

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

Washington, D.C.
April 15, 1937

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, APRIL 1, 1937, WITH COMPARISONS

Estimated farm wage rates, the supply of and demand for hired farm workers and farm employment, as based on reports to the Crop Reporting Board. The data for previous quarters appear in "Crops and Markets" for February, April, July, and October, and in the United States Agricultural Statistics 1936, Tables 454 and 455. The data shown below will be published in the April issue of "Crops and Markets."

	Annual				
	average:	Jan.1,	Apr.1,	Jan.1,	Apr.1,
	1910-14:	1936	1936	1937	1937
FARM WAGE INDEX	100	94	101	103	112
FARM WAGE RATES:					
Per month, with board	\$20.41	\$18.54	\$20.89	\$20.68	\$23.38
Per month, without board	29.09	28.63	30.87	31.37	34.16
Per day, with board	1.10	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.16
Per day, without board	1.43	1.37	1.43	1.51	1.58
SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)					
Supply	--	96.7	93.8	91.0	87.2
Demand	--	76.0	82.1	81.7	86.6
Supply as a percentage of demand	--	127.2	114.3	111.4	100.7
FARM EMPLOYMENT ^{1/} (Persons per 100 farms)					
Family labor	--	199	195	194	197
Hired labor	--	62	89	69	78
Combined	--	261	284	263	275
RELATED INDEXES:					
Prices received by farmers ^{2/}	100	109	105	131	128 ^{3/}
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	100	117	103	122	114
Industrial wage rates ^{4/}	--	195	195	209	211 ^{5/}
Industrial employment ^{6/}	--	87	89	96	99 ^{5/}
Industrial payrolls ^{6/}	--	74	79	91	96 ^{5/}

^{1/} On farms of 21,580 crop reporters.

^{2/} As of the 15th of the month.

^{3/} March 1937 - latest data available.

^{4/} Average weekly earnings, New York State factories, June 1914 - 100.

^{5/} February 1937 - latest data available.

^{6/} Bureau of Labor Statistics indexes for manufacturing industries, 1923-1925 = 100.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,
APRIL 1, 1937, WITH COMPARISONS

Geographic divisions	Annual average 1910-14	Jan. 1, 1936	Apr. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1937	Apr. 1, 1937
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
FARM WAGE RATES					
Per month with board					
New England	24.23	25.44	28.06	29.56	31.41
Middle Atlantic	22.08	22.04	25.35	25.28	28.44
East North Central	23.79	20.66	24.94	24.24	29.59
West North Central	26.02	13.14	24.50	19.77	26.32
South Atlantic	14.65	14.51	14.75	15.85	16.43
East South Central	14.65	13.78	14.09	15.12	15.65
West South Central	17.65	16.23	16.95	17.66	18.20
Mountain	32.35	28.13	29.96	31.01	34.34
Pacific	33.33	33.38	36.50	37.23	41.57
Per month without board					
New England	37.54	46.52	49.44	51.05	53.11
Middle Atlantic	33.19	36.99	40.40	41.34	45.13
East North Central	32.86	31.14	35.73	35.79	41.23
West North Central	36.45	23.68	33.99	30.72	36.28
South Atlantic	20.96	21.68	21.98	23.33	24.30
East South Central	20.72	20.02	20.70	21.98	22.65
West South Central	25.33	21.21	24.63	25.82	26.38
Mountain	46.15	41.78	44.05	45.77	50.36
Pacific	47.97	54.32	56.59	59.45	64.14
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	1.49	1.61	1.67	1.77
Middle Atlantic	1.23	1.35	1.42	1.52	1.62
East North Central	1.31	1.18	1.27	1.38	1.51
West North Central	1.44	1.04	1.16	1.13	1.25
South Atlantic	.81	.73	.77	.82	.83
East South Central	.81	.70	.71	.76	.77
West South Central	.99	.82	.82	.88	.90
Mountain	1.50	1.38	1.43	1.50	1.58
Pacific	1.50	1.58	1.62	1.75	1.86
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	2.22	2.31	2.42	2.50
Middle Atlantic	1.62	1.83	2.00	2.12	2.25
East North Central	1.63	1.60	1.71	1.86	1.98
West North Central	1.85	1.48	1.65	1.62	1.75
South Atlantic	1.05	1.01	1.03	1.09	1.13
East South Central	1.04	.92	.92	1.00	1.00
West South Central	1.26	1.07	1.08	1.17	1.17
Mountain	2.04	1.87	1.95	2.03	2.15
Pacific	2.06	2.36	2.40	2.57	2.70

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS APR 19 1944
 APRIL 1, 1937, WITH COMPARISONS (Continued)

