
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Hourly Entrance Rates Paid to Common Laborers 1942



Bulletin No. 733

[Reprinted without change from the *Monthly Labor Review*, February 1943]

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1943

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C. - Price 5 cents

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS,
Washington, D. C., February 20, 1943.

The SECRETARY OF LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on hourly entrance rates paid to common laborers in 1942. This report was prepared by Robert L. Davis and John L. Dana, under the supervision of Edward K. Frazier, in the Bureau's Division of Wage Analysis, Robert J. Myers, Chief.

A. F. HINRICHS, *Acting Commissioner.*

HON. FRANCES PERKINS,
Secretary of Labor.

*Bulletin No. 733 of the
United States Bureau of Labor Statistics*

[Reprinted without change from the MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW, February 1943]

HOURLY ENTRANCE RATES PAID TO COMMON LABORERS, 1942¹

Summary

ADULT male common laborers in July 1942 had an average hourly rate of 58.5 cents for the country as a whole, a study of 20 industries reveals. This is a weighted average and not strictly comparable with the results of past studies. Comparable unweighted data for 13 industries, however, indicate an increase of 7 cents an hour, or about 12 percent, since July 1941. Slightly over a third of all common laborers studied received average hourly entrance rates under 42.5 cents in 1942. About a third were paid 70.0 cents an hour or over.

As in earlier years, the average rate in the North and West (72.2 cents) was considerably higher than that in the South and Southwest (41.1 cents). Among the subdivisions of regions, the Pacific Coast reported the highest average (83.2 cents).

The average entrance rate in manufacturing was 56.1 cents; that in public utilities, 53.6 cents; and that in the building construction industry, 67.4 cents an hour. Among specific industries, blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills showed the highest hourly entrance rate (74.5 cents); and fertilizers the lowest (43.5 cents). Rates in the larger cities tended to exceed those in the smaller. Among specific cities, Oakland, Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco paid the highest rates to manufacturing workers.

Significance of Common-Labor Rates

The entrance rates paid to male common labor occupy a position of considerable importance in American industrial wage structure. Numbering several millions, even in peacetime, common laborers constitute the largest occupational group of workers engaged in non-agricultural pursuits. Their wages, paid to a fairly homogeneous group of workers and almost entirely free from the disturbing influence of incentive-payment systems, provide the best available basis for general comparisons of wage levels by region, size of city, etc. Common-labor entrance rates are of great significance in collective bargaining and their level frequently determines the nature of the entire lower portion of an industry's wage scale.

Information regarding entrance rates of common labor has been secured in annual surveys by the Bureau of Labor Statistics since 1926, by means of mail questionnaires. The Bureau's studies have

¹ Prepared in the Bureau's Division of Wage Analysis by Robert L. Davis and John L. Dana, under the supervision of Edward K. Frazier.

covered most of the manufacturing industries employing large numbers of common laborers and have also included representation of public utilities and building construction. In recent years, 16 manufacturing industries and 3 public utilities have been included.² Among the more important fields of employment not represented are the railroads and the construction of roads, highways, and other public works.

As defined in the Bureau's questionnaires, common laborers include those workers "who perform physical or manual labor of a general character and simple nature, requiring no special training, judgment, or skill." The instructions accompanying the questionnaires direct that apprentices and learners be excluded, as well as machine operators or other workers who can be designated by distinct occupational titles. There is evidence that some unskilled male workers other than common laborers are actually included in the returns received by the Bureau, but it is believed that these are not numerous enough or sufficiently different with respect to wage level to influence the results appreciably.

Common laborers employed at rates other than the established entrance rates are also excluded from the Bureau's study. Undoubtedly the average rates paid to all common laborers are slightly higher than the average entrance rates alone. Substantial proportions of all laborers receive the entrance rates, however, and it is in terms of these rates that the closest comparability is attained.

Changes in Bureau's Method of Analysis

In most respects the scope and method of the Bureau's 1942 study of entrance rates are similar to those described in connection with the reports on earlier studies.³ In two important respects, however, the data presented for 1942 are different from those previously reported: (1) The 1942 rates relate exclusively to first-shift workers; and (2) a system of weighting has been introduced in order to reflect more faithfully the true importance of the various States and industries.

The limitation of the 1942 data to first-shift workers was adopted in order to adhere to the current policy of reporting basic rates and to eliminate the influence of changes in the organization of production unaccompanied by wage changes. Rates of pay of evening and night shift workers are often higher than those of first (day) shift workers, as a result of the payment of a "late shift bonus" which is common in many industries and localities. Employment on late shifts has not been an important factor in earlier years and the influence of such differentials could safely be ignored. The rise of war production, however, has brought about a substantial increase in late-shift work. Establishments cooperating in the Bureau's survey reported that approximately 17 percent of the common laborers on all shifts worked on shifts other than the first. The inclusion of these late-shift workers would have increased slightly the average rates for some sections of the country.

² The specific industries covered are indicated in table 4. Data for electric light and power and for manufactured and natural gas have been combined. Definitions used in distinguishing the various manufacturing industries are those of the Census of Manufactures.

³ See, for example, Monthly Labor Review, January 1942 (pp. 149-173): Hourly Entrance Rates Paid to Common Laborers, 1941.

Previous reports on entrance rates of common labor have combined without special weighting the returns received by the Bureau from the thousands of cooperating firms throughout the United States. Analysis has revealed, however, that certain industries and regions have received more than proportionate representation, while others have been under-represented. In general, for various reasons, the high-wage industries and localities have received proportionately more weight than the low-wage ones. For example, the steel industry, in which wages are relatively high, has reported on a much more complete basis than the southern lumber industry, in which much lower wages prevail. The result of this has been to overstate somewhat the average rates for various combinations of establishments.

The weighting system introduced for the first time in the analysis of the 1942 data makes partial correction for such differences in proportionate representation. First, the number of common laborers in each covered industry, by State, was estimated; then, the number of common laborers reported from each State industry segment was weighted upward to the estimated total. In combining the data for manufacturing, public utilities, and building construction (tables 1, 2, 3, and 6), the data for manufacturing have been given the weight of all manufacturing and not merely that of the specific industries covered; and the data for the selected utilities have been given the additional weight of a broad utilities grouping.⁴

This simple system of weighting is recognized as falling far short of the ideal. It fails, for example, to take full account of the over-representation of large establishments in the questionnaire returns, another factor which tends to exaggerate the wage levels. In certain comparisons of wage rates by size of city (table 6) it has been necessary to assume that the weightings used for entire States have been appropriate for cities as well. In spite of these and other shortcomings, however, there is little doubt that the weights employed have increased considerably the accuracy and consistency of the material presented.

The effect of weighting, as revealed by comparisons with unweighted figures, is to increase the over-all average rate for the North and West by 1.6 cents and to reduce that for the South and Southwest by 2.6 cents. At the same time the influence of the South and Southwest is considerably enhanced, and the over-all average for the Nation as a whole is reduced by fully 4.5 cents. The data presented in this report are not strictly comparable, therefore, with those for earlier years. For purposes of comparison, however, the unweighted figures for 13 industries combined, in the United States as a whole, are presented in table 8.

