

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
 CROP REPORTING BOARD

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 April 11, 1933.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, APRIL 1, 1933, WITH COMPARISONS

Estimated Farm Wage rates, the supply of and demand for hired farm workers, and farm employment, as based on reports to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, for the United States. These data for previous quarters appear in "Crops and Markets" for February, April, July and October, and in the United States Agricultural Yearbook, 1932, tables 471 and 472. These data will be published in the April issue of "Crops and Markets".

	:Annual : :Average: :1910-14:	January : : : 1932 :	April : : : 1932 ::	January : : : 1933 :	April : : : 1933
FARM WAGE INDEX	100	98	94	74	72
FARM WAGE RATES					
Per month, with board	\$20.41	\$19.77	\$19.19	\$14.77	\$14.67
Per month, without board	29.09	30.53	29.13	23.62	22.98
Per day, with board	1.10	1.02	.97	.76	.75
Per day, without board	1.43	1.40	1.35	1.06	1.05
SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (% of normal)					
Supply	-	120.9	122.2	127.3	125.8
Demand	-	60.5	63.2	53.8	58.9
Supply as a percentage of demand	-	199.8	193.4	236.6	213.5
FARM EMPLOYMENT <u>1/</u> (Persons per farm)					
Family Labor	-	2.17	2.30	2.11	2.22
Hired Labor	-	.74	.83	.72	.79
Combined	-	2.91	3.13	2.83	3.01
RELATED INDEXES					
Farm price index <u>2/</u>	100	63	59	51	50 <u>3/</u>
Ratio of farm prices to farm wages	100	64	63	69	69
Industrial wages <u>4/</u>	-	191	183	164	164 <u>5/</u>
Industrial employment <u>6/</u>	-	65	62	57	58 <u>5/</u>
Industrial payrolls <u>6/</u>	-	49	45	36	36 <u>5/</u>

- 1/ On farms of crop reporters.  
2/ As of the 15th of the month.  
3/ March 1933 - Latest data available.  
4/ Average weekly earnings, New York State factories, June 1914 = 100.  
5/ February 1933 - Latest data available.  
6/ Bureau of Labor Statistics index pertaining to manufacturing industries, 1926 = 100.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,  
April 1, 1933, with comparisons

Geographic Divisions	: Annual : average : 1910-14	: January 1: : 1932	: April 1 : 1932	: January 1 : 1933	: April 1 : 1933
FARM WAGE RATES	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Dollars
Per month with board					
New England	24.23	31.83	30.69	24.80	23.22
Middle Atlantic	22.08	28.07	27.56	20.52	19.91
East North Central	23.79	21.97	21.90	16.05	15.91
West North Central	26.02	20.98	22.63	14.48	16.28
South Atlantic	14.65	14.43	13.38	11.16	10.62
East South Central	14.65	13.55	12.26	10.57	10.39
West South Central	17.65	15.85	14.38	12.74	12.10
Mountain	32.36	28.92	28.34	20.71	21.58
Pacific	33.33	35.21	33.48	26.05	24.74
Per month without board					
New England	37.54	55.65	51.25	43.57	42.31
Middle Atlantic	33.19	46.12	43.78	35.94	33.87
East North Central	32.86	33.80	32.07	25.48	24.86
West North Central	36.45	31.65	32.74	24.29	24.77
South Atlantic	20.96	21.80	20.04	17.09	16.37
East South Central	20.72	19.71	18.36	15.48	15.36
West South Central	25.33	23.86	21.92	19.53	18.44
Mountain	46.15	43.17	43.11	32.06	32.72
Pacific	47.97	58.17	55.01	42.82	40.57
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	1.80	1.64	1.32	1.26
Middle Atlantic	1.23	1.66	1.58	1.18	1.18
East North Central	1.31	1.17	1.14	.89	.87
West North Central	1.44	1.12	1.11	.81	.83
South Atlantic	.81	.74	.68	.56	.54
East South Central	.81	.67	.61	.52	.52
West South Central	.99	.77	.73	.62	.58
Mountain	1.50	1.39	1.26	.99	1.00
Pacific	1.50	1.54	1.53	1.13	1.12
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	2.54	2.39	1.96	1.87
Middle Atlantic	1.62	2.30	2.22	1.72	1.66
East North Central	1.68	1.63	1.56	1.19	1.18
West North Central	1.85	1.55	1.58	1.16	1.19
South Atlantic	1.05	1.02	.91	.78	.75
East South Central	1.04	.87	.82	.68	.67
West South Central	1.26	1.03	.96	.73	.82
Mountain	2.04	1.83	1.81	1.40	1.40
Pacific	2.06	2.36	2.26	1.70	1.66

