

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

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February 4, 1930.

FARM LABOR AND WAGES JANUARY 1, 1930, WITH COMPARISONS.

Farm wage rates and farm labor supply and demand as reported to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of this Bureau. Average of reports covering the United States and by States. These data for previous quarters appear in "Crops and Markets" for February, April, July and December, and in the United States Agricultural Yearbook, 1928, tables 531 and 532. These data will be published in the February "Crops and Markets".

|                       | : Annual :                      | October : | January : | October : | January : |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                       | :Average :                      | :         | :         | :         | :         |
|                       | :1910-14 :                      | 1928 :    | 1929 :    | 1929 :    | 1930 :    |
|                       | :Dollars :                      | Dollars : | Dollars : | Dollars : | Dollars : |
| U. S. INDEX           |                                 |           |           |           |           |
| Farm Wages (per cent) | 100                             | 175       | 162       | 174       | 159       |
|                       | Wages - per month with board    |           |           |           |           |
| United States         | 20.41                           | 35.75     | 33.04     | 35.90     | 32.29     |
| North Atlantic        | 22.63                           | 46.58     | 43.48     | 47.72     | 44.57     |
| North Central         | 24.88                           | 42.73     | 37.49     | 42.79     | 36.24     |
| South Atlantic        | 14.65                           | 25.43     | 24.47     | 25.52     | 23.28     |
| South Central         | 16.18                           | 26.57     | 25.26     | 25.86     | 24.75     |
| Far Western           | 32.89                           | 54.21     | 51.54     | 53.54     | 50.66     |
|                       | Wages - per month without board |           |           |           |           |
| United States         | 29.09                           | 49.50     | 47.24     | 50.00     | 46.80     |
| North Atlantic        | 34.31                           | 58.71     | 66.22     | 69.90     | 67.46     |
| North Central         | 34.61                           | 56.96     | 51.74     | 57.41     | 51.20     |
| South Atlantic        | 20.96                           | 35.78     | 35.18     | 36.02     | 34.12     |
| South Central         | 23.07                           | 36.74     | 36.23     | 36.70     | 35.53     |
| Far Western           | 47.14                           | 77.38     | 74.72     | 78.93     | 75.10     |
|                       | Wages - per day with board      |           |           |           |           |
| United States         | 1.10                            | 1.96      | 1.78      | 1.92      | 1.73      |
| North Atlantic        | 1.24                            | 2.78      | 2.56      | 2.83      | 2.55      |
| Central               | 1.38                            | 2.48      | 2.17      | 2.43      | 2.08      |
| Atlantic              | .81                             | 1.38      | 1.29      | 1.32      | 1.24      |
| Central               | .90                             | 1.37      | 1.28      | 1.32      | 1.23      |
| Western               | 1.50                            | 2.66      | 2.44      | 2.57      | 2.38      |
|                       | Wages - per day without board   |           |           |           |           |
| United States         | 1.43                            | 2.51      | 2.34      | 2.46      | 2.27      |
| North Atlantic        | 1.64                            | 3.58      | 3.42      | 3.63      | 3.31      |
| North Central         | 1.73                            | 3.14      | 2.83      | 3.07      | 2.74      |
| South Atlantic        | 1.05                            | 1.78      | 1.69      | 1.71      | 1.62      |
| South Central         | 1.16                            | 1.74      | 1.68      | 1.72      | 1.63      |
| Far Western           | 2.05                            | 3.44      | 3.24      | 3.39      | 3.19      |

FARM LABOR: SUPPLY AND DEMAND, December 1, 1928 and January 1, 1930 1/

|                | : Supply per cent |         | : Demand per cent |        | : Supply as            |        |
|----------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
|                | : of normal       |         | : of normal       |        | : percentage of demand |        |
|                | : Dec.            | : Janva | : Dec.            | : Jan. | : Dec.                 | : Jan. |
|                | : 1928            | : 1930  | : 1928            | : 1930 | : 1928                 | : 1930 |
| United States  | 94.0              | 96.7    | 87.7              | 84.2   | 107.2                  | 114.7  |
| North Atlantic | 93.7              | 95.4    | 87.3              | 85.4   | 107.4                  | 111.7  |
| North Central  | 95.5              | 99.0    | 89.5              | 85.3   | 106.7                  | 116.1  |
| South Atlantic | 90.6              | 94.9    | 86.9              | 83.9   | 104.3                  | 113.1  |
| South Central  | 93.1              | 94.5    | 85.5              | 82.5   | 109.0                  | 114.6  |
| Far Western    | 99.2              | 101.3   | 91.4              | 86.3   | 108.6                  | 117.5  |

