

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

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FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, JULY 1, 1936, WITH COMPARISONS

Estimated Farm Wage Rates, the supply of and demand for hired farm workers and farm employment, based on reports of correspondents to the Crop Reporting Board, for the United States. Data for previous quarters appear in "Crops and Markets" for February, April, July, and October, and in the United States Yearbook of Agriculture, 1935, Tables 474 and 475. These data will be published in the July issue of "Crops and Markets."

	Annual average: 1910-14:	April 1: 1935	July 1: 1935	April 1: 1936	July 1: 1936
FARM WAGE INDEX	100	94	99	101	108
FARM WAGE RATES:					
Per month, with board	\$20.41	\$19.11	\$20.41	\$20.89	\$22.07
Per month, without board	29.09	28.82	30.08	30.87	32.21
Per day, with board	1.10	.97	1.05	1.05	1.15
Per day, without board	1.43	1.34	1.41	1.43	1.54
SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)					
Supply	--	101.4	95.7	93.8	88.9
Demand	--	73.4	80.5	82.1	82.7
Supply as a percentage of demand	--	138.1	118.9	114.3	107.5
FARM EMPLOYMENT <u>1/</u> (Persons per 100 farms)					
Family labor	--	216	241	195	223
Hired labor	--	73	100	89	101
Combined	--	289	341	284	324
RELATED INDEXES:					
Prices received by farmers <u>2/</u>	100	111	102	105	107 <u>3/</u>
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	100	118	103	103	99
Industrial wage rates <u>4/</u>	--	191	188	195	195 <u>5/</u>
Industrial employment <u>6/</u>	--	83	80	85	86 <u>5/</u>
Industrial payrolls <u>6/</u>	--	71	65	78	79 <u>5/</u>

1/ On farms of crop reporters.

2/ As of the 15th of the month.

3/ June 1936 - latest data available.

4/ Average weekly earnings, New York State factories, June 1914 = 100.

5/ May 1936 - latest data available.

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

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,
JULY 1, 1936, WITH COMPARISONS

Geographic Divisions	Annual average : 1910-14 :	April 1, 1935	July 1, 1935	April 1, 1936	July 1, 1936
FARM WAGE RATES	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Per month with board					
New England	24.23	27.46	29.09	28.06	30.27
Middle Atlantic	22.08	23.22	24.37	25.35	26.64
East North Central	23.79	21.62	22.84	24.94	26.40
West North Central	26.02	21.10	23.25	24.50	26.29
South Atlantic	14.65	14.27	14.76	14.75	15.05
East South Central	14.65	13.71	14.03	14.09	14.22
West South Central	17.65	16.06	16.80	16.95	17.52
Mountain	32.36	27.93	31.24	29.96	33.94
Pacific	33.33	32.20	37.12	36.50	40.33
Per month without board					
New England	37.54	47.46	50.45	49.44	51.87
Middle Atlantic	33.19	38.16	39.07	40.40	41.94
East North Central	32.86	31.63	32.79	35.73	37.16
West North Central	36.45	30.33	32.61	33.99	36.07
South Atlantic	20.96	21.44	22.02	21.98	22.51
East South Central	20.72	19.89	20.09	20.70	20.59
West South Central	25.33	23.93	24.28	24.63	25.23
Mountain	46.15	40.98	44.31	44.05	48.86
Pacific	47.97	52.58	57.53	56.59	61.27
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	1.57	1.68	1.61	1.70
Middle Atlantic	1.23	1.35	1.45	1.42	1.54
East North Central	1.31	1.11	1.23	1.27	1.43
West North Central	1.44	1.03	1.19	1.16	1.41
South Atlantic	.81	.75	.77	.77	.78
East South Central	.81	.69	.69	.71	.72
West South Central	.99	.78	.87	.82	.90
Mountain	1.50	1.32	1.46	1.43	1.61
Pacific	1.50	1.50	1.66	1.62	1.83
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	2.24	2.31	2.31	2.41
Middle Atlantic	1.62	1.93	2.01	2.00	2.12
East North Central	1.68	1.53	1.62	1.71	1.89
West North Central	1.85	1.46	1.65	1.65	1.89
South Atlantic	1.05	.99	1.01	1.03	1.04
East South Central	1.04	.92	.91	.92	.94
West South Central	1.26	1.04	1.11	1.08	1.18
Mountain	2.04	1.79	1.95	1.95	2.11
Pacific	2.06	2.24	2.37	2.40	2.53

