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Farm Labor

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C. BAE January 10, 1950

FARM WAGE RATES DOWN FROM LAST YEAR - EMPLOYMENT STEADY

Farmers were paying workers an average of 58.7 cents per hour in cash wages on January 1, a decrease of 1.4 cents from a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The number of hired workers on farms in the week of December 18-24 was slightly less than last year. A small increase in family employment, however, kept total farm employment at 7,150,000, about the same as a year earlier.

The index of farm wage rates (seasonally adjusted) was 429 on January 1. This was between 2 and 3 percent less than a year earlier. The index, however, was up nearly 4 percent from October and at about the same point as on April 1 and July 1 of last year. The index for October 1 was down because of the somewhat less than usual seasonal increase in wage rates.

Individual rates paid to hired farm workers were consistently lower on January 1, 1950, than a year ago. They were also lower than 3 months earlier except for hourly rates without board or room. On October 1, hourly rates without board or room are heavily weighted by the South where wage rates are generally the lowest, while in January the Pacific region, where wages are highest, has a heavy weight.

Average hourly cash wages paid to hired farm workers were 1.6 cents higher on January 1 than on October 1. The hourly average composite is an approximation of average hourly cash earnings of hired farm workers. Each wage rate is converted to an hourly equivalent cash rate on the basis of average hours worked by persons employed at that rate and weighted by the number of workers receiving it. Since workers employed at monthly and weekly rates usually put in fewer hours work per month or week in January than in October, their hourly equivalent pay is higher. This raises the hourly composite even though wage rates decline.

Average hourly cash earnings on January 1 ranged from 90 cents in the Pacific Region to 41 cents in the East South Central States. Hourly earnings were also under 50 cents in the South Atlantic States. In the Mountain, New England and West North Central States earnings were more than 60 cents per hour.

Average total farm employment for the 12 month period, January through December, was down 3 percent from the 1948 level. The West Central States area, off 4 percent, had the greatest decrease. In contrast total employment in New England remained practically unchanged. Family and hired employment for the entire country each showed about the same percentage drop. The New England, Middle Atlantic, East North Central and Mountain regions had small increases in the average number of hired workers. But the West South Central area showed a decline of 8 percent in the average number of hired workers.

Total farm employment during the week of December 18-24 was below a year ago in 6 regions and above in 3. The Mountain and Pacific States, each with an increase of 3 percent, had the greatest change. The pattern for family workers showed 5 regions with increases in number and 4 with decreases. More hired workers than a year ago were employed in the New England, the Mountain and the Pacific States. The largest increase in the number of hired workers was in the Pacific region with the South Atlantic region showing the greatest drop.

Total farm employment was down seasonally from November by a little more than a fifth. Every region showed a reduction in employment. The East South Central States had the greatest drop at 38 percent which was a little more than average.

The number of family workers was down in all regions and the decline followed about the usual seasonal pattern with the Pacific States showing the greatest departure from the average decline.

Sharp declines in the number of hired workers from the November levels occurred in every region but the Middle Atlantic States. In this area the number of hired workers dropped only 7 percent from November. In sharp contrast there was a reduction of 67 percent in the number of hired farm workers in the West South Central States and nearly as large a decline in the East South Central area. For the United States, the reduction amounted to 41 percent which was slightly more than the five-year average.

Farm work during the week of December 18-24 was at a low point in most sections of the country. This is normally a slack season and the occurrence of frequent snows and rains in the mountainous, northern, and central areas, and rains in most southern sections hindered farm work. Cold weather accompanied by heavy winds in the western two-thirds of the country restricted activity and was unfavorable for livestock. East of the Mississippi River rain fell often. The damage to fruits and vegetables from the freezing temperatures in southern California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida was apparently not serious. The widespread rain was generally helpful.

Chores, feeding and care of livestock were the main activities in the Northern States and in many of the Southern ones. Farmers were also occupied with repairing fences, buildings, and farm machinery. Cotton picking was nearing completion in the Southwest. Many farm persons were engaged in cutting wood. Harvest was under way in the winter truck crop and citrus fruit sections. Tobacco was being stripped and graded in preparation for market.

