

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
L. B. Schwellentach, *Secretary*
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
Ewan Clague, *Commissioner*

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Trends in Urban Wage Rates

April 1946



Bulletin No. 891

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Letter of Transmittal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS,
Washington, D. C., November 4, 1946.

THE SECRETARY OF LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on the trend of urban wage rates in April 1946, which was prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Branch under the direction of Frances Jones Clerc and Eleanor K. Buschman. Field work for the survey was conducted under the direction of the Bureau's regional wage analysts.

EWAN CLAGUE, *Commissioner.*

HON. L. B. SCHWELLENBACH,
Secretary of Labor.

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(III)

*Bulletin No. 891 of the
United States Bureau of Labor Statistics*

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Trends in Urban Wage Rates, April 1946¹

URBAN wage rates showed greater advances between October 1945 and April 1946 than in any 6-month period since the beginning of World War II, and at the end of August 1946 they were still registering substantial gains each month. Despite large increases in basic rates, however, real wages still showed only moderate advances over January 1941 levels, as a result of a 42.6-percent rise in consumers' prices between January 1941 and August 1946. If measured from wartime peak levels, real weekly earnings show a decline despite the basic wage rate increases that have occurred during the reconversion period, whereas real wage rates show a small gain.

These facts were disclosed by an analysis of the Bureau of Labor Statistics semiannual survey of the trend of urban wage rates for April 1946. The urban wage-rate series covers all manufacturing industries and the wholesale and retail trade, finance groups, local utilities, and service trades of the nonmanufacturing industries.

War and Postwar Wage Movements in Manufacturing

In April 1946, 8 months after the end of war with Japan, average hourly wage rates in urban manufacturing industry as a whole stood 11.7 percent above the VJ-day level, 12.4 percent above the VE-day

¹ For a more detailed description of the Bureau's measure of urban wage trends and the findings of previous surveys, see Monthly Labor Review, October 1944 (p. 634), or Serial No. R. 1634; February 1945 (p. 379), or Bulletin No. 809; September 1945 (p. 519), or Bulletin No. 846; and February 1946 (p. 289), or Bulletin No. 860.

Urban wage rate trends should not be confused with trends of factory earnings published in each issue of the Monthly Labor Review. The urban wage-rate series measures changes in basic wage rates resulting from general changes in pay scales and from individual wage-rate adjustments within occupational classifications. For incentive workers they reflect changes in straight-time hourly earnings of key occupational groups. They exclude the effect of such factors as the shifting of employment among regions, industries, and occupations, and most of the changes in the composition of the labor force, as well as changes in payments for overtime and late-shift work, vacations and holidays, and other similar items.

The series dealing with trends of factory earnings, on the other hand, is based on gross earnings of all wage earners and reflects such factors as hours of work, premium pay for overtime and late-shift work, and shifting of employment among regions, industries, and occupations. The estimated straight-time average hourly earnings are computed by applying a correction factor to gross average earnings to eliminate the effect of overtime premiums but not of night-shift premiums or other factors affecting gross earnings.

level, and 48.9 percent above the rates that prevailed prior to the wartime wage rise, in January 1941 (table 1). Since April 1946,² wage rates have continued to advance at a rate of approximately 1 percent per month.

Urban wage rates showed moderate increases throughout the war. An advance of 17.0 percent in manufacturing industries occurred during the 21-month prestabilization period (January 1941 to October 1942). The subsequent period of wage stabilization (October 1942 to August 1945) witnessed gains in manufacturing wage rates averaging somewhat less than one-half of 1 percent per month and totaling 13.9 percent, bringing the total increase between January 1941 and the end of the war with Japan to 33.3 percent. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing rose more sharply, and reached a high point in January 1945, which was 78.3 percent above the January 1941 base period. This gain was the composite result of higher wage rates, a longer average workweek (by 16.4 percent), substantial amounts of premium pay for overtime and late-shift work, and the movement of large numbers of workers from lower-wage industries and areas to those where higher wages prevailed.