Geographic divisions	DEPT. OF AGRIC. ECON.					
	Jan. 1, 1935	Apr. 1, 1935	Jan. 1, 1936	Apr. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1937	Apr. 1, 1937
SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)						
New England	106.6	106.6	100.7	96.9	91.9	87.1
Middle Atlantic	103.9	102.8	95.9	90.8	84.9	80.8
East North Central	109.7	103.3	96.5	91.6	86.7	83.5
West North Central	111.4	105.1	99.9	96.1	95.0	91.0
South Atlantic	96.9	95.2	92.4	91.3	87.5	82.7
East South Central	94.8	95.5	92.5	91.0	89.0	85.4
West South Central	103.4	102.9	100.4	97.2	96.1	92.2
Mountain	112.9	111.4	100.1	99.2	96.3	93.8
Pacific	114.7	107.0	101.0	96.9	97.3	96.2

DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)						
New England	74.3	79.6	82.3	84.4	86.6	91.5
Middle Atlantic	74.7	78.9	80.3	86.3	87.2	90.6
East North Central	68.8	77.9	80.9	87.4	86.0	92.0
West North Central	54.1	65.6	71.1	81.1	69.4	77.6
South Atlantic	75.5	80.8	79.3	85.3	88.2	91.4
East South Central	71.4	76.6	74.7	82.5	84.9	89.8
West South Central	57.0	62.6	69.5	73.0	74.0	78.7
Mountain	59.9	62.7	72.2	77.7	80.2	83.9
Pacific	73.9	77.8	82.7	85.9	87.0	89.6

SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (Percentage of normal)						
New England	143.5	133.9	122.4	114.8	106.1	95.2
Middle Atlantic	139.1	130.3	119.4	108.2	97.4	89.2
East North Central	150.4	132.6	119.3	104.8	100.8	90.8
West North Central	205.9	160.2	140.5	113.5	136.9	117.3
South Atlantic	128.3	117.8	116.5	107.0	99.2	90.5
East South Central	132.8	134.7	123.8	110.3	104.8	95.1
West South Central	181.4	164.4	144.5	135.8	129.9	117.2
Mountain	183.5	177.7	138.6	137.7	120.1	111.8
Pacific	155.2	137.5	122.1	112.8	111.8	107.4

FARM EMPLOYMENT (Persons per 100 farms) 1/

Family Labor

New England	146	148	149	149	152	150
Middle Atlantic	176	173	173	174	166	165
East North Central	172	168	165	167	160	160
West North Central	176	174	170	169	163	164
South Atlantic	277	285	262	253	260	260
East South Central	342	368	283	266	285	293
West South Central	249	240	224	211	212	216
Mountain	173	162	160	161	154	157
Pacific	156	166	159	152	151	178

1/ On farms of crop reporters.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,
APRIL 1, 1937, WITH COMPARISONS (Continued)

Geographic divisions	Jan. 1, 1935	Apr. 1, 1935	Jan. 1, 1936	Apr. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1937	Apr. 1, 1937
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Continued)						
Hired Labor						
New England	78	75	77	83	79	86
Middle Atlantic	71	68	56	80	61	67
East North Central	42	50	40	61	42	53
West North Central	31	38	31	46	29	37
South Atlantic	128	132	107	147	111	127
East South Central	89	94	91	137	106	118
West South Central	54	51	51	74	52	54
Mountain	37	53	40	59	44	61
Pacific	107	102	152	201	230	225
Combined						
New England	224	223	226	232	231	236
Middle Atlantic	247	241	229	254	227	232
East North Central	214	218	205	228	202	213
West North Central	207	212	201	215	192	201
South Atlantic	405	417	369	400	371	387
East South Central	431	462	374	403	391	411
West South Central	303	291	275	285	264	270
Mountain	210	215	200	220	198	218
Pacific	263	358	311	353	381	403

FARM LABOR

The general level of farm wage rates advanced from 103 to 112 percent of pre-war from January 1 to April 1, 1937, according to the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This advance of 9 points was the largest recorded during the first quarter of any year since 1923. On April 1 of last year the index was 101.

All classes of wage rates made marked increases from January 1 to April 1 of this year. For the country as a whole the average rate per month with board advanced from \$20.68 to \$23.38 or about 13 percent; the monthly rate without board from \$31.37 to \$34.16, or 9 percent; and the day rates with and without board, both about 5 percent. The largest upturns were recorded for monthly rates as new wage agreements were entered into with monthly hands prior to the spring planting season. Day rates advanced only about half as much. The various April 1 rates averaged from 10 to 12 percent higher than a year ago. The spread between rates with and without board had widened somewhat during the past year, however, in line with higher living costs.

Geographically, April 1 wage rates showed differences as wide as 250 percent; the rate per day without board, for example, ranged from 80 cents in South Carolina to \$2.85 in Connecticut. Rates were seasonally higher than on January 1 in all geographic divisions with the exception of the South Central States where

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FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY STATES, APRIL 1, 1937