Farm work in New England during the week of December 18-24 consisted largely of chores, hauling manure, and cutting wood and lumber. Many farmers were also busy grading, packing and delivering potatoes and other stored crops. On many places stock water had to be hauled from outside sources. Mild December weather permitted more outdoor work than usual.

Weather conditions in the Middle Atlantic States were favorable for outdoor work. Orchard and vineyard operators were pruning their trees and vines. Dairy men in Northern New Jersey were hauling water for their stock. Chores and livestock care were in general the principal activity. There was still some fall plowing being done and many farmers were cutting wood. Repairing buildings, fences and machinery were common activities. Farmers in southern Pennsylvania were stripping tobacco and delivering it to warehouses.

Chores and odd jobs about the farm were the principal activities in the East North Central States. Farmers were feeding and tending livestock. Others were plowing, and repairing their buildings, fences and machinery. In southern Ohio, some were stripping tobacco. Excessive precipitation in Illinois stopped any field work. Farmers completed husking their corn in parts of Michigan. Heavy rains interfered with outdoor activities during part of the week.

Farm work in much of the West North Central States area was very limited the last of December. It was confined in many cases to chores. Livestock especially hogs, were being moved to market. Commercial cattle and sheep feeders were busy getting their stock in shape to market. In the wooded areas some farmers were cutting wood. Potatoes were being sorted, graded, and shipped in the Red River Valley area of Minnesota and North Dakota. Repairing machinery and fences were common jobs on farms.

Repairing fences, buildings and farm machinery, and cutting wood were important activities through much of the South Atlantic States during the week of December 18-24. Chores and feeding and care of livestock also accounted for much of the farm work. Farmers in the Carolinas and Georgia were preparing and planting tobacco beds. Many farmers in these States took advantage of the favorable weather to plow and disk land. The citrus harvest was active in Florida with the canneries taking large quantities of fruit.

In the East South Central States, farm work was at a seasonal low. Activities on many places consisted of chores, wood cutting, feeding livestock, and repairing buildings, machinery and fences. Farmers in parts of Kentucky and Tennessee were stripping and grading tobacco in preparation for market. Field work in Alabama was limited due to wet fields. Farmers in the southern Coastal counties were breaking land in preparation for planting Irish potatoes. Strawberries and winter truck crops were making good recovery from frost damage in the southern part of the region.

The cotton harvest was complete in the West South Central States except in the western areas of Texas and Oklahoma. There it was nearing completion. The peanut harvest was almost over and ground was being prepared for spring sown crops. Harvest of the citrus crop and winter vegetables was active in southern Texas. In Louisiana the sugar cane harvest made good progress and was about over.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Employment

Farm employment estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics cover persons doing farm work on all farms. Mailed questionnaires are received every month from 15,000 to 20,000 farmers who report the number of persons working on their farms. Interview surveys of farmers are used less frequently to provide bench mark data on employment. The survey week for the mailed questionnaire each month is the last complete calendar week in the month except when that week includes the last day of the month; in that case the survey week is the next to the last full calendar week.

Employment concepts

All farm operators are counted as employed if they spend one hour or more during the survey week at farm work, chores, or in the transaction of farm business. Members of the operator's family or household doing unpaid farm work, or chores, are counted if they put in 15 hours or more during the survey week. Operators plus unpaid members of their families or households who meet these criteria of employment are called family workers. All persons doing one or more hours of farm work or chores for pay during the survey week are counted as hired workers. Members of the operator's family doing farm work for cash wages are counted as hired workers. Croppers are considered family workers when working on their own crops, but hired workers when doing farm work for pay off their own tracts. If a person is employed both as a family worker and a hired worker during the week on the same farm he is counted as a hired worker.

