Farm Labor

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FARM WAGE RATES UP
SMALLER FORCE MEETS SEPTEMBER WORK DEMANDS

Farmers across the Nation on October 1 were paying for hired farm work at wage rates averaging almost 4 percent higher than last year, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Wage rates without board or room averaged 99 cents per hour, and showed the usual large State differences, ranging from 57 cents per hour in South Carolina to a high of $1.42 per hour in Connecticut. The composite hourly wage rate reflecting cash payments for all specified hiring arrangements averaged 89.8 cents per hour--up about 4 percent from the average of 86.8 cents on October 1, 1962. The index of the composite average rate on October 1 was 681 percent of the 1910-14 base period. Much of the influence of the rate increases over this long period has been offset by reduced labor use. However, despite the increased use of machines and changed methods to improve work efficiency, costs of hired farm labor remain an important part of total farm production costs. The index of prices paid by farmers for production items reported for September 15 was 273 percent of the 1910-14 base, and the index of prices received by farmers on the same basis was 241.

The wage rates shown by States on pages 6 and 7 are cash rates paid on farms of reporters or in their home localities for the hiring arrangements specified and do not include the value of housing, food, or other items furnished as part of total wages.

Farm Worker Numbers at New September Low

A total of 8,190,000 persons were working on farms during the farm labor survey week of September 22-28. This was 2 percent less than a year earlier and the smallest number of record for the date. Farm operators and other unpaid family members totaled 5,526,000--3 percent less than last year's total for the date.

The number of hired farm workers in late September edged above last year's level and totaled 2,664,000 persons. More than half of these were employed in South Central and South Atlantic States. Increases in the number of hired workers over a year earlier were most significant in the South Atlantic and East South Central regions as shown by comparisons on page 4.

Generally favorable weather for field work in September pushed cotton harvest in the South. Fruit and vegetable harvests were at peak levels in

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important areas in Pacific Coast States and in the Northeast. Tobacco marketing preparations claimed many workers in Kentucky and North Carolina. And the Eastern peanut crop was being dug and picked. Corn harvest for grain was active in the coastal areas of South Atlantic States as all available pickers were kept in operation to get crops in ahead of those threatening hurricanes of 1963 named Edith and Flora by the Weather Bureau. Throughout the northern areas corn silage harvest was hurriedly completed to avert freeze loss. Much progress was made in seeding fall grains in the Great Plains, and in other important grain-producing areas.

Cotton Harvest Brings White Flood to Gins

In the land of cotton late September usually is picking time with large increases in seasonal or short-term farm labor. Last year machines harvested more of the crop than ever before, reducing, somewhat, the number of workers between the cotton rows. Even so, about 30 percent of the Nation's seasonal hired workers at mid-September last year were harvesting cotton. This year, despite further increases in the machine harvest, hand picking still was an important southern farm job. The work was moving fast. By the end of September a total of 4,774,000 bales had been ginned, according to the Bureau of the Census, or 2 percent more than last year at the same date. The Crop Reporting Board estimated cotton production at 14,847,000 bales from a record high average yield per acre as of October 1, an increase of 4 percent from the September estimate, reflecting favorable developments for the crop during the month.

At the end of September the harvest was 70 percent completed in Georgia and more than half finished in South Carolina and Alabama. Nearly a third of the large crops in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee, and 35 percent of the Texas crop had been picked. In many localities all ginning facilities were flooded with cotton. The New Mexico harvest started earlier than last year, but little had been harvested in Arizona and California by the end of September.

Few Dull Moments for Farm Family Workers

Many varying kinds of work are reported in the wide range of conditions affecting the Nation's farms. The Maine potato harvest moved into high gear during the third week of September. Grape harvest started in New York, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Harvest of soybeans was active throughout the Midwestern Soybelt and reached over two-thirds completion in Illinois, the State with largest acreage. Fall wheat drilling was two-thirds completed in the Texas High Plains, over half finished in Kansas, and approaching that mark in Oklahoma. Livestock movement from high summer ranges added interest to ranch affairs in Mountain States.