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, by geographic divisions,  
 April 1, 1933, with comparisons (Cont'd)

Geographic divisions	January 1 : 1931	April 1 : 1931	January 1 : 1932	April 1 : 1932	January 1 : 1933	April 1 : 1933
<b>SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (per cent of normal)</b>						
New England	112.8	116.9	126.9	126.7	132.3	135.8
Middle Atlantic	108.0	109.4	118.7	121.6	128.3	127.7
East North Central	119.4	118.7	128.5	132.6	135.3	136.5
West North Central	115.7	112.2	123.1	123.0	129.7	127.3
South Atlantic	109.0	108.9	114.2	113.6	118.1	115.6
East South Central	107.5	108.8	116.8	117.3	117.1	116.2
West South Central	116.7	113.8	119.2	122.6	129.4	126.1
Mountain	120.4	118.7	128.0	131.9	135.5	138.1
Pacific	122.4	120.4	130.2	126.9	143.3	137.8
<b>DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (per cent of normal)</b>						
New England	78.1	76.9	69.1	72.4	66.9	67.5
Middle Atlantic	75.4	79.8	70.3	71.9	64.3	63.6
East North Central	69.1	72.2	61.1	64.4	56.1	59.7
West North Central	69.4	74.5	56.7	61.1	46.8	53.5
South Atlantic	68.0	72.4	63.5	65.7	57.7	63.3
East South Central	61.7	70.3	59.0	63.2	54.6	61.4
West South Central	55.3	60.5	55.0	56.2	48.2	53.0
Mountain	73.1	71.4	59.5	58.1	45.7	52.1
Pacific	72.1	74.1	63.9	66.8	54.3	58.6
<b>SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (% of normal)</b>						
New England	144.5	152.0	183.7	175.0	197.9	201.2
Middle Atlantic	143.1	137.1	168.8	169.1	199.5	191.9
East North Central	172.7	164.4	210.2	205.7	241.1	228.5
West North Central	166.6	150.6	217.0	201.3	277.2	238.2
South Atlantic	160.4	150.4	179.8	173.0	204.7	182.6
East South Central	174.3	154.8	197.9	185.6	214.3	189.1
West South Central	211.1	188.1	216.7	218.1	268.6	237.8
Mountain	164.6	166.2	215.1	227.0	296.1	265.2
Pacific	189.7	162.5	203.8	190.0	264.0	235.0
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT (persons per farm) <sup>1/</sup></b>						
Family Labor						
New England	1.55	1.60	1.59	1.56	1.60	1.58
Middle Atlantic	1.65	1.62	1.68	1.65	1.65	1.67
East North Central	1.61	1.65	1.68	1.75	1.68	1.71
West North Central	1.70	1.79	1.80	1.84	1.78	1.80
South Atlantic	2.64	2.90	2.84	3.13	2.65	2.90
East South Central	3.44	4.04	3.47	3.71	3.34	3.72
West South Central	2.78	3.46	2.54	2.79	2.43	2.54
Mountain	1.62	1.78	1.76	1.92	1.73	1.89
Pacific	1.46	1.50	1.32	1.71	1.71	1.72

<sup>1/</sup> On farms of crop reporters.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, by geographic divisions,

April 1, 1933, with comparisons (Cont'd)

