

Wage Schedules in Oregon

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Executive Secretary

Comparison of wage scales is very complicated, there being many circumstances in employment that vary according to time, place and conditions. The State of Oregon wage schedules, however, appear considerably below prevailing scales in all comparisons and for all classes of employment including administration, clerical, professional, skilled or unskilled. As an index of the situation the following tabulation is presented representing a comparison of current minimum labor wage scales in state, county, city and industrial employment in Oregon and covering skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor. Differences in living costs and working conditions often explain variations in wages for equivalent work in different states or sections of the country but these differences cannot explain variations indicated in this tabulation. Comparisons with wage schedules from neighboring states show similar variations indicating Oregon is outstanding in its low wage levels. The rates shown are in most cases for employment at permanent headquarters. For work that requires travel most employees are reimbursed for their travel expense. Oregon reimburses part of its employees for all travel expenses and for others adds 10c per hour to their hourly wage rate. Under present congested war time conditions living expenses for employees on travelling crews runs from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day and together with the low wage scale explains why state travelling crews have difficulty securing or retaining personnel.

A short time ago it was anticipated that after the war in Europe we would see the manpower shortage relieved, but now we find that due to reconversion to peace time activities, the opposite is true.

MINIMUM RATE OF PAY PER HOUR July 1, 1945 CITIES

	Common Labor	Semi-skilled (small trucks, etc.)	Skilled Labor
Astoria .....	.95	1.00	.....
Bend .....	.94	1.07	1.23
Burns .....	.72	.....	.....
Klamath Falls .....	.89	.89	.89
La Grande .....	.85	.85	.89
Pendleton .....	.85	.....	.....
Portland .....	.91	.97	1.23
Salem .....	.90	.....	.....
The Dalles .....	.80	.88	.....
AVERAGE .....	.867	.943	1.06

COUNTIES

Clatsop .....	.90	1.10	1.25
Coos .....	.76	1.01	1.07
Deschutes .....	.875	1.00	1.00
Harney .....	.875	.94	1.00
Klamath .....	.95	.95	1.25
Marion .....	.80	.85	.90
Multnomah .....	.99	1.11	1.14
Umatilla .....	.725	.85	.95
Union .....	.80	.85	.....
Wasco .....	.84	.87	.....
AVERAGE .....	.852	.953	1.07

PRIVATE INDUSTRY

Union scale, const.			
The Dalles area .....	.95	1.05	1.32
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Bend .....	.85	.90	.90
Ore. WFA Wage Board			
The Dalles area	1.00 (plus brd.)		
Columbia River Fish Packers Union, Astoria .....	.85	.90	1.10
Astoria Bakeries .....	.90	1.05	.....
Farm Labor			
Salem area .....	.75	.....	.....
Gravel Plants			
Salem area .....	.90	1.00	1.37
Paper Mill, Salem .....	.90	1.17	1.875
Canneries, Salem .....	.80	.....	.....
Bend Lbr. Mills .....	.875	1.01	.....
Hines Lbr. Co., Burns .....	.875	1.055	1.40
Smith Wood Products			
Coquille .....	.925	1.075	1.125
Clatsop Co. Sawmills .....	.95	1.00	1.175
Sawmills, Salem area .....	.85	.90	1.00
AVERAGE .....	.884	1.01	1.25

SUMMARY

City Average .....	.867	.943	1.06
County Average .....	.852	.953	1.07
Industry Average .....	.884	1.01	1.25
*State Hwy. Dept. ....	.71	.76	.82
State Forestry Dept.75	.90	1.10

*State provides 10c bonus for work away from home in some cases.

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