Farm Employment and Indexes, September 1963, with comparisons, United States

	Annual average 1957-61 1/	Annual average 1961	Annual average 1962	Sept. average 1957-61 1/	Sept. 23-29 1962	Sept. 22-28 1963
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)						
Total	7,284	6,919	6,700	9,118	8,332	8,190
Family labor	5,353	5,029	4,873	6,301	5,684	5,526
Hired labor	1,931	1,890	1,827	2,817	2,648	2,664
INDEXES 2/ (1910-14=100)						
Total	54	51	49	54	49	48
Family labor	53	49	48	52	47	46
Hired labor	57	56	54	56	53	53
(1957-59=100)						
Total	98	93	90	97	89	88
Family labor	98	91	88	97	87	85
Hired labor	98	96	93	98	92	96

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.
2/ Monthly indexes are revised indexes adjusted for seasonal variation.

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, October 1, 1963, United States

	Annual average 1962	October average 1957-61	Oct. 1, 1962	Oct. 1, 1963
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	$ 0.856	$ 0.804	$ 0.868	$ 0.898
Per month with house	200	180	198	204
Per month with board and room	155	142	155	159
Per week with board and room	37.00	34.75	37.25	38.25
Per week without board or room	47.75	42.50	46.00	47.75
Per day with house	5.60	5.20	5.70	5.80
Per day with board and room	6.70	6.10	6.50	6.80
Per day without board or room	6.90	6.70	7.20	7.50
Per hour with house	.92	.98	1.04	1.07
Per hour without board or room	1.01	.89	.95	.99
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	658	619	658	681
(1957-59=100)	112	106 2	113	117

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Workers on Farms, September 1963

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	September Average 1957-61 1/			September 1962 Week of 23-29			September 1963 Week of 22-28		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	66	26	40	52	22	35	61	21	40
N.H.	17	12	5	14	8	6	13	8	5
Vt.	31	21	10	27	21	6	25	19	6
Mass.	45	25	20	42	23	19	35	20	15
R.I.	7	3	4	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	30	18	12	27	16	11	22	14	8
N.Eng.	196	105	91	171	93	78	159	84	75
N.Y.	212	128	84	191	117	74	176	109	67
N.J.	60	30	30	48	26	22	48	25	23
Pa.	231	177	54	193	152	41	188	149	39
M.Atl.	503	335	168	432	295	137	412	283	129
Ohio	267	206	61	241	187	54	230	175	55
Ind.	238	190	48	204	163	41	206	166	40
Ill.	271	214	57	257	203	54	258	203	55
Mich.	239	186	53	211	162	49	218	167	51
Wis.	310	261	49	281	237	44	272	229	43
E.N.Cent.	1325	1057	268	1194	952	242	1184	940	244
Minn.	296	247	49	278	229	49	265	225	40
Iowa	319	274	45	310	260	50	308	259	49
Mo.	378	296	82	343	267	76	345	274	71
N.Dak.	118	89	29	119	84	35	101	77	24
S.Dak.	111	94	17	101	85	16	92	79	13
Nebr.	171	144	27	167	139	28	150	123	27
Kans.	187	158	29	166	141	25	171	145	26
W.N.Cent.	1580	1302	278	1484	1205	279	1432	1182	250
Del.	17	8	9	15	8	7	13	7	6
Md.	66	43	23	63	42	21	60	43	17
Va.	230	156	74	192	136	56	216	144	72
W.Va.	86	73	13	74	65	9	71	59	12
N.C.	566	454	112	493	398	95	555	409	146
S.C.	261	193	68	263	189	74	222	147	75
Ga.	290	208	82	230	164	66	252	168	84
Fla.	115	59	56	104	50	54	117	59	58
S.Atl.	1631	1194	437	1434	1052	382	1506	1036	470
Ky.	296	226	70	266	204	62	316	222	94
Tenn.	352	250	102	334	242	92	346	241	105
Ala.	262	190	72	234	157	77	224	162	62
Miss.	471	309	162	405	240	165	350	201	149
E.S.Cent.	1381	975	406	1239	843	396	1236	826	410
Ark.	328	176	152	297	146	151	287	143	144
La.	264	144	120	248	137	111	245	129	116
Okla.	196	143	53	175	126	49	170	127	43
Tex.	562	298	264	565	275	290	512	254	258
W.S.Cent.	1350	761	589	1285	684	601	1214	653	561
Mont.	61	45	16	62	45	17	56	41	15
Idaho	85	57	28	84	58	26	83	56	27
Wyo.	24	17	7	21	15	6	22	15	7
Colo.	94	59	35	86	56	30	80	49	31
N.Mex.	60	30	30	44	25	19	42	22	20
Ariz.	58	12	46	40	11	29	39	9	30
Utah	50	33	17	48	32	16	43	29	14
Nev.	7	4	3	7	4	3	7	4	3
Mount.	439	257	182	392	246	146	372	225	147
Wash.	127	81	46	115	77	38	111	74	37
Oreg.	101	67	34	103	66	37	92	61	31
Calif.	485	167	318	483	171	312	472	162	310
Pac.	713	315	398	701	314	387	675	297	378
U.S.	9118	6301	2817	8332	5684	2648	8190	5526	2664