Geographic Divisions	: January 1 : 1931	: April 1 : 1931	: January 1 : 1932	: April 1 : 1932	: January 1 : 1933	: April 1 : 1933
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT (Cont'd)</b>						
<b>Hired Labor</b>						
New England	1.12	1.16	1.06	1.09	.94	1.12
Middle Atlantic	.70	.70	.64	.70	.61	.71
East North Central	.42	.49	.39	.44	.43	.42
West North Central	.39	.48	.43	.46	.36	.41
South Atlantic	1.38	1.54	1.19	1.43	1.33	1.49
East South Central	1.63	1.75	1.04	1.05	1.04	1.15
West South Central	.84	1.16	.86	.87	.69	.77
Mountain	.51	.71	.51	.57	.51	.52
Pacific	1.76	1.59	1.52	2.16	1.37	1.54
<b>Combined</b>						
New England	2.67	2.76	2.65	2.65	2.54	2.70
Middle Atlantic	2.35	2.32	2.32	2.35	2.26	2.38
East North Central	2.03	2.14	2.07	2.19	2.11	2.13
West North Central	2.09	2.27	2.23	2.30	2.14	2.21
South Atlantic	4.02	4.44	4.03	4.56	3.98	4.39
East South Central	5.07	5.78	4.51	4.76	4.38	4.87
West South Central	3.62	4.62	3.40	3.66	3.12	3.31
Mountain	2.13	2.49	2.27	2.49	2.24	2.41
Pacific	3.22	3.09	3.14	3.87	3.08	3.26

FARM WAGES

The general level of farm wage rates was 72 per cent of the 1910-1914 average on April 1, 1933, according to an index computed by the Crop Reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture. The two point decline in the index during the first quarter of this year, reduced April 1 farm wage rates to a level 22 points lower than a year earlier, and to the lowest point during the past 33 years. Day wages without board, ranged from \$2.10 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to \$2.55 in South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama on April 1.

The reduction in farm wages since January 1 was in direct contrast to the seasonal advance usual during the first three months of the year. As a result of an increase in the demand for hired farm workers, this advance averaged 5.8 points from 1923 to 1930. Since 1930, however, the effects of a declining agricultural products price level have more than offset the increase in demand for hired workers during the spring planting season and average wage rates throughout the country as a whole have declined from January to April. In fact, the usual seasonal advance in farm wages appeared this year only in Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, all States along or near the northern border of the country where preparations for the planting of spring-sown crops were getting under way rapidly on April 1.

The decline in farm wages since January 1 seems to have resulted from the slightly lower level of prices of farm products and the desire of farmers to reduce to the utmost their out-of-pocket expenses of production. The index of farm prices declined from 51 on January 15 to 50 per cent of pre-war on March 15, the two dates that fit the wage rate inquiry the closest. Seasonally smaller crop marketings also reduced the cash income of the farmer on April 1, while the restrictions to normal banking operations and a reduction in farm borrowing power at local financial centers limited crop production loans in many rural communities.

(continued on page 6)