Variations in Entrance Rates in the Country as a Whole

The average hourly entrance rate paid to common laborers in the country as a whole in July 1942 was 58.5 cents. This figure is based on the weighted returns of 7,245 establishments employing 248,000 laborers at entrance rates on first shifts. The unweighted average for 13 industries, presented in table 8, exceeds by 7 cents per hour the

⁴ The following public-utility classifications of the 1940 Census of Occupations were included: Electric light and power; gas works and steam plants; street railways and bus lines; telephone and telegraph; trucking service; and warehousing and storage.

comparable figure for 1941, revealing an increase of approximately 12 percent during the year.

The rates paid to individual workers ranged from less than 30 cents an hour to more than \$1.05. This broad range was due in part to the influence of geographic factors, race, industry, size of city, and similar factors. Some of these are discussed in the following pages. As is indicated by the distribution in table 1, slightly more than a third of all common laborers at entrance rates received less than 42.5 cents an hour. A little less than a third received rates between 42.5 and 70.0 cents an hour. The remainder were paid 70.0 cents an hour or over.

TABLE 1.—Percentage Distribution of Adult Male Common Laborers by Hourly Entrance Rates, in Manufacturing, Public Utilities, and Building Construction, July 1942

Hourly entrance rate	Simple percentage	Cumulative percentage	Hourly entrance rate	Simple percentage	Cumulative percentage
Under 30.0 cents.....	0.5	0.5	65.0 and under 67.5 cents.....	3.6	63.0
Exactly 30.0 cents.....	2.8	3.3	67.5 and under 70.0 cents.....	2.7	65.7
Over 30.0 and under 32.5 cents.....	.1	3.4	70.0 and under 72.5 cents.....	5.7	71.4
32.5 and under 35.0 cents.....	.8	4.2	72.5 and under 75.0 cents.....	2.4	73.8
35.0 and under 37.5 cents.....	15.4	19.6	75.0 and under 77.5 cents.....	3.9	77.7
37.5 and under 40.0 cents.....	2.5	22.1	77.5 and under 80.0 cents.....	4.9	82.6
40.0 and under 42.5 cents.....	13.5	35.6	80.0 and under 82.5 cents.....	2.4	85.0
42.5 and under 45.0 cents.....	.5	36.1	82.5 and under 85.0 cents.....	3.8	88.8
45.0 and under 47.5 cents.....	2.5	38.6	85.0 and under 87.5 cents.....	1.6	90.4
47.5 and under 50.0 cents.....	.7	39.3	87.5 and under 90.0 cents.....	1.6	92.0
50.0 and under 52.5 cents.....	6.5	45.8	90.0 and under 95.0 cents.....	2.1	94.1
52.5 and under 55.0 cents.....	.8	46.6	95.0 and under 100.0 cents.....	1.8	95.9
55.0 and under 57.5 cents.....	4.8	51.4	100.0 and under 105.0 cents.....	3.2	99.1
57.5 and under 60.0 cents.....	1.4	52.8	105.0 cents and over.....	.9	100.0
60.0 and under 62.5 cents.....	4.7	57.5			
62.5 and under 65.0 cents.....	1.9	59.4	Total.....	100.0	100.0

The largest concentration in any 2.5-cent interval, comprising 15.4 percent of the workers, fell within the rate-class interval of 35.0 and under 37.5 cents. This class apparently reflects the preponderance of common laborers in the lumber (sawmills) industry in the South and Southwest at the 35.0-cent minimum set for the lumber industry under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The interval of 40.0 and under 42.5 cents showed the second largest concentration in the entire distribution. The prevalence of the 78.0-cent common-labor rate in the steel industry in the North is reflected by a modest concentration of workers in the interval of 77.5 and under 80.0 cents.

Geographical Variations

Table 2 and the accompanying map clearly demonstrate that the geographical factor has an important bearing upon entrance rates paid for common labor. The average rate in the North and West was 72.2 cents and exceeded by 31.1 cents the average for the South and Southwest (41.1 cents). Within these broad regions, however, entrance rates were by no means uniform. Entrance rates were considerably higher on the Pacific Coast (83.2 cents) than in New England (62.3 cents). Several Northern States paid lower entrance rates than Kentucky in the South. It is to be noted that wage levels in the various regions reflect in part differences in other factors, such as the number of large cities and the type of industry. It is significant that all cities of 500,000 population or more are in the North and West.

TABLE 2.—Average Hourly Entrance Rates of Adult Male Common Laborers in Manufacturing, Public Utilities, and Building Construction, by Region and State, July 1942