Comparability with other data

The data on farm employment published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics differ from those on agricultural employment published by the Bureau of the Census in the Monthly Report on the Labor Force. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics collects information from the employer (the farmer) who reports the number of persons working on his farm during the week, regardless of the other jobs held by those workers. The Census data, on the other hand, are obtained through interviews with approximately 25,000 farm and nonfarm households with the housewife or some other member of the household reporting on the labor force status of the household members. They relate only to persons 14 years of age and over who are in the civilian population and not in institutions.

The difference between the BAE and the Census data is attributable mainly to the different treatment of three groups of workers. Children under 14 years of age who meet the criteria of employment are included in the BAE estimates, but not in the Census Bureau's. It is estimated that this number may reach a summer peak as high as two million. Persons working on more than one farm during the survey week are counted only once by the Census Bureau, but they are counted by the BAE on each farm where they work and meet the minimum hour requirements. This group is also more numerous during the harvest season when the demand for farm labor is greatest. The additional count of workers attributable to this duplication is estimated at a minimum of a quarter of a million and may be considerably larger. The third group is composed of persons who work in both agricultural and nonagricultural employment, but work longer at the nonagricultural job; they are classified by Census as working in nonagricultural employment, but by the BAE as working on a farm. This last group may range from one-half million to a million in different seasons of the year.

Other groups counted by the BAE but not by the Census Bureau are imported foreign workers and some migratory workers not living in private households. On the other hand, the Census Bureau includes in its estimates of agricultural employment certain classes of workers which the BAE does not include. Persons with "nonfarm" occupations who are working on farms, such as bookkeepers and typists, some persons in certain agricultural processing activities, and farm operators with no other job who did no farm work are considered as employed in agriculture by the Census Bureau, but are not included by the BAE in its estimates of agricultural employment.

Because the volume of agricultural employment is affected by changes both in season and in weather, the difference in the week of the month for which the data are collected may also make some difference. The BAE data relate to the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month while the Census Bureau information relates to the week containing the 8th of the month.

The BAE estimates farm employment from current reports made by a selected group of farmers adjusted to enumerative survey bench mark data. The Bureau of the Census bases its figures on a sample of dwelling units. Accordingly, the figures in both cases are subject to a sampling variation and may differ from the results of a complete census.

Wage rates

Wage rates are reported quarterly by the same sample of farm operators that reports employment. The farmer is asked to report average wage rates being paid "at this time" in his locality. The "at this time" on the average probably represents the second or third day before the end of the month.

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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of December 18-24, 1949, United States, with comparisons

	December average 1944-48 1/	December 19-25, 1948	November 20-26, 1949	December 18-24, 1949
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons):				
Total	7,397	7,155	9,003	7,150
Family labor	6,412	6,176	7,398	6,197
Hired labor	985	979	1,605	953
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1910-14 = 100)				
Total	83	80	82	80
Family labor	84	81	83	81
Hired labor	77	76	80	74

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

Farm wage rates: Wage rates, indexes and related data, January 1, 1950, with comparisons, revised 1/

	October 1, 1948	January 1, 1949	October 1, 1949	January 1, 1950
FARM WAGE RATES				
Per month, with board and room	$104.00	$102.00	$99.00	$96.00
Per month, with house	124.00	122.00	120.00	118.00
Per week, with board and room	25.00	24.00	23.75	22.25
Per week, without board or room	30.25	29.75	30.75	29.25
Per day, with board and room	4.55	4.50	4.35	4.15
Per day, with house	3.80	3.65	3.60	3.50
Per day, without board or room	4.95	4.65	4.75	4.30
Per hour, with house	.76	.57	.73	.56
Per hour, without board or room	.69	.77	.64	.75
Composite rate per hour 2/	.610	.601	.571	.587
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14=100):				
Adjusted for seasonal variation	448	440	414	429
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14=100)				
Prices received by farmers 3/	284	268	246	236*
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	63	61	59	55

1/ Wage rates on the average refer to a date two or three days before the first of the month.
2/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.
3/ Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.
* December 15, 1949.

