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FARM COSTS OF HIRED LABOUR IN WALES

DURING 1945-6.

by

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1947.

Price: One shilling.

FARM COSTS OF HIRED LABOUR IN WALES DURING
1945-6.

The tillage area in Wales reached its war-time peak in 1943 when the acreage under such crops was about three times greater than that recorded in 1939. Since 1943, farmers have had to give increasing attention to problems associated with the seeding down of land, some of which had been used for annual crops since the outbreak of war. As a result, between 1943 and 1946, the tillage area has been gradually reduced by about 19 per cent. Cropping records also show that the total cultivated area in 1946 was nearly 6 per cent. less than in 1939. On the other hand, from 1944 onwards, the number of livestock carried shows an upward trend, though there was a reduction in the numbers of cattle and pigs between 1945 and 1946.

These recent changes, however, do not appear to have affected, to any considerable extent, the amount of labour used on farms in Wales. Though there has been an increase of nearly 23 per cent. in the total number of workers (regular and casual) since 1939, changes have been less marked within the last three years. Following an increase in 1944 of just over 11 per cent. on the numbers given for 1943, the figures, for 1945 indicated a further rise of 3 per cent. and by June 1946 the estimated figure had fallen to the 1944 level. The average number of all classes of workers per 100 acres of crops and grass increased from 1.58 in 1939 to 2.05 in 1946; the comparable figures for 1944 and 1945 were 2.05 and 2.1 respectively.

With the gradual return to more normal conditions during the last two years, the composition of the labour force in Wales has shown a tendency to change. The proportion of male labour regularly employed has increased from 57.9 per cent. of the total labour complement in 1944, to 60 per cent. in 1946, but the employment of females, members of the Women's Land Army and casual workers show a decrease. Prisoners of War continue to provide about 7 per cent. of the labour on farms.

The information relating to the thirty-six farms for which detailed information for costs of labour has been obtained reflects, in the main, similar tendencies. Compared with the farms included in the previous year's survey, they had a smaller proportion of land under tillage crops and a somewhat larger proportion under rotational grasses and permanent pasture, as the following summary giving the main distribution of land utilisation on these farms shows:-

Table I.

Land Utilisation, 1946.

	: Total	:	Total
	: Cultivated:	:	Total
	: Area	:	Area
	: %	:	%
Tillage	: 29.3	:	19.1
Rotational Grasses	: 23.7	:	15.4
Permanent Pasture	: 47.0	:	30.8
Rough Grazings	: -	:	34.7
	: Acres per Farm..	:	
Cultivated Area	: 251	:	251
Rough Grazings	: -	:	131 $\frac{1}{2}$
	:	:	
Total Area	: 251	:	382 $\frac{1}{2}$

Supply of Labour. The average size of the farm investigated in the present sample was 383 acres of which 251 acres consisted of crops and grass. Particulars of the labour employed indicate that the average number of workers per farm was 5.5 in June 1946. This gave an average of slightly more than two workers for every 100 acres of cultivated area.

Table II.

Number of Workers, June 1946.

	: Per	:	Per 100 acres
	: Farm.	:	of Cultivated
	:	:	Land.
<u>Regulars:</u>	:	:	
21 years and over	: 4.0	:	1.60
Under 21 years	: 0.5	:	0.20
Women and Girls	: 0.1	:	0.03
Women's Land Army	: 0.2	:	0.10
Prisoners of War	: 0.1	:	0.02
<u>Casuals:</u>	:	:	
Men	: 0.5	:	0.20
Boys and Youths	: -	:	-
Women and Girls	: 0.1	:	0.02
	:	:	
Total	: 5.5	:	2.17

The time expended on all farming operations over the twelve-month period by all classes of regular workers amounted to 251 weeks per farm. This is approximately 100 hours per 100 acres of crops and grass, and is similar to that recorded in the previous year.

Table III.

Percentage of Total Labour Time Worked by
Each Main Class of Worker.