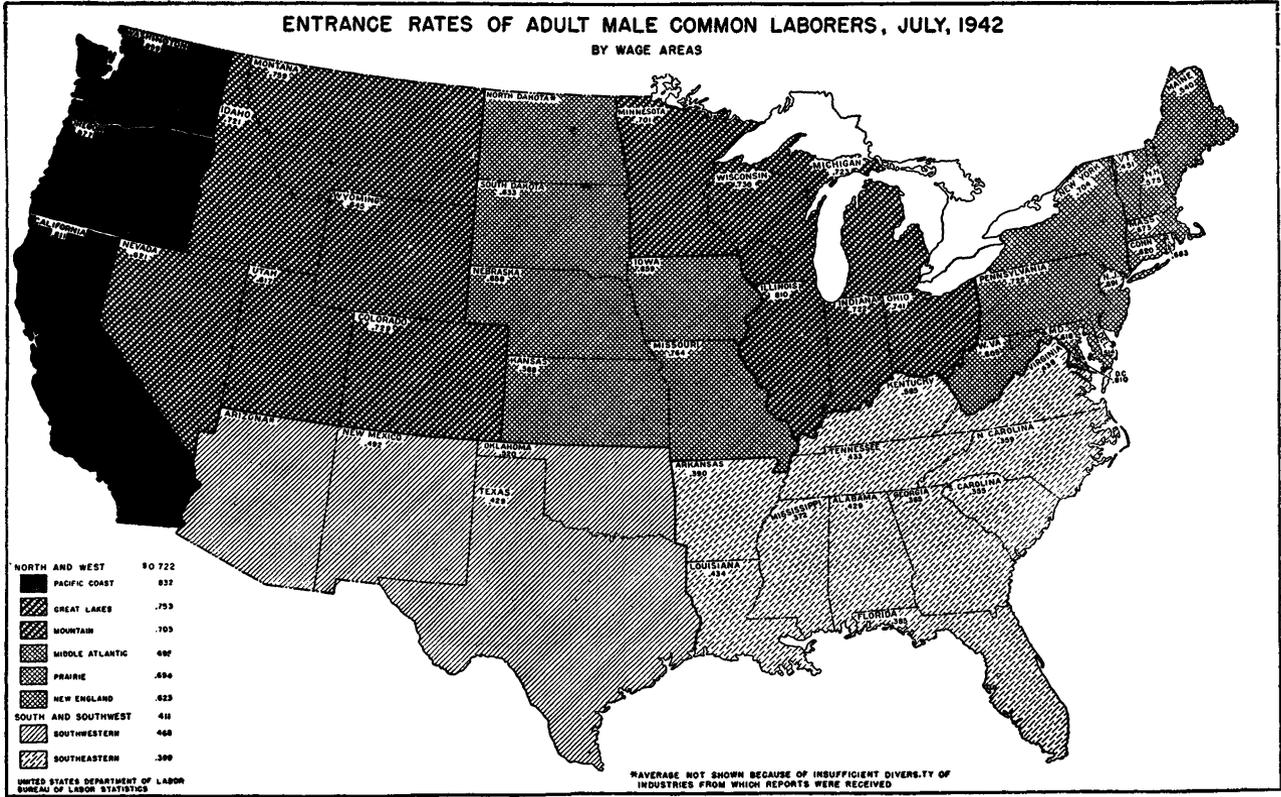
Region and State	Average hourly entrance rate	Region and State	Average hourly entrance rate
United States.....	\$0. 585	North and West—Continued.	
North and West.....	. 722	New England—Continued.	
Pacific Coast.....	. 832	New Hampshire.....	\$0. 575
California.....	. 811	Rhode Island.....	. 683
Oregon.....	. 877	Vermont.....	. 451
Washington.....	. 859	Middle Atlantic.....	. 695
Mountain.....	. 703	Delaware.....	. 514
Colorado.....	. 729	District of Columbia.....	. 810
Idaho.....	. 721	Maryland.....	. 618
Montana.....	. 759	New Jersey.....	. 691
Nevada.....	. 621	New York.....	. 704
Utah.....	. 617	Pennsylvania.....	. 722
Wyoming.....	. 645	West Virginia.....	. 605
Prairie.....	. 694	South and Southwest.....	. 411
Iowa.....	. 659	Southeastern.....	. 399
Kansas.....	. 588	Alabama.....	. 429
Missouri.....	. 764	Arkansas.....	. 390
Nebraska.....	. 658	Florida.....	. 385
North Dakota.....	(¹) . 633	Georgia.....	. 365
South Dakota.....	. 633	Kentucky.....	. 585
Great Lakes.....	. 753	Louisiana.....	. 434
Illinois.....	. 810	Mississippi.....	. 372
Indiana.....	. 722	North Carolina.....	. 359
Michigan.....	. 723	South Carolina.....	. 355
Minnesota.....	. 701	Tennessee.....	. 433
Ohio.....	. 741	Virginia.....	. 438
Wisconsin.....	. 730	Southwestern.....	. 468
New England.....	. 623	Arizona.....	(¹)
Connecticut.....	. 620	New Mexico.....	. 492
Maine.....	. 540	Oklahoma.....	. 520
Massachusetts.....	. 673	Texas.....	. 429

¹ Average not shown because of insufficient diversity of industries from which reports were received.

In the North and West as a whole (including 33 States and the District of Columbia) rates varied over a range of 42.6 cents, from the Vermont average of 45.1 cents to the Oregon average of 87.7 cents. The Pacific Coast area, with the highest sectional average, exhibited a spread of only 6.6 cents between the California low of 81.1 cents and the Oregon high of 87.7 cents. This was the narrowest spread within any area in the broad region.

The 6 Mountain States as a group averaged 70.3 cents. Rates for these States ranged from 61.7 cents in Utah to 75.9 cents in Montana, a spread of 14.2 cents. Farther in the interior, the 6 Prairie States averaged 69.4 cents and showed a spread of 17.6 cents between the lowest and the highest State averages. The influence of the larger cities in Missouri, and particularly of the building-construction industry in those cities, obscures the influence of the geographical factor to some extent.

The average of 75.3 cents for the Great Lakes area was the second highest in the North and West region. Rates in the 6 States included in the area were relatively uniform—a spread of only 10.9 cents—ranging from the Minnesota rate of 70.1 cents to the Illinois rate of 81.0 cents. The New England area, on the other hand, showed a wide diversity of rates, ranging from a low of 45.1 cents in Vermont to 68.3 cents in Rhode Island. It may be observed that the southern New England averages in every case exceeded those for the more northern States of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.



The widest variation among rates in the North and West was found for the Middle Atlantic area including 6 States and the District of Columbia, and having a combined average of 69.5 cents. Individual average rates ranged from 51.4 cents in Delaware to 81.0 cents in the District of Columbia, a spread of 29.6 cents. In this general area, the influence of such factors as size of city and type of industry on the State averages was particularly pronounced.

In the broad region constituting the South and Southwest, and including 15 States, two general sectional patterns were discernible. The 11 Southeastern States averaged 39.9 cents, as compared with 46.8 cents for the 4 States in the Southwest. The first group of States varied 23.0 cents, from the South Carolina rate of 35.5 cents, to the Kentucky rate of 58.5 cents. When the Kentucky high was excluded, however, the range for the 10 remaining States was only 8.3 cents. The spread in the western group of States was approximately the same, 9.1 cents, being the difference between the Texas and the Oklahoma averages.

Differences in Rates, by Race

Almost two-thirds of the common laborers in the three industrial groups combined, based on weighted data, were whites other than Mexican. Approximately a third were Negroes and about 2 percent were Mexicans. These proportions, of course, would not be the same if wage earners in all occupations combined were considered. Average rates paid to whites other than Mexican in the country as a whole exceeded those paid to either of the other two racial groups. Negroes as a group had the lowest average. The comparative figures for the United States as a whole are as follows:

Whites other than Mexican.....	\$0. 653
Mexicans.....	. 575
Negroes.....	. 474

Examination of the racial averages by broad geographic region, however, reveals that the concentration of Negroes in the South and Southwest is associated with their low average rate in the United States as a whole. In the North and West, the average rate for Negro common laborers was somewhat higher than the common-labor averages for the other racial groups—73.6 cents, as compared with 70.5 cents for Mexicans and 72.0 cents for other whites.

A higher entrance rate for Negroes than for other common laborers in the North and West has been reported in earlier studies by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This fact apparently results from concentrations of Negro workers in certain heavy industries in which high wages prevail, as for example, in the steel and building-construction industries. The distributions in table 3 illustrate the racial variations further; thus, 49.7 percent of the Negroes in the North and West received rates above 77.5 cents an hour, compared with 37.3 percent of the whites other than Mexican and 28.4 percent of the Mexicans. On the other hand, the proportion of Negro workers receiving less than 42.5 cents was also higher than for the other groups.

In the South and Southwest, the average paid to Negroes as a group (39.6 cents an hour) fell below the regional average. Whites other than Mexican averaged 43.6 cents an hour, and Mexicans 46.3 cents. As is indicated by table 3, 81.5 percent of the Negroes, 66.7 percent of the whites other than Mexican, and 61.6 percent of the

Mexicans received less than 42.5 cents per hour. In the South and Southwest large numbers of Negroes are found in the lowest paid industries, especially lumber, brick, tile and terra cotta, and fertilizer.