1/ No data for January, 1929

FARM WAGES

The index of the general level of farm wages declined from 174 to 159 per cent of the pre-war level from October 1929 to January 1, 1930. This 15 point decline was about 1 point greater than usual for the period. At 159 the index is 3 points lower than on January 1 of last year. Weighted average wage rates for the year 1929, however, were 0.3 points higher than in 1928, the index for 1929 being 169.6 as compared with an average of 169.3 for the previous year. Slight increases in farm wage rates for 1929 may be attributed to the smaller supply of farm labor available during the first ten months, which in turn was due to the larger average volume of industrial employment.

From October 1929 to January 1 of this year, however, the volume of industrial employment declined sharply releasing a considerable number of such workers for other lines of endeavor. Curtailment of industrial operations during this

(cont'd on next page)

FARM LABOR, WAGE RATES, SUPPLY AND DEMAND BY STATES. JANUARY 1930

| State<br>and<br>Division | Wage Rates |            |          |          | Supply and Demand |          |          |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|
|                          | Per month: | Per month: | Per day: | Per day: | Supply            | Demand   | Supply   |
|                          | with       | without    | with     | without  | per cent          | per cent | per cent |
|                          | board      | board      | board    | board    | of                | of       | of       |
|                          |            |            |          |          | normal            | normal   | demand   |
|                          | Dollars    | Dollars    | Dollars  | Dollars  |                   |          |          |
| Me.                      | 45.00      | 65.00      | 2.25     | 2.95     | 98                | 91       | 108      |
| N. H.                    | 45.00      | 69.00      | 2.40     | 3.35     | 99                | 87       | 114      |
| Vt.                      | 47.00      | 68.00      | 2.40     | 3.25     | 96                | 91       | 104      |
| Mass.                    | 50.00      | 81.00      | 2.55     | 3.70     | 98                | 84       | 117      |
| R. I.                    | 56.00      | 87.00      | 2.70     | 3.45     | 94                | 89       | 106      |
| Conn.                    | 54.00      | 85.00      | 2.70     | 3.75     | 99                | 85       | 116      |
| N. Y.                    | 44.75      | 66.75      | 2.65     | 3.25     | 93                | 82       | 113      |
| N. J.                    | 46.00      | 73.00      | 2.75     | 3.55     | 93                | 87       | 114      |
| Pa.                      | 39.75      | 59.50      | 2.45     | 3.30     | 95                | 87       | 109      |
| N. Atlantic              | 44.57      | 67.46      | 2.55     | 3.31     | 95.4              | 85.4     | 111.7    |
| Ohio                     | 36.00      | 53.00      | 2.25     | 2.95     | 95                | 82       | 116      |
| Ind.                     | 35.50      | 48.00      | 2.05     | 2.60     | 101               | 89       | 113      |
| Ill.                     | 40.00      | 52.00      | 2.10     | 2.65     | 93                | 87       | 114      |
| Mich.                    | 38.50      | 56.50      | 2.45     | 3.15     | 99                | 73       | 136      |
| Wis.                     | 37.75      | 55.25      | 2.10     | 2.30     | 102               | 87       | 117      |
| Minn.                    | 50.00      | 47.00      | 1.95     | 2.70     | 100               | 83       | 120      |
| Iowa                     | 40.00      | 53.50      | 2.30     | 2.85     | 100               | 91       | 110      |
| Mo.                      | 33.50      | 45.00      | 1.50     | 2.15     | 95                | 83       | 114      |
| N. Dak.                  | 26.00      | 43.50      | 1.65     | 2.50     | 100               | 82       | 122      |
| S. Dak.                  | 35.75      | 55.50      | 2.25     | 2.95     | 100               | 85       | 118      |
| Nebr.                    | 41.50      | 56.00      | 2.30     | 3.10     | 101               | 92       | 110      |