The months following January 1945, however, recorded a steady decline in weekly manufacturing earnings from the all-time high of that month, culminating in a sharp break in August 1945, coincident with the end of the war with Japan. This decline reflected the influence of the above-named factors (except wage-rate increases) operating in reverse while reconversion to a peacetime economy got under way.³

In the summer of 1945, organized labor began a concerted drive for increases in wage rates that would maintain wartime levels of earnings under a potentially shorter peacetime workweek. When wage controls were relaxed in August 1945, numerous employers immediately put into effect wage increases that were pending approval by the National War Labor Board; some gave raises that they had been prevented from granting during the period of wage stabilization; and still others allowed interim increases of small amounts which they intended to supplement after clarification of governmental wage policy and the establishment of wage-movement patterns for individual industries or areas. These types of increases accounted for most of the 1.7 percent rise in urban wage rates that occurred between August and October 1945.

² Estimate based on the Bureau's monthly series of average weekly hours and average hourly earnings. The latest data for the urban wage-rate series apply to April 1946.

The upward movement of wages since April 1946 is caused mainly by first or additional increases negotiated to bring the rates in specific establishments into line with industry or area patterns.

³ See the Bureau's monthly series of Hours and Earnings, and of Employment and Pay Rolls, published monthly in mimeographed form and summarized in each issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

During the 6-month period following October 1945, pattern-setting wage negotiations of national importance were concluded, and increases in wage rates became general throughout the country. Some of these increases followed industry patterns, some followed area patterns, and a great many were modeled after the pattern of 18½ cents set in the 1946 steel case.⁴ The net increase in urban wage rates between October 1945 and April 1946, chargeable in the main to these general wage changes, was 9.8 percent. More than half of this amount occurred after February 13, 1946, the closing date of the "wage increase pattern period" established by Executive Order No. 9697 of February 14, 1946. General wage increases between VJ-day and April 1946 brought the total of manufacturing wage changes resulting from this type of increase to 29.6 percent for the period since January 1, 1941.

Table 1 shows movements of wages in manufacturing, as indicated by various Bureau of Labor Statistics wage measures, for specified periods, January 1941 to April 1946.

TABLE 1.—Comparative Summary of Changes in Earnings and Wage Rates in Manufacturing, January 1941–April 1946

Period	Percent of change in specified period				
	Gross weekly earnings	Gross hourly earnings	Adjusted hourly earnings ¹	Urban wage rates	General wage changes
Total period (January 1941–April 1946).....	+61.0	+54.9	+54.7	² +48.9	+29.6
Prestabilization period (January 1941–October 1942).....	+46.0	+30.7	+21.5	² +17.0	+12.6
Stabilization period (October 1942–August 1945).....	+7.3	+14.7	³ +15.6	² +13.9	+3.6
October 1942–April 1943.....	+9.2	+5.7	+3.2	² +3.0	+1.1
April 1943–October 1943.....	+5.6	+4.7	+3.6	+3.8	+5
October 1943–April 1944.....	+1.5	+2.5	+3.0	+1.9	+5
April 1944–October 1944.....	+3.1	+1.8	+2.1	+2.2	+4
October 1944–April 1945 (VE-day).....	+4	+1.3	+1.9	+1.6	+5
April 1945–August 1945 (VJ-day).....	-11.5	-1.9	³ +9	+7	+4
Postwar period (August 1945–April 1946).....	+2.8	+3.3	³ +10.1	⁴ +11.7	⁴ +11.1
August 1945–October 1945.....	-1.8	-3.8	³ +1.0	⁴ +1.7	⁴ +1.5
October 1945–February 1946 (Executive Order No. 9697).....	-1.0	+1.7	+4.2	+4.3	+4.1
February 1946–April 1946.....	+5.7	+5.6	+4.6	+5.3	+5.1

¹ Hourly earnings excluding premium payments for overtime, and with industries weighted in proportion to their 1941 employment.

² Partially estimated.

