

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

Washington, D.C.
January 15, 1936

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, JANUARY 1, 1936, 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, for the United States. The data for previous quarters appear in "Crops and Markets" for February, April, July, and October, and in the United States Agricultural Yearbook, 1935, Tables 474 and 475. The data shown below will be published in the February issue of "Crops and Markets."

	: Annual : average : 1910-14	: October : 1934	: January : 1935	: October : 1935	: January : 1936
FARM WAGE INDEX	: 100	: 93	: 86	: 102	: 94
FARM WAGE RATES:					
Per month, with board	: \$20.41	: \$18.63	: \$17.04	: \$20.57	: \$18.54
Per month, without board	: 29.09	: 27.83	: 26.69	: 30.38	: 28.63
Per day, with board	: 1.10	: 1.00	: .92	: 1.11	: 1.00
Per day, without board	: 1.43	: 1.34	: 1.26	: 1.47	: 1.37
SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)					
Supply	: --	: 104.7	: 104.1	: 94.7	: 96.7
Demand	: --	: 68.5	: 66.8	: 80.2	: 76.0
Supply as a percentage of demand	: --	: 152.9	: 155.8	: 118.1	: 127.2
FARM EMPLOYMENT ^{1/} (Persons per 100 farms)					
Family labor	: --	: 217	: 215	: 214	: 199
Hired labor	: --	: 94	: 65	: 96	: 62
Combined	: --	: 311	: 280	: 310	: 261
RELATED INDEXES					
Prices received by farmers ^{2/}	: 100	: 102	: 107	: 109	: 110 ^{3/}
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	: 100	: 110	: 124	: 105	: 117
Industrial wage rates ^{4/}	: --	: 181	: 188	: 194	: 190 ^{5/}
Industrial employment ^{6/}	: --	: 78	: 79	: 85	: 85 ^{5/}
Industrial payrolls ^{6/}	: --	: 61	: 64	: 75	: 74 ^{5/}

^{1/} On farms of crop reporters.

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

^{3/} December 15, 1935 - latest data available.

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

^{5/} November 1935 - latest data available.

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

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,
January 1, 1936, with Comparisons

	Annual average 1910-14	October 1 1934	January 1 1935	October 1 1935	January 1 1936
FARM WAGE RATES	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Per month with board					
New England	24.23	27.07	25.99	27.44	25.44
Middle Atlantic	22.08	23.17	20.96	24.38	22.04
East North Central	23.79	19.74	17.36	23.46	20.66
West North Central	26.02	19.17	15.30	23.61	18.14
South Atlantic	14.65	14.45	14.13	14.82	14.51
East South Central	14.65	13.21	13.15	13.96	13.78
West South Central	17.65	16.20	15.75	17.33	16.23
Mountain	32.36	28.95	25.25	32.23	28.13
Pacific	33.33	33.62	30.58	35.76	33.38
Per month without board					
New England	37.54	47.68	46.02	49.94	46.52
Middle Atlantic	33.19	37.64	35.45	38.79	36.99
East North Central	32.86	28.83	27.62	33.58	31.14
West North Central	36.45	27.56	24.90	33.08	28.68
South Atlantic	20.96	21.20	21.12	21.95	21.68
East South Central	20.72	19.40	19.40	20.03	20.02
West South Central	25.33	23.45	23.23	24.70	24.21
Mountain	46.15	41.26	37.60	46.85	41.78
Pacific	47.97	53.68	50.89	57.27	54.32
Per day with board					
New England	1.27	1.61	1.52	1.66	1.49
Middle Atlantic	1.23	1.46	1.30	1.47	1.35
East North Central	1.31	1.13	1.02	1.33	1.18
West North Central	1.44	1.04	.90	1.35	1.04
South Atlantic	.81	.77	.74	.78	.76
East South Central	.81	.69	.66	.71	.70
West South Central	.99	.82	.78	.87	.82
Mountain	1.50	1.35	1.23	1.54	1.38
Pacific	1.50	1.57	1.46	1.70	1.58
Per day without board					
New England	1.71	2.29	2.15	2.31	2.22
Middle Atlantic	1.62	1.98	1.83	2.01	1.88
East North Central	1.68	1.49	1.33	1.75	1.60
West North Central	1.85	1.44	1.22	1.81	1.48
South Atlantic	1.05	1.02	.99	1.03	1.01
East South Central	1.04	.89	.87	.92	.92
West South Central	1.26	1.06	1.03	1.11	1.07
Mountain	2.04	1.85	1.71	2.05	1.87
Pacific	2.06	2.30	2.17	2.42	2.36

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS,
January 1, 1936, with comparisons (Continued)