TABLE 3.—Percentages of Adult Male Common Laborers by Entrance Rates in Manufacturing, Public Utilities, and Building Construction, by Region and Race, July 1942

Hourly entrance rate	North and West				South and Southwest			
	All laborers	White other than Mexican	Negro	Mexican	All laborers	White other than Mexican	Negro	Mexican
Under 30.0 cents.....	(1)	(1)			1.0	0.8	1.2	0.2
Exactly 30.0 cents.....	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	6.3	3.8	7.6	5.3
Over 30.0 and under 32.5 cents.....	(1)	(1)	(1)		.2	.1	.2	
32.5 and under 35.0 cents.....	(1)	(1)	(1)		1.8	1.7	2.0	.3
35.0 and under 37.5 cents.....	1.2	1.3	1.1	(1)	34.0	24.1	40.1	3.2
37.5 and under 40.0 cents.....	.3	.3	.2		5.5	5.9	5.4	1.1
40.0 and under 42.5 cents.....	2.6	2.3	4.6	.3	27.4	30.3	25.0	51.5
42.5 and under 45.0 cents.....	.3	.3	.1		.8	.5	1.0	.5
45.0 and under 47.5 cents.....	2.2	2.4	1.1	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.6	3.1
47.5 and under 50.0 cents.....	.7	.7	.8	.1	.7	1.0	.5	.2
50.0 and under 52.5 cents.....	6.9	7.5	4.1	5.1	5.9	8.1	4.2	20.4
52.5 and under 55.0 cents.....	.9	.9	.9	2.8	.6	.7	.4	2.0
55.0 and under 57.5 cents.....	4.1	4.4	2.9	3.6	5.6	7.1	5.1	.1
57.5 and under 60.0 cents.....	1.2	1.3	.9	1.3	1.6	2.8	1.0	1.7
60.0 and under 62.5 cents.....	7.3	7.8	3.5	8.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	.2
62.5 and under 65.0 cents.....	2.6	2.7	2.1	4.4	1.0	2.4	.4	.8
65.0 and under 67.5 cents.....	5.8	6.1	4.6	4.6	.7	1.0	.5	.2
67.5 and under 70.0 cents.....	3.5	3.4	4.4	.3	1.7	3.0	1.1	
70.0 and under 72.5 cents.....	9.8	10.1	8.0	15.0	.3	.7	.2	.1
72.5 and under 75.0 cents.....	4.3	3.8	7.0	4.5	(1)	(1)		(1)
75.0 and under 77.5 cents.....	7.0	7.3	3.7	18.2	(1)	.1	(1)	.2
77.5 and under 80.0 cents.....	8.8	8.3	11.2	6.1	(1)	.1	(1)	
80.0 and under 82.5 cents.....	4.3	4.3	4.0	8.0	(1)	(1)		
82.5 and under 85.0 cents.....	6.2	4.9	13.5	2.0	.7	1.2	.1	8.9
85.0 and under 87.5 cents.....	2.9	3.1	1.5	3.6	(1)	(1)		
87.5 and under 90.0 cents.....	2.8	2.2	5.5	6.0	(1)	(1)		
90.0 and under 95.0 cents.....	3.7	3.3	6.4	2.2				
95.0 and under 100.0 cents.....	3.2	3.1	4.1	.2				
100.0 and under 105.0 cents.....	5.7	6.4	2.5	.2				
105.0 cents and over.....	1.6	1.7	1.0	.1				
All rates.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percentage distribution of laborers at entrance rates.....	100.0	83.0	15.1	1.9	100.0	32.5	64.7	2.8
Average hourly entrance rate.....	\$0.722	\$0.720	\$0.736	\$0.705	\$0.411	\$0.436	\$0.396	\$0.463

¹ Less than a tenth of 1 percent.

Variations by Industry

Common-labor entrance rates showed considerable variation from industry to industry. Industry variation occurred also within racial groups and within the two regions. The general averages presented in table 4 are indicative of rates in each of the three major industrial groups.

The average rate paid in manufacturing in July 1942 for the country as a whole was 56.1 cents and the rate in public utilities was 53.6 cents; both were exceeded by the building-construction rate of 67.4 cents. Within the manufacturing group, a range of 31.0 cents was indicated between the 43.5-cent average for fertilizers and the 74.5-cent average for blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills. Despite the large spread, only three of the selected industries—fertilizers,

lumber (sawmills), and brick, tile, and terra cotta—fell below the manufacturing average itself. Within public utilities, the spread was considerably less, 5.6 cents between the 51.7-cent average in electric light and power and the 57.3-cent average in electric street-railway and city motorbus operation and maintenance. Among all industries and industry groups considered, three manufacturing industries—blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills; petroleum refining; and chemicals—paid the highest average hourly entrance rates in the country.

TABLE 4.—Average Hourly Entrance Rates of Adult Male Common Laborers, by Industry, Region, and Race, July 1942

Industry	United States	North and West			South and Southwest				
		Total	White other than Mexican	Negro	Mex-ican	Total	White other than Mex-ican	Negro	Mex-ican
16 manufacturing industries.....	\$0.561	\$0.672	\$0.669	\$0.684	\$0.698	\$0.398	\$0.427	\$0.384	\$0.458
Automobile parts.....	.640	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills.....	.745	.766	.766	.766	.775	.562	.538	.575	(?)
Brick, tile, and terra cotta.....	.529	.600	.599	.607	.588	.383	.450	.355	.421
Cement.....	.640	.676	.675	.670	.692	.543	.552	.539	.521
Chemicals.....	.693	.750	.745	.801	(?)	.485	.521	.453	(?)
Fertilizers.....	.435	.565	.585	.539	.730	.368	.361	.368	(?)
Foundry and machine-shop products..	.594	.628	.624	.647	.689	.430	.437	.424	.436
Glass.....	.592	.601	.603	.567	(?)	.496	.487	.516	(?)
Leather.....	.616	.625	.625	.630	(?)	.538	.553	.467	(?)
Lumber (sawmills).....	.440	.643	.647	.423	.671	.363	.366	.361	.460
Meat packing.....	.669	.691	.684	.721	.705	.535	.553	.492	.516
Paints and varnishes.....	.620	.636	.634	.619	.814	.419	.430	.403	(?)
Paper and pulp.....	.622	.642	.642	.608	(?)	.676	.568	.583	(?)
Petroleum refining.....	.737	.838	.844	.795	(?)	.607	.654	.546	(?)
Rubber tires and inner tubes.....	.647	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Soap.....	.666	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Public utilities.....	.536	.605	.608	.604	.528	.390	.411	.372	.362
Electric light and power and man- ufactured and natural gas.....	.517	.595	.592	.645	.630	.384	.407	.363	.361
Electric street-railway and city motor- bus operation and maintenance.....	.573	.621	.638	.585	.508	.408	.424	.394	(?)
Building construction.....	.674	.833	.841	.806	.775	.454	.476	.439	.476

¹ Regional average omitted to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

² Data insufficient to justify presentation of an average.

