

# Labor News From Coast to Coast

## AVERAGE WAGE IN U.S. IS \$25.82 A WEEK

By Leland Olds  
Federated Press

A gain of more than 5 per cent over July, 1924, brought the average weekly earnings of factory workers in July, 1925, up to \$25.82, according to the U. S. Department of Labor. This is the highest July average since 1920 when weekly wages reached a peak at \$31.56. Wages this July were 18 per cent below that high level.

Employment showed a drop of 1.1 per cent compared with June, but there were 7.4 per cent more workers on factory payrolls than in July, 1924, when the first Coolidge depression reached its maximum. This gain, however, means only that big business is stabilizing employment at a low level. The average employment of the first 7 months of 1925 is considerably below the same period of 1924.

The new low level at which employment is being stabilized means little more than 3-4 of full time capacity. Factories are averaging 90 per cent of full-time for 80 per cent of a full working force.

Average weekly earnings are today 88% per cent above July 10 years ago. The figures for July each year since 1916 are:

Average Per Capita Weekly Wage in July	1925	1924	1923
	\$25.82	24.53	25.61

1922	21.98
1921	23.14
1920	31.56
1919	23.84
1918	20.08
1917	16.50
1916	13.69

The apparent gain of the workers in the purchasing power of wages is more than offset by the speeding-up which is narrowing the number of jobs. The total wage payments to factory workers in July, 1925, were less than 72 per cent of July, 1920. Compared with July, 1915, they show an increase of only 53 per cent. Factory owners paid 10 per cent less in total wages in July, 1925, than in July, 1923.

More than half of all the establishments reporting to the department of labor were operating with less than a normal force and over one-third were operating part-time. Only 17 per cent of the meat packing establishments had a full force and only 44 per cent had full-time.

For other important industries the corresponding percentages were: flour mills 43 per cent and 36 per cent; cotton goods 53 and 61; woolen mills 39 and 57; men's clothing 42 and 70; women's clothing 39 and 63; iron and steel 29 and 50; foundries and machine shops 25 and 49; boots and shoes 41 and 51; automobile plants 32 per cent with normal force and 60 per cent on full time schedule.

Chile  
Study Social Questions—The Executive Committee of the Union of Employees of Chile has decided to study certain questions of a social nature in view of the congress that is organizing for next September. The building of cheaper houses, co-operative purchase of provisions, establishment of a bank for employees, improvement of technical institutions, and a thorough study of the law dealing with private employees are among the subjects to be studied.

Cuba  
Strike Settlement—The "passive resistance" strike which has been in effect for several months on the railroads operating in the eastern part of the island has been temporarily settled.

Germany  
Wages—An examination of the schedule of wages paid skilled workmen in trade and industry shows that while the actual sum in Marks per day is practically as high as before the war, the purchasing value of a day's wage is about 60 per cent of the pre-war value.

Panama  
Protest H. C. L.—Members of the "General Syndicate of Workmen" recently held a mass meeting in protest against the "unreasonable increase in the price of rice, and the increase in rent."

Society Islands  
Import Anamite Labor—The importation is reported of a considerable number of Anamite laborers, male and female, to French Oceania, brought to the Colony by the Government and under contract to remain for five years. The men are to be paid a wage of 12 piasters (120 francs) and the women 9 piasters (90 francs) per month.

Strike Hits Bombay Mills  
Bombay, British India—Twenty thousand operatives in twelve mills went on strike recently in protest against wage reductions. Crowds of strikers stoned the mills, and armed police are patrolling the quarters.

Niagara Falls, N.Y.—Building trades laborers at Niagara Falls went on strike for uniform wages and recognition, including a signed agreement. Six additional building trades crafts went out in sympathy.

The strike was called off in a few days on the old terms.

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## International Labor News

Argentina  
Immigrant Farmers—The first contingent of a group which it is said will eventually comprise 350 persons arrived recently from Germany on their way to a new settlement in the Province of Entre Rios. It is said they are expert farmers, with enough capital to make first payments on 250-acre tracts of land, upon which they have already gone to work. The remainder of the group is expected in about a month.

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## MacDonald Warns Against Communists

Glasgow, Scotland.—An attack upon communism features an article written by J. Ramsay MacDonald, Labor leader, and former prime minister, published by the Glasgow newspaper Forward.

An attempt will be made at the forthcoming meeting of the Labor Party at Liverpool, he says, to place the party on record as recognizing that the "communists share our faith and our ways and can operate with us in the practical work of upbuilding society in accordance with our heart's desire."

"Of course, they cannot," he continues. "Every action germane to answering this question shows they cannot. When we were in office we found out that their chief desire was to hamper us."

"Labor is faced by powers more united upon its subjection than ever," he declared, "and must therefore fight warily and skillfully. The united front now offered to us is a disunited and discredited movement," he added.

Referring to the "mischief" done by the communists at the recent meeting of the trades union congress at Scarborough, Mr. MacDonald says labor must not fall into any more traps at the Liverpool meeting.

## Effect of Strike

New York.—Here is the effect of the anthracite coal strike upon U. S. railways, according to an estimate by railroad officials published recently: Nine railroads serving the anthracite district are losing \$3,500,000 a week in revenue.

Fifteen thousand railway men have been laid off.

Car loadings have fallen off 40,000 cars a week.

## Soviet Has Beverage Tax

Moscow.—The government vodka trust plans an output of 85,000,000 gallons of vodka with an alcoholic content of 40 per cent in the fiscal year starting October 1. This is an increase of 16,000,000 gallons over the present year's production of 20 per cent spirit. Based on present prices this means a gross return of \$450,000,000. A tax of five cents a bottle is expected to bring \$26,000,000 additional tax.

## Milk War Rocks Chicago

Chicago, Ill.—Armed guards rode with independent milkmen following the bombing of a dairy established to "bust" the alleged milk trust.

No one was injured when the black powdered bomb crashed through the roof of the plant of the Illinois Creamery Company, but the Chicago Employers' Association construed the blast as a reply to their charges that the city's milk supply is controlled by the Milk Wagon Drivers' Union. The milkmen themselves, are the real "barons of butter-fat," in Chicago, according to G. L. Hosetter, secretary of the association, who made public the combine charge.

## Fish Dressers' Strike Settled

Nearly 750 men engaged in the fishing industry at Erie, Pa., went on strike when their demands for 15c per hour wage increase were denied. The strike continued for many days, neither side being willing to make any concessions. It was finally agreed to have a representative of the United States Labor Department act as arbitrator, both sides agreeing to accept any decision which he might render. His decision provided that wages should continue as heretofore, but that ten cents per hour increase should be granted for overtime work.

## Silk Workers Avert Strike

Paterson, N.J.—A threatened strike involving 4,000 silk operatives engaged in the manufacture of narrow silk fabrics has been averted in Paterson. A U.S. Labor Department representative, who was in touch with the situation, reports that assurances have been given the workers that the price list of the "Blue Book" will be paid. This was the matter in controversy. A strike in the Kravitz Silk Company plant in this city has been settled, the 3 and 4 loom system having been accepted; and a strike in the Henry Doherty Silk Company plant has also been amicably adjusted.

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