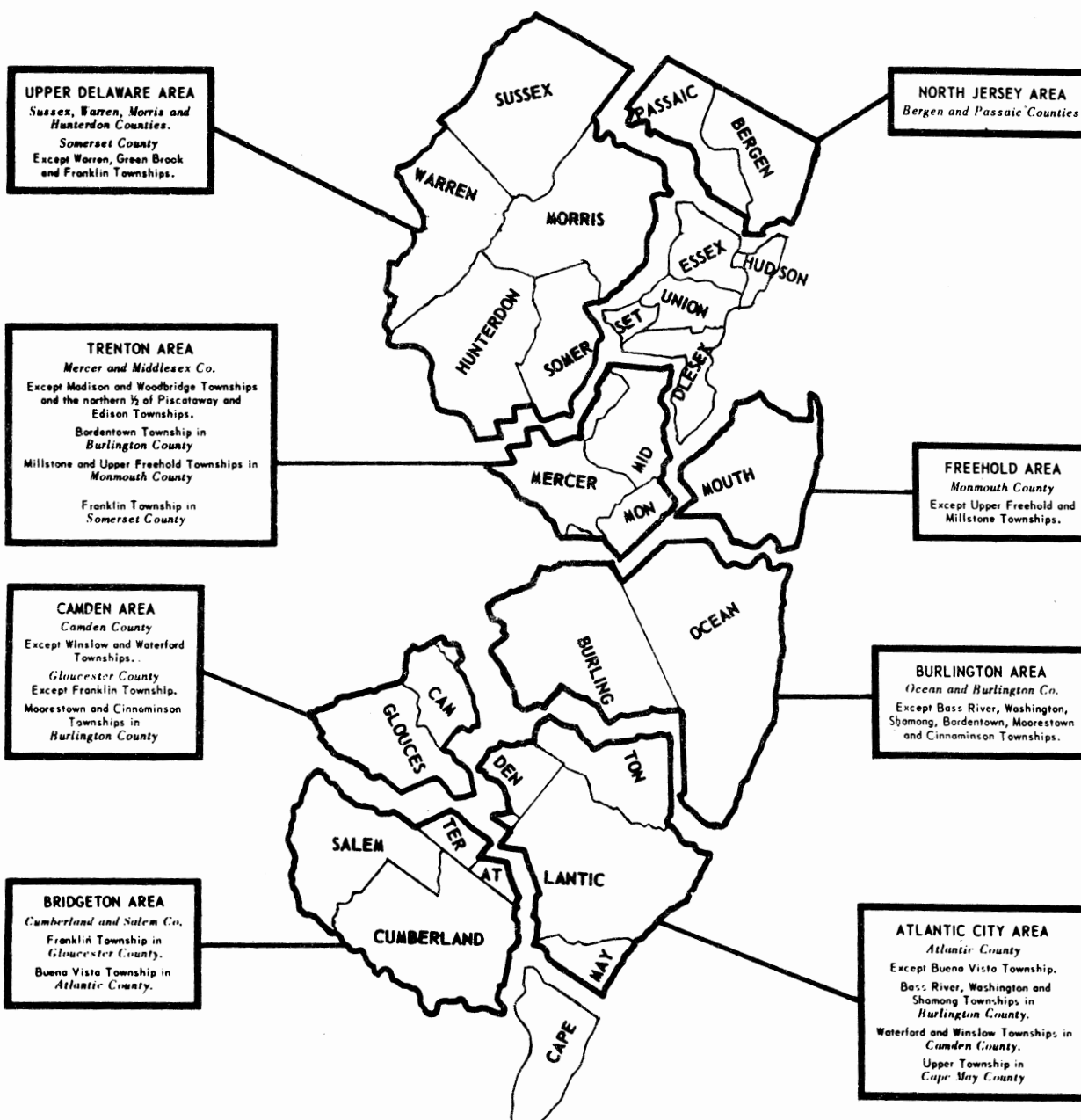
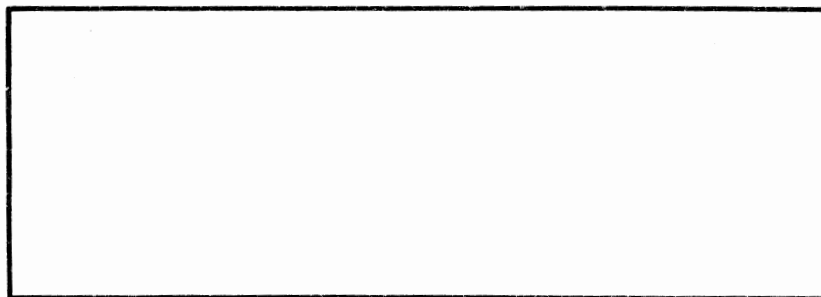
FIRST CLASS

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE



SERVICE FOR EVERYONE  
LOCAL • STATE • NATIONAL



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