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS
JULY 1, 1936, WITH COMPARISONS (continued)

Geographic divisions	April 1, 1934	July 1, 1934	April 1, 1935	July 1, 1935	April 1, 1936	July 1, 1936
SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)						
New England	109.3	100.1	106.6	97.3	96.9	88.5
Middle Atlantic	107.3	102.6	102.8	95.2	90.8	83.5
East North Central	113.8	111.3	103.3	96.6	91.6	85.8
West North Central	114.1	113.6	105.1	96.7	93.1	91.1
South Atlantic	97.3	95.7	95.2	94.3	91.3	87.8
East South Central	100.7	99.8	95.5	91.7	91.0	89.8
West South Central	107.0	109.9	102.9	97.1	97.8	92.9
Mountain	118.9	113.3	111.4	99.5	99.2	86.8
Pacific	110.8	108.5	107.0	98.3	96.9	89.8
DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)						
New England	77.3	81.1	79.6	85.6	84.4	90.3
Middle Atlantic	76.8	77.8	78.9	82.2	86.3	88.5
East North Central	69.7	70.4	77.9	85.7	87.4	89.5
West North Central	65.2	59.1	65.6	78.4	81.1	80.7
South Atlantic	72.6	78.5	80.8	82.6	85.3	84.0
East South Central	71.5	72.6	76.6	78.8	82.5	74.9
West South Central	62.2	61.0	62.6	74.7	72.0	77.3
Mountain	66.3	65.2	62.7	78.3	77.7	83.3
Pacific	74.2	77.2	77.8	84.7	85.9	91.4
SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (Percentage of normal)						
New England	141.4	123.4	133.9	113.7	114.8	98.0
Middle Atlantic	139.7	131.9	130.3	115.8	105.2	94.4
East North Central	163.3	158.1	132.6	112.7	104.8	95.9
West North Central	175.0	192.2	160.2	123.3	118.5	112.9
South Atlantic	134.0	121.9	117.8	114.2	107.0	104.5
East South Central	140.8	137.5	124.7	116.4	110.3	119.9
West South Central	172.0	180.2	164.4	130.0	135.8	120.2
Mountain	179.3	173.8	177.7	127.1	127.7	104.2
Pacific	149.3	140.5	137.5	116.1	112.8	98.2
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Persons per 100 farms) ^{1/}						
Family Labor						
New England	159	174	148*	159*	149	169
Middle Atlantic	167	182	173*	177*	174	181
East North Central	169	179	168*	177*	167	173
West North Central	178	187	174*	185*	169	181
South Atlantic	287	321	285*	317*	253	303
East South Central	367	396	368*	457*	266	351
West South Central	269	268	240*	266*	211	255
Mountain	192	198	162*	181*	161	181
Pacific	175	197	166*	177*	152	157

^{1/} On farms of crop reporters. *Revised.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,
JULY 1, 1936, WITH COMPARISONS (Continued)

Geographic divisions	April 1, 1934	July 1, 1934	April 1, 1935 <u>1/</u>	July 1, 1935 <u>1/</u>	April 1, 1936	July 1, 1936
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Continued)						
Hired Labor						
New England	98	134	75	97	83	112
Middle Atlantic	72	91	68	89	80	83
East North Central	46	66	50	68	61	70
West North Central	43	55	38	54	46	57
South Atlantic	143	179	132	159	147	161
East South Central	105	130	94	121	137	117
West South Central	77	69	51	97	74	92
Mountain	67	83	53	73	59	91
Pacific	185	276	192	290	201	279
Combined						
New England	257	308	223	256	232	281
Middle Atlantic	239	273	241	266	254	264
East North Central	215	245	218	245	228	243
West North Central	221	242	212	239	215	238
South Atlantic	430	500	417	476	400	464
East South Central	472	526	462	578	403	468
West South Central	346	337	291	363	285	347
Mountain	259	281	215	254	220	272
Pacific	360	473	358	467	353	436

1/Revised.

