

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

Washington, D. C.  
October 12, 1934

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, OCTOBER 1, 1934, 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, 1934, Tables 474 and 475. These data will be published in the October issue of "Crops and Markets."

	: Annual	: Average	: July 1	: October 1	: July 1	: October 1
	: 1910-14	: 1933	: 1933	: 1933	: 1934	: 1934
FARM WAGE INDEX	100	78	86	90	93	
<b>FARM WAGE RATES</b>						
Per month, with board	\$20.41	\$15.84	\$17.19	\$18.18	\$18.63	
Per month, without board	29.09	24.27	25.89	27.29	27.83	
Per day, with board	1.10	.82	.91	.97	1.00	
Per day, without board	1.43	1.12	1.25	1.30	1.34	
<b>SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR</b> (% of normal)						
Supply	-	116.2	111.4	105.7	104.7	
Demand	-	65.5	68.1	70.0	68.5	
Supply as a percentage of demand	-	177.5	163.6	151.0	152.9	
<b>FARM EMPLOYMENT <sup>1/</sup></b> (Persons per 100 farms)						
Family labor	-	2.37	2.25	2.37	2.17	
Hired labor	-	1.01	1.05	1.02	.94	
Combined	-	3.38	3.30	3.39	3.11	
<b>RELATED INDEXES</b>						
Farm price index <sup>2/</sup>	100	83	78	87	102 <sup>3/</sup>	
Ratio of farm prices to farm wages	100	106	91	97	110	
Industrial wages <sup>4/</sup>	-	176	177	181	184 <sup>5/</sup>	
Industrial employment <sup>6/</sup>	-	72	80	79	80 <sup>5/</sup>	
Industrial payrolls <sup>6/</sup>	-	51	59	60	62 <sup>5/</sup>	

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

<sup>2/</sup> As of the 15th of the month.

<sup>3/</sup> September 1934 - Latest data available.

<sup>4/</sup> Average weekly earnings, New York State factories, August, 1914 = 100.

<sup>5/</sup> August 1934 - Latest data available.

<sup>6/</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, Index of factory employment 1923-1925 = 100.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,  
October 1, 1934, with comparisons

Geographic Divisions	: Annual : : average : : 1910-14 :	: July 1, : : 1933 :	: October 1, : : 1933 :	: July 1, : : 1934 :	: October 1, : : 1934 :
FARM WAGE RATES	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Per month with board					
New England	24.23	24.73	27.28	27.52	27.07
Middle Atlantic	22.08	21.18	22.36	23.17	23.17
East North Central	23.79	17.03	17.61	19.24	19.74
West North Central	26.02	17.26	17.52	19.26	19.17
South Atlantic	14.65	11.53	13.06	13.71	14.45
East South Central	14.65	11.01	12.00	13.09	13.21
West South Central	17.65	13.08	15.78	15.67	16.20
Mountain	32.36	24.17	25.88	28.08	28.95
Pacific	33.33	28.29	30.30	31.46	53.62
Per month without board					
New England	37.54	42.87	45.79	48.12	47.68
Middle Atlantic	33.19	34.51	36.13	37.49	37.64
East North Central	32.86	25.71	26.80	28.48	28.83
West North Central	36.45	25.89	26.32	27.69	27.56
South Atlantic	20.96	17.52	19.46	20.41	21.20
East South Central	20.72	16.05	17.09	18.46	19.40
West South Central	25.33	19.57	22.43	22.98	23.45
Mountain	46.15	35.52	36.53	41.02	41.26
Pacific	47.97	46.27	49.04	51.39	53.68
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	1.37	1.54	1.62	1.61
Middle Atlantic	1.23	1.25	1.31	1.39	1.46
East North Central	1.31	.96	1.00	1.08	1.13
West North Central	1.44	.92	.98	1.03	1.04
South Atlantic	.81	.60	.70	.76	.77
East South Central	.81	.55	.62	.65	.69
West South Central	.99	.67	.80	.82	.82
Mountain	1.50	1.08	1.24	1.31	1.35
Pacific	1.50	1.21	1.36	1.56	1.57
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	1.96	2.17	2.27	2.29
Middle Atlantic	1.62	1.73	1.82	1.95	1.98
East North Central	1.68	1.31	1.38	1.43	1.49
West North Central	1.85	1.27	1.35	1.41	1.44
South Atlantic	1.05	.79	.91	.97	1.02
East South Central	1.04	.73	.83	.86	.89
West South Central	1.26	.87	1.03	1.01	1.06
Mountain	2.04	1.51	1.62	1.78	1.85
Pacific	2.06	1.79	2.06	2.23	2.30

