

RELOCATION PROSPECTS - COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, EASTERN WYOMING AND  
MONTANA, WESTERN NEBRASKA, KANSAS, AND NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA

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People in the relocation centers, who are looking for opportunities to establish themselves in outside communities, should not plan on coming to Denver. This city offers very few openings for skilled workers, and opportunities for successful resettlement here are very limited. The housing shortage is acute, and homes for families are extremely hard to find. Moreover, the community has already reached, or possibly passed, its saturation point with regard to people of Japanese ancestry, and more arrivals would jeopardize the welfare of the entire Japanese-American population.

Except for seasonal work, especially in the sugar beet fields, all of northern Colorado should probably be erased from the thinking of relocation center residents as an area for prospective resettlement. It would be very unwise, in my opinion, to add to the number of people of Japanese ancestry who are already settled there. Consequently, the regional relocation office under my supervision will approve very few indefinite leaves for people applying for permission to come to Denver or northern Colorado. Those approved will be limited, in most instances, to a few skilled workers and to the families of workers already located there.

There are, however, many good opportunities in seasonal work, primarily in agriculture and related industries, and nobody who is disposed to accept seasonal employment need hesitate about accepting them. These seasonal workers will be given preferential consideration for any year-round employment opportunities that the area may afford, and special efforts will also be made to obtain openings for them farther east if they are looking for permanent employment.

Many evacuees are now beginning to recognize that smaller cities and towns, including rural communities, offer better resettlement opportunities, as a general rule, than the larger cities. Living costs are lower, housing is easier to find, and the families who settle in the small places have a better chance of gaining full acceptance in community life. They can find more friends and enjoy more security. In the larger cities what goes for acceptance is sometimes just getting lost in the crowd. There are a few good opportunities for year-round work in the smaller cities of the Denver territory outside Northern Colorado.

I recommend that more attention be given not only to the advantages of settling in smaller communities, but also to the greater security of employment in non-war industries, including the service trades. Workers in non-war industries are much less likely to lose their employment as a result of changing conditions. The pay may be lower, but the jobs are more secure.



Job opportunities in the Denver area, which extends from the southern boundary of New Mexico to the Canadian boundary in eastern Montana and western North Dakota, are more generally available in farming, lumbering, and railroading. I strongly recommend, however, that relocation center residents seeking outside employment on a year-round basis should look farther east where better jobs are more plentiful.

In spite of antagonistic propaganda, public sentiment in the mountain states is largely favorable. The intelligent conduct of the great majority of workers from the centers, who have located in the area, has been a most important factor in combating prejudice and in developing a better public understanding.

On the other hand, the relocation program has been retarded by an irresponsible minority, composed largely of younger men and boys who have failed to recognize their obligations to the employers who have hired them. They have taken jobs sometimes, apparently, with no intentions of keeping them more than a few days, and occasionally they have failed completely to report for work that they had signed up to accept before they left the relocation centers. The WRA is taking measures to discourage this irresponsible behavior, and all people in or from the centers should cooperate in controlling it.

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