Geographic Division	October 1: 1933	January 1: 1934	October 1: 1934	January 1: 1935	October 1: 1935	January 1: 1936
SUPPLY OF FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)						
New England	114.1	110.7	103.2	106.6	96.5	100.7
Middle Atlantic	110.8	111.7	100.1	103.9	92.1	95.9
East North Central	120.0	114.6	106.3	109.7	93.0	96.5
West North Central	119.7	115.7	112.8	111.4	96.3	99.9
South Atlantic	101.8	98.7	96.8	96.9	90.7	92.4
East South Central	104.9	100.8	96.2	94.8	92.9	92.5
West South Central	108.8	109.1	110.3	103.4	100.7	100.4
Mountain	120.2	122.8	116.0	112.9	99.0	100.1
Pacific	117.1	113.7	110.3	114.7	94.5	101.0
DEMAND FOR FARM LABOR (Percentage of normal)						
New England	78.1	74.1	81.4	74.3	84.2	82.3
Middle Atlantic	73.7	69.3	77.8	74.7	83.9	80.3
East North Central	66.7	60.2	74.3	68.8	88.4	80.9
West North Central	59.0	55.6	56.9	54.1	76.0	71.1
South Atlantic	73.4	69.5	77.3	75.5	83.6	79.3
East South Central	67.0	64.6	72.5	71.4	76.9	74.7
West South Central	65.8	56.7	54.2	57.0	71.6	69.5
Mountain	68.0	58.7	58.9	59.9	77.0	72.2
Pacific	76.1	66.3	75.4	73.9	88.4	82.7
SUPPLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND (Percentage of normal)						
New England	146.1	149.4	126.8	143.5	114.6	122.4
Middle Atlantic	150.3	161.2	128.7	139.1	109.8	119.4
East North Central	179.9	190.4	143.0	159.4	105.2	119.3
West North Central	202.9	208.1	198.1	205.9	126.7	140.5
South Atlantic	138.7	142.0	125.3	128.3	108.5	116.5
East South Central	156.6	156.0	132.7	132.8	120.8	123.8
West South Central	165.3	192.4	203.7	181.4	140.6	144.5
Mountain	176.8	209.2	197.2	182.5	128.6	138.6
Pacific	153.9	171.5	146.3	155.2	106.9	122.1
FARM EMPLOYMENT (persons per 100 farms) ^{1/}						
Family Labor						
New England	160	156	154	146	156	149
Middle Atlantic	170	165	172	176	177	173
East North Central	172	169	167	172	168	165
West North Central	175	175	171	176	170	170
South Atlantic	300	243	292	277	294	262
East South Central	362	337	358	342	364	283
West South Central	266	250	243	249	243	224
Mountain	199	178	186	173	164	160
Pacific	182	165	161	156	165	159

^{1/} On farms of crop reporters.

FARM WAGE RATES AND RELATED DATA, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

January 1, 1936, with Comparisons (Continued)

Geographic division	October 1, 1933	January 1, 1934	October 1, 1934	January 1, 1935	October 1, 1935	January 1, 1936
FARM EMPLOYMENT (continued)						
Hired Labor						
New England	135	92	140	78	113	77
Middle Atlantic	98	59	94	71	84	56
East North Central	58	37	60	42	66	40
West North Central	51	33	48	31	45	31
South Atlantic	166	96	169	128	177	107
East South Central	105	89	120	89	97	91
West South Central	119	51	73	54	84	51
Mountain	102	64	87	37	85	40
Pacific	346	188	209	107	334	152
Combined						
New England	295	248	294	224	269	226
Middle Atlantic	268	224	266	247	261	229
East North Central	230	206	227	214	234	205
West North Central	226	208	219	207	215	201
South Atlantic	466	339	461	405	471	369
East South Central	467	426	478	431	461	374
West South Central	385	301	316	303	327	275
Mountain	301	242	273	210	249	200
Pacific	528	353	370	263	499	311

FARM LABOR

The index of farm wage rates declined seasonally from 102 percent of the pre-war average on October 1, 1935, to 94 percent on January 1, 1936. The index on the first of this year was 8 points higher than on January 1, 1935, however, and was the highest January 1 figure recorded since 1932.

Wage rates dropped on farms in all sections of the country during the last quarter of 1935. The seasonal decline was greatest, both actually and relatively in the West North Central States where labor requirements on grain-producing farms ordinarily reach a very low level in mid-winter. Rates declined least in the East South Central States where relatively low wage rates are paid by farmers even in October, at the height of the cotton picking season. The average daily wage, without board, paid farm workers on January 1 varied by States from a low of 70 cents in South Carolina to a high of \$2.50 in Massachusetts and California. Wage rates, without board, averaged \$1.37 per day for the country as a whole.