In the North and West, rates in building construction averaged 83.3 cents, as compared with 67.2 cents in manufacturing and 60.5 cents in public utilities. Although Negroes averaged slightly more than either of the other racial groups when all industry groups were combined, this was not the case when the industry group averages were taken separately. In manufacturing, the Mexican average was highest, 69.8 cents; Negroes averaged 68.4 cents, and whites other than Mexican, 66.9 cents. In public utilities, whites other than Mexican averaged 60.8 cents; Negroes, 60.4 cents; Mexicans, 52.8 cents. In building construction, the corresponding averages for these races in order were 84.1 cents, 80.6 cents, and 77.5 cents an hour. The largest spread was in public utilities which showed a range of 8.0 cents from the rate for Mexicans to that for other whites.

Among the 13 manufacturing industries in the North and West for which averages are presented, the highest rates were in petroleum (83.8 cents), blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills (76.6 cents), and chemicals (75.0 cents). Fertilizers paid the lowest rate, 56.5

cents, showing a variation of 27.3 cents from the highest rate (petroleum).

No racial group in the region maintained a consistent advantage from industry to industry. Among the more important industries shown for manufacturing, Negroes had the highest average rates in chemicals and meat packing, and whites other than Mexican ranked first in petroleum and paper and pulp. Mexicans' rates topped those of other workers in several industries but Mexicans were not found in significant proportions. The largest variation evidenced within any one industry was a difference of 24.8 cents between the Negro average (42.3 cents) and the Mexican average (67.1 cents) in the lumber industry.

Common-labor entrance rates for the three major industry groups varied relatively little in the South and Southwest although there was considerable variation among specific industries. The range was only 6.4 cents, from the average paid in the public utilities group (39.0 cents) to the average for building construction (45.4 cents). The manufacturing average was 39.8 cents. Mexicans, who showed the highest combined average for the region, had also the highest average in manufacturing—45.8 cents an hour as against 42.7 cents for whites other than Mexican and 38.4 cents for Negroes. Negroes in building construction averaged 43.9 cents as compared with 47.6 cents for the other racial groups. The average for whites other than Mexican in public utilities (41.1 cents) exceeded the averages for Negroes (37.2 cents) and Mexicans (36.2 cents). Manufacturing exhibited the widest range from one racial group to another.

Manufacturing industries in the South and Southwest also showed an extreme variation of 24.4 cents between the 36.3-cent low in lumber and the 60.7-cent high in petroleum. Ranking immediately below petroleum were paper and pulp, and blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills, with average rates of 57.6 and 56.2 cents. The second lowest rate (36.8 cents) was paid in fertilizers.

Whites other than Mexican, numerically fewer than the two other racial groups combined, were at the highest rate levels in 8 of the 13 manufacturing industries for which data are shown for the South and Southwest region. Negroes were highest in four. Mexicans, for whom averages are published for five industries only, were highest in one. Whites other than Mexican received higher rates than either Negroes or Mexicans in individual public utilities.

VARIATIONS IN ENTRANCE RATES IN INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES

Cumulative percentages of common laborers at specified entrance rate intervals for each of the industries studied are presented in table 5. The majority of the laborers in all industries, with the exception of lumber and fertilizers, were paid rates between 45.0 and 90.0 cents an hour.

TABLE 5.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Adult Male Common Laborers, by Hourly Entrance Rates, Industry, and Region, July 1942

Hourly entrance rate (in cents)	Auto-mob- ile parts	Blast furnaces, steel works, and mills			Brick, tile, and terra cotta			Cement		
		Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west
Under 30.0					1.1	(?)	3.3			
30.0 and under					5.7	(?)	17.4			
Under 32.5					5.7	(?)	17.4			
Under 35.0	0.1		0.3	15.3	0.5	45.8	0.5		1.9	
Under 37.5	1.1	(?)	.3	21.6	1.1	63.8	.5		1.9	
Under 40.0	1.1	(?)	.3	24.2	1.8	70.6	.5		1.9	
Under 42.5	2.3	0.1	.3	29.5	5.2	79.8	1.3	1.0	1.9	
Under 45.0	2.3	.3	2.3	30.2	6.2	80.1	1.8	1.0	3.9	
Under 47.5	3.1	3.2	.1	30.7	11.4	87.8	2.0	1.3	3.9	
Under 50.0	3.3	3.8	.1	36.2	15.4	89.8	2.0	1.3	3.9	
Under 52.5	24.4	3.9	.2	36.2	46.0	24.1	91.6	13.4	45.4	
Under 55.0	26.0	4.1	.4	36.2	46.7	25.1	91.6	14.0	47.5	
Under 57.5	34.4	4.6	.9	36.2	52.4	33.3	92.1	23.6	80.6	
Under 60.0	35.8	5.7	1.2	44.1	54.1	35.8	92.1	27.5	87.8	
Under 62.5	50.4	11.5	2.7	87.0	68.1	56.5	92.1	37.9	98.8	
Under 65.0	50.5	12.4	3.3	90.1	75.3	64.4	97.9	44.4	100.0	
Under 67.5	57.2	13.5	4.6	90.1	77.3	67.2	98.4	55.1	38.1	
Under 70.0	58.1	15.9	7.3	90.1	92.1	88.2	100.0	56.3	39.7	
Under 72.5	67.3	20.1	11.0	99.2	95.8	93.7		93.4	90.8	
Under 75.0	69.4	21.9	13.0	99.2	96.8	95.2		96.6	95.2	
Under 77.5	82.5	24.8	16.3	99.2	97.9	96.9		96.9	95.6	
Under 80.0	92.0	98.3	98.1	100.0	98.2	97.4		98.0	97.2	
Under 82.5	93.6	99.0	98.9		98.2	97.4		99.3	99.0	
Under 85.0	94.0	100.0	100.0		99.3	99.0		99.5	99.3	
Under 87.5	93.4				99.7	99.5		100.0	100.0	
Under 90.0	99.0				99.7	99.5				
Under 95.0	100.0				99.9	99.9				
Under 100.0					100.0	100.0				
Under 105.0										