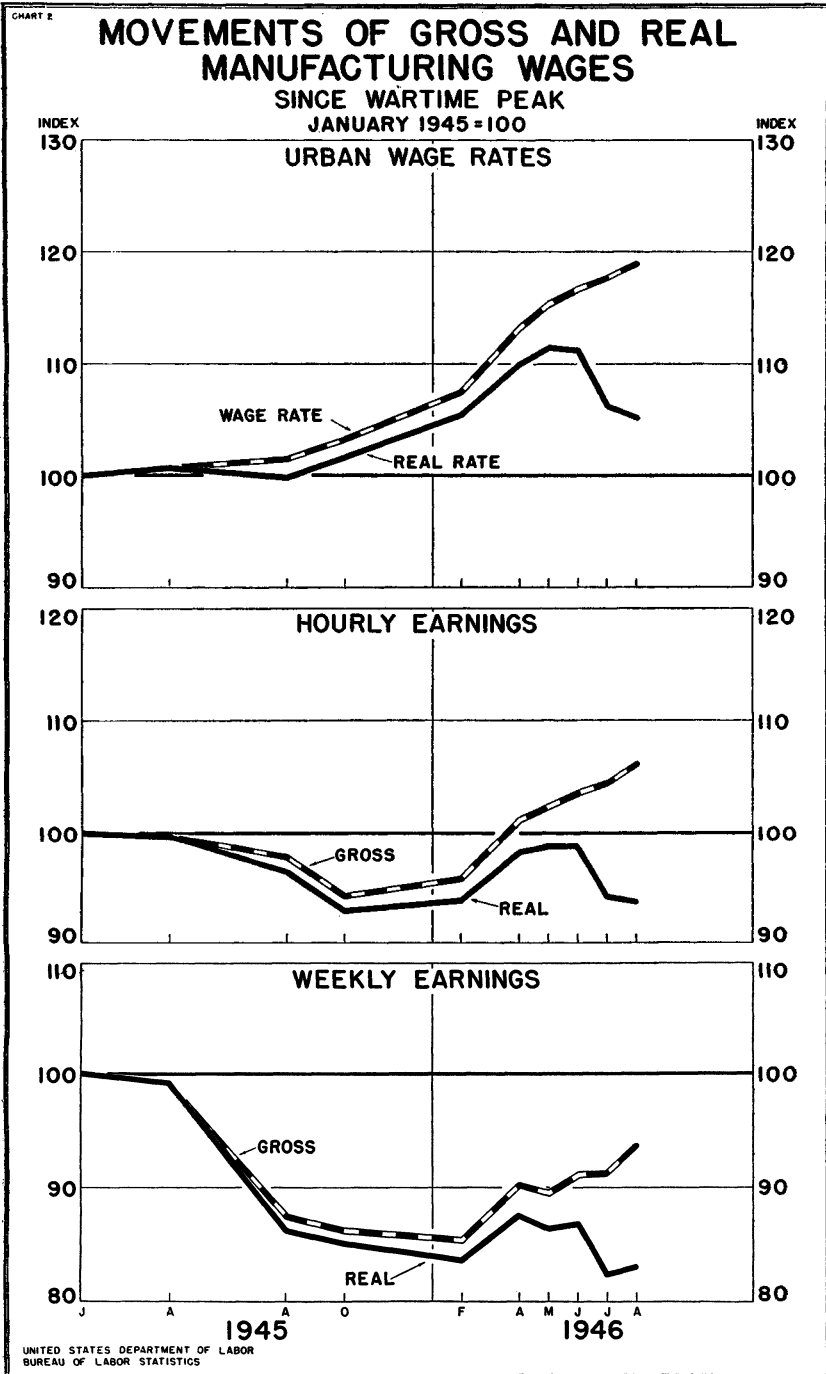
³ Data not available for August 1945. July 1945 data substituted.

⁴ October 1945 estimates revised on basis of more precise data obtained in connection with the April 1946 survey. Previously published October estimates were obtained from a survey of 18 of the 69 cities usually represented in the Bureau's indexes of urban wage rates.

MOVEMENTS OF GROSS AND REAL MANUFACTURING WAGES

Wartime trends.—Projecting the urban wage-rate index beyond April 1946 in the light of other wage measures for the same period, there appears to have been a further increase of 4 to 5 percent between

⁴ For data on postwar general wage increases, see Postwar Increases in Basic Wage Rates, Monthly Labor Review, September 1946, or mimeographed Bureau press release, Increases Granted in Basic Rates Since VJ-day, dated September 20, 1946.