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FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, by geographic divisions,  
October 1, 1934, with comparisons (cont'd.)

Geographic divisions	: July 1, 1932	: Oct. 1 1932	: July 1, 1933	: Oct. 1 1933	: July 1, 1934	: Oct. 1, 1934
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SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (per cent of normal)

New England	132.0	131.5	124.1	114.1	100.1	103.2
Middle Atlantic	122.9	126.2	115.5	110.8	102.6	100.1
East North Central	130.1	133.6	122.6	120.0	111.3	106.3
West North Central	126.1	128.0	120.6	119.7	113.6	112.8
South Atlantic	114.5	115.4	108.3	101.8	95.7	96.8
East South Central	118.0	115.7	109.1	104.9	99.8	96.2
West South Central	124.8	118.3	116.0	108.8	109.9	110.3
Mountain	132.8	136.8	126.0	120.2	113.3	116.0
Pacific	132.7	132.9	124.7	117.1	108.5	110.3

DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (per cent of normal)

New England	73.2	71.9	75.1	78.1	81.1	81.4
Middle Atlantic	72.7	68.7	74.5	73.7	77.8	77.8
East North Central	64.1	60.0	69.4	66.7	70.4	74.3
West North Central	59.0	54.8	61.1	59.0	59.1	56.9
South Atlantic	64.7	63.0	69.1	73.4	78.5	77.3
East South Central	59.7	59.2	64.3	67.0	72.6	72.5
West South Central	54.3	60.0	56.8	65.8	61.0	54.2
Mountain	59.6	57.7	63.2	68.0	65.2	58.9
Pacific	66.2	65.5	68.8	76.1	77.2	75.4

SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (per cent of normal)

New England	180.3	182.9	165.2	146.1	123.4	126.8
Middle Atlantic	169.1	183.7	155.1	150.3	131.9	128.7
East North Central	202.9	222.7	176.5	179.9	153.1	143.0
West North Central	213.6	233.6	197.4	202.9	192.2	198.1
South Atlantic	176.8	183.2	156.7	138.7	121.9	125.3
East South Central	197.7	195.5	169.7	156.6	137.5	132.7
West South Central	227.7	197.2	204.1	165.3	180.2	203.7
Mountain	222.9	237.2	199.3	176.8	173.8	197.2
Pacific	200.5	203.1	181.4	153.9	140.5	146.3

FARM EMPLOYMENT (persons per 100 farms)<sup>1/</sup>

Family Labor						
New England	169	162	166	160	174	154
Middle Atlantic	181	173	183	170	182	172
East North Central	188	174	185	172	179	167
West North Central	192	180	188	175	187	171
South Atlantic	343	317	297	300	321	292
East South Central	419	376	390	362	396	358
West South Central	296	277	282	266	268	243
Mountain	211	193	203	199	198	186
Pacific	183	174	186	182	197	161

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

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, by geographic divisions  
October 1, 1934, with comparisons, (Cont'd.)

Geographic Divisions	: July 1, 1932	: Oct. 1, 1932	: July 1, 1933	: Oct. 1, 1933	: July 1, 1934	: Oct. 1, 1934
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Cont'd.)						
Hired Labor						
New England	136	163	150	135	134	140
Middle Atlantic	96	109	98	98	91	94
East North Central	64	59	66	58	66	60
West North Central	59	48	61	51	55	48
South Atlantic	182	182	151	166	179	169
East South Central	138	130	122	105	130	120
West South Central	99	133	80	119	69	73
Mountain	81	80	94	102	83	87
Pacific	311	281	269	346	276	209
Combined						
New England	305	325	316	295	308	294
Middle Atlantic	277	282	281	268	273	266
East North Central	252	233	251	230	245	227
West North Central	251	228	249	226	242	219
South Atlantic	525	499	448	466	500	461
East South Central	557	506	512	467	526	478
West South Central	395	410	362	385	337	316
Mountain	292	273	297	301	281	273
Pacific	494	455	455	528	473	370

FARM WAGES

The general level of farm wage rates rose 3 points to 93 per cent of pre-war during the three months ended October 1, 1934. October 1 witnessed the return of dollar-a-day average wage with board for the United States as a whole for the first time since January 1, 1932. Seasonal increases in all rates raised the index to a level 7 points higher than on October 1, 1933 and to the highest level recorded since April 1932.

Farm wage rates advanced generally throughout all principal agricultural sections of the country from July 1 to October 1, with the exception of the West North Central Division where the summer's drought materially reduced crop production, and the demand for fall harvest labor has shown a corresponding decline. Even in that area October day wage rates were slightly higher than three months earlier but monthly rates registered a moderate decline. Day wages without board ranged from 75 cents in South Carolina on the first of this month to \$2.70 in Rhode Island and averaged \$1.34 for the entire country.

The seasonal increase in average wage rates since July 1 was accompanied by a slight downturn in the supply of workers available for hire. Crop correspondents reported a supply of farm workers 104.7 per cent of normal on October 1 as compared with 105.7 three months earlier and 111.4 per cent a year ago. Employment in industries other than agriculture is the primary factor governing this supply. Bureau of Labor Statistics' indexes of employment in manufacturing industries reveal a level of employment 80 per cent of the 1923-25 average during August (latest data available) as compared with 79 in July 1933 and 80 in October of last year. In September, employment in manufacturing industries may

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY STATES,  
OCTOBER 1, 1934,

STATE	WAGE RATES				Supply of and demand for farm labor		
	Per Month		Per Day		Supply as % of normal	Demand as % of normal	Supply as % of demand
	with board	without board	with board	without board			
Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars				
Me.	27.25	43.50	1.55	2.15	100	77	130
N.H.	27.00	47.50	1.65	2.40	101	82	123
Vt.	24.75	39.75	1.40	2.00	102	86	119
Mass.	27.25	54.00	1.60	2.45	103	79	130
R. I.	37.00	63.25	1.95	2.70	108	87	124
Conn.	27.00	48.75	1.80	2.35	109	84	130
N. Y.	24.00	38.50	1.50	2.05	98	76	129
N. J.	27.00	46.25	1.65	2.10	103	85	121
Pa.	21.00	34.00	1.35	1.85	102	78	131
Ohio	18.75	28.50	1.15	1.55	104	72	144
Ind.	19.75	28.00	1.10	1.40	107	78	137
Ill.	21.25	29.00	1.15	1.45	108	72	150
Mich.	18.75	28.75	1.15	1.60	106	74	143
Wis.	19.50	29.75	1.10	1.50	106	77	138
Minn.	19.50	29.50	1.15	1.65	114	65	175
Iowa	21.25	28.25	1.15	1.50	110	71	155
Mo.	17.50	24.75	.85	1.15	111	51	218
N. Dak.	20.50	31.00	1.05	1.60	111	51	218
S. Dak.	17.50	26.50	.95	1.40	108	45	240
Nebr.	18.75	26.50	1.05	1.45	124	48	258
Kans.	19.00	28.00	1.05	1.45	113	50	226
Del.	18.00	28.00	1.45	1.65	99	81	122
Md.	22.75	33.00	1.25	1.65	98	85	115
Va.	18.00	26.00	.95	1.25	101	83	122
W. Va.	18.50	27.75	.95	1.30	100	64	156
N. C.	15.50	23.25	.80	1.05	95	81	117
S. C.	11.00	16.25	.55	.75	94	74	127
Ga.	10.50	15.25	.60	.80	96	76	126
Fla.	15.00	21.50	.75	1.05	99	68	146
Ky.	16.00	23.00	.80	1.05	100	72	139
Tenn.	14.75	21.00	.75	.90	97	77	126
Ala.	11.00	17.00	.60	.80	93	75	124
Miss.	11.25	16.75	.60	.80	95	65	146
Ark.	13.50	19.75	.65	.90	110	49	224
La.	13.00	20.00	.65	.90	105	67	157
Okla.	17.00	25.00	.95	1.15	117	56	209
Tex.	18.25	25.75	.90	1.15	110	51	216
Mont.	34.00	45.00	1.45	2.20	110	55	200
Idaho	33.00	47.75	1.60	2.15	116	74	157
Wyo.	28.75	42.25	1.40	1.90	110	65	169
Colo.	22.00	35.00	1.10	1.60	115	57	202
N. Mex.	22.00	34.00	1.10	1.40	111	50	222
Ariz.	34.50	45.00	1.50	1.90	110	71	155
Utah	34.50	45.50	1.55	2.00	138	45	307
Nev.	33.50	45.00	1.50	2.00	131	53	247
Wash.	26.00	45.00	1.55	2.20	110	67	164
Oreg.	27.00	44.00	1.45	1.95	112	73	153
Calif.	37.00	58.00	1.60	2.40	110	78	141
U. S.	18.63	27.83	1.00	1.34	104.7	68.5	152.9

have been under the August level as a result of the textile strike but this disturbance was settled by October 1, the date to which information on the supply of labor available for farm work applies. Public Works projects have also competed with agriculture for the available supply of workers. These projects helped account for the decline in the supply of labor recorded as of October 1.

The decline in the supply of farm labor during the third quarter of 1934 resulted in about the usual seasonal upturn in wages since the demand for workers also declined during that period. Farmers reported that the demand for farm labor was only 68.5 per cent of normal on October 1 as compared with 70.0 three months earlier and 68.1 per cent on October 1, 1933. The decline in demand since July 1 has been due to the very small production of 1934 fall harvested crops in drought affected areas. Fewer workers were needed to reap the reduced harvest.

Crop correspondents reported, accordingly, a sharp drop in employment on their own farms as compared with July and a year ago. Only 217 family workers were employed per 100 farms as of October 1 as compared with 224 one month earlier, 237 on July 1 and 225 workers per 100 farms a year ago. Ninety-four workers were hired on every 100 farms of crop reporters on the first of this month as compared with 88 on September 1, 102 on July 1 and 105 on October 1, 1933. Ordinarily, farm employment of family labor declines during September as children return to school or college but the employment of hired labor increases as corn, cotton, fruit, and potato harvesting operations get under way. Employment of both family and hired labor on farms of crop reporters was lower on October 1 of this year, however, than on any other October 1 during the 12-year period covered by the record.

A simple price wage comparison indicates that farmers were in a better position to pay the seasonally higher level of October 1 farm wage rates than at anytime since January 1923 when the quarterly series was begun. The ratio of prices of agricultural products to farm wages was 110 per cent of pre-war on the first of this month as compared to 97 three months earlier and 91 on October 1, 1933. These ratios show the shifts in the purchasing power of a fixed bill of farm products in terms of labor. In spite of the favorable price wage rate comparison this month, however, farmers have not made increases in their hired labor forces since drought and acreage reduction campaigns have materially cut labor requirements in the whole central portion of the United States.