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Workers on farms: Comparative estimates, annual average 1962, July and August 1963 1/

(Thousands of persons)

Region and State	Annual Average 1962			July 1963 Week of 21-27			August 1963 Week of 18-24		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
Maine	31	19	12	38	22	16	36	20	16
N. H.	10	7	3	13	9	4	13	9	4
Vt.	24	19	5	28	21	7	23	18	5
Mass.	32	20	12	40	20	20	40	20	20
R. I.	4	3	1	4	3	1	3	2	1
Conn.	25	16	9	36	18	18	31	16	15
N.Eng.	126	84	42	159	93	66	146	85	61
N. Y.	153	101	52	171	107	64	178	104	74
N. J.	41	23	18	60	25	35	57	24	33
Pa.	171	141	30	194	156	38	196	154	42
M.Atl.	365	265	100	425	288	137	431	282	149
Ohio	226	192	34	248	200	48	235	180	55
Ind.	206	181	25	228	186	42	199	167	32
Ill.	241	191	50	275	206	69	231	183	48
Mich.	206	166	40	255	182	73	261	185	76
Wis.	266	238	28	298	263	35	301	260	41
E. N. Cent.	1145	968	177	1304	1037	267	1227	975	252
Minn.	261	221	40	362	272	90	305	242	63
Iowa	288	246	42	377	276	101	330	264	66
Mo.	266	227	39	284	233	51	294	239	55
N. Dak.	88	69	19	124	86	38	121	86	35
S. Dak.	88	77	11	105	83	22	102	81	21
Nebr.	153	130	23	193	147	46	163	129	34
Kans.	152	128	24	193	136	57	163	127	36
W. N. Cent.	1296	1098	198	1638	1233	405	1478	1168	310
Del.	12	7	5	15	7	8	15	8	7
Md.	56	38	18	70	45	25	67	43	24
Va.	177	127	50	218	118	100	196	122	74
W. Va.	64	53	11	65	53	12	65	54	11
N. C.	397	295	102	678	350	328	666	416	250
S. C.	178	117	61	242	137	105	225	137	88
Ga.	160	115	45	178	120	58	200	136	64
Fla.	122	44	78	91	40	51	94	41	53
S. Atl.	1166	796	370	1557	870	687	1528	957	571
Ky.	232	182	50	246	163	83	285	190	95
Tenn.	229	178	51	243	165	78	248	168	80
Ala.	138	103	35	109	84	25	113	84	29
Miss.	225	160	65	190	145	45	216	155	61
E. S. Cent.	824	623	201	788	557	231	862	597	265
Ark.	195	110	85	217	100	117	222	98	124
La.	144	87	57	141	70	71	179	83	96
Okla.	149	119	30	152	113	39	149	106	43
Tex.	415	243	172	554	287	267	449	242	207
W. S. Cent.	903	559	344	1064	570	494	999	529	470
Mont.	48	36	12	65	37	28	57	38	19
Idaho	67	48	19	95	55	40	87	54	33
Wyo.	19	13	6	26	15	11	23	15	8
Colo.	67	48	19	75	49	26	74	49	25
N. Mex.	36	21	15	41	21	20	37	21	16
Ariz.	40	10	30	34	9	25	33	9	24
Utah	33	24	9	40	25	15	38	26	12
Nev.	5	3	2	6	4	2	6	4	2
Mount.	315	203	112	382	215	167	355	216	139
Wash.	111	74	37	155	89	66	135	79	56
Oreg.	97	67	30	130	74	56	116	63	53
Calif.	352	136	216	363	135	228	364	139	225
Pac.	560	277	283	648	298	350	615	281	334
U. S.	6700	4873	1827	7965	5161	2804	7641	5090	2551