April and August 1946. Urban wage rates were, therefore, about 56 percent above prewar (January 1941) levels in August 1946. Average weekly earnings, which fell 14.6 percent between January 1945 and February 1946, began to rise again with increases in basic rates, and in August 1946 were 67.5 percent above January 1941 levels. The impact of the 42.6-percent rise in consumers' prices⁵ over the same period reduced the increase in real weekly earnings to 17.5 percent, and in real wage rates to 9.4 percent (chart 1).⁶

Trends since wartime peak.—In comparing wage levels in August 1946 with peak wartime conditions (January 1945), wage rates increased an estimated 18.9 percent, but average weekly earnings stood 6.1 percent below the January 1945 base (chart 2). Adjusted by consumers' prices, the real earnings for these two measures of wages became a 5.1-percent advance and a 17.0-percent decline, respectively.

Trend of Manufacturing Wage Rates, April 1945 to April 1946

During the period of wartime wage stabilization, increases in wage rates as revealed by the urban wage-rate index, reflected not only general wage changes,⁷ which usually accounted for only a small proportion of the increase, but also wage "adjustments" for individual workers, promotions of workers to the tops of job-rate ranges, hiring above normal entrance rates, and similar practices growing out of tight labor-market conditions. Since straight-time hourly earnings for incentive occupations are used in constructing the indexes, changes in productivity for these workers have also been reflected in the series. At the end of the war (VJ-day) urban wage rates had actually advanced 33.3 percent over the January 1941 level, but general wage changes accounted for an increase of only 16.7 percent (table 1).

By contrast with the war period, changes in wage rates since VJ-day may be identified very closely with general changes in wage scales. General wage changes amounted to an 11.1-percent increase in wage rates between August 18, 1945, and April 1946; the urban wage-rate index rose 11.7 percent.⁸ The respective figures for the 1-year period covered by this study were 11.5 and 12.4 percent.

⁵ As measured by the BLS index of consumers' prices. For an explanation of this index, see November 1946, *Monthly Labor Review*, p. 781.

⁶ Real wages represent the purchasing power of actual wages. Real-wage indexes are computed by dividing actual-wage indexes by consumers' price indexes.

⁷ The Bureau's definition of "general wage change," for purposes of these studies, is a general or across-the-board change in rates that affects, at one time, 10 percent or more employees, or all workers in important occupational classifications.

⁸ See footnote 4.

CHANGES IN WAGE RATES IN INDUSTRY GROUPS

The trend of urban wage rates for major groups of manufacturing industries between January 1941 and April 1946 is presented in table 2. The change from VJ-day to April 1946 has not been separated for measurement at the industry-group level, but wage-rate changes between April and August 1945 (as shown in table 1) were negligible in volume.⁹

TABLE 2.—Percent of Change in Urban Wage Rates in Manufacturing, by Industry Group, January 1941–April 1946¹

Industry group	Percent of change from—									
	Jan 1941 to Oct. 1942 ¹	Oct. 1942 to Apr. 1943 ¹	Apr. 1943 to Oct. 1943	Oct. 1943 to Apr. 1944	Apr. 1944 to Oct. 1944	Oct. 1944 to Apr. 1945	Apr. 1945 to Oct. 1945 ²	Oct. 1945 to Apr. 1946	Jan. 1941 to Apr. 1946 ¹	
All manufacturing industries.....	+17.0	+3.0	+3.8	+1.9	+2.2	+1.6	+2.4	+9.8	+48.9	
Food and kindred products.....	+13.6	+3.6	+3.2	+1.1	+1.9	+1.4	+3.0	+7.8	+40.9	
Tobacco manufactures.....	+15.7	+2.8	+1.1	+3.1	+1.7	+3.7	+5.3	+7.4	+47.8	
Textile-mill products.....	+24.2	+2.1	+2.7	+2.7	+2.3	+1.1	+5.0	+12.3	+63.1	
Apparel and allied products.....	+13.8	+5.6	-.2	+5.0	+7.6	+6.7	+3.1	+11.0	+65.6	
Lumber and timber basic products.....	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	
Furniture and finished lumber products.....	+16.2	-3.0	+3.4	+1.8	+2.9	+1.0	+5.7	+9.0	+41.9	
Paper and allied products.....	+13.6	+2.4	+5.2	+2	+1.7	+4	+3.2	+11.6	+44.1	
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....	+7.4	+1.9	+3.1	+1.6	+2.5	+2.1	+3.5	+9.1	+35.5	
Chemicals and allied products.....	+15.9	+2.8	+2.4	+1.3	+1.2	+8	+5.0	+10.6	+46.4	
Products of petroleum and coal.....	+18.0	+1.0	-.3	(⁴)	+3	+1	+5.7	+12.0	+41.2	
Rubber products.....	+15.5	+2.8	+2.0	+2.5	+1.4	+2.0	+5	+15.2	+48.5	
Leather and leather products.....	+20.3	+3.2	+4.5	+4.0	+4.2	+4.2	+3.1	+12.9	+70.5	
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	
Basic iron and steel.....	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	+7	-.6	+4	(⁵)	+13.2	+13.8	
Shipbuilding.....	(⁵)	(⁵)	+4	+4	+5	+8	+4	+10.0	+12.8	
Metalworking (except basic iron and steel and shipbuilding).....	+16.2	+3.4	+5.4	+1.9	+2.0	+1.2	+2.0	+8.9	+47.9	