Year.	Males.			Women and Girls	Prisoners of War	Total
	Number of Farms	21 years and over.	Under 21			
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1939-40	44	84.1	14.1	2.8	-	100.0
1940-41	47	82.7	12.7	4.6	-	100.0
1941-42	42	78.0	11.9	10.1	-	100.0
1942-43	36	76.3	10.5	11.6	1.6	100.0
1943-44	32	70.7	9.9	15.0	4.4	100.0
1944-45	32	76.2	8.1	10.9	4.8	100.0
1945-46	36	80.8	9.7	7.1	2.4	100.0

Over 80 per cent of the working time on these farms was accounted for by adult males and the records suggest that the proportion of time given to farm work by this class of worker is increasing in importance. The total time worked per farm by these men in 1945-6 was approximately the same as that shown in the records for 1940-1. According to the data presented in Tables III and IV the numbers of youths and boys on farms continued to decline up to 1944-5, but in 1945-6 an upward trend is noticeable. In 1945-6 they were responsible for nearly 10 per cent. of the total labour time expended, as compared with 8 per cent. in the previous year. The reduced number of women and girls (which include members of the Women's Land Army) accounted for 7 per cent while only 2.4 per cent. of all time worked was contributed by Prisoners of War, (regularly employed) as compared with 4.8 per cent. in 1944-5.

An analysis of the proportion of time worked by each of the main classes of adult male labour indicates, as the following table shows, a noticeable increase in the time given by bailiffs and foremen, a slightly less marked increase in the case of cowmen, and some little increase in the hours spent on farm work by tractor drivers, general labourers, and other special classes of labourers (chiefly milkroundsmen). The increasing numbers of cattle and especially of dairy cattle explain the growing importance of cowmen and milkroundsmen in the labour complement, while the decrease in the time put in by carters is consistent with the growing tendency to use mechanical equipment. The inclination to class as general labourers men who may spend a proportion of their time on one or more of the specialised farming operations may explain the slight increase in this category of worker. The classification is at best only intended as a guide and must not be regarded as possessing any finality.

Table IV.

Importance of Work done by each Class of Regular Worker.
(Per cent. of total weeks worked by all).

	1940-1	1941-2	1942-3	1943-4	1944-5	1945-6
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bailiffs and Foremen	5.4	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.7	8.5
Tractor Drivers	3.5	2.3	2.6	5.6	7.4	7.6
Shepherds	4.4	3.9	4.3	4.0	3.6	3.1
Carters	21.4	20.1	20.1	16.1	14.7	13.4
Cowmen	23.2	19.6	20.0	18.4	18.6	20.6
Other Special Classes	2.6	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.7
General Labourers	22.2	26.2	22.9	20.3	25.0	25.9
	82.7	78.0	76.3	70.7	76.2	80.8
Youths and Boys	12.7	11.9	10.5	9.9	8.1	9.7
Females (Full-time)	4.6	10.1	11.6	15.0	10.9	7.1
Prisoners of War	-	-	1.6	4.4	4.8	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The distribution of labour in terms of person weeks per farm follows in the main similar tendencies. There is a very slight decrease in the total hours of adult male labour, amounting to no more than one week per farm, but a more considerable decrease makes itself evident when the labour of prisoners of war and women is included. More time is contributed by bailiffs and foremen, cowmen, youths and the special category which includes milkroundsmen. Shepherds and carters are not employed to the same extent; and there is a slight decrease in the hours spent per farm by tractor drivers and general labourers.

Table V.

Employment per Farm in Person-weeks.