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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of December 18-24, 1949, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	December average 1944-48 1/	November 21-27, 1948	December 19-25, 1948	November 20-26, 1949	December 18-24, 1949
	Thousands			Thousands	
			TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT		
United States	7,397	9,047	7,155	9,003	7,150
New England	178	203	172	196	171
Middle Atlantic	495	536	488	527	482
East North Central	1,254	1,464	1,213	1,427	1,206
West North Central	1,450	1,563	1,406	1,530	1,393
South Atlantic	1,275	1,642	1,256	1,637	1,248
East South Central	1,071	1,615	986	1,619	1,009
West South Central	986	1,237	972	1,266	958
Mountain	276	301	264	318	272
Pacific	412	486	398	483	411
			FAMILY WORKERS 2/		
United States	6,412	7,457	6,176	7,398	6,197
New England	142	157	136	151	134
Middle Atlantic	406	432	395	430	392
East North Central	1,125	1,262	1,088	1,234	1,090
West North Central	1,339	1,406	1,301	1,366	1,291
South Atlantic	1,063	1,370	1,028	1,365	1,041
East South Central	956	1,343	879	1,356	902
West South Central	886	977	873	980	865
Mountain	216	218	207	227	211
Pacific	279	292	269	289	271
			HIRED WORKERS 3/		
United States	985	1,590	979	1,605	953
New England	36	46	36	45	37
Middle Atlantic	89	104	93	97	90
East North Central	129	202	125	193	116
West North Central	111	157	105	164	102
South Atlantic	212	272	228	272	207
East South Central	115	272	107	263	107
West South Central	100	260	99	286	93
Mountain	60	83	57	91	61
Pacific	133	194	129	194	140

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

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.

3/ Includes all persons doing one or more hours of farm work during the survey week for pay.

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Farm employment: Average number of persons employed per month, January through December 1949, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons 1/

Geographic division	1944-48	1946	1947	1948	1949
	Thousands			Thousands	
	TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT				
United States	10,671	10,703	10,761	10,671	10,377
New England	227	228	229	226	225
Middle Atlantic	602	603	603	593	587
East North Central	1,589	1,599	1,597	1,593	1,543
West North Central	1,696	1,696	1,732	1,704	1,634
South Atlantic	2,105	2,098	2,139	2,116	2,069
East South Central	1,923	1,947	1,906	1,888	1,855
West South Central	1,592	1,603	1,603	1,605	1,538
Mountain	375	370	381	376	373
Pacific	562	559	571	570	553
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/				
United States	8,449	8,530	8,515	8,354	8,109
New England	170	172	171	170	166
Middle Atlantic	473	472	470	461	451
East North Central	1,340	1,352	1,350	1,335	1,282
West North Central	1,446	1,450	1,473	1,448	1,392
South Atlantic	1,656	1,665	1,681	1,637	1,599
East South Central	1,592	1,624	1,587	1,551	1,520
West South Central	1,197	1,223	1,203	1,183	1,148
Mountain	266	265	270	261	255
Pacific	309	307	310	308	296
	HIRED WORKERS				
United States	2,222	2,173	2,246	2,317	2,268
New England	57	56	58	56	59
Middle Atlantic	129	131	133	132	136
East North Central	249	247	247	258	261
West North Central	250	246	259	256	242
South Atlantic	449	433	458	479	470
East South Central	331	323	319	337	335
West South Central	395	380	400	422	390
Mountain	109	105	111	115	118
Pacific	253	252	261	262	257

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

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions, January 1, 1950, with comparisons