A slight increase in the number of workers available for hire in rural areas during the last quarter of 1935 apparently was one of the factors responsible for the 8 point decline in wage rates. Crop correspondents reported a supply of labor 96.7 percent of normal on January 1, compared with 94.7 on October 1, and 104.1 on the first of January 1935. The sharp increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of industrial employment from 79 percent of

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

STATE	Wage Rates				Supply of and Demand for farm labor		
	Per Month		Per Day		Supply	Demand	Supply as
	with board	without board	with board	without board	as % of normal	as % of normal	% of demand
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars			
Maine	22.75	39.00	1.35	1.90	104	75	139
N. H.	26.00	47.75	1.50	2.25	99	81	122
Vt.	24.50	40.75	1.35	2.00	102	89	115
Mass.	25.75	54.75	1.70	2.50	101	82	123
R. I.	34.50	59.25	1.45	2.20	107	81	132
Conn.	27.00	46.50	1.50	2.40	95	86	110
N. Y.	22.00	37.00	1.35	1.90	96	80	120
N. J.	24.00	42.00	1.55	2.05	102	86	119
Pa.	21.50	35.50	1.30	1.80	94	79	119
Ohio	19.75	30.75	1.20	1.65	91	80	114
Ind.	21.25	31.00	1.15	1.50	99	81	122
Ill.	23.25	32.75	1.25	1.65	98	80	122
Mich.	18.50	29.50	1.20	1.65	94	78	121
Wis.	19.25	30.75	1.10	1.55	100	85	118
Minn.	16.00	28.75	1.05	1.65	100	76	132
Iowa	20.75	30.50	1.20	1.60	102	79	129
Mo.	18.00	26.00	.90	1.20	96	73	132
N. Dak.	13.50	27.00	.85	1.40	99	66	150
S. Dak.	16.00	27.75	1.00	1.50	95	61	156
Nebr.	20.00	30.75	1.20	1.60	108	67	161
Kans.	20.25	30.50	1.05	1.50	100	59	169
Del.	18.00	29.25	1.10	1.55	98	81	121
Md.	20.75	31.75	1.15	1.50	93	83	112
Va.	19.00	27.00	.90	1.20	93	83	112
W. Va.	19.25	29.50	.95	1.30	94	80	118
N. C.	15.75	23.75	.85	1.10	92	81	114
S. C.	11.00	16.00	.55	.70	88	72	122
Ga.	10.50	15.75	.60	.80	94	80	118
Fla.	14.00	23.00	.75	1.05	94	76	124
Ky.	16.75	24.00	.80	1.05	93	78	119
Tenn.	15.00	21.25	.70	.95	95	78	122
Ala.	11.75	17.50	.65	.85	91	72	126
Miss.	11.75	17.50	.65	.85	91	71	128
Ark.	13.25	20.00	.65	.90	92	67	137
La.	13.00	19.75	.65	.90	96	65	148
Okla.	17.50	26.75	.95	1.20	105	73	144
Tex.	18.25	26.75	.90	1.15	104	71	146
Mont.	27.50	41.50	1.35	1.95	104	70	149
Idaho	31.25	45.00	1.50	2.05	102	81	126
Wyo.	29.75	45.00	1.40	2.05	106	74	143
Colo.	24.00	37.50	1.25	1.80	100	71	141
N. Mex.	22.25	33.75	1.15	1.50	95	72	132
Ariz.	33.50	50.00	1.50	1.80	92	67	137
Utah	35.00	47.50	1.70	2.05	108	71	152
Nev.	28.00	44.00	1.35	2.45	90	64	141
Wash.	25.00	43.00	1.45	2.10	105	71	148
Oreg.	26.50	41.50	1.40	2.00	101	81	125
Calif.	37.00	60.00	1.65	2.50	100	86	116
U. S.	18.54	28.63	1.00	1.37	96.7	76.0	127.2

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of the 1923-25 average in January 1935, to .85 in November (latest data available) may partly account for the 7.4 point decline in the supply of farm labor from January 1, 1935, to January 1, 1936.

The supply of farm labor reported at 96.7 percent of normal on the first of this year, however, should not be taken to indicate a shortage of workers in rural areas. This index must be considered in conjunction with the index of demand for farm labor, which was reported at only 76.0 percent of normal on January 1, compared with 80.2 percent on October 1, 1935, and 66.8 percent a year earlier. In fact, the decline of 4.2 points in demand during the last quarter of 1935 may be considered as primarily responsible for the sharp seasonal decline in wage rates since October 1. The supply of farm labor expressed as a percentage of demand results in a ratio of 127.2 on January 1. This ratio indicates that a surplus of workers still exists in rural areas. The surplus, while 9.1 points higher than that of three months earlier, is 28.6 points below that of a year earlier.

The seasonal decline in the demand for agricultural workers on January 1 was reflected in a sharp drop in the number of persons employed on farms of crop reporters. Correspondents reported only 62 hired workers per 100 farms on January 1, compared with 96 three months earlier. Family workers employed on farms of crop reporters also showed a decline during the quarter from 214 persons per 100 farms on October 1, 1935, to 199 persons on January 1, 1936.

Coincident with the seasonal decline in labor requirements and wage rates, prices received by farmers registered a 1 point increase during the last quarter of 1935, reaching 110 percent of pre-war on December 15. This resulted in a sharp seasonal rise in the ratio of prices received to wages paid by farmers. This ratio, at 117 percent of pre-war on January 1, is quite favorable to farm employers. On October 1, the ratio stood at only 105. Compared with January 1, 1935, however, when the ratio was 124 percent, the present figure of 117 percent indicates that comparative wage rates have increased considerably in relation to prices of farm products during the past year.

CROP REPORTING BOARD.