State	Wage Rates				Supply of and demand for farm labor		
	Per month		Per day		Supply as	Demand as	Supply as
	With	Without	With	Without	percentage	percentage	percentage
	board	board	board	board	of normal	of normal	of demand
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars			
Maine	29.00	44.75	1.65	2.15	92	85	108
N.H.	31.00	52.50	1.85	2.65	86	88	98
Vt.	29.25	44.50	1.55	2.20	86	92	93
Mass.	32.75	52.50	1.90	2.65	84	92	91
R.I.	41.75	67.25	1.90	2.75	89	97	92
Conn.	32.75	61.75	1.90	2.85	87	99	88
N.Y.	30.25	46.00	1.65	2.30	81	90	90
N.J.	29.00	52.00	1.75	2.35	83	95	87
Pa.	26.00	42.00	1.55	2.15	80	90	89
Ohio	26.75	32.50	1.50	2.00	78	92	85
Ind.	27.25	32.00	1.35	1.80	86	92	93
Ill.	31.50	41.25	1.55	1.95	88	89	99
Mich.	30.75	44.25	1.65	2.20	73	92	79
Wis.	31.25	44.75	1.50	2.00	89	96	93
Minn.	29.50	40.50	1.40	2.05	87	89	92
Iowa	32.50	40.50	1.50	2.00	97	29	109
Mo.	20.75	29.25	.95	1.30	87	72	121
N.Dak.	25.50	39.50	1.15	1.80	83	67	131
S.Dak.	26.00	36.75	1.20	1.75	83	65	135
Nebr.	25.00	35.00	1.25	1.70	99	71	139
Kans.	23.25	34.50	1.25	1.70	92	70	131
Del.	24.25	36.50	1.40	1.80	86	88	98
Md.	25.00	37.50	1.25	1.65	85	93	91
Va.	20.25	29.00	1.00	1.35	87	93	94
W.Va.	22.00	32.25	1.05	1.45	86	87	99
N.C.	17.75	26.00	.90	1.20	86	92	93
S.C.	12.25	17.75	.60	.80	77	88	88
Ga.	12.50	18.50	.65	.90	80	93	86
Fla.	15.00	26.25	.80	1.20	82	90	91
Ky.	18.75	26.25	.90	1.15	84	86	98
Tenn.	16.75	24.25	.80	1.00	89	87	102
Ala.	13.50	20.25	.70	.90	82	93	88
Miss.	13.75	20.00	.70	.95	87	93	94
Ark.	15.75	23.00	.75	1.00	90	84	107
La.	14.75	22.50	.75	1.00	83	85	98
Okla.	19.00	28.50	.95	1.30	102	68	150
Tex.	20.25	28.50	1.00	1.25	93	78	119
Mont.	36.00	53.25	1.75	2.55	99	78	127
Idaho	40.25	57.00	1.85	2.35	98	93	105
Wyo.	34.75	51.50	1.55	2.25	91	79	115
Colo.	28.75	47.00	1.40	2.00	94	85	111
N.Mex.	26.50	38.75	1.20	1.65	88	73	121
Ariz.	37.75	53.25	1.55	2.05	94	93	101
Utah	41.50	55.25	1.90	2.40	93	83	112
Nev.	40.25	60.25	1.55	2.50	81	88	92
Wash.	37.25	55.50	1.85	2.60	93	90	103
Oreg.	35.50	52.00	1.70	2.35	92	92	100
Calif.	44.00	69.00	1.90	2.80	98	89	110
U.S.	23.38	34.16	1.16	1.58	87.2	86.6	100.7

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day wages without board showed no change since the first of the year. Wage rates were higher than a year ago in all sections of the country, but the increases were relatively small in the West Central States where farm income suffered because of drought ravaged harvests last year.

One factor accounting for the April 1 increases in wage rates has been the decline in the supply of labor available for hire in rural areas. Employment in industries other than agriculture has remained at a level considerably higher than a year ago. The supply of labor in the country was reported at 87.2 percent of normal on April 1 as compared with 91.0 on January 1. During the past year, while the index of factory employment increased about 10 points, the supply of labor in farming regions dropped approximately 7.

An increased demand for farm labor also has supported higher wage rates. For the country as a whole, crop correspondents reported the demand for farm help to be 86.6 percent of normal on April 1 as compared with 81.7 on January 1 and with 82.1 a year ago. This increase in the demand for workers on farms has resulted primarily from the higher level of farm income. In the West North Central States, where income from farm marketings showed the smallest increases over last year, the April demand for labor was only 77.6 percent of normal or even less than on the same date last year.

The supply of labor available for hire just about balanced the demand for farm help, however, on the first of this month. East of the Mississippi, correspondents' figures indicated a shortage of farm labor but west of the Mississippi, the supply still was larger by a considerable margin than the demand for workers.

The upturn in wage rates during the first quarter of this year has not been unreasonable, however, when considered in relation to prices of farm products. The ratio of prices received to farm wage rates stood at 114 percent of pre-war on April 1. While this indicated that farmers were in a less favorable position to hire labor than on January 1 when the price ratio was 122, the ratio was still 11 points more favorable than a year ago.

Total employment on farms of crop reporters on April 1 of this year was somewhat less than a year ago, however, as a result of late spring in some areas and because of relatively cold and wet weather. The employment of family labor was reported at 137 persons per 100 farms on the first of this month as compared with 194 on January 1 and 195 on April 1, 1936. The employment of hired labor averaged 78 persons per 100 farms on April 1 of this year. While this was seasonally higher than on January 1, it was still considerably less than a year ago.