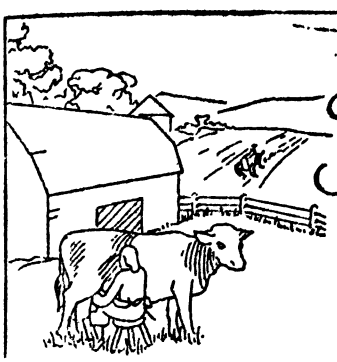

Farm Labor

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C. BAE April 11, 1949

FARM WAGE RATES REGISTER SHARPEST DECLINE SINCE 1937

Farm wage rates weakened between January 1 and April 1, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. Normally, wages strengthen moderately as the farm work season gets under way, but this year most individual types of wage rates were lower on April 1 than three months earlier for the United States as a whole. The wage rate index unadjusted for normal seasonal variation dropped from 420 percent of the 1910-14 average on January 1 to 408 percent on April 1, while the seasonally adjusted index fell from 438 on January 1 to 416 on April 1 -- 4 points below the level of a year ago. This was the first time since July 1939 that the index had been lower than on the corresponding date a year earlier.

A major factor in the slight drop from a year ago was the increased relative importance of hired labor in the two southeastern regions where wage rates are the lowest. There was an "easing" tendency in wage rates in all regions except the West North Central and Mountain. However, the declines from January 1 levels were not large enough to bring wage rates to their April 1, 1948 levels or below except in the Pacific, Middle Atlantic, and South Atlantic Regions. Elsewhere wages, in general, were still above their levels of a year ago by amounts ranging up to almost 7 percent in the East South Central States.

The weakening of farm wage rates at this time may be attributed to several causes. More ample supplies of labor are now available in most sections of the country. Demand for farm labor is probably weaker because net farm income was smaller in 1948 than in 1947, and prospects are that it will be still lower this year. Increased availability and use of farm machinery make fewer farm workers necessary.

The seasonal pattern of farm wage rates has probably been influenced during the past five years by the fact that most of the big increases in industrial wage rates have occurred during the April-June quarter, tending to carry agricultural wage rates up with them. The same factor may not operate so strongly this year.

Approximately 9-1/3 million people worked on farms during the week of March 20-26, about 11 percent more than had worked in late February, but 7 percent fewer than worked during the corresponding week a year ago. This was the fifth consecutive month in which farm employment was smaller than

a year earlier. Farm operators and unpaid members of their families working on farms were 8 percent fewer than a year ago, while the number of hired workers was 2 percent smaller.

The ground was too wet for much field work during the last week of March except on the Pacific Coast and in the Atlantic Coastal States from New York south. While farm work was as much as three weeks ahead of normal along the Atlantic Coast, it was lagging rather badly in the North Central, South Central, and Mountain States.

The number of family workers in late March was less than a year ago in all regions. The increase in numbers of family workers since late February was somewhat less than usual in all regions except the Pacific, where a slight and contraseasonal decrease occurred.

Hired farm worker numbers were above last year's levels in the Mountain, East South Central, and South Atlantic States, but lower in all other regions. However, there were the usual seasonal increases from late February in all areas.

Very little field work had been done in New England by March 26. Maple sugar harvest was at its height, greenhouse and orchard work required considerable labor, and some lime and manure were being spread. In the Middle Atlantic States farm work ranged in progress from maple sugaring in the Adirondacks to the "spot" setting of tomatoes and peppers in South Jersey, with the season normal or slightly advanced in New York and Pennsylvania and over two weeks early in parts of New Jersey. Wet ground delayed plowing and the seeding of oats on heavy soils, but elsewhere a great deal of oats seeding was going on, early vegetables were being planted, orchards were being pruned and sprayed, and soil preparation for later crops was proceeding. Potato planting was the most important operation in central New Jersey.

In the North Central States wet, cold soils were generally holding up field work. Little or none had been done in the northern tier of States from Michigan to the Dakotas, while oats seeding and plowing in the States farther south were delayed by wet soils. Jobs such as fencing and the spreading of lime, fertilizer, and manure were being done when possible. Such indoor jobs as machinery repair and seed treating were continuing, and farrowing sows also required considerable attention. The delay in oats seeding was becoming critical, particularly in Illinois.