¹ Data for periods prior to April 1943 are estimated.

² October 1945 estimates revised on basis of more precise data obtained in connection with the April 1946 survey. Previously published October estimates were obtained from a survey of 18 of the 69 cities usually represented in the Bureau's indexes of urban wage rates.

³ Representation inadequate to show percent of change.

⁴ Less than a tenth of 1 percent.

⁵ Data not available.

⁶ April 1945 to April 1946. Does not include the effect of 4-cent second shift and 6-cent third shift differentials introduced in 1945. The inclusion of shift differentials would bring the increase in urban wage rates between April 1945 and April 1946 to 15.4 percent.

⁷ October 1943 to April 1946.

⁸ April 1943 to April 1946.

The largest gains in rates for the 1-year period were made by petroleum (18.4 percent) and textiles (17.9 percent); the smallest gains¹⁰ were in the food, shipbuilding, and the metal products industries other than basic iron and steel and shipbuilding (11.0, 10.4, and 11.1 percent, respectively). Including postwar gains as of April 1946, wage rates advanced after January 1941 by 70.5 percent and 65.6 percent, respectively, in the leather and leather products and the apparel industries. In view of the importance of piecework in these

⁹ General wage changes for the period ranged in volume from one-half of 1 percent for products of petroleum and coal to seven-tenths of 1 percent for furniture and finished lumber products.

¹⁰ Relatively small gains were also made by the lumber, and the stone, clay, and glass-products industries, for which separate data are not published.

industries, these figures, to some extent, may reflect increased productivity. A similar increase in rates (63.1 percent) occurred in the textile industries. Rate advances in the metal products industries over the long period were slightly under the average for all manufacturing.

The postwar increase in wage rates shown by the urban wage rate index for manufacturing as a whole, as already noted, is almost the same as the increase from general wage changes alone. This also holds true for several of the individual industry groups, notably metal products, shipbuilding, rubber products, and petroleum. In other industries, the urban wage rate index shows an increase larger than the advance from general wage changes alone. On the other hand, part of the rise caused by general wage changes in basic iron and steel was offset by other factors, so that the full amount of the increase was not evident in the urban wage-rate index.

The variations that were found among industries in the postwar movement of wage rates were traceable to such factors as manpower shortages in low-wage consumer-goods industries, in which wage rates during the war had not increased proportionately with those of the war industries; changes in sex-composition of the labor force;¹¹ and increases in the proportion of all workers found in the lower range of rate brackets during the period of reconversion. Slackening of incentive earnings resulting from changes in products, materials shortages, and tightening of incentive standards was another factor affecting the trend of wage rates in some industries, although the consumer-goods industries, in which piecework is important, registered larger gains in the urban wage-rate index than the increases reported as general wage changes only. Had the index of urban wage rates in manufacturing been confined to time workers, the increase for manufacturing as a whole for the year April 1945 to April 1946 would have been approximately 1.5 percentage points greater than the increase for both time and incentive workers.