FARM LABOR

The general level of farm wage rates advanced from April 1 to July 1 as the reported supply of workers available for hire registered a further sharp decline, and the demand for hired help rose somewhat with the harvesting of fall sown grains and early truck crops.

As a result, the wage rate index calculated by the Crop Reporting Board climbed to 108 percent of pre-war on July 1, the highest figures recorded since 1931. Seasonally, the July 1 index was 7 points higher than three months earlier, an advance slightly greater than the average upturn during the same period during the 5 years 1925-1929. As compared with a year earlier, the July 1 index was 9 points higher.

Farm wage rates per day without board ranged, on the first of this month, from a low of 75 cents in South Carolina to \$2.70 in Rhode Island, and averaged \$1.54 throughout the country as a whole.

An average of reports from crop correspondents revealed that the supply of labor available for hire was lower than that reported for any other date since December 1926. At 88.9 percent of normal on July 1, the United States average of the reported figures was about 5 points lower than on April 1, and 7 points under the average for July 1 of last year.

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FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY STATES, JULY 1, 1936

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	Percent	Percent	Percent
Maine	29.00	45.00	1.55	2.10	91	87	105
N.H.	28.75	49.00	1.65	2.55	96	88	109
Vt.	28.50	45.50	1.55	2.15	84	92	91
Mass.	30.75	57.50	1.90	2.65	89	90	99
R.I.	41.75	67.25	1.80	2.70	92	87	106
Conn.	31.50	57.25	1.75	2.55	84	95	88
N.Y.	28.25	43.50	1.60	2.20	84	87	97
N.J.	28.75	47.75	1.60	2.15	90	93	97
Pa.	24.00	38.25	1.45	2.00	81	89	91
Ohio	23.75	34.75	1.40	1.90	81	86	94
Ind.	24.25	34.00	1.30	1.70	90	90	100
Ill.	28.50	37.75	1.50	1.90	88	88	100
Mich.	25.50	37.50	1.50	2.00	77	92	84
Wis.	29.00	41.50	1.45	1.95	91	93	98
Minn.	30.00	40.75	1.55	2.15	88	88	100
Iowa	30.50	38.50	1.60	2.05	92	91	101
Mo.	20.50	29.25	1.05	1.40	90	77	117
N.Dak.	26.50	39.00	1.20	1.80	92	57	161
S.Dak.	25.50	37.00	1.25	1.80	94	61	154
Nebr.	26.25	36.50	1.50	2.05	95	81	117
Kans.	24.50	34.50	1.70	2.10	91	84	108
Del.	23.00	34.50	1.20	1.70	89	86	103
Md.	23.25	35.50	1.25	1.65	87	91	96
Va.	19.00	28.00	.95	1.25	90	89	101
W.Va.	20.25	31.00	1.00	1.40	86	81	106
N.C.	15.75	23.25	.85	1.10	89	84	106
S.C.	11.00	13.75	.55	.75	83	81	102
Ga.	11.50	16.75	.60	.80	89	83	107
Fla.	14.00	22.75	.75	1.10	89	79	113
Ky.	17.50	25.00	.85	1.10	90	73	123
Tenn.	15.25	22.00	.75	.95	92	74	124
Ala.	12.25	13.00	.65	.85	89	74	120
Miss.	12.00	17.50	.65	.85	88	79	111
Ark.	14.50	21.50	.70	.95	92	73	126
La.	13.50	19.75	.70	.95	92	75	123
Okla.	19.75	28.25	1.05	1.35	100	72	139
Tex.	19.50	27.75	1.00	1.30	91	82	111
Mont.	37.25	52.00	1.70	2.40	93	73	127
Idaho	40.25	54.50	1.95	2.50	84	94	89
Wyo.	33.25	50.75	1.60	2.15	102	78	131
Colo.	29.00	44.50	1.40	2.00	86	85	101
N.Mex.	25.50	36.50	1.25	1.50	82	74	111
Ariz.	34.50	53.25	1.55	1.90	88	82	107
Utah	41.50	57.00	1.95	2.35	85	92	92
Nev.	39.25	54.25	1.85	2.60	82	93	88
Wash.	35.75	53.50	1.80	2.45	89	90	99
Oreg.	35.75	53.25	1.80	2.30	85	95	89
Calif.	42.50	65.00	1.85	2.60	91	91	100
U. S.	22.07	32.21	1.15	1.54	88.9	82.7	107.5