	1940-1	1941-2	1942-3	1943-4	1944-5	1945-6
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Bailiffs and Foremen	13.3	12.5	13.1	14.6	15.1	21.3
Tractor Drivers	8.7	6.4	6.7	15.8	19.7	19.1
Shepherds	10.7	10.7	11.3	11.3	9.7	7.8
Carters	52.5	55.1	53.2	45.6	39.3	33.6
Cowmen	56.9	53.8	52.7	51.8	49.7	51.8
Other Special Classes	6.3	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.2	4.1
General Labourers	54.4	72.0	60.5	57.3	66.8	64.8
	202.8	214.2	201.3	199.7	203.5	202.5
Youths and Boys	31.3	32.7	27.8	28.0	21.7	24.4
Females: Full-time	11.2	27.6	30.6	42.5	29.2	17.9
Prisoners of War	-	-	4.3	12.4	12.7	6.0
Total	245.3	274.5	264.0	282.6	267.1	250.8
Per 100 Acres of Cult- ivated Crops & Grass	80	93	99	99	100	100.1

Wages and Earnings: Adult Males. The national minimum wage remained at 70s. for able-bodied adult males employed in agriculture until the second week in July 1946, when the new minimum rate of 80s. became operative. Though this is nearly 141 per cent. higher than the average county minima which were in operation in September 1939, the weekly contract wages continued to be above this level for all adult males, including or excluding the special classes.

Table VI.

Average of Minimum and Contract Rates of Wages.

September.	General Labourers (Adult Males).			All Adult Males inc. Special Classes.		
	Average of Minimum Rates:	Average Contract Wage.	Difference	Average Contract Wage.	Difference	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1939	33. 3	36. 6	3. 3	40.10	7. 7	
1940	48. 0	50.11	2.11	53. 3	5. 3	
1941	48. 0	50. 0	2. 0	53. 3	5. 3	
1942	60. 0	62. 9	2. 9	66. 4	6. 4	
1943	60. 0	63. 8	3. 8	67. 6	7. 6	
1944	65. 0	70. 2	5. 2	75. 1	10. 1	
1945	70. 0	71. 6	1. 6	76.10	6.10	
1946	80. 0	83.10	3.10	89. 7	9. 7	

The amount of variation between contract and minimum wages has fluctuated over the period of years for which information has been obtained. In 1945 there was a difference of 1s.6d. between the legal minimum and the actual remuneration received by general labourers, and of 6s.10d. in the case of all adult workers; the comparable figures for 1946 were 3s.10d. and 9s.7d. respectively.

Similarly, though there has been a steadily progressive rise in the wages of all categories of farm workers, the proportion has varied between categories. A comparison of contract wages paid in September 1939 with those paid in September 1946 to workers on the farms surveyed shows an increase, as between categories of workers, ranging from 90 per cent. for tractor drivers to 134 per cent for shepherds.

Table VII.

Weekly Contract Wages of Adult Male Workers.

	September.		1939=
	1939	1946	100.
	s. d.	s. d.	%
Bailiffs and Foremen	48. 4	105. 8	219
Tractor Drivers	45.11	87. 0	190
Shepherds	41. 5	96. 9	234
Cowmen	42.11	90.11	212
Carters	39. 9	88. 4	222
General Labourers	36. 6	83.11	230
Average.	40.10	89. 7	220

The average contract wage of the sixteen bailiffs and foremen employed on the farms recorded was 105s. 8d. a week in September 1946 showing a rise of 119 per cent. on the 1939 figures. Shepherds, of whom there were only six fully engaged as such, received 96.9d. compared with 41s.5d. in 1939. Thirty of these farms each employed one cowman, and five of them two, paying in September 1946 an average contract wage of 90s.11d. - an increase of 112 per cent on the 1939 average. The thirteen tractor drivers and thirty-two carters averaged about the same at 87s. and 88s.4d. a week which represents a rise of 90 and 122 per cent. respectively. General labourers received an increase of 47s.5d. on the September 1939 average of 36s.6d.

Over the twelve-monthly period 1945-6 the average weekly contract wages for each of the main classes of worker varied between 98s. for bailiffs and 75s.5d. for general labourers. Shepherds, cowmen, carters and tractor drivers ranged between these averages in that order. The average for all adult males was 81s.1d.

Table VIII.

Average Weekly Contract Wages.