The upward trend of rates in individual industries during the year after VJ-day did not exactly follow the course of the increases granted in the major wage cases during the first months of 1946. In some industries, especially those which in previous months had been engaged in war production, the rise was substantially less than the amounts of the pattern-setting advances granted by major firms in the industry. In other industries, such as the textiles, the increases

¹¹ Although constant weights for sex groups normally prevent this factor from influencing the urban wage-rate index, women workers have disappeared from some occupations in which they were found during the war, and the weights for them were consequently dropped. The effect of these changes on the index is believed to be only slight.

were somewhat greater than the typical general wage changes during the period. Failure of the urban series to follow the publicized pattern-setting general wage increases results primarily from the inclusion in the index of plants which gave varying amounts of general wage raises, averaging on an industry-wide basis less than the amount of increase given in the pattern-setting cases.¹²

AREA COMPARISONS

The amount of postwar increase in manufacturing wage rates showed some variation among individual cities or wage areas, but, in general, there was remarkable uniformity. Of the 15 major cities for which separate postwar data can be presented (table 3), only 3 deviate more than 3 percentage points from the average advance for all manufacturing. The largest gains were made in Portland, Oreg., and Houston, Tex.; wartime gains in both of these cities had been well below the national average. The smallest postwar rise in rates occurred in Minneapolis. This city likewise had experienced relatively small war-

TABLE 3.—Percent of Change in Urban Wage Rates in Manufacturing, by Selected Area, April 1943–April 1946

Urban area	Percent of change from—						
	Apr. 1943 to 1943	Oct. 1943 to Apr. 1944	Apr. 1944 to Oct. 1944	Oct. 1944 to Apr. 1945	Apr. 1945 to Oct. 1945	Apr. 1945 to Apr. 1946	Apr. 1943 to Apr. 1946
Total, United States.....	+3.8	+1.9	+2.2	+1.6	¹ +2.4	+12.4	+23.5
Atlanta.....	+3.6	+1.4	+2.7	+2.9	+4.9	(?)	-----
Baltimore.....	+1.2	+1.6	+1.6	+5	(?)	+11.7	+17.2
Birmingham.....	+1.9	+3.5	+1.2	+4.1	(?)	+11.7	+24.2
Boston.....	+5.3	+1.6	+1.1	+3.7	+1.7	(?)	-----
Buffalo.....	+9.3	+2.3	+5	+1.8	(?)	+12.7	+29.0
Chicago.....	+3.1	+1.8	+3.0	+2.1	+3	(?)	-----
Cleveland.....	+5.3	+1.2	+2.7	+1.0	(?)	+9.6	+21.1
Dallas.....	+7.2	+1.9	+1.7	+2.4	+2.2	(?)	-----
Denver.....	+4.1	+3.3	+1.8	-2.1	+2.3	(?)	-----
Detroit.....	+5.9	+2	+3	0	-4	(?)	-----
Houston.....	+1.6	+9	+4	+1	(?)	+15.5	+18.7
Indianapolis.....	+3.6	+9	+1.4	+6	(?)	+12.2	+19.7
Kansas City.....	+1.4	+1.7	+1.7	+3.1	+9	(?)	-----
Los Angeles.....	+6.8	+1.5	+1.1	+1.2	+1.1	+12.7	+25.0
Louisville.....	+1.4	+3.9	+3.3	+1.3	(?)	+10.0	+21.3
Memphis.....	+3.8	+2.5	+2.0	+6.0	(?)	(?)	-----
Milwaukee.....	+2.7	+3	+3.1	+1.5	(?)	(?)	-----
Minneapolis.....	+2.8	+9	+1.2	+1.6	(?)	+7.4	+14.5
Newark.....	+6.4	+1.8	+2.8	+9	(?)	(?)	-----
New Orleans.....	+7.3	+5	+1.0	+1.0	(?)	+14.9	+26.4
New York.....	+5	+5.0	+6.4	+4.7	(?)	+12.1	+31.7
Philadelphia.....	+2.1	+1.5	+2.3	+1.6	(?)	+12.7	+21.5
Pittsburgh.....	+1.0	+1.8	+2.2	-3	(?)	(?)	-----
Portland, Oreg.....	+5	-1	+8	+2	(?)	+16.2	+17.8
Providence.....	+2.6	+7	+2.3	+9	(?)	+10.0	+17.2
St. Louis.....	+4.9	+5.4	+1.0	+8	(?)	+10.6	+24.7
San Francisco.....	+9	+4	+8	0	(?)	(?)	-----
Seattle.....	+9	+2.4	+4	+3	+5	(?)	-----

¹ October 1945 estimates revised on basis of more precise data obtained in connection with the April 1946 survey. Previously published October estimate was obtained from a survey of 18 of the 69 cities usually represented in the Bureau's indexes of urban wage rates.