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From April 1 to July 1 of this year declines were recorded for all States except the Dakotas, Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Rhode Island. Outside of Florida and Rhode Island, however, all of these States were in severe or extreme drought afflicted areas, where agricultural labor requirements have been sharply reduced. Apparently, a further slight increase in industrial and other employment opportunities accounted for part of the reduction in the farm labor supply.

In May of this year (the latest date for which data are available), employment in manufacturing industries was 86 percent of the 1923-25 average, according to statistics furnished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, compared with 85 in April and 80 in July of last year. Some seasonal reduction in industrial employment may have occurred since May, but trade reports indicate that the reduction, if any, has been less than usual this year.

Apparently one of the most important factors affecting the supply of farm labor on July 1 of this year was the increase in the number of persons employed on government financed projects. Labor Department statistics showed a slight decrease in the number of persons so employed in May of this year compared with April, but a considerable increase over July of last year. No information is available regarding the fluctuations in employment for this group since May, but it is probable that it has changed but little.

The reported supply of farm labor could not be considered inadequate for the country as a whole, however, at 88.9 percent of normal on July 1, since crop correspondents indicated the demand for agricultural workers to be only 82.7 percent of normal. The demand figure on that date was only .6 of a point higher than at the beginning of the second quarter of the year and but 2.2 points above July 1935. Although the advance from April 1 to July 1 raised the United States average of the demand reports to the highest figure since June 1930, conditions varied widely throughout the country. Ravages of the drought ruined crops in many areas and reduced labor requirements. In consequence, contra-seasonal declines in the demand for agricultural workers were registered in the West North Central and Southeastern States where drought conditions were at their worst.

A comparison of the reported supply and demand figures reveals that outside of these regions the surplus supply of farm workers has been reduced sharply with actual shortages developing in North Atlantic States, East North Central States, and in the Pacific Northwest. For the country as a whole, the supply of farm labor expressed as a percent of demand amounted to 107.5 percent of normal on July 1, compared with 114.3 three months earlier and 118.9 a year ago. The July 1 supply averaged only 98.2 percent of demand in Pacific Coast States, 98.0 percent in New England, 95.9 in East North Central, and 94.4 percent in Middle Atlantic States. Elsewhere, the higher than normal percentages indicated that there was still considerable unemployment in many rural areas.

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Actual employment of hired workers on farms of crop reporters was seasonally higher on July 1 than three months earlier, and, in line with the increased demand for their services, slightly higher than a year ago. The number of hired hands working two or more days during the week including the first of this month averaged 101 per 100 farms as compared with 89 during the first week of April and 100 workers or 1 per farm during the week including July 1, 1935. Employment of family workers also rose seasonally from April to July on farms of crop reporters but was somewhat lower than a year earlier.

The fact that it was becoming increasingly difficult for farmers to pay wage rates high enough to fill their hired labor requirements on July 1, was evidenced by the failure of prices received for farm products to advance in proportion to wage rates during the past year. Prices received for farm products averaged 103 percent of farm wage rates on July 1, 1935 and April 1 of this year, but dropped to 99 percent of wage rates on July 1, 1936.

CROP REPORTING BOARD