	1940-1	1941-2	1942-3	1943-4	1944-5	1945-6
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bailiffs and Foremen	59. 1	68. 9	70. 9	83. 8	88. 3	98. 0
Tractor Drivers	54.10	63. 5	63. 3	71. 7	73. 8	79. 0
Shepherds	55. 7	64. 1	71. 2	81.10	82. 2	86. 1
Carters	52. 4	61. 0	65. 4	69. 9	74. 7	79. 5
Cowmen	55. 1	65. 5	68. 9	78. 5	78. 5	82. 5
General Labourers	51. 0	59. 5	61. 7	68. 4	69. 2	75. 5
Average	54. 8	63. 6	66.11	73. 6	75. 0	81. 1

Payment for overtime amounted to nearly £36 per farm and deductions in respect of absence from work to just over £2 per farm. Proportionate to numbers, women workers had the largest amounts deducted for absence from work.

Table IX.

Per Cent of Total Contract Wages for
each Class of Worker.

	: Deduction for Lost Time. %	: Additions for Overtime. %	: Net Additions %
Bailiffs and Foremen	: negligible:	3.2	: 3.2
Tractor Drivers	: 0.4	: 4.9	: 4.5
Shepherds	: 0.1	: 2.0	: 1.9
Carters	: 0.2	: 3.3	: 3.1
Cowmen	: 0.2	: 5.1	: 4.9
General Labourers	: 0.2	: 5.0	: 4.8
Boys	: 0.2	: 2.2	: 2.0
Women and W.L.A.	: 0.9	: 2.9	: 2.0

The distribution of overtime pay, and the additional earnings obtained by each of the main classes of worker are shown in the summary above. Cowmen, general labourers and tractor drivers earned nearly 5 per cent. additionally to their contract wage. The extra 3 per cent. which bailiffs and foremen received was chiefly in the form of bonus. Bailiffs, carters and general labourers all received in 1945-6 over 2 per cent. increase on the 1944-5 figures in the amount of earnings additional to their contract wages. Cowmen earned a slightly increased proportion of their remuneration through overtime payments, but for tractor drivers the proportion was reduced by 1.5 per cent.

The average weekly earnings over the year ranged from 79s. for general labourers to 101s. 1d. for bailiffs and foremen, and averaged 84s. 6d. for all adult workers.

Table X.

Average Weekly Earnings.

	: 1940-1	: 1941-2	: 1942-3	: 1943-4	: 1944-5	: 1945-6
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bailiffs and Foremen	: 60. 0	: 69. 4	: 72. 3	: 84. 6	: 89. 0	: 101. 1
Tractor Drivers	: 56. 1	: 64. 9	: 69. 5	: 74. 1	: 78. 0	: 82. 7
Shepherds	: 56. 8	: 66. 2	: 73. 4	: 86. 3	: 83. 9	: 87. 9
Carters	: 52. 9	: 62. 6	: 67. 2	: 71. 7	: 75. 6	: 81. 10
Cowmen	: 57. 8	: 66. 5	: 70. 8	: 80. 4	: 81. 7	: 86. 5
General Labourers	: 51. 7	: 60. 1	: 63. 6	: 70. 2	: 71. 1	: 79. 0
Average	: 55. 10	: 64. 11	: 69. 5	: 75. 6	: 77. 2	: 84. 6

The actual and relative increases in contract wages and in earnings for the period 1945-6 over the similar period 1944-5 are indicated below, and reveal that bailiffs and foremen received the largest absolute and relative increases; general labourers were next in importance, and shepherds had the smallest increases. The average increase for all classes of adult male workers was six shillings above the average contract wage and 7s.4d. above the average total earnings, showing a relative increase on the 1944-5 averages of 8 and nearly 10 per cent, respectively.

Table XI.

Increases in Average Weekly Wages and Earnings.
(1945-46 over 1944-45).