Geographic divisions	October 1, 1948	January 1, 1949	October 1, 1949	January 1, 1950
	Dollars		Dollars	
PER MONTH WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	110.00	110.00	98.00	95.00
Middle Atlantic	101.00	100.00	95.00	89.00
East North Central	98.00	97.00	94.00	89.00
West North Central	107.00	98.00	101.00	93.00
Mountain	129.00	121.00	121.00	116.00
Pacific	151.00	149.00	148.00	143.00
PER MONTH WITH HOUSE				
New England	138.00	141.00	128.00	126.00
Middle Atlantic	131.00	131.00	126.00	124.00
East North Central	124.00	123.00	117.00	117.00
West North Central	130.00	122.00	122.00	117.00
Mountain	164.00	158.00	153.00	150.00
Pacific	192.00	192.00	192.00	190.00
PER WEEK WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
New England	29.50	28.50	26.25	25.00
Middle Atlantic	27.00	26.00	25.25	23.50
PER WEEK WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	39.25	39.25	37.25	36.00
Middle Atlantic	37.25	35.75	34.50	32.50
PER DAY WITH BOARD AND ROOM				
East North Central	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.55
West North Central	5.90	5.10	5.20	4.85
PER DAY WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	3.45	3.50	3.35	3.35
East South Central	3.05	3.00	2.85	2.70
West South Central	4.20	3.90	4.30	3.90
PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	6.80	6.70	6.30	6.10
Middle Atlantic	6.40	6.20	6.10	5.90
East North Central	6.20	6.00	5.90	5.70
West North Central	7.30	6.40	6.50	6.10
South Atlantic	3.95	4.25	4.00	3.95
East South Central	3.55	3.65	3.40	3.30
West South Central	4.75	4.50	4.85	4.30
Mountain	7.10	6.30	6.50	5.80
PER HOUR WITH HOUSE				
South Atlantic	-	.47	-	.45
East South Central	-	.39	-	.38
West South Central	-	.50	-	.47
Pacific	.94	.87	.86	.85
PER HOUR WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM				
New England	.95	.89	.84	.84
Middle Atlantic	.86	.80	.80	.77
East North Central	.86	.83	.80	.79
West North Central	.91	.85	.84	.83
South Atlantic	.53	.54	.49	.51
East South Central	.50	.49	.43	.46
West South Central	.58	.57	.58	.53
Mountain	.86	.80	.81	.76
Pacific	1.01	.95	.92	.92

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, January 1, 1949 and January 1, 1950 1/

State and region	Per Month				Per Week			
	With board and room		With house		With board and room		Without board or room	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Maine	102.00	86.00	112.00	100.00	26.50	23.00	37.00	33.00
New Hampshire	108.00	96.00	141.00	129.00	28.00	25.50	38.00	37.50
Vermont	112.00	95.00	139.00	123.00	27.50	25.00	38.25	34.00
Massachusetts	116.00	97.00	151.00	136.00	30.00	25.50	41.50	38.00
Rhode Island	114.00	98.00	149.00	138.00	29.50	25.00	40.00	38.00
Connecticut	120.00	102.00	156.00	138.00	31.00	26.00	40.00	38.50
NEW ENGLAND	110.00	95.00	141.00	126.00	28.50	25.00	39.25	36.00
New York	105.00	95.00	139.00	131.00	27.75	26.00	38.00	34.75
New Jersey	111.00	101.00	148.00	145.00	29.50	26.00	38.00	36.00
Pennsylvania	90.00	80.00	117.00	112.00	23.25	20.75	32.50	29.75
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	100.00	89.00	131.00	124.00	26.00	23.50	35.75	32.50
Ohio	88.00	78.00	112.00	104.00	-	-	-	-
Indiana	90.00	86.00	110.00	106.00	-	-	-	-
Illinois	104.00	103.00	128.00	127.00	-	-	-	-
Michigan	98.00	84.00	128.00	118.00	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	102.00	93.00	136.00	126.00	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	97.00	89.00	123.00	117.00	-	-	-	-
Minnesota	97.00	84.00	121.00	113.00	-	-	-	-
Iowa	114.00	106.00	133.00	125.00	-	-	-	-
Missouri	76.00	75.00	98.00	97.00	-	-	-	-
North Dakota	98.00	82.00	126.00	118.00	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	111.00	106.00	140.00	126.00	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	106.00	104.00	133.00	132.00	-	-	-	-
Kansas	100.00	97.00	127.00	125.00	-	-	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	98.00	93.00	122.00	117.00	-	-	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kentucky	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Louisiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montana	125.00	120.00	158.00	149.00	-	-	-	-
Idaho	140.00	127.00	171.00	159.00	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	120.00	122.00	155.00	165.00	-	-	-	-
Colorado	114.00	104.00	151.00	144.00	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	93.00	101.00	121.00	120.00	-	-	-	-
Arizona	130.00	125.00	174.00	167.00	-	-	-	-
Utah	135.00	132.00	165.00	160.00	-	-	-	-
Nevada	130.00	120.00	160.00	159.00	-	-	-	-
MOUNTAIN	121.00	116.00	158.00	150.00	-	-	-	-
Washington	145.00	137.00	185.00	171.00	-	-	-	-
Oregon	140.00	127.00	175.00	163.00	-	-	-	-
California	150.00	145.00	194.00	194.00	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC	149.00	143.00	192.00	190.00	-	-	-	-
UNITED STATES	102.00	96.00	122.00	118.00	24.00	22.25	29.75	29.25