In the South Atlantic region, farm work was well ahead of schedule, with corn and cotton planting getting started as far north as southeastern North Carolina. In the East South Central region, work was retarded by wet fields except in the extreme South, where corn, cotton, and peanuts were being planted. Farther north plowing was proceeding wherever fields were dry enough, and manure spreading and lespedeza seeding were rather general. In the West South Central region, activity ranged from a virtual standstill in Louisiana to general cotton planting in central Texas and preparation for sorghum and cotton planting from there north into southwestern Oklahoma.

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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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of March 20-26, 1949, United States, with comparisons

	March average 1944-48 1/	March 21-27, 1948	February 20-26, 1949	March 20-26, 1949
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons)				
Total	10,145	10,016	8,370	9,325
Family labor	8,400	8,194	7,062	7,547
Hired labor	1,745	1,822	1,308	1,778
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1910-14=100)				
Total	84	85	82	77
Family labor	87	87	83	78
Hired labor	72	76	75	73

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, April 1, 1949, with comparisons 1/

	April 1, 1948	January 1, 1949	April 1, 1949
FARM WAGE RATES			
Per month, with board and room	$96.00	$102.00	$97.00
Per month, with house	115.00	122.00	115.00
Per week, with board and room	24.00	24.00	23.50
Per week, without board or room	30.25	29.75	30.25
Per day, with board and room	3.85	4.50	3.95
Per day, with house	3.40	3.65	3.40
Per day, without board or room	4.15	4.60	4.25
Per hour, with house	.54	.57	.52
Per hour, without board or room	.74	.77	.71
Composite rate per hour 2/	.48	.60	.48
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14=100)			
Unadjusted	412	5/ 420	408
Adjusted for seasonal variation	420	5/ 438	416
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14=100)			
Prices received by farmers 3/	287	268	* 261
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	70	5/ 64	64
Average weekly factory earnings 4/	5/ 463	489	--

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.
4/ Factory pay roll per employed worker; average of all weeks during the designated month. 5/ Revised. *March 15, 1949.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Farm employment: Persons employed during week of March 20-26, 1949, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	March average 1944-48 1/	February 22-28, 1948	March 21-27, 1948	February 20-26, 1949	March 20-26, 1949
	Thousands				
	TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT				
United States	10,145	8,608	10,016	8,370	9,325
New England	212	180	215	189	204
Middle Atlantic	566	506	546	514	538
East North Central	1,543	1,368	1,492	1,317	1,400
West North Central	1,623	1,500	1,605	1,462	1,531
South Atlantic	2,040	1,739	2,022	1,698	1,951
East South Central	1,813	1,313	1,791	1,290	1,586
West South Central	1,555	1,308	1,550	1,221	1,380
Mountain	335	285	323	276	309
Pacific	458	409	472	403	426
	FAMILY WORKERS 2/				
United States	8,400	7,272	8,194	7,062	7,547
New England	158	145	160	152	156
Middle Atlantic	467	426	439	421	438
East North Central	1,343	1,204	1,290	1,163	1,208
West North Central	1,457	1,385	1,437	1,357	1,375
South Atlantic	1,610	1,380	1,565	1,339	1,478
East South Central	1,516	1,099	1,489	1,076	1,265
West South Central	1,283	1,120	1,263	1,051	1,111
Mountain	270	233	262	226	244
Pacific	296	280	289	277	272
	HIRED WORKERS 3/				
United States	1,745	1,336	1,822	1,308	1,778
New England	54	35	55	37	48
Middle Atlantic	99	80	107	93	100
East North Central	200	164	202	154	192
West North Central	166	115	168	105	156
South Atlantic	430	359	457	359	473
East South Central	297	214	302	214	321
West South Central	272	188	287	170	269
Mountain	65	52	61	50	65
Pacific	162	129	183	126	154

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions, April 1, 1949, with comparisons