² Data not available.

¹² See footnote 4, p. 3.

time wage increases in manufacturing industries. Its small postwar advance is attributable, at least in part, to reconversion problems in the metal-products industries, which employ a majority of the city's manufacturing workers.

Changes in Selected Nonmanufacturing Industries, April 1945 to April 1946

Urban wage rates in the nonmanufacturing industries covered by the survey advanced more evenly between April 1945 and April 1946 than in manufacturing, the 10-percent annual increase being almost equally divided between the two 6-month periods (table 4). In contrast, the greater portion of the 12.4-percent rise in manufacturing occurred during the period October 1945–April 1946, and much of it was concentrated around the precedent-setting wage increases of the first 3 months in 1946.

TABLE 4.—*Percent of Change in Urban Wage Rates in Selected Nonmanufacturing Industries, by Industry Group, April 1943–April 1946*

Industry group ¹	Percent of change from—						
	Apr. 1943 to Oct. 1943	Oct. 1943 to Apr. 1944	Apr. 1944 to Oct. 1944	Oct. 1944 to Apr. 1945	Apr. 1945 to Oct. 1945 ²	Oct. 1945 to Apr. 1946	Apr. 1943 to Apr. 1946
Total, selected industries.....	+6.4	+2.5	+4.2	+3.7	+4.1	+5.7	+29.7
Wholesale trade.....	+2.5	+2.0	+2.9	+1.5	+4.1	+4.3	+18.6
Retail trade.....	+9.2	+2.7	+5.7	+4.6	+5.5	+6.8	+39.7
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	+3.9	+3.1	+1.6	+4.5	+1.7	+4.1	+20.3
Local utilities.....	+1.5	+1.1	+3	+1.5	+2.3	+10.1	+17.6
Service trades.....	+6.4	+2.4	+5.4	+3.2	+2.8	+4.1	+26.9

¹ The specific industries selected to represent these groups in the measurement of wage-rate changes were as follows: *Wholesale trade*—general-line wholesale groceries; *retail trade*—department stores, clothing stores, and groceries; *finance, insurance, and real estate*—banks and savings and loan associations; *local utilities*—electric light and power or gas companies; *service trades*—hotels, power laundries, and auto-repair shops.

² October 1945 estimates were revised on basis of more precise data obtained in connection with the April 1946 survey. Previously published October estimates were obtained from a survey of 18 of the 69 cities usually represented in the Bureau's indexes of urban wage rates.

Type of wage-rate changes.—The increases in nonmanufacturing industry wages were largely the result of wage adjustments for individual workers rather than of general or across-the-board wage increases, such as occurred in manufacturing. In the period between August 18, 1945, and April 1946, for example, an estimated 41 percent of all the workers in the selected nonmanufacturing industries received

general wage increases, whereas about 79 percent of all manufacturing workers were given such raises.¹³ Nevertheless, the over-all increase in nonmanufacturing rates between April 1945 and April 1946 was only 2.4 percentage points less than the increase in manufacturing.

WAGE INCREASES IN INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES

Local utilities and retail trade made the greatest advances in rates during the 1-year period of all the five nonmanufacturing industry groups studied. Moreover, the gains registered by them (12.6 and 12.7 percent, respectively) compared more favorably with gains in manufacturing industries than did the increases in the finance industries, the service trades, and wholesale trade, which were all less than 10 percent (table 4).

Only the utilities group had received general or across-the-board increases in rate scales that approximated the advance in the urban wage-rate index. More than 95 percent of the workers in this group are estimated to have benefited from general wage increases following VJ-day, as contrasted with about half of the employees in wholesale trade and approximately one-third in retail trade, the service trades, and the finance group.¹³

AREA COMPARISONS

The nonmanufacturing urban wage-rate indexes of individual wage areas showed a great deal of variation in amounts of increase, ranging from 4.7 percent (in Cleveland) to 18.3 percent (in Minneapolis) between April 1945 and April 1946 (table 5). In 9 of the 15 cities for which separate data can be shown, rates had advanced by more than the national average, and these include such widely separated areas as Providence, New Orleans, Baltimore, and Buffalo. Among the cities showing lower-than-average increases are New York City, Cleveland, Houston, and Portland, Oreg.