	Actual Increase in		Percentage Increase	
	Contract Wages and Earnings.		in Contract Wages and Earnings.	
	Contract Wage	Total Earnings	Contract Wage	Total Earnings
	s. d.	s. d.	%	%
Bailiffs and Foremen	9. 9	12. 1	11.0	13.7
Tractor Drivers	5. 4	4. 7	7.2	6.2
Shepherds	3.11	4. 0	4.7	4.8
Carters	4.10	6. 4	6.5	8.5
Cowmen	4. 0	4.10	5.1	6.1
General Labourers	6. 3	7.11	9.0	11.4
<u>Average</u>	<u>6. 1</u>	<u>7. 4</u>	<u>8.1</u>	<u>9.8</u>

Over the past five years the excess of the average weekly earnings over the contract rates has ranged between 1s. 2d. in 1940-1 to 2s. 2d. in 1944-5. In 1945-6 this excess had risen to 3s. 5d. As previously indicated, this increase is largely due to the increased bonuses given to bailiffs and foremen, and the larger amount of overtime put in by general labourers. All classes of worker except tractor drivers appear to have put in slightly more overtime.

Table XII.

Excess of Average Weekly Earnings over Contract Rates.

	1940-1	1941-2	1942-3	1943-4	1944-5	1945-6
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bailiffs and Foremen	0.11	0. 7	1. 6	0.10	0. 9	3. 1
Tractor Drivers	1. 3	1. 4	6. 2	2. 6	4. 4	3. 7
Shepherds	1. 1	2. 1	2. 2	4. 5	1. 7	1. 8
Carters	0. 5	1. 6	1.10	1.10	0.11	2. 5
Cowmen	2. 7	1. 0	1.11	1.11	3. 2	4. 0
General Labourers	0. 7	0. 8	1.11	1.10	1.11	3. 7
<u>Average</u>	<u>1. 2</u>	<u>1. 5</u>	<u>2. 6</u>	<u>2. 0</u>	<u>2. 2</u>	<u>3. 5</u>

Wages and Earnings: Boys and Youths. As the statutory weekly minimum wages of boys and youths under 21 years vary according to age, the average of weekly contract wages and of total weekly earnings are affected by changes in age composition as well as by changes in the general level of wages. The average contract wage on farms from which the information was collected was 54s.4d. in 1945-6. Weekly earnings averaged 1s.1d. more than the contract wage, overtime pay representing a 2.2 per cent. addition. The amount of time lost by this class of worker was negligible.

Table XIII.

Average Contract Weekly Wages and Earnings of
Boys and Youths under 21 years.

	: Contract :		:		
	: Wages. :		: Earnings. : Difference.		
	s. d	:	s. d	:	s..d
1939-40	27.11	:	28. 1	:	0. 2
1940-1	34. 1	:	34. 3	:	0. 2
1941-2	36. 6	:	38. 3	:	1. 9
1942-3	43. 5	:	44. 3	:	0.10
1943-4	51. 4	:	51. 6	:	0. 2
1944-5	52. 1	:	53. 1	:	1. 0
1945-6	54. 4	:	55. 5	:	1. 1
	:	:	:	:	:

Wages and Earnings: Women and Girls. The average wages paid to all women and girls, including members of the Women's Land Army, who were in regular employment on these farms during the period 1945-6 was 55s.1d. with deductions of nearly one per cent. due to absences from work, and overtime payments amounting to an additional 2.9 per cent. of the average contract wage. The average weekly earnings amounted to 56s.2d. - an addition of 1s.1d.

Table XIV.

Contract Wages and Earnings of Women.

	: Contract:		:		
	: Wages :		: Earnings : Difference		
	s. d	:	s. d	:	s. d
1940-1	34. 3	:	34. 7	:	0. 4
1941-2	35. 2	:	36. 2	:	1. 0
1942-3	46. 4	:	47.11	:	1. 7
1943-4	51. 0	:	52.10	:	1.10
1944-5	52. 0	:	52.10	:	0.10
1945-6	55. 1	:	56. 2	:	1. 1
	:	:	:	:	:

Cost of Labour per Farm. The total cost of all classes of labour, including prisoners of war, casual labour, and paid family labour, amounted to over £1,155 per farm. The greater part of these costs were incurred by the employment of adult male labour. Of the remaining costs £203 was paid to other categories of regular workers including paid members of the farmer's family, and £93 to casual workers. It is noteworthy that, though the aggregate sum of the wages paid to family workers shows a decline over the twelve-monthly period compared with 1944-5, there has been a marked increase in the practice of paying wages to members of the farmer's family during the last six months of the 1945-6 period.

