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STATISTICAL DATA REGARDING FARM LABOR IN OREGON*

The reader will find in this brief circular the following statistical tables and charts which have been prepared from data in the United States Census of 1930 and various reports of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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To assist those who are interested in this subject, the information presented by means of statistical tables and charts is accompanied by brief comments and explanations which appear on the pages with the related data.

The local distribution of the total days farm labor was employed within each county as shown on Chart No. 1 was obtained by locating in each county the total number of days farm labor was employed, according to the location of the farming lands as illustrated in Bulletin #114, Agricultural Experiment Station, Oregon State Agricultural College. With this method a close approximation could be obtained by correlating the total number of days farm labor was employed with the total acreage distribution under cultivation and presumably requiring farm labor in each county.

The Willamette Valley region uses more farm labor than any other, representing slightly more than one-third of the total number of man-days of labor employed in farm work for the entire state. It is interesting to note that the average wage paid in this region during 1929 was \$2.83, which was under the state average of \$2.96.

* The information was prepared in connection with Project F-48 of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, by C. S. Hoffman, Assistant State Rural Research Supervisor, under the direction of L. R. Breithaupt, State Supervisor of Rural Research. The purpose was to bring together in analytical form the available data on the geographic distribution of farm labor employed in Oregon and the gross amount and daily wages paid in the counties of the state, as background information for more comprehensive studies of the principal labor problem areas planned to be made later.

TABLE I. WAGES PAID TO FARM LABOR AND TOTAL NUMBER OF

DAYS EMPLOYED BY COUNTIES: 1929*

County	: Wages For	: Days	::	County	: Wages For	: Days
	: Farm Labor	: Employed	::		: Farm Labor	: Employed
Baker	: \$559,275	: 203,086	::	Lake	: \$344,992	: 126,291
Benton	: 286,000	: 103,880	::	Lane	: 559,718	: 194,972
Clackamas	: 716,411	: 257,771	::	Lincoln	: 40,682	: 15,558
Clatsop	: 108,991	: 42,521	::	Linn	: 426,027	: 166,303
Columbia	: 172,078	: 62,607	::	Malheur	: 791,751	: 259,042
Coos	: 198,334	: 65,797	::	Marion	: 1,776,826	: 604,981
Crook	: 205,435	: 76,282	::	Morrow	: 569,368	: 190,663
Curry	: 68,636	: 22,212	::	Multnomah	: 913,067	: 313,187
Deschutes	: 115,003	: 48,440	::	Polk	: 1,042,810	: 338,401
Douglas	: 623,976	: 195,214	::	Sherman	: 252,316	: 86,355
Gilliam	: 326,307	: 106,897	::	Tillamook	: 129,282	: 50,432
Grant	: 335,328	: 134,235	::	Umatilla	: 1,632,916	: 506,530
Harney	: 372,650	: 139,220	::	Union	: 488,994	: 163,400
Hood River	: 610,866	: 178,854	::	Wallowa	: 358,632	: 128,615
Jackson	: 1,134,808	: 304,119	::	Wasco	: 584,051	: 204,604
Jefferson	: 191,768	: 73,089	::	Washington	: 728,872	: 263,186
Josephine	: 156,421	: 56,468	::	Wheeler	: 232,225	: 85,471
Klamath	: 629,304	: 211,063	::	Yamhill	: 572,598	: 205,384

*These data are from the United States Census of 1930. For the approximate distribution by areas within the counties see Chart #1. The total wages paid for farm labor in the state of Oregon in 1929 was \$18,256,718 for 6,185,130 days.

It was found that particular counties throughout the state that employed the most labor, paid also the highest wages to labor. "Wages", of course, has no reference to an hourly or piece-work rate but is used with reference to the average amount a farm laborer was paid in that county during 1929. "Wages", unless specified, refers to cash payments for services rendered and does not include other arrangements agreed upon between employer and employee regarding board or room.