Hourly entrance rate (in cents)	Chemicals			Fertilizers			Foundry and machine-shop products			Glass		
	Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west
Under 30.0				1.7		2.5	(?)		0.1			
30.0 and under	0.6	(?)	2.5	22.5	4.6	31.6	2.3	(?)	13.4	1.3	0.1	13.8
Under 32.5	.6	(?)	2.5	22.6	4.6	31.8	2.3	(?)	13.4	1.3	.1	13.8
Under 35.0	.6	(?)	2.5	23.8	4.6	33.6	2.3	(?)	13.4	2.2	.1	23.8
Under 37.5	1.3	0.4	4.3	37.4	9.0	52.0	3.6	0.2	20.4	2.6	.1	28.2
Under 40.0	1.9	.5	6.6	42.2	9.7	59.0	4.0	.2	22.7	2.8	.2	28.8
Under 42.5	5.6	1.1	21.5	60.3	15.6	83.4	14.2	2.8	69.9	3.3	.7	29.4
Under 45.0	6.3	1.1	24.9	61.0	16.4	84.0	14.7	3.1	71.6	3.6	1.1	29.4
Under 47.5	13.8	1.1	59.6	66.7	19.8	90.9	19.1	6.3	81.7	8.7	4.2	55.3
Under 50.0	14.3	1.3	61.4	67.2	20.6	91.3	20.6	7.0	87.1	12.7	8.6	55.3
Under 52.5	19.2	3.9	74.8	78.8	38.6	99.7	32.3	20.0	92.4	25.3	21.8	60.7
Under 55.0	19.3	3.9	75.3	79.4	40.2	99.7	34.6	22.0	95.0	36.5	34.0	60.7
Under 57.5	21.5	6.5	76.3	81.9	46.9	100.0	43.3	32.3	96.8	49.3	45.0	60.7
Under 60.0	25.6	8.0	89.8	82.2	47.9		45.3	34.6	97.7	52.5	51.5	60.7
Under 62.5	25.6	11.8	90.0	89.8	70.3		57.6	49.0	100.0	64.9	62.7	85.8
Under 65.0	30.9	12.0	99.9	91.9	76.5		61.1	53.2		68.7	65.9	85.8
Under 67.5	34.7	16.9	99.9	94.8	85.0		71.7	66.0		83.5	83.7	85.8
Under 70.0	35.7	18.2	99.9	96.0	88.6		76.2	71.4		83.9	83.7	85.8
Under 72.5	44.6	29.5	99.9	97.2	92.2		81.8	78.1		84.7	83.8	93.2
Under 75.0	54.9	42.6	99.9	97.3	92.4		88.0	85.6		84.8	83.7	93.2
Under 77.5	71.1	63.3	99.9	98.5	95.8		92.4	90.9		98.7	98.6	100.0
Under 80.0	74.1	67.1	99.9	98.5	95.8		94.4	93.3		98.7	98.6	
Under 82.5	80.8	75.6	100.0	98.5	95.8		96.4	95.7		98.8	98.7	
Under 85.0	84.9	80.8		98.5	95.8		96.7	96.0	100.0	100.0		
Under 87.5	88.2	85.0		98.6	96.0		99.6	99.5				
Under 90.0	89.2	86.3		98.6	96.0		99.6	99.5				
Under 95.0	99.7	99.7		99.9	99.8		99.9	99.9				
Under 100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0					
Under 105.0												

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Adult Male Common Laborers, by Hourly Entrance Rates, Industry, and Region, July 1942—Continued

Hourly entrance rates (in cents)	Leather			Lumber (sawmills)			Meat packing		
	Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west
Under 30.0				0.8		1.1	0.1		0.8
30.0 and under	0.1		1.2	3.2	0.5	4.2	1.9	0.1	13.1
Under 32.5	1		1.2	3.4	5	4.4	1.9	.1	13.1
Under 35.0	1		1.2	3.9	5	5.1	1.9	.1	13.1
Under 37.5	3	(?)	1.4	52.0	8.9	68.4	2.8	.2	18.6
Under 40.0	3	(?)	1.4	61.5	10.7	80.8	3.0	.2	19.9
Under 42.5	2.9	1.9	10.9	75.7	17.8	97.7	4.4	1.0	25.1
Under 45.0	4.5	2.5	21.4	76.3	19.0	98.1	4.5	1.0	25.2
Under 47.5	6.8	5.0	22.1	78.1	25.1	98.4	4.8	1.2	26.4
Under 50.0	7.5	5.8	22.1	79.2	28.7	98.6	5.6	1.2	32.3
Under 52.5	19.5	18.7	26.6	82.1	39.3	98.6	6.8	2.3	34.0
Under 55.0	20.1	19.1	29.0	82.9	41.2	98.9	7.4	2.6	36.6
Under 57.5	35.0	30.7	72.4	83.0	41.4	98.9	12.7	7.0	47.2
Under 60.0	40.1	34.9	85.4	84.2	43.1	* 100.0	14.4	7.6	55.3
Under 62.5	49.4	45.3	85.4	84.7	44.8		17.1	10.7	55.3
Under 65.0	64.4	61.9	85.4	85.3	46.8		25.7	13.6	98.5
Under 67.5	77.5	68.2	100.0	85.6	48.0		30.4	18.8	100.0
Under 70.0		74.7		86.0	49.3		32.3	21.0	
Under 72.5	88.9	87.6		87.5	54.3		77.4	73.6	
Under 75.0	93.4	92.6		87.9	56.2		98.1	97.9	
Under 77.5	93.4	92.6		90.5	65.6		98.8	98.7	
Under 80.0	96.0	95.5		91.1	67.6		99.0	98.9	
Under 82.5	96.5	96.1		93.4	70.1		99.1	99.0	
Under 85.0	99.8	99.8		99.1	96.9	‡ 100.0	‡ 100.0	‡ 100.0	
Under 87.5	99.8	99.8		99.7	99.1				
Under 90.0	100.0	100.0		99.9	99.7				
Under 95.0				* 100.0	99.9				
Under 100.0					100.0				
Under 105.0									

Hourly entrance rate (in cents)	Paints and varnishes			Paper and pulp			Petroleum refining			Rubber tires and inner tubes †
	Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west	Total	North and West	South and South- west	
Under 30.0	(?)		0.5							
30.0 and under	1.0	0.1	13.2	(?)		(?)				
Under 32.5	1.0	1.1	13.2	(?)		(?)				
Under 35.0	2.1	3	25.6	(?)		(?)				
Under 37.5	3.1	7	34.2	(?)	(?)	(?)				
Under 40.0	3.4	1.0	34.2	(?)	(?)	(?)				
Under 42.5	9.7	6.8	46.5	1.2	0.8	2.0	0.1	(?)	0.2	1.4
Under 45.0	9.9	6.9	48.4	3.5	1.0	9.1	1	(?)	2	1.4
Under 47.5	16.5	12.4	68.7	6.3	2.8	14.1	2.4	(?)	5.5	5.0
Under 50.0	16.6	12.4	69.4	8.7	4.3	18.6	2.4	(?)	5.5	5.3
Under 52.5	33.7	28.9	92.6	19.6	13.2	34.3	5.7	0.4	12.5	13.3
Under 55.0	36.4	31.4	97.2	23.7	14.3	45.7	9.6	.8	21.0	13.3
Under 57.5	41.5	36.7	100.0	31.6	22.5	52.8	21.0	1.4	46.3	25.1
Under 60.0	41.5	36.7		43.0	27.6	79.3	21.9	1.7	47.9	25.1
Under 62.5	49.6	45.5		59.3	47.4	87.8	32.8	3.9	70.1	25.1
Under 65.0	51.5	47.5		65.2	54.4	91.3	33.5	4.1	71.4	37.5
Under 67.5	60.7	57.5		79.9	71.6	100.0	32.9	5.2	73.2	40.4
Under 70.0	66.5	63.8		85.1	78.9		35.7	6.5	73.4	40.4
Under 72.5	70.2	67.8		88.7	84.0		48.6	15.6	91.1	89.8
Under 75.0	75.9	73.9		89.3	84.9		49.4	16.8	91.4	89.8
Under 77.5	89.7	88.8		92.0	88.7		51.3	19.9	91.9	91.3
Under 80.0	90.1	89.3		92.4	89.3		58.6	30.1	95.4	96.3
Under 82.5	91.2	90.5		92.7	89.8		78.0	64.4	95.4	96.3
Under 85.0	91.5	90.8		99.0	98.4		83.4	71.2	99.1	96.3
Under 87.5	91.5	90.8		* 100.0	* 100.0		96.6	93.9	100.0	100.0
Under 90.0	94.3	93.8					96.8	94.3		
Under 95.0	99.6	99.5					98.3	96.9		
Under 100.0	100.0	100.0					100.0	100.0		
Under 105.0										