| Kans.                    | 36.00      | 51.25      | 2.25     | 2.90     | 99                | 89       | 111      |
| N. Central               | 36.24      | 51.20      | 2.08     | 2.74     | 99.0              | 85.3     | 116.1    |
| Del.                     | 31.00      | 43.00      | 2.10     | 2.55     | 97                | 90       | 108      |
| Md.                      | 35.25      | 50.50      | 1.95     | 2.55     | 94                | 88       | 107      |
| Va.                      | 28.00      | 40.00      | 1.50     | 1.95     | 97                | 89       | 109      |
| W. Va.                   | 31.00      | 45.75      | 1.55     | 2.10     | 99                | 82       | 121      |
| N. C.                    | 25.00      | 35.00      | 1.35     | 1.75     | 99                | 80       | 124      |
| S. C.                    | 18.75      | 26.75      | 95       | 1.20     | 89                | 82       | 109      |
| Ga.                      | 17.00      | 27.00      | 95       | 1.25     | 91                | 85       | 107      |
| Fla.                     | 23.75      | 36.50      | 1.10     | 1.55     | 106               | 80       | 132      |
| S. Atlantic              | 23.28      | 34.12      | 1.24     | 1.62     | 94.9              | 83.9     | 113.1    |
| Ky.                      | 25.75      | 35.75      | 1.25     | 1.65     | 90                | 83       | 108      |
| Tenn.                    | 23.25      | 32.25      | 1.15     | 1.45     | 93                | 86       | 108      |
| Ala.                     | 20.00      | 28.00      | 1.10     | 1.40     | 95                | 85       | 112      |
| Miss.                    | 22.25      | 32.25      | 1.10     | 1.50     | 90                | 89       | 101      |
| Ark.                     | 23.50      | 35.50      | 1.20     | 1.60     | 94                | 78       | 121      |
| La.                      | 24.25      | 35.75      | 1.15     | 1.50     | 93                | 85       | 109      |
| Okla.                    | 27.25      | 40.25      | 1.50     | 2.00     | 100               | 78       | 128      |
| Tex.                     | 28.50      | 40.75      | 1.35     | 1.80     | 98                | 79       | 124      |
| S. Central               | 24.75      | 36.53      | 1.23     | 1.63     | 94.5              | 82.5     | 114.6    |
| Mont.                    | 44.75      | 65.75      | 2.40     | 3.30     | 104               | 74       | 141      |
| Idaho                    | 49.25      | 71.00      | 2.35     | 3.20     | 105               | 84       | 125      |
| Wyo.                     | 49.00      | 68.50      | 2.40     | 3.30     | 102               | 92       | 111      |
| Colo.                    | 35.00      | 61.75      | 2.45     | 2.95     | 100               | 90       | 111      |
| N. Mex.                  | 36.00      | 53.25      | 1.80     | 2.20     | 99                | 88       | 112      |
| Ariz.                    | 50.00      | 68.00      | 1.95     | 2.65     | 100               | 92       | 109      |
| Utah                     | 55.00      | 75.00      | 2.30     | 3.00     | 99                | 93       | 106      |
| Nev.                     | 65.00      | 85.00      | 2.50     | 3.50     | 102               | 85       | 120      |
| Wash.                    | 46.50      | 71.25      | 2.50     | 3.50     | 104               | 84       | 124      |
| Oreg.                    | 43.25      | 68.25      | 2.40     | 2.95     | 105               | 86       | 122      |
| Calif.                   | 61.00      | 89.00      | 2.50     | 3.50     | 100               | 86       | 116      |
| Western                  | 50.66      | 75.10      | 2.38     | 3.19     | 101.3             | 86.3     | 117.5    |
| U. S.                    | 32.29      | 46.80      | 1.73     | 2.27     | 96.7              | 84.2     | 114.7    |

period is vividly reflected in the sharp increase of the supply of farm labor from 91.6 to 96.7 per cent of normal and the consequent greater than average seasonal decline in farm wages.

The supply of farm labor expressed as a percentage of demand, increased from 103.6 on October 1 to 114.7 per cent of normal on January 1, 1930. At 114.7 on January 1, supply as a percentage of demand was 7.5 points above December, 1923.