Geographic division	April 1, 1948	January 1, 1949	April 1, 1949
		Dollars	
PER MONTH WITH BOARD AND ROOM			
New England	103.00	110.00	103.00
Middle Atlantic	97.00	100.00	97.00
East North Central	96.00	97.00	95.00
West North Central	101.00	98.00	103.00
Mountain	127.00	121.00	127.00
Pacific	146.00	149.00	150.00
PER MONTH WITH HOUSE			
New England	136.00	144.00	136.00
Middle Atlantic	129.00	131.00	128.00
East North Central	120.00	123.00	122.00
West North Central	126.00	122.00	126.00
Mountain	160.00	158.00	160.00
Pacific	184.00	192.00	192.00
PER WEEK WITH BOARD AND ROOM			
New England	27.50	28.50	27.50
Middle Atlantic	26.00	26.00	25.25
PER WEEK WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM			
New England	37.25	39.25	38.00
Middle Atlantic	35.75	35.75	35.50
PER DAY WITH BOARD AND ROOM			
East North Central	4.60	4.90	4.70
West North Central	4.95	5.10	5.00
PER DAY WITH HOUSE			
South Atlantic	3.45	3.50	3.40
East South Central	2.65	3.00	2.80
West South Central	3.55	3.90	3.80
PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM			
New England	6.30	6.70	6.80
Middle Atlantic	6.00	6.20	6.10
East North Central	5.80	6.00	5.90
West North Central	6.20	6.40	6.30
South Atlantic	3.90	4.25	4.00
East South Central	3.15	3.65	3.40
West South Central	4.10	4.50	4.25
Mountain	6.30	6.30	6.40
PER HOUR WITH HOUSE			
South Atlantic	.46	.47	.45
East South Central	.36	.39	.38
West South Central	.47	.50	.46
Pacific	.91	.87	.88
PER HOUR WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM			
New England	.88	.89	.89
Middle Atlantic	.80	.80	.79
East North Central	.79	.83	.80
West North Central	.80	.65	.83
South Atlantic	.52	.54	.51
East South Central	.44	.49	.45
West South Central	.54	.57	.53
Mountain	.81	.80	.84
Pacific	.98	.95	.93

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Farm wage rates: Wage rates, by States and regions, April 1, 1948 and April 1, 1949 1/

State and region	Per Month				Per Week			
	With board and room		With house		With board and room		Without board or room	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	Dollars				Dollars			
Maine	96.00	94.00	128.00	127.00	25.75	26.25	35.00	35.00
New Hampshire	103.00	100.00	136.00	135.00	27.50	27.00	37.00	39.00
Vermont	104.00	104.00	134.00	130.00	27.00	27.00	36.50	37.25
Massachusetts	109.00	106.00	141.00	145.00	28.50	28.00	37.75	40.25
Rhode Island	106.00	103.00	141.00	143.00	28.50	28.00	38.00	39.00
Connecticut	112.00	110.00	149.00	147.00	30.00	29.50	40.50	39.50
N. ENG.	103.00	103.00	136.00	136.00	27.50	27.50	37.25	38.00
New York	106.00	105.00	139.00	136.00	28.25	27.75	38.75	37.25
New Jersey	109.00	105.00	147.00	141.00	27.75	25.50	37.00	38.00
Pennsylvania	82.00	87.00	110.00	117.00	22.50	23.00	31.50	32.75
M. ATL.	97.00	97.00	129.00	128.00	26.00	25.25	35.75	35.50
Ohio	86.00	83.00	107.00	107.00	-	-	-	-
Indiana	82.00	85.00	105.00	107.00	-	-	-	-
Illinois	102.00	105.00	124.00	131.00	-	-	-	-
Michigan	100.00	91.00	125.00	126.00	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	104.00	106.00	136.00	135.00	-	-	-	-
E. N. CENT.	96.00	95.00	120.00	122.00	-	-	-	-
Minnesota	106.00	108.00	126.00	129.00	-	-	-	-
Iowa	117.00	119.00	135.00	136.00	-	-	-	-
Missouri	73.00	77.00	97.00	99.00	-	-	-	-
North Dakota	112.00	108.00	149.00	137.00	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	113.00	117.00	139.00	142.00	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	107.00	110.00	139.00	135.00	-	-	-	-
Kansas	97.00	99.00	126.00	132.00	-	-	-	-
W. N. CENT.	101.00	103.00	126.00	126.00	-	-	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
S. ATL.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kentucky	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E. S. CENT.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Louisiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W. S. CENT.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montana	135.00	140.00	165.00	170.00	-	-	-	-
Idaho	150.00	145.00	185.00	175.00	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	124.00	125.00	157.00	160.00	-	-	-	-
Colorado	112.00	112.00	145.00	150.00	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	93.00	96.00	116.00	114.00	-	-	-	-
Arizona	123.00	130.00	170.00	175.00	-	-	-	-
Utah	138.00	140.00	168.00	170.00	-	-	-	-
Nevada	130.00	134.00	170.00	162.00	-	-	-	-
MOUNT.	127.00	127.00	160.00	160.00	-	-	-	-
Washington	150.00	157.00	182.00	189.00	-	-	-	-
Oregon	144.00	140.00	172.00	175.00	-	-	-	-
California	146.00	150.00	186.00	195.00	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC	146.00	150.00	184.00	192.00	-	-	-	-
U. S.	96.00	97.00	115.00	115.00	24.00	23.50	30.25	30.25