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Adult Male Common Laborers by Hourly Entrance Rates, Industry, and Region, July 1942—Continued

Hourly entrance rate (in cents)	Soap ¹	Electric light and power and manufactured and natural gas			Electric street-railway and city motorbus operation and maintenance			Building construction		
		Total	North and West	South and South-west	Total	North and West	South and South-west	Total	North and West	South and South-west
Under 30.0		1.2	(?)	3.2				0.3		0.8
30.0 and under	0.3	8.7	0.1	23.2	(?)		0.1	2.8	(?)	6.7
Under 32.5	.3	9.3	.1	24.8	0.1		.5	2.8	(?)	6.7
Under 35.0	.3	10.0	.2	26.4	.6	0.1	2.5	2.8	(?)	6.7
Under 37.5	.4	18.6	.9	48.5	4.3	.2	18.6	4.7	0.1	11.0
Under 40.0	3.7	19.0	1.1	49.3	5.4	.4	22.6	4.7	.1	11.0
Under 42.5	8.9	31.8	7.3	73.5	19.0	2.3	76.1	27.3	2.5	61.6
Under 45.0	9.0	32.7	8.1	74.7	22.9	3.9	87.8	27.4	2.5	61.7
Under 47.5	12.9	40.6	16.2	82.2	27.3	8.8	90.4	29.0	3.5	64.1
Under 50.0	13.4	41.3	16.5	83.6	29.4	10.6	93.2	29.0	3.5	64.1
Under 52.5	20.9	58.5	34.8	99.1	35.4	17.2	97.0	36.5	7.3	78.6
Under 55.0	25.9	58.9	35.5	99.1	40.8	24.2	97.0	36.5	7.3	76.6
Under 57.5	30.8	63.1	41.7	99.7	48.6	33.6	99.4	42.4	7.7	90.0
Under 60.0	35.1	63.5	42.3	99.8	49.1	34.3	99.4	42.6	7.8	90.3
Under 62.5	45.9	71.6	55.1	99.9	53.3	39.5	99.9	45.4	11.9	91.3
Under 65.0	46.7	76.4	62.6	100.0	57.7	45.2	100.0	46.1	12.8	91.8
Under 67.5	48.8	83.5	73.9		70.9	62.4		48.5	16.3	92.7
Under 70.0	49.5	85.9	77.7		90.0	87.1		50.7	16.6	97.6
Under 72.5	51.7	91.4	86.4		91.2	88.6		54.0	22.1	97.9
Under 75.0	70.1	96.3	94.2		98.5	98.1		54.0	22.1	97.9
Under 77.5	71.2	97.4	95.9		98.7	98.3		60.2	32.8	98.0
Under 80.0	77.9	98.4	97.5		99.1	98.8		60.7	33.7	98.0
Under 82.5	82.2	98.7	98.0		99.4	99.2		64.5	40.3	98.0
Under 85.0	83.6	98.7	98.0		99.4	99.2		71.5	50.8	* 100.0
Under 87.5	83.6	98.8	98.1		99.4	99.2		74.4	55.8	
Under 90.0	85.0	99.2	98.8		99.4	99.2		78.5	62.9	
Under 95.0	99.1	99.4	99.1		99.4	99.2		83.7	71.8	
Under 100.0	99.7	99.4	99.1		99.9	99.9		88.6	80.2	
Under 105.0	* 99.9	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0		* 97.5	* 95.7	

¹ Regional figures omitted to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

² Less than a tenth of 1 percent.

³ Includes less than a tenth of 1 percent receiving 85.0 cents and over.

⁴ Includes less than a tenth of 1 percent receiving 95.0 cents and over.

⁵ Includes less than a tenth of 1 percent receiving 60.0 cents and over.

⁶ Includes less than a tenth of 1 percent receiving 87.5 cents and over.

⁷ The remaining tenth of 1 percent received \$1.05 and over.

⁸ The remaining 2.5 percent received \$1.05 and over.

⁹ The remaining 4.3 percent received \$1.05 and over.

Among the higher-wage industries, more than half of the laborers in petroleum, and over three-fourths in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills, had rates that averaged 75.0 cents an hour or better; and nearly half of those employed in building construction and chemicals were paid at equivalent levels. In blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills, a significant proportion—almost 75 percent of all the common laborers at entrance rates in the industry—received from 77.5 to 80.0 cents an hour. These workers were almost entirely in the North.

Almost two-thirds of the laborers in fertilizers and over three-fourths in lumber—industries with the lowest rates among all industrial groups—averaged under 45.0 cents an hour. For both of these industries there were important concentrations within the 35.0–37.5 and 40.0–42.5 cents intervals. Fertilizers showed the only important concentration at exactly 30.0 cents an hour, the Fair Labor Standards Act minimum; the concentration at 35.0 to 37.5 cents in the lumber industry reflects the legal minimum of 35.0 cents, to which attention has already been directed. Only six industries, four of which were in the manufacturing group, had laborers below 30.0 cents an hour.

In none of these did workers at rates of less than 30.0 cents account for more than 2 percent of the common laborers employed.

Variations by Size of City

Rates tended on the whole to be higher in the larger city groups than in the smaller ones. In cities with populations over a million the average was 79.9 cents an hour, as compared with 45.8 cents in cities with populations under 2,500. The indicated difference of 34.1 cents in the country as a whole was greater than that in either of the two major geographic regions.

Rates, however, did not vary consistently with size of city, as may be seen from table 6. In the country as a whole, cities of 250,000 to 500,000 population averaged 2.1 cents less than the next succeeding group; and cities of 50,000 to 100,000 averaged 4.5 cents less than the group immediately below. In the North and West the relationship between size of city and level of entrance rate was pronounced and relatively consistent, but in the South and Southwest this relationship was not close. It appears that other factors, such as location of specific industries, tend to counteract to some extent the influence of city size.

