

T H E W O R K S P R O G R A M

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-----Works Progress Administration-----

For Release in Afternoon Newspapers
Thursday, May 28, 1936.

Hopkins Reports Slight Rise in WPA Wage Rates.

Average wage rates on Works Progress Administration projects throughout the country showed a slight rise for the first half of April, compared with the same period in March, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced today.

The April wage rate for all projects averaged 43.8 cents compared with 43 cents an hour for the March period. While rates for most projects were slightly higher, no increase was greater than one and a half cents.

Hourly rates increased in 39 States, showed no change in New York City and Delaware, and decreased in eight States. In 26 States, the increases were less than a cent an hour, and in only three States were they more than two cents an hour. However, Alabama's rate increased by more than four cents an hour. In Iowa and Pennsylvania, the hourly rate was decreased by almost five cents, while in Utah, Minnesota, and North Dakota the decrease was about three cents.

In general, hourly rates on all types of projects are lower in the South and Southwest because of the lower wage rates established for that section of the country. Two additional factors are the predominance in these sections of rural areas in which the established rates are lowest. Also, projects involving the employment of more than the average number of highly paid workers are generally concentrated in urban areas.

Variations in the average hourly rate by type of project are determined largely by the number of skilled workers needed on the various types of projects. For projects involving the use of relatively large numbers of skilled workers, such as public building projects and those classes of highway, road and street projects which involve the construction of streets, alleys, gutters, curbs and sidewalks, the hourly wage is higher than the average. On projects where most of the workers are unskilled, as on flood control and other conservation projects, the average hourly wage is below the average for all projects.

Average hourly rates of workers employed on Works Progress Administration projects for the first half of April, ranged from 37 cents for all goods and sanitation and health projects to 59.8 cents on housing, 58.8 cents on professional and clerical projects, and 58.4 cents for educational projects.

The highest average rates for all projects in the April period were 68.2 cents in New York City, 64.1 cents in Nevada, and 61.8 cents in Montana.

Educational and professional and technical projects show the highest average hourly rates for the country as a whole (with the exception of housing projects, in operation in only 16 States and employing only, 6,500 persons), since the established rates for workers employed are high and projects are generally operated in urban areas. Public buildings and recreational projects also had average hourly rates of 50 cents or more but the average for all projects is greatly weighted by the more than 1,000,000 workers employed on the relatively low paid highway, road and street projects.

(Attached are tables showing wage rates by type of projects and by States.)

WORKS PROGRESS

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS OF WORKER
BY TYPE O

FIRST HALF O

STATE	ALL PROJ- ECTS	HIGHWAYS ROADS AND STREETS	PUBLIC BUILD- INGS	OTHER RECREA- TIONAL FACILI- TIES
UNITED STATES	.430	.387	.528	.500
ALABAMA	.234	.211	.284	.245
ARIZONA	.385	.379	.406	.382
ARKANSAS	.213	.200	.262	.229
CALIFORNIA	.525	.478	.608	.528
COLORADO	.409	.391	.427	.422
CONNECTICUT	.562	.515	.735	.535
DELAWARE	.376	.377	.509	.385
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	.384	.368	.311	.382
FLORIDA	.264	.240	.310	.246
GEORGIA	.269	.233	.377	.288
IDAHO	.353	.340	.371	.348
ILLINOIS	.426	.396	.476	.436
INDIANA	.409	.393	.490	.420
IOWA	.412	.383	.454	.422
KANSAS	.312	.297	.314	.332
KENTUCKY	.221	.200	.229	.278
LOUISIANA	.319	.235	.404	.358
MAINE	.391	.377	.420	.399
MARYLAND	.375	.325	.446	.374
MASSACHUSETTS	.561	.504	.769	.532
MICHIGAN	.447	.412	.500	.472
MINNESOTA	.506	.457	.636	.516
MISSISSIPPI	.225	.199	.216	.230
MISSOURI	.362	.316	.363	.371
MONTANA	.597	.558	.656	.542
NEBRASKA	.382	.349	.399	.368
NEVADA	.650	.666	.863	.682
NEW HAMPSHIRE	.382	.362	.384	.370
NEW JERSEY	.506	.484	.576	.494
NEW MEXICO	.353	.338	.387	.363
NEW YORK CITY	.682	.593	.800	.698
NEW YORK STATE (EXCL. N.Y.C.)	.517	.462	.648	.596
NORTH CAROLINA	.236	.208	.244	.238
NORTH DAKOTA	.411	.381	.412	.410
OHIO	.482	.450	.656	.482
OKLAHOMA	.226	.214	.255	.251
OREGON	.462	.445	.444	.453
	.501	.500	.500	.500