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY STATES, APRIL 1, 1933

STATE	WAGE RATES				SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR		
	Per month	Per day		Supply	Demand	Supply	
	without:	without:	with board:	as % of	% of	% of	
	with board:	board:	with board:	board:	normal	normal	demand
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars:			
Me.	20.25	33.75	1.05	1.55	134	55	244
N. H.	23.75	44.25	1.35	2.05	121	72	168
Vt.	20.75	34.50	1.15	1.60	131	75	175
Mass.	27.00	50.50	1.40	2.10	133	69	193
R. I.	29.00	53.50	1.55	2.10	139	74	188
Conn.	22.50	45.50	1.30	2.05	155	69	225
N. Y.	20.50	35.00	1.20	1.70	125	63	198
N. J.	23.00	43.00	1.35	1.85	125	77	162
Pa.	18.25	29.75	1.10	1.55	132	68	194
Ohio	15.75	25.50	.90	1.20	134	55	244
Ind.	16.50	24.75	.85	1.10	140	59	237
Ill.	17.50	24.75	.90	1.15	127	64	198
Mich.	17.50	23.75	.85	1.20	152	54	281
Wis.	15.25	25.25	.85	1.25	137	64	214
Minn.	16.00	24.75	.85	1.30	129	55	235
Iowa	16.50	23.75	.85	1.20	127	56	227
Mo.	16.00	23.25	.75	1.00	119	55	216
N. Dak.	16.50	26.00	.85	1.30	120	53	226
S. Dak.	16.50	27.00	.85	1.25	126	54	233
Nebr.	16.50	26.00	.85	1.20	128	53	242
Kans.	16.50	26.25	.85	1.25	146	44	332
Del.	17.00	28.25	.95	1.25	115	64	180
Md.	18.25	28.75	.90	1.25	123	65	189
Va.	15.50	22.50	.70	1.00	123	64	192
W. Va.	16.25	25.00	.80	1.15	129	49	263
N. C.	9.75	14.75	.50	.65	113	59	192
S. C.	7.75	11.75	.40	.55	111	66	168
Ga.	6.75	10.75	.40	.55	111	66	168
Fla.	11.00	19.50	.60	.85	118	68	174
Ky.	13.00	19.50	.65	.85	122	53	230
Tenn.	12.00	17.00	.55	.70	116	68	171
Ala.	8.00	12.00	.45	.55	119	60	198
Miss.	8.75	13.25	.45	.60	107	65	165
Ark.	10.75	16.25	.50	.70	120	55	218
La.	10.50	16.75	.55	.80	118	62	190
Okla.	13.50	20.50	.65	.90	131	50	262
Tex.	12.75	19.25	.60	.85	130	50	260
Mont.	23.25	34.25	1.05	1.55	131	48	273
Idaho	22.00	33.00	1.05	1.50	149	50	298
Wyo.	21.00	32.25	1.00	1.30	134	60	223
Colo.	18.50	30.00	.95	1.35	141	50	282
N. Mex.	17.25	27.50	.80	1.10	128	49	261
Ariz.	26.00	36.50	1.00	1.35	133	64	208
Utah	26.00	37.75	1.20	1.65	148	53	279
Nev.	26.75	42.25	1.30	1.50	132	54	244
Wash.	21.00	34.00	1.05	1.70	150	51	294
Oreg.	18.75	32.50	1.05	1.45	150	52	288
Calif.	27.00	44.00	1.15	1.70	132	62	213
U. S.	14.67	22.98	.75	1.05	125.8	58.9	213.5

(Continued from page 4)

The decline in April 1 farm wage rates from the levels of a year ago was due to the larger supply of workers available for hire and a further contraction in the demand for their services. Reports from crop correspondents indicated a supply of farm labor 125.8 per cent of normal on the first of the month as compared with a supply 122.2 per cent of normal a year earlier. The larger supply was related, in turn, to the reduced level of employment in manufacturing industries. Industrial employment, while only 62 per cent of its 1926 level in April 1932, was down to 58 per cent of the same base period in February 1933, the month for which the latest data are available.

The demand for farm labor was 63.2 per cent of normal on April 1, 1932, according to reports from crop correspondents, but only 58.9 per cent of normal on April 1 of this year. This decline was closely related to the decline in prices paid farmers for agricultural commodities which dropped from 59 per cent of their pre-war average in April 1932, to 50 per cent in March of this year. When the supply of farm workers available for hire is expressed as a percentage of demand, a figure 213.5 per cent of normal is obtained for April 1, 1933, as compared with 193.4 per cent of normal a year earlier.

The reduction in the demand for hired farm workers is also reflected in the Department's data on farm employment. On April 1, only 79 hired workers were employed on every 100 farms owned by crop reporters. Although this figure indicates a seasonal increase of 7 hired men per 100 farms since the first of the year, it is still four workers lower than a year ago.

It is, indeed, surprising to find a similar decline in the number of persons employed on farms in the families of crop reporters. Various explanations may be offered for this, however. First, family employment on farms of the Department's correspondents, who are better than average farmers, may not be representative in so far as the back-to-the-land-movement is concerned. Second, members of the family who have returned from the city may not be working on the farm. Third, the reporter may not consider members of his family who help with the chores and other odd jobs as being employed unless he is able to pay them some sort of a regular monetary remuneration. Although the last explanation undoubtedly is the most plausible, one can be certain that farmers and the members of their families are not exerting as much energy in the production of crops as they do when there is the likelihood of a more substantial return for their efforts.

The purchasing power of the farmers' dollar, in terms of wages, remained unchanged at 69 per cent of pre-war from January 1 to April 1, due to a simultaneous decline in both prices of farm products and wage rates. A year ago, this same ratio amounted to only 63 per cent of pre-war.

CROP REPORTING BOARD