In general, the extent of use of farm labor throughout the state is associated with the distribution of the better fruit and grainlands which are farmed intensively. Crops with short seasons such as berries, cherries and hops generally require a heavy labor load during a brief period. As these seasons change from one part of the state to another, the problem of maintaining an available and sufficient supply of labor is intensified.

In some cases, an over-supply of transient labor migrates to one particular location, causing an abundance of labor at that point, and perhaps creating a shortage in another area.

TABLE II. AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS BY FARM LABORERS,

BY COUNTIES: 1929*

County	: Average Daily : Earning	::	County	: Average Daily : Earning
Baker	: \$2.75	::	Lake	: \$2.73
Benton	: 2.75	::	Lane	: 2.87
Clackamas	: 2.78	::	Lincoln	: 2.61
Clatsop	: 2.56	::	Linn	: 2.56
Columbia	: 2.75	::	Malheur	: 3.06
Coos	: 3.01	::	Marion	: 2.94
Crook	: 2.69	::	Morrow	: 2.99
Curry	: 3.09	::	Multnomah	: 2.92
Deschutes	: 2.37	::	Polk	: 3.08
Douglas	: 3.20	::	Sherman	: 2.93
Gilliam	: 3.05	::	Tillamook	: 2.56
Grant	: 2.50	::	Umatilla	: 3.22
Harney	: 2.68	::	Union	: 2.99
Hood River	: 3.42	::	Wallowa	: 2.79
Jackson	: 3.74	::	Wasco	: 2.85
Jefferson	: 2.62	::	Washington	: 2.77
Josephine	: 2.77	::	Wheeler	: 2.72
Klamath	: 2.98	::	Yamhill	: 2.79

*The data used in compiling the above table were obtained from the 1930 United States Census.

The average daily earnings (cash payments) to farm labor as shown in the above table were derived by a division of the total wages paid for farm labor

with the total man-days of employment as shown in Table #1. This gives an average cash payment on a daily basis.

There is an apparent variation between the average daily wage of \$2.96 for the State of Oregon as shown in the above table, and the average of \$3.14 shown in reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Census figures were taken for 1929 while the Bureau of Agricultural Economics figures are for 1930. The figure for January, 1930 taken alone, very closely approximates the census average for 1929. This figure is reported as being \$2.95. This average shown quarterly in Table #4, reaches a peak during October, 1930, of \$3.40. Therefore, the variation of the average daily wage as shown in Tables #2 and No. 4 is relatively insignificant.

TABLE 3. RATING OF COUNTIES ACCORDING TO WAGES AND DAYS LABOR

EMPLOYED (1930 CENSUS)

COUNTY	:Rating as :to total :days labor :was emplyd:	:Rating as: :to total :earnings :by labor	Average :daily earn- :ings rated :by county	COUNTY	:Rating as :to total :days labor :was emplyd:	:Rating as: :to total :earnings :by labor	Average :daily earn- :ings rated :by county
Baker	: 12	: 16	: 20	Lake	: 22	: 21	: 21
Benton	: 24	: 24	: 20	Lane	: 14	: 15	: 15
Clackamas	: 8	: 8	: 18	Lincoln	: 36	: 36	: 26
Clatsop	: 34	: 34	: 27	Linn	: 17	: 18	: 27
Columbia	: 30	: 30	: 20	Malheur	: 7	: 6	: 7
Coos	: 29	: 28	: 9	Marion	: 1	: 1	: 12
Crook	: 27	: 27	: 23	Morrow	: 15	: 14	: 10
Curry	: 35	: 35	: 5	Multnomah	: 4	: 5	: 14
Deschutes	: 33	: 33	: 29	Polk	: 3	: 4	: 6
Douglas	: 13	: 10	: 4	Sherman	: 25	: 25	: 13
Gilliam	: 23	: 23	: 8	Tillamook	: 32	: 32	: 27
Grant	: 20	: 22	: 28	Umatilla	: 2	: 2	: 3
Harney	: 19	: 19	: 24	Union	: 18	: 17	: 10
Hood River:	16	: 11	: 2	Wallowa	: 21	: 20	: 17
Jackson	: 5	: 3	: 1	Wasco	: 11	: 12	: 16
Jefferson	: 28	: 29	: 25	Washington:	6	: 7	: 19
Josephine	: 31	: 31	: 19	Wheeler	: 26	: 26	: 22
Klamath	: 9	: 9	: 11	Yamhill	: 10	: 13	: 17