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Farm Wage Rates October 1, 1962 1/

State and region	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour		Composite rate per hour	Indexes of composite rates 1910-14=100 2/
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Maine	205	155	40.00	55.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.17	1.05	613
N.H.	225	168	45.00	62.00	-	-	10.20	-	1.21	1.10	727
Vt.	208	162	40.00	56.00	-	-	9.70	-	1.18	1.04	675
Mass.	248	168	48.00	67.00	-	-	10.80	-	1.32	1.19	779
R.I.	248	168	48.00	68.00	-	-	10.90	-	1.28	1.18	820
Conn.	248	170	48.00	68.00	-	-	11.00	-	1.36	1.22	831
N.Eng.	221	161	43.00	59.75	-	-	10.40	-	1.23	1.10	714
N.Y.	218	153	41.00	56.75	-	-	9.40	-	1.18	.950	590
N.J.	225	165	46.00	57.50	-	-	10.10	-	1.19	.980	700
Pa.	198	137	37.50	49.25	-	-	8.60	-	1.10	.871	688
M.Atl.	212	149	40.50	54.50	-	-	9.20	-	1.16	.928	643
Ohio	175	130	-	-	-	6.90	8.60	-	1.10	.881	612
Ind.	184	137	-	-	-	6.70	8.30	-	1.10	.887	640
Ill.	209	161	-	-	-	7.90	9.90	-	1.16	.968	670
Mich.	218	151	-	-	-	7.20	9.10	-	1.11	.924	621
Wis.	209	151	-	-	-	7.10	9.10	-	1.13	.933	592
E.N.Cent.	199	146	-	-	-	7.20	9.00	-	1.12	.919	626
Minn.	200	156	-	-	-	8.00	10.10	-	1.15	.909	575
Iowa	212	166	-	-	-	8.60	10.50	-	1.20	.954	588
Mo.	162	121	-	-	-	6.40	8.20	-	1.05	.780	703
N.Dak.	204	175	-	-	-	8.10	10.10	-	1.12	.918	513
S.Dak.	199	159	-	-	-	7.60	9.10	-	1.09	.870	527
Nebr.	224	174	-	-	-	8.40	10.50	-	1.19	.962	647
Kans.	214	167	-	-	-	8.10	10.10	-	1.18	.939	751
W.N.Cent.	196	154	-	-	-	7.70	9.60	-	1.13	.889	619
Del.	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	1.06	.992	910
Md.	181	130	35.00	45.00	-	-	8.40	-	1.06	.938	947
Va.	-	-	-	-	5.55	-	6.80	-	.86	.745	796
W.Va.	-	-	-	-	5.20	-	6.00	-	.80	.686	533
N.C.	-	-	-	-	5.30	-	6.20	-	.76	.672	764
S.C.	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	4.50	-	.54	.482	651
Ga.	-	-	-	-	4.45	-	5.10	-	.68	.580	640
Fla.	-	-	-	-	6.10	-	6.50	-	.81	.718	733
S.Atl.	-	-	-	-	5.10	-	6.00	-	.75	.657	731
Ky.	-	-	-	-	4.65	-	6.10	-	.86	.789	605
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	4.25	-	5.10	-	.68	.637	564
Ala.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	4.85	-	.63	.597	586
Miss.	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	4.60	-	.59	.562	549
E.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	4.30	-	5.00	-	.66	.621	566
Ark.	-	-	-	-	5.80	-	6.50	-	.78	.759	645
La.	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	5.50	-	.71	.681	664
Okla.	-	-	-	-	7.70	-	8.60	-	1.02	.996	704
Tex.	-	-	-	-	6.60	-	7.30	-	.84	.826	638
W.S.Cent.	-	-	-	-	6.20	-	6.90	-	.82	.800	656
Mont.	233	188	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	1.20	1.02	506
Idaho	272	212	-	-	-	-	10.90	-	1.28	1.12	626
Wyo	236	173	-	-	-	-	9.50	-	1.13	.976	492
Colo.	238	170	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	1.16	1.00	648
N.Mex.	198	138	-	-	-	-	7.70	-	.90	.786	646
Ariz.	281	185	-	-	-	-	8.90	-	1.01	.941	640
Utah	252	219	-	-	-	-	10.40	-	1.30	1.12	689
Nev.	270	190	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.25	1.06	546
Mount.	252	184	-	-	-	-	9.60	-	1.13	.994	605
Wash.	282	215	-	-	-	-	-	1.29	1.34	1.31	639
Oreg.	260	193	-	-	-	-	-	1.19	1.27	1.24	609
Calif.	320	240	-	-	-	-	-	1.22	1.30	1.28	598
Pac.	311	233	-	-	-	-	-	1.22	1.30	1.28	606
U.S.	198	155	37.25	46.00	5.70	6.50	7.20	1.04	.95	.868	658