Continued--

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Wage rates, by States and regions,
April 1, 1948 and April 1, 1949 1/ --Continued

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			
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars		Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Maine	-	-	-	-	6.10	6.20	-	-	.88	.88	.62	.62
N. H.	-	-	-	-	6.50	6.90	-	-	.89	.90	.65	.66
Vt.	-	-	-	-	6.30	6.80	-	-	.90	.89	.64	.65
Mass.	-	-	-	-	6.30	7.00	-	-	.85	.89	.63	.67
R. I.	-	-	-	-	6.30	6.80	-	-	.89	.89	.64	.64
Conn.	-	-	-	-	6.30	6.90	-	-	.91	.90	.67	.67
N. ENG.	-	-	-	-	6.30	6.80	-	-	.88	.89	.64	.65
N. Y.	-	-	-	-	6.40	6.30	-	-	.87	.85	.57	.56
N. J.	-	-	-	-	6.50	6.40	-	-	.88	.84	.58	.56
Pa.	-	-	-	-	5.40	5.70	-	-	.69	.72	.46	.48
M. ATL.	-	-	-	-	6.00	6.10	-	-	.80	.79	.53	.52
Ohio	4.10	4.25	-	-	5.40	5.50	-	-	.75	.77	.44	.44
Ind.	4.30	4.50	-	-	5.30	5.40	-	-	.81	.78	.44	.44
Ill.	4.90	4.95	-	-	6.00	6.10	-	-	.79	.82	.49	.51
Mich.	4.75	4.85	-	-	6.20	6.10	-	-	.84	.82	.50	.48
Wis.	4.90	4.80	-	-	6.00	6.10	-	-	.80	.79	.50	.51
E.N.CENT.	4.60	4.70	-	-	5.80	5.90	-	-	.79	.80	.48	.48
Minn.	5.10	5.20	-	-	6.50	6.60	-	-	.84	.90	.54	.56
Iowa	5.70	5.80	-	-	6.90	7.20	-	-	.87	.92	.57	.60
Mo.	3.70	3.75	-	-	4.50	4.75	-	-	.59	.60	.38	.39
N.Dak.	4.90	4.85	-	-	6.40	6.40	-	-	.89	.89	.57	.56
S.Dak.	5.40	5.60	-	-	6.60	7.20	-	-	.93	.95	.58	.60
Nebr.	5.50	5.30	-	-	6.80	6.70	-	-	.95	.87	.56	.56
Kans.	5.00	5.20	-	-	6.50	6.60	-	-	.84	.87	.53	.54
W.N.CENT.	4.95	5.00	-	-	6.20	6.30	-	-	.80	.83	.52	.53
Del.	-	-	5.00	4.70	5.70	5.60	.61	.61	.68	.68	.56	.56
Md.	-	-	4.90	4.70	5.60	5.60	.59	.61	.66	.68	.55	.55
Va.	-	-	3.50	3.60	4.25	4.50	.48	.45	.56	.56	.43	.44
W. Va.	-	-	3.15	3.25	3.90	4.05	.42	.47	.49	.54	.39	.41
N. C.	-	-	3.60	3.55	4.00	4.25	.45	.45	.53	.52	.40	.42
S. C.	-	-	2.35	2.65	2.80	3.10	.38	.33	.45	.41	.31	.31
Ga.	-	-	2.80	2.80	3.15	3.35	.40	.37	.48	.44	.34	.34
Fla.	-	-	4.00	3.70	4.40	4.20	.50	.50	.55	.55	.45	.43
S. ATL.	-	-	3.45	3.40	3.90	4.00	.46	.45	.52	.51	.40	.40
Ky.	-	-	2.80	3.00	3.60	3.75	.39	.42	.48	.52	.34	.36
Tenn.	-	-	2.60	2.60	2.95	3.30	.34	.35	.43	.44	.29	.31
Ala.	-	-	2.65	2.80	3.05	3.30	.36	.36	.44	.43	.30	.32
Miss.	-	-	2.55	2.80	3.10	3.30	.35	.38	.43	.44	.30	.32
E.S.CENT.	-	-	2.65	2.80	3.15	3.40	.36	.38	.44	.45	.31	.33
Ark.	-	-	3.00	3.50	3.65	3.95	.42	.41	.49	.48	.37	.40
La.	-	-	2.60	3.05	3.05	3.35	.41	.42	.50	.46	.33	.36
Okla.	-	-	4.55	4.70	5.10	5.10	.54	.58	.64	.66	.51	.53
Tex.	-	-	4.15	4.25	4.75	4.85	.51	.50	.58	.58	.48	.48
W.S.CENT.	-	-	3.55	3.80	4.10	4.25	.47	.46	.54	.53	.42	.43
Mont.	-	-	-	-	6.50	6.80	-	-	.86	.93	.65	.68
Idaho	-	-	-	-	7.40	7.50	-	-	.93	.91	.72	.71
Wyo.	-	-	-	-	6.60	6.30	-	-	.90	.96	.64	.66
Colo.	-	-	-	-	6.10	6.30	-	-	.76	.80	.58	.59
N. Mex.	-	-	-	-	5.30	5.10	-	-	.65	.64	.49	.48
Ariz.	-	-	-	-	5.40	6.20	-	-	.68	.71	.57	.61
Utah	-	-	-	-	6.40	6.30	-	-	.85	.86	.65	.65
Nev.	-	-	-	-	6.20	6.50	-	-	.90	.88	.65	.65
MOUNT.	-	-	-	-	6.30	6.40	-	-	.81	.84	.62	.63
Wash.	-	-	-	-	-	-	.94	.99	1.00	1.04	.95	.99
Oreg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	.94	.90	.99	.95	.93	.90
Calif.	-	-	-	-	-	-	.90	.86	.98	.91	.93	.87
PACIFIC	-	-	-	-	-	-	.91	.88	.98	.93	.93	.89
U. S.	3.85	3.95	3.40	3.40	4.15	4.25	.54	.52	.74	.71	.48	.48