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Farm wage rates: Wage rates by States and regions, January 1, 1949 and January 1, 1950 1/ --Cont'd.

State and region	Per Day						Per Hour				Hourly composite wage rate	
	With board and room		With house		Without board or room		With house		Without board or room			
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars		Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Maine	-	-	-	-	6.20	5.70	-	-	.85	.75	.638	.603
N. H.	-	-	-	-	6.80	6.30	-	-	.88	.85	.673	.686
Vt.	-	-	-	-	6.70	5.90	-	-	.90	.84	.676	.646
Mass.	-	-	-	-	7.00	6.30	-	-	.90	.87	.718	.697
R. I.	-	-	-	-	6.80	6.50	-	-	.90	.89	.701	.701
Conn.	-	-	-	-	6.60	6.60	-	-	.90	.90	.709	.712
New Eng.	-	-	-	-	6.70	6.10	-	-	.89	.84	.686	.666
N. Y.	-	-	-	-	6.50	6.20	-	-	.86	.83	.636	.618
N. J.	-	-	-	-	6.80	6.40	-	-	.85	.81	.653	.636
Pa.	-	-	-	-	5.70	5.60	-	-	.72	.70	.541	.526
M. Atl.	-	-	-	-	6.20	5.90	-	-	.80	.77	.599	.577
Ohio	4.70	4.20	-	-	5.60	5.30	-	-	.81	.77	.540	.504
Ind.	4.80	4.35	-	-	5.70	5.40	-	-	.82	.77	.547	.528
Ill.	5.10	4.95	-	-	6.20	6.10	-	-	.85	.86	.611	.617
Mich.	5.00	4.50	-	-	6.20	5.80	-	-	.86	.79	.596	.553
Wis.	4.95	4.60	-	-	6.30	5.80	-	-	.81	.77	.610	.573
E. N. Cent.	4.90	4.55	-	-	6.00	5.70	-	-	.83	.79	.579	.557
Minn.	5.30	4.90	-	-	6.60	6.10	-	-	.89	.87	.641	.604
Iowa	5.90	5.60	-	-	7.20	6.90	-	-	.94	.93	.707	.685
Mo.	3.85	3.85	-	-	4.85	4.70	-	-	.64	.63	.482	.481
N. Dak.	4.60	4.40	-	-	6.20	5.90	-	-	.86	.83	.626	.586
S. Dak.	5.60	4.95	-	-	7.30	6.60	-	-	.96	.91	.710	.670
Nebr.	5.50	5.20	-	-	7.00	6.70	-	-	.92	.90	.681	.673
Kans.	5.40	5.10	-	-	6.90	6.40	-	-	.92	.87	.664	.642
W. N. Cent.	5.10	4.85	-	-	6.40	6.10	-	-	.85	.83	.626	.610
Del.	-	-	4.60	4.00	5.50	5.00	.63	.58	.70	.65	.677	.620
Md.	-	-	4.70	4.30	5.60	5.30	.62	.58	.69	.65	.663	.645
Va.	-	-	3.70	3.45	4.70	4.40	.51	.47	.59	.55	.537	.512
W. Va.	-	-	3.45	3.35	4.25	4.15	.46	.46	.53	.52	.503	.488
N. C.	-	-	3.75	3.45	4.50	4.15	.46	.43	.54	.49	.509	.477
S. C.	-	-	2.75	2.55	3.25	3.00	.38	.33	.45	.39	.389	.358
Ga.	-	-	2.95	2.75	3.60	3.25	.40	.40	.48	.46	.420	.400
Fla.	-	-	3.95	3.95	4.45	4.20	.51	.50	.57	.57	.532	.517
S. Atl.	-	-	3.50	3.35	4.25	3.95	.47	.45	.54	.51	.488	.472
Ky.	-	-	3.30	2.90	4.10	3.65	.45	.44	.56	.53	.490	.450
Tenn.	-	-	2.70	2.50	3.40	3.20	.37	.35	.48	.44	.409	.390
Ala.	-	-	3.00	2.75	3.55	3.15	.38	.34	.46	.41	.416	.387
Miss.	-	-	3.00	2.75	3.55	3.25	.39	.39	.47	.45	.419	.402