1/ Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above. U.S. averages and State composite rates include estimates for unpublished State rates of small importance. 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Farm Wage Rates, October 1, 1963 1/

State and Region	Per month		Per week		Per day			Per hour		Composite rate per hour	Indexes of composite rates 1910-14=100 2/
	With house	With board and room	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	With board and room	Without board or room	With house	Without board or room		
Maine	212	155	40.00	57.00	—	—	10.50	—	1.20	1.074	628
N.H.	235	169	46.00	63.00	—	—	10.40	—	1.26	1.137	748
Vt.	207	160	42.00	57.00	—	—	9.70	—	1.19	1.057	681
Mass.	255	170	49.00	68.00	—	—	11.00	—	1.32	1.203	786
R.I.	250	171	49.00	68.00	—	—	11.30	—	1.40	1.243	863
Conn.	250	173	49.00	68.00	—	—	11.50	—	1.42	1.255	857
N.Eng.	229	163	44.25	61.75	—	—	10.70	—	1.27	1.136	735
N.Y.	222	160	41.25	57.25	—	—	9.60	—	1.19	.963	598
N.J.	240	180	44.50	62.00	—	—	10.20	—	1.23	1.019	728
Pa.	204	147	38.50	51.00	—	—	8.70	—	1.11	.889	703
M.Atl.	219	159	41.00	56.25	—	—	9.40	—	1.17	.950	657
Ohio	188	134	—	—	—	6.80	8.70	—	1.11	.895	622
Ind.	189	144	—	—	—	7.50	9.10	—	1.15	.932	673
Ill.	216	162	—	—	—	8.00	10.00	—	1.17	.978	677
Mich.	231	161	—	—	—	7.40	9.40	—	1.12	.945	636
Wis.	214	154	—	—	—	7.50	9.40	—	1.16	.958	607
E.N.Cent.	208	151	—	—	—	7.40	9.30	—	1.14	.941	641
Minn.	203	161	—	—	—	8.60	10.40	—	1.18	.935	592
Iowa	221	177	—	—	—	8.80	10.80	—	1.23	.987	608
Mo.	177	128	—	—	—	6.60	8.30	—	1.09	.812	732
N.Dak.	211	176	—	—	—	8.10	9.80	—	1.12	.918	513
S.Dak.	203	159	—	—	—	7.70	9.70	—	1.10	.885	536
Nebr.	234	178	—	—	—	8.50	10.70	—	1.20	.978	659
Kans.	221	170	—	—	—	8.30	10.30	—	1.20	.957	766
W.N.Cent.	205	159	—	—	—	7.90	9.80	—	1.16	.912	635
Del.	183	—	—	47.00	—	—	8.80	—	1.04	.947	869
Md.	194	135	37.00	50.00	—	—	8.80	—	1.07	.971	981
Va.	—	—	—	—	5.70	—	6.90	—	.87	.756	808
W.Va.	112	82	—	—	5.40	4.75	6.30	—	.84	.714	556