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

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

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Monthly composite wage rates, Greater Boston Milk Marketing Area: Maine, $113; New Hampshire, $125; Vermont, $127; Massachusetts, $130.

---Continued from page 2.

In most of the Mountain States, the field work season had not yet opened. However, in southwestern Idaho the seeding of spring grains, sugar beets, onions, potatoes, and green peas was past its peak, and the planting of these crops was extending to other parts of the State. Alfalfa and vegetable harvests were proceeding in Arizona, while in the irrigated areas of southern New Mexico preparation for cotton planting was virtually completed.

Farm work was active up and down the Pacific Coast. Northeastern Washington and the north California coast were the only large areas in which the fields were still too wet to work. In both Oregon and Washington winter-killed wheat fields were being reseeded, stubble was being disked in the season's first summer-fallow operation, and spring pruning and spraying of orchards were continuing. Early vegetable planting was completed in western Oregon, and lettuce had been transplanted and onions and sugar beets seeded in the irrigated areas east of the Cascades. In California, every type of seasonal job was proceeding rapidly. Operations demanding considerable amounts of labor included citrus harvesting, the last of the cotton snapping, sugar beet thinning, deciduous fruit tree and vine pruning, the preparation of land for late crops, and all stages of vegetable operations from seedbed preparation to the harvest of early crops.