

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, JANUARY 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 February issue of "Crops and Markets".

	:Annual : :Average: :1910-14:	October : 1931 :	January : 1932 :	October : 1932 :	January 1933
FARM WAGE INDEX	100	113	98	84	74
FARM WAGE RATES					
Per month, with board	\$20.41	\$23.31	\$19.77	\$17.29	\$14.77
Per month, without board	29.09	34.22	30.53	26.36	23.62
Per day, with board	1.10	1.18	1.02	.87	.76
Per day, without board	1.43	1.59	1.40	1.19	1.06
SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (% of normal)					
Supply	-	113.4	120.9	123.6	127.3
Demand	-	68.9	60.5	60.8	53.8
Supply as a percentage of demand	-	164.6	199.8	203.3	236.6
FARM EMPLOYMENT <u>1/</u> (Persons per farm)					
Family Labor	-	2.50	2.17	2.31	2.11
Hired Labor	-	1.19	.74	1.09	.72
Combined	-	3.69	2.91	3.40	2.83
RELATED INDEXES					
Farm price index <u>2/</u>	100	68	63	56	52 <u>3/</u>
Ratio of farm prices to farm wages	100	60	64	67	70
Industrial wages <u>4/</u>	-	199	191	177	171 <u>5/</u>
Industrial employment <u>6/</u>	-	69	65	60	59 <u>5/</u>
Industrial payrolls <u>6/</u>	-	55	49	40	39 <u>5/</u>

- 1/ On farms of crop reporters.
2/ As of the 15th of the month.
3/ December 15, 1932 - Latest data available.
4/ Average weekly earnings, New York State factories, June 1914 = 100.
5/ November 1932 - Latest data available.
6/ Bureau of Labor Statistics index pertaining to manufacturing industries, 1926 = 100.

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

Geographic Divisions	: Annual : : average : : 1910-14 :	: October 1 : : 1931 :	: January 1 : : 1932 :	: October 1 : : 1932 :	: January 1 : : 1933 :
FARM WAGE RATES	: Dollars :	: Dollars :	: Dollars :	: Dollars :	: Dollars :
Per month with board					
New England	24.23	37.97	31.83	27.69	24.80
Middle Atlantic	22.08	33.14	28.07	24.27	20.52
East North Central	23.79	27.15	21.97	19.40	16.05
West North Central	26.02	27.51	20.98	19.78	14.48
South Atlantic	14.65	16.07	14.43	12.19	11.16
East South Central	14.65	15.22	13.55	11.37	10.57
West South Central	17.65	17.45	15.85	13.99	12.74
Mountain	32.36	33.58	28.92	25.16	20.71
Pacific	33.33	39.69	35.21	29.12	26.05
Per month without board					
New England	37.54	61.85	55.65	47.35	43.87
Middle Atlantic	33.19	51.41	46.12	39.82	35.94
East North Central	32.86	38.89	33.80	28.86	25.48
West North Central	36.45	38.15	31.65	29.09	24.29
South Atlantic	20.96	23.88	21.80	18.45	17.09
East South Central	20.72	21.73	19.71	16.61	15.48
West South Central	25.33	25.62	23.86	20.87	19.53
Mountain	46.15	49.13	43.17	37.48	32.06
Pacific	47.97	61.26	58.17	47.94	42.82
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	2.08	1.80	1.44	1.32
Middle Atlantic	1.23	1.97	1.66	1.39	1.18
East North Central	1.31	1.42	1.17	1.02	.89
West North Central	1.44	1.35	1.12	.99	.81
South Atlantic	.81	.82	.74	.62	.56
East South Central	.81	.73	.67	.55	.52
West South Central	.99	.86	.77	.67	.62
Mountain	1.50	1.53	1.39	1.14	.99
Pacific	1.50	1.82	1.54	1.31	1.13
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	2.92	2.54	2.20	1.96
Middle Atlantic	1.62	2.61	2.30	1.92	1.72
East North Central	1.68	1.89	1.63	1.36	1.19
West North Central	1.85	1.87	1.55	1.36	1.16
South Atlantic	1.05	1.08	1.02	.84	.78
East South Central	1.04	1.00	.87	.74	.68
West South Central	1.26	1.14	1.03	.89	.83
Mountain	2.04	2.05	1.83	1.55	1.40
Pacific	2.06	2.55	2.36	1.92	1.70

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

Geographic division	: October 1: 1930	: January 1: 1931	: October 1: 1931	: January 1: 1932	: October 1: 1932	: January 1: 1933
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SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (Per cent of normal)

New England	104.0	112.8	115.5	126.9	131.5	132.3
Middle Atlantic	101.0	108.0	111.1	118.7	126.2	128.3
East North Central	112.1	119.4	119.5	128.5	133.6	135.3
West North Central	107.2	115.7	120.6	123.1	128.0	129.7
South Atlantic	101.2	109.0	106.4	114.2	115.4	118.1
East South Central	101.9	107.5	109.3	116.8	115.7	117.1
West South Central	107.9	116.7	105.7	119.2	118.3	129.4
Mountain	114.0	120.4	130.5	128.0	136.8	135.5
Pacific	108.0	122.4	125.0	130.2	132.9	143.3

DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (Per cent of normal)

New England	85.8	78.1	81.1	69.1	71.9	66.9
Middle Atlantic	80.3	75.4	77.3	70.3	68.7	64.3
East North Central	74.4	69.1	67.9	61.1	60.0	56.1
West North Central	76.7	69.4	60.5	56.7	54.8	46.8
South Atlantic	75.5	68.0	71.9	63.5	63.0	57.7
East South Central	72.8	61.7	68.7	59.0	59.2	54.6
West South Central	68.8	55.3	70.9	55.0	60.0	48.2
Mountain	82.3	73.1	59.8	59.5	57.7	45.7
Pacific	80.7	72.1	69.4	63.9	65.5	54.3

SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (% of normal)

New England	121.2	144.5	142.4	183.7	182.9	197.9
Middle Atlantic	125.8	143.1	143.7	168.8	183.7	199.5
East North Central	150.6	172.7	176.1	210.2	222.7	241.1
West North Central	139.8	165.6	199.4	217.0	233.6	277.2
South Atlantic	134.0	160.4	148.0	179.8	183.2	204.7
East South Central	139.9	174.3	159.0	197.9	195.5	214.3
West South Central	156.8	211.1	149.1	216.7	197.2	268.6
Mountain	138.4	164.6	218.2	215.1	237.2	296.1
Pacific	133.8	169.7	180.2	203.8	203.1	264.0

FARM EMPLOYMENT (persons per farm) 1/

Family Labor						
New England	1.61	1.55	1.64	1.59	1.62	1.60
Middle Atlantic	1.61	1.65	1.69	1.63	1.73	1.65
East North Central	1.63	1.61	1.78	1.68	1.74	1.68
West North Central	1.72	1.70	1.84	1.80	1.80	1.78
South Atlantic	3.26	2.64	3.31	2.84	3.17	2.65
East South Central	4.31	3.44	4.63	3.47	3.76	3.34
West South Central	3.55	2.78	3.19	2.54	2.77	2.43
Mountain	1.89	1.62	1.95	1.76	1.93	1.73
Pacific	1.64	1.46	1.76	1.62	1.74	1.71

1/ On farms of crop reporters.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, by geographic divisions.

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

Geographic Divisions	October 1: 1930	January 1: 1931	October 1: 1931	January 1: 1932	October 1: 1932	January 1: 1933
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Cont'd)						
Hired Labor						
New England	1.72	1.12	2.06	1.06	1.63	.94
Middle Atlantic	1.15	.70	1.01	.64	1.09	.61
East North Central	.66	.42	.57	.39	.59	.43
West North Central	.56	.39	.56	.43	.48	.36
South Atlantic	1.66	1.38	1.67	1.19	1.82	1.33
East South Central	1.79	1.63	1.46	1.04	1.30	1.04
West South Central	1.74	.84	1.49	.86	1.33	.69
Mountain	1.04	.51	1.17	.51	.80	.51
Pacific	2.72	1.76	3.84	1.52	2.81	1.37
Combined						
New England	3.33	2.67	3.70	2.65	3.25	2.54
Middle Atlantic	2.76	2.35	2.70	2.32	2.82	2.26
East North Central	2.29	2.03	2.35	2.07	2.33	2.11
West North Central	2.27	2.09	2.40	2.23	2.28	2.14
South Atlantic	4.93	4.02	4.98	4.03	4.09	3.98
East South Central	6.10	5.07	6.09	4.51	5.06	4.38
West South Central	5.29	3.63	4.68	3.40	4.10	3.12
Mountain	2.93	2.13	3.12	2.27	2.73	2.24
Pacific	4.36	3.22	5.60	3.14	4.55	3.08

FARM WAGES

The index of the general level of farm wage rates declined to 74% of the 5-year pre-war average on January 1, 1933. This represents a decline of 10 points or 12 per cent since October 1, 1932 as compared with an average seasonal decrease in wage rates of about 9.6 per cent in the corresponding period during the previous ten years. At 74 on January 1, the index was about 24 per cent lower than a year earlier, and at the lowest point recorded since 1899. Day wages, with board ranged from 40 cents in South Carolina and Georgia to \$1.75 in Rhode Island. In fact, a few reports from North Central States stated that farm laborers are working, in some instances, for board and lodging alone. The same index averaged 86 per cent of pre-war for the year 1932 as compared with 116 during 1931.

Since October 1, the decline in wage rates for hired farm workers was the direct result of an increased supply of farm labor and a decreased demand for their services. The supply of farm labor increased from 123.6 to 127.3 per cent of normal from October 1, 1932 to January 1, 1933 according to reports from crop correspondents throughout the country. A decline in factory employment in New York State indicates that the increase in the supply of farm labor was accompanied by a decline in industrial employment, although final figures on employment, in manufacturing industries throughout the country as a whole, are not yet available, either for December or January.

