Williams Reports on Works Program Expenditures During 1935-36 Fiscal Year.

Expenditures exceeding $1,300,000,000 providing a total of more than 2,400,000,000 work hours, through the Works Progress Administration, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, were indicated in a report on progress of the Works Program made public today by Aubrey Williams, Deputy Administrator of WPA. Actual figures on costs and hours worked cover the period to May 15. Estimates for June 30 are based on prior operation records.

Employment by all agencies, which reached a peak of 3,853,000 in the week ending March 7, had declined to 3,397,000 by the end of May. A continuation of this trend through June was indicated in a supplemental report showing 3,282,045 employed by the Works Program as of June 20.

At its peak of employment it is estimated that there were 14,641,000 persons in the families of the workers employed on the Works Program, based on an estimate of 3.8 persons to each family on relief. The aggregate number of different persons helped at some time during this program is not available, but would be much larger, officials said.

Works Progress Administration employment reached its peak during the week ending February 29, with 3,036,000 on its rolls. This number had declined
to 2,340,000 by May 31 and to 2,266,542 on June 20. At the high point of em-

ployment, it is estimated that wages paid by the Works Progress Administration
were shared by 11,536,800 persons, when the families of workers are counted.

Up to May 15, the Works Progress Administration provided a total of
2,024,094,000 work hours and earnings totalled $857,530,000 at an average hourly
rate of 42.4 cents. If employment were maintained at the maximum of 40 hours a
week, this would amount to 50,602,350 work weeks. If the monthly maximum of
140 hours of work were maintained, an aggregate of 14,457,814 work months would
have been accomplished. The actual number of hours worked by individual em-
ployees is commonly less than the maximum. Average hourly earnings, increasing
gradually since January, were 45 cents during the first half of May, the report
shows. In the future no hourly wage rates will be less than the prevailing
hourly rate, though the total monthly earnings will generally remain unchanged,
thus lessening the number of work hours in some areas.

Expenditures of the Works Progress Administration, totaling $173,700,000
in May, showed a decrease of 5 per cent from April and 9 per cent from March.
This was attributed to the reduction in employment under WPA by absorption
of workers by other agencies and private industry.

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