N.C.	—	—	—	—	5.50	—	6.50	—	.79	.700	797
S.C.	—	—	—	—	4.05	—	4.70	—	.57	.507	685
Ga.	—	—	—	—	4.60	—	5.20	—	.74	.613	677
Fla.	—	—	—	—	5.70	—	6.40	—	.82	.713	728
S.Atl.	—	—	—	—	5.30	—	6.20	—	.78	.680	756
Ky.	—	—	—	—	5.20	—	6.90	—	.96	.883	677
Tenn.	—	—	—	—	4.55	—	5.50	—	.74	.691	612
Ala.	—	—	—	—	4.40	—	5.00	—	.66	.623	612
Miss.	—	—	—	—	4.45	—	4.70	—	.59	.568	555
E.S.Cent.	—	—	—	—	4.60	—	5.30	—	.70	.657	599
Ark.	—	—	—	—	6.20	—	6.80	—	.84	.813	691
La.	—	—	—	—	5.20	—	5.80	—	.74	.711	693
Okla.	—	—	—	—	7.70	—	8.90	—	1.07	1.041	736
Tex.	170	129	—	—	6.70	—	7.50	—	.88	.864	667
W.S.Cent.	—	—	—	—	6.40	—	7.10	—	.86	.837	686
Mont.	245	193	—	—	—	—	10.20	—	1.24	1.061	524
Idaho	272	214	—	—	—	—	11.60	—	1.31	1.154	643
Wyo.	240	173	—	—	—	—	9.50	—	1.18	1.000	505
Colo.	242	170	—	—	—	—	10.20	—	1.19	1.020	661
N.Mex.	209	148	—	—	—	—	8.50	—	.90	.818	672
Ariz.	270	175	—	—	—	—	9.70	—	1.01	.947	644
Utah	255	215	—	—	—	—	10.20	—	1.32	1.118	691
Nev.	270	180	—	—	—	—	10.10	—	1.30	1.089	560
Mount.	251	184	—	—	—	—	10.10	—	1.16	1.020	621
Wash.	293	220	—	—	—	—	—	1.32	1.37	1.340	653
Oreg.	265	189	—	—	—	—	—	1.25	1.32	1.283	632
Calif.	322	240	—	—	—	—	—	1.25	1.33	1.308	611
Pac.	314	233	—	—	—	—	—	1.26	1.33	1.308	620
U.S.	204	159	38.25	47.75	5.80	6.80	7.50	1.07	.99	.898	681

1/ Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above. U.S. averages and State composite rates include estimates for unpublished State rates of small importance.

2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

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IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Comments	1 - 2
Farm Employment and Indexes, September 1963, with comparisons, United States	3
Farm Wage Rates and Indexes October 1, 1963, United States	3
Workers on Farms, September 1963	4
Workers on farms: Comparative estimates, annual average 1962, July and August 1963	5
Farm Wage Rates by Regions and States, October 1, 1962	6
Farm Wage Rates by Regions and States, October 1, 1963	7