Marion County rated first in total amount of money earned by farm labor as a group, and as to the total amount of farm labor employed, but was rated twelfth in average daily wages paid, showing \$2.94.

Jackson County, rating first in average daily earnings by farm labor, was rated third as to total earnings by labor as a group, and fifth as to total man-days of labor employed.

Lincoln County, rating last (thirty-sixth) as to total earnings made by the farm labor group, and last in total man-days of rural labor employed, was rated twenty-sixth as to average earnings of farm labor, showing \$2.61.

The counties of Jackson, Marion, Polk and Umatilla were far ahead in total earnings paid to farm labor as a group. These counties rated respectively first, twelfth, sixth and third as to average daily earnings of farm laborers.

TABLE NO. 4. AVERAGE FARM WAGES IN OREGON QUARTERLY

FROM JANUARY 1, 1930 TO APRIL 1, 1936*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WAGE RATES</u>				::	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WAGE RATES</u>			
	<u>Per Month</u>		<u>Per Day</u>				<u>Per Month</u>		<u>Per Day</u>	
	: With	: Without	: With	: Without			: With	: Without	: With	: Without
	: Board	: Board	: Board	: Board		: Board	: Board	: Board	: Board	
April 1, 1936	: 29.75	: 44.75	: 1.50	: 2.10	::	Jan. 1, 1933	: 18.75	: 34.50	: 1.10	: 1.45
Jan. 1, 1936	: 26.50	: 41.50	: 1.40	: 2.00	::	Oct. 1, 1932	: 24.75	: 40.00	: 1.25	: 1.70
July 1, 1935	: 30.50	: 47.00	: 1.60	: 2.05	::	July 1, 1932	: 25.75	: 41.50	: 1.25	: 1.70
April 1, 1935	: 25.75	: 41.25	: 1.30	: 1.90	::	April 1, 1932	: : 45.25	: 1.35	: 2.00	
Jan. 1, 1935	: 23.75	: 39.00	: 1.20	: 1.75	::	Jan. 1932	: 28.50	: 46.75	: 1.45	: 2.05
Oct. 1, 1934	: 27.00	: 44.00	: 1.45	: 1.95	::	Oct. 1931	: 31.75	: 49.25	: 1.60	: 2.25
July 1, 1934	: 26.75	: 44.00	: 1.45	: 1.95	::	April 1931	: 36.50	: 57.00	: 1.95	: 2.65
April 1, 1934	: 23.50	: 39.50	: 1.30	: 1.85	::	Jan. 1931	: 36.00	: 57.00	: 1.95	: 2.65
Jan. 1, 1934	: 19.25	: 35.75	: 1.10	: 1.65	::	Oct. 1930	: 48.00	: 69.50	: 2.40	: 3.40
Oct. 1, 1933	: 25.50	: 40.00	: 1.25	: 1.75	::	July 1930	: 48.25	: 68.50	: 2.40	: 3.10
July 1, 1933	: 23.75	: 36.25	: 1.15	: 1.55	::	April 1930	: 49.25	: 73.50	: 2.35	: 3.10
April 1, 1933	: 18.75	: 32.50	: 1.05	: 1.45	::	Jan. 1930	: 43.25	: 68.25	: 2.40	: 2.95

*The data in the above table were compiled from quarterly reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture. Certain issues were not available, therefore the record is not complete for each quarter during the years covered.