TABLE 6.—Average Hourly Entrance Rates of Adult Male Common Laborers in Manufacturing, Public Utilities, and Building Construction, by Size of City, July 1942

Size of city	United States	North and West	South and Southwest
All cities.....	\$0. 585	\$0. 722	\$0. 411
1,000,000 and over.....	. 799	. 799	.....
500,000 and under 1,000,000.....	. 778	. 778	.....
250,000 and under 500,000.....	. 694	. 780	. 473
100,000 and under 250,000.....	. 615	. 745	. 460
50,000 and under 100,000.....	. 565	. 698	. 407
25,000 and under 50,000.....	. 610	. 697	. 438
10,000 and under 25,000.....	. 577	. 689	. 370
5,000 and under 10,000.....	. 499	. 643	. 391
2,500 and under 5,000.....	. 474	. 644	. 360
Less than 2,500.....	. 458	. 604	. 374
City not reported.....	. 462	. 680	. 384

ENTRANCE RATES IN INDIVIDUAL CITIES

Rates for common labor varied widely from city to city. Data for selected industries are presented in table 7 for each of the 37 cities of 250,000 population or more.

The four cities paying the highest entrance rates in manufacturing were all on the Pacific Coast—Oakland, Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco. Detroit, Toledo, and Pittsburgh ranked next. All of these cities also paid relatively high rates in building construction and public utilities. Cities showing the lowest averages for manufacturing were all in the South and Southwest—Atlanta, New Orleans, San Antonio, Memphis, Dallas, Louisville, and Birmingham. Among the largest cities, New York paid the lowest average rate.

Examination of the figures presented in table 7 reveals that entrance rates varied appreciably from industry to industry even within the same city.

TABLE 7.—Average Hourly Entrance Rates of Adult Male Common Laborers for Selected Cities, by Industry, July 1942

Population group and city	16 manu- facturing indus- tries	Blast furnaces, steel works and rolling mills ¹	Foundry and machine- shop products ¹	Meat packing ¹	Public utilities	Building construc- tion
United States.....	\$0.561	\$0.745	\$0.594	\$0.669	\$0.536	\$0.674
1,000,000 and over:						
Chicago, Ill.....	.723	.787	.633	.735	.694	1.031
Detroit, Mich.....	.767	(?)	.783	(?)	(?)	.887
Los Angeles, Calif.....	.692	(?)	.649	.704	.535	.798
New York, N. Y.....	.660		.575	.729	.679	.959
Philadelphia, Pa.....	.689	.731	.702	.564	.551	.817
500,000 and under 1,000,000:						
Baltimore, Md.....	.653	(?)	.519	.647	.613	(?)
Boston, Mass.....	.553		.585	(?)	.745	1.000
Buffalo, N. Y.....	.658	(?)	.680	.559	.648	.820
Cleveland, Ohio.....	.728	.778	.652	.702	(?)	.985
Milwaukee, Wis.....	.659	.716	.603	.717	(?)	.932
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	.736	.779	.721	(?)	.684	.806
St. Louis, Mo.....	.641	.690	.581	.690	.547	.924
San Francisco, Calif.....	.779		.874	(?)	.655	.886
Washington, D. C.....	(?)				.610	.830
250,000 and under 500,000:						
Atlanta, Ga.....	.387	(?)	(?)	(?)	.423	.389
Birmingham, Ala.....	.479	.579	.403	(?)	(?)	.487
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	.591		.513	(?)	(?)	.719
Columbus, Ohio.....	.605		.562	.691	(?)	.657
Dallas, Tex.....	.464		.413	.465	(?)	.493
Denver, Colo.....	.636		.564	.694	(?)	.797
Houston, Tex.....	.528		.505	(?)	(?)	.426
Indianapolis, Ind.....	.556		.555	(?)	.604	.826
Jersey City, N. J.....	.682		(?)	(?)	(?)	.919
Kansas City, Mo.....	.635	.674	.565		.556	.843
Louisville, Ky.....	.477	(?)	.494	.589	.400	.659
Memphis, Tenn.....	.462		(?)	(?)	(?)	.382
Minneapolis, Minn.....	(?)		.578		(?)	.891
Newark, N. J.....	.572	(?)	.577	.650	.633	(?)
New Orleans, La.....	.434		.477	(?)	.371	.545
Oakland, Calif.....	.852	(?)	.862	(?)	.673	.915
Portland, Oreg.....	.800		.809	(?)	.762	.943
Providence, R. I.....	.667		(?)		(?)	.740
Rochester, N. Y.....	.607		(?)		(?)	(?)
St. Paul, Minn.....	.685		.646	.700	(?)	.903
San Antonio, Tex.....	.444		.392	.499	(?)	.408
Seattle, Wash.....	.815	(?)	.785	.825	.688	1.010
Toledo, Ohio.....	.763	(?)	.724		.665	.925

¹ Included among 16 manufacturing industries.² Data insufficient to justify presentation of an average.

Trends of Entrance Rates From 1926 to 1942

In order to permit comparison with the data for earlier years, the 1942 averages shown in table 8 have been devised directly from the questionnaire returns, without weighting. The 1942 data, it is true, differ from those for earlier years in that they refer to first-shift workers alone. For a limited number of localities and industries, shift payments were of some importance; for the United States as a whole, however, these differentials were not found to be significant and may be disregarded.

Included in the manufacturing group in table 8 are brick, tile, and terra cotta; blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills; cement; foundry and machine-shop products; leather; lumber (sawmills); meat packing; paper and pulp; and petroleum refining. Data for seven other manufacturing industries surveyed in the years since 1936 are excluded so as to retain comparability throughout the 17-year period.

TABLE 8.—Average Hourly Entrance Rates of Adult Male Common Laborers in 13 Industries, by Industry Group, 1926-42

July—	All industries covered	9 manufacturing industries	Public utilities	Building construction ¹
1926.....	\$0. 426	\$0. 401	\$0. 420	\$0. 471
1927.....	. 424	. 399	. 398	. 482
1928.....	. 428	. 402	. 429	. 474
1929.....	. 432	. 407	. 428	. 483
1930.....	. 429	. 405	. 446	. 470
1931.....	. 403	. 383	. 446	. 426
1932.....	. 355	. 318	. 415	. 399
1933.....	. 333	. 305	. 387	. 383
1934.....	. 420	. 407	. 418	. 455
1935.....	. 430	. 415	. 420	. 481
1936.....	. 434	. 425	. 437	. 509
1937 ².....	. 493	. 488	. 463	. 551
1938 ².....	. 495	. 486	. 479	. 578
1939.....	. 500	. 487	. 485	. 601
1940.....	. 507	. 498	. 477	. 601
1941.....	. 565	. 559	. 502	. 648
1942 ⁴.....	. 635	. 616	. 563	. 724

¹ For the years 1926 to 1935, inclusive, the figures cover a small amount of construction outside of the building industry.

² Averages for the year were computed on the basis of identical establishments for both 1937 and 1938.

³ Averages for the year were computed on the basis of identical establishments for both 1938 and 1939.

⁴ These averages, unlike the averages appearing in the preceding tables of this report, are not weighted. The figures for 1942 alone are based on payments to first-shift workers.

The average for all 13 industries combined in 1942 was 63.5 cents, indicating an increase of exactly 7.0 cents over the preceding year. The manufacturing group advanced least (5.7 cents) and building construction had the greatest advance (7.6 cents). In each instance the 1942 averages were higher than those shown for any year since 1926, when the Bureau's studies of entrance rates began.