Table XV.

Yearly Costs of Labour per Farm.

	1941-2	1942-3	1943-4	1944-5	1945-6
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<u>Adult Male Employees:</u>					
Bailiffs and Foremen	43. 5. 9	47. 9. 7	61.16. 3	67. 6. 1	107.16. 9
Tractor Drivers	20.13. 0	23.16. 2	58.11.10	76.16. 3	78.14. 0
Shepherds	35. 5.10	41. 9. 4	48.13. 1	40. 8.11	34. 4.11
Carters	172. 5. 0	178.13. 9	163. 1. 8	148. 9. 5	137.11. 5
Cowmen	178.18.10	186. 0. 6	208. 1. 2	202. 8. 3	223.13. 8
Other Special Classes	11. 7.10	12.15. 6	10.15. 9	11.17. 5	21. 2. 3
General Labourers	216. 5. 5	191.19. 4	201. 2. 0	237. 7. 9	256. 5. 0
Total Adult Males	678. 1. 8	682. 4. 2	752. 1. 9	784.14. 1	859. 8. 0
<u>Other Employees:</u>					
Youths and Boys	59. 9. 9	61.13. 7	72. 2. 9	57.12. 0	67.14.11
Females (Full-time)	47.10. 5	73. 4. 9	112. 5. 0	77. 0. 2	50. 3. 7
" (Domestics)	19. 1. 6	25. 6. 4	25. 3. 9	15. 8. 1	18. 1. 1
Family Labour	21. 8. 7	40.19.11	53. 0.10	63.14. 0	48.19. 0
Casual Labour	72.15. 9	84.19. 2	66.18.11	48.15. 0	92.18.10
Prisoners of War	-	9. 0. 8	28.18. 1	29.16. 3	18. 3. 4
Total Hired Workers.	898. 7. 8	977. 8. 7	1110.11. 1	1076.19. 7	1155. 8. 9

The relative importance of the cost of each of the main classes of worker in 1944-5 and 1945-6 compared with 1940-1 is shown in the following summary:

Table XVI.

Percentage Distribution of Costs of Labour.

	<u>1940-1</u>	<u>1944-5</u>	<u>1945-6</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Bailiffs and Foremen	6.0	6.2	9.3
Tractor Drivers	3.6	7.0	6.8
Shepherds	4.5	3.7	3.0
Carters	20.7	13.8	11.9
Cowmen	23.6	18.8	19.4
Other Special Classes	2.7	1.1	1.8
General Labourers	<u>21.0</u>	<u>22.1</u>	<u>22.2</u>
Total Adult Males	<u>82.1</u>	<u>72.7</u>	<u>74.4</u>
Youths and Boys	8.0	5.4	5.9
Females (Full-time)	2.9	7.2	4.3
" (Domestics)	1.5	1.4	1.6
Paid Family Labour	1.0	5.9	4.2
Casual Labour	4.5	4.6	8.0
Prisoners of War	-	2.8	1.6
Total	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The incidence of adult male labour costs is just under 2 per cent. more in 1945-6 than in 1944-5; that of casual labour is a little more than 3 per cent. heavier, but the cost of women's labour and of prisoners of war is correspondingly lighter.

Costs of Labour per 100 Acres: For every 100 acres of crops and grass, the total cost of all hired and family labour amounted to nearly £453, which was 12.7 per cent. more than that shown for the farms studied in the previous year, and just over 133 per cent. greater than that recorded in 1939-