These variations cannot be ascribed to differences in industrial composition of the city indexes, as the nonmanufacturing indexes, unlike manufacturing indexes, represent the same industries in all cities. Individual city trends in nonmanufacturing wage rates during the past year apparently have been influenced by such factors as labor supply and the size of wartime wage increases.

¹³ See footnote 4, p. 3.

TABLE 5.—Percent of Change in Urban Wage Rates in Selected Nonmanufacturing Industries, by Selected Area, April 1943–April 1946

Urban area	Percent of change from—						
	Apr. 1943 to Oct. 1943	Oct. 1943 to Apr. 1944	Apr. 1944 to Oct. 1944	Oct. 1944 to Apr. 1945	Apr. 1945 to Oct. 1945	Apr. 1945 to Apr. 1946	Apr. 1943 to Apr. 1946
Total, United States.....	+6.4	+2.5	+4.2	+3.7	¹ +4.1	+10.0	+29.7
Atlanta.....	+9.8	+3.6	+6.3	+5.6	+1.3	(²)	-----
Baltimore.....	+6.0	+3.3	+2.7	+3.6	(²)	+14.6	+33.5
Birmingham.....	+9.2	+2.6	+8.8	+2.2	(²)	+11.2	+38.5
Boston.....	+2.9	+2.8	+3.3	+4.1	+1.9	(²)	-----
Buffalo.....	+3.3	+1.0	+2.0	+2.0	(²)	+11.9	+21.5
Chicago.....	+8.8	+2.7	+6.3	+3.8	+2.6	(²)	-----
Cleveland.....	+7.0	+4.0	+3.5	+1.9	(²)	+4.7	+22.8
Dallas.....	+8.7	+12.1	+1.8	+2.1	+1.0	(²)	-----
Denver.....	+2.9	+2.2	+3.3	+4.9	+2.3	(²)	-----
Detroit.....	+15.2	+1.8	+5.5	+2.5	+3.4	(²)	-----
Houston.....	+13.5	+2.5	+3.2	+1.7	(²)	+6.9	+30.5
Indianapolis.....	+4.0	+3.2	+2.1	-3	(²)	+11.7	+22.0
Kansas City.....	+8.6	+2.9	+1.1	+5.7	+5.5	(²)	-----
Los Angeles.....	+5.0	+1.3	+3.0	+2.5	+7.6	+17.0	+31.4
Louisville.....	+7.4	+7.8	+2.6	+4.0	(²)	+6.3	+31.4
Memphis.....	+11.6	+1.7	+8.7	+1.7	(²)	(²)	-----
Milwaukee.....	+9.8	+1.2	+4.6	+3.5	(²)	(²)	-----
Minneapolis.....	+4.8	+2.6	+7.6	-4.1	(²)	+18.3	+31.3
Newark.....	+8.5	+3.9	+3.8	+2.4	(²)	(²)	-----
New Orleans.....	+14.5	+4.1	+1.7	+2.1	(²)	+13.6	+40.7
New York.....	+5.4	+1.9	+3.2	+6.2	+1.9	+9.1	+28.5
Philadelphia.....	+9.1	+3.5	+1.9	+4.2	(²)	+11.2	+33.3
Pittsburgh.....	+3.3	+2.4	+2.1	+2.3	(²)	(²)	-----
Portland, Oreg.....	+2.6	+1.7	+6.6	-1.0	(²)	+6.8	+17.5
Providence.....	0	+2.4	+1.3	+5.6	(²)	+13.4	+24.2
St. Louis.....	+7.5	+3.2	+3.9	+3.5	(²)	+11.3	+32.7
San Francisco.....	+1.7	+1.6	+5.9	-2.0	(²)	(²)	-----
Seattle.....	+2	+1.3	+4.0	+4	+2.8	(²)	-----

¹ October 1945 estimates revised on basis of more precise data obtained in connection with the April 1946 survey. Previously published October estimate was obtained from a survey of 18 of the 69 cities usually represented in the Bureau's indexes of urban wage rates.

² Data not available.