E. S. Cent.	-	-	3.00	2.70	3.65	3.30	.39	.38	.49	.46	.435	.407
Ark.	-	-	3.65	3.60	4.15	3.90	.44	.40	.51	.46	.473	.470
La.	-	-	3.15	3.15	3.55	3.55	.44	.38	.51	.43	.422	.425
Okla.	-	-	4.55	4.55	5.20	5.10	.61	.57	.71	.65	.629	.620
Tex.	-	-	4.15	4.10	4.75	4.55	.52	.50	.59	.57	.574	.551
W. S. Cent.	-	-	3.90	3.90	4.50	4.30	.50	.47	.57	.53	.534	.522
Mont.	-	-	-	-	6.80	6.00	-	-	.90	.86	.728	.689
Idaho	-	-	-	-	7.50	6.80	-	-	.92	.88	.787	.729
Wyo.	-	-	-	-	6.60	6.50	-	-	.90	.90	.711	.726
Colo.	-	-	-	-	6.40	6.00	-	-	.80	.77	.670	.629
N. Mex.	-	-	-	-	5.40	5.20	-	-	.64	.64	.544	.558
Ariz.	-	-	-	-	6.10	5.80	-	-	.74	.74	.707	.687
Utah	-	-	-	-	6.60	6.20	-	-	.90	.87	.752	.730
Nev.	-	-	-	-	6.60	6.80	-	-	.90	.90	.737	.720
Mount.	-	-	-	-	6.30	5.80	-	-	.80	.76	.688	.657
Wash.	-	-	-	-	8.30	7.90	.98	.92	1.04	1.03	.990	.964
Oreg.	-	-	-	-	7.90	7.30	.90	.87	.95	.95	.917	.894
Calif.	-	-	-	-	8.10	6.90	.86	.84	.94	.90	.930	.893
Pacific	-	-	-	-	8.10	7.10	.87	.85	.95	.92	.933	.901
U. S.	4.50	4.15	3.65	3.50	4.65	4.30	.57	.56	.77	.75	.601	.587

1/ Certain wage rates are not estimated for some States because they are relatively unimportant.

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Washington 25, D. C.

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Monthly composite wage rates, Greater Boston Milk Marketing Area: Maine, $103; New Hampshire, $118; Vermont, $120; and Massachusetts, $122.

Continued from page 3.

In many parts of the Mountain States, farm and ranch work consisted largely of chores, odd jobs, and feeding and care of livestock. In Arizona and New Mexico, cotton picking was still in progress though approaching completion, especially in the latter State. Harvest of winter truck crops and citrus fruits was active in Arizona. Cold, stormy weather made full-scale feeding of livestock necessary over much of the area.

Feeding and care of livestock was an important activity in the northern Pacific States during the week of December 18-24. Other farmers were busy pruning orchards and vineyards. In California, the cotton harvest which had supplied employment for many was nearly over. Seasonal vegetable harvests, planting, irrigation, pruning fruit trees and vines, and thinning and hoeing sugar beets furnished most of the employment in the State. Some firing of smudge pots in the citrus groves of Southern California was necessary.