A record low level of 53.8 per cent of normal was reported as the demand for farm labor on January 1, compared with 60.8 on October 1 of last year and 60.5 on January 1, 1932. The series of data for this date, however, go back only to 1924. The decrease in the demand for hired farm workers has been due primarily to the continued decline in the level of farm prices since last October. As the Departments' index of prices paid farmers for agricultural products dropped from 56 per cent of pre-war on October 15 to 52 in mid-December, farmers were inclined to conserve their fast dwindling cash resources, do their own work in so far as possible, and dispense with the services of hired workers. Only 72 hired workers

(Cont'd on page 6)

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, By States, January 1, 1933

STATE	WAGE RATES				SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR		
	Per month without board	Per month with board	Per day without board	Per day with board	Supply as % of normal	Demand % of normal	Supply % of demand
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars			
Me.	22.25	35.00	1.05	1.55	129	59	219
N. H.	25.00	45.75	1.35	2.10	126	70	180
Vt.	20.75	36.50	1.15	1.70	128	70	183
Mass.	29.75	52.00	1.55	2.25	128	66	194
R. I.	29.00	55.75	1.75	2.20	134	69	194
Conn.	24.00	47.00	1.40	2.20	150	72	208
N. Y.	20.50	37.00	1.20	1.80	126	61	207
N. J.	25.75	44.75	1.40	1.95	126	73	173
Pa.	19.00	32.00	1.10	1.55	132	66	200
Ohio	16.75	26.50	.95	1.20	131	53	247
Ind.	17.00	25.50	.85	1.15	142	55	258
Ill.	18.75	26.75	.95	1.20	128	59	217
Mich.	13.50	23.75	.85	1.25	147	53	277
Wis.	12.75	24.00	.80	1.15	135	59	229
Minn.	10.50	22.50	.75	1.15	133	46	289
Iowa	16.50	25.50	.90	1.20	128	49	261
Mo.	16.25	24.25	.75	1.05	124	47	264
N. Dak.	10.25	20.50	.70	1.15	125	48	260
S. Dak.	11.75	23.50	.80	1.20	127	44	289
Nebr.	16.75	26.00	.90	1.25	131	49	267
Kans.	16.75	26.75	.85	1.25	141	43	328
Del.	18.25	31.00	1.05	1.40	118	67	176
Md.	19.75	31.00	.95	1.35	120	65	185
Va.	16.75	24.25	.75	1.05	123	59	208
W. Va.	17.00	26.50	.85	1.15	125	53	236
N. C.	9.75	14.75	.50	.70	118	56	211
S. C.	8.00	12.00	.40	.55	112	57	196
Ga.	7.25	11.25	.40	.55	116	56	207
Fla.	11.00	19.50	.60	.90	123	64	192
Ky.	13.75	20.00	.65	.90	117	51	229
Tenn.	12.00	17.00	.55	.70	116	63	184
Ala.	8.00	12.00	.45	.55	124	50	248
Miss.	8.75	13.25	.45	.60	110	55	200
Ark.	10.75	16.50	.50	.70	122	45	271
La.	11.50	17.75	.60	.80	123	57	216
Okla.	14.25	22.25	.70	.95	132	49	269
Tex.	13.50	20.50	.65	.85	134	46	291
Mont.	19.75	31.75	.95	1.50	125	40	312
Idaho	19.00	32.75	1.05	1.50	149	39	382
Wyo.	21.50	33.00	1.00	1.35	138	50	276
Colo.	18.50	29.75	.90	1.25	140	47	298
N. Mex.	17.75	27.75	.80	1.15	127	42	302
Ariz.	26.00	34.00	1.00	1.35	125	63	198
Utah	26.00	37.75	1.30	1.75	142	44	323
Nev.	26.75	42.25	1.40	1.85	132	55	240
Wash.	16.75	33.50	1.05	1.55	158	45	351
Oreg.	18.75	34.50	1.10	1.45	155	48	323
Calif.	30.00	47.00	1.15	1.80	137	58	236

were employed on every 100 farms owned by crop reporters on January 1. This compares with a seasonally higher figure of 109 on October 1, 1932, 72 hired workers on the first of last year and 92 hired workers per 100 farms on January 1 of the pre-depression year 1929. It is not surprising, therefore, that the January 1, 1933 supply of farm labor, expressed as a percentage of demand, rose to a new high of 236.6 per cent of normal for the period 1918 to date.

The purchasing power of the farmers dollar in terms of wages, as represented by the ratio between farm products prices received and wages paid hired farm workers, is rising. On January 1, this ratio stood at 70 per cent of pre-war as compared with 67, three months earlier, and 64 per cent of pre-war on January 1, 1933. It is also rather interesting to note that the downward adjustment in farm wage rates has proceeded at a much faster rate than in manufacturing industries. During the past year, for example, farm wages have declined approximately 24 per cent while industrial wages, as indicated by average weekly earnings in New York State factories, dropped only about 10 per cent and remained at 171 per cent of pre-war during November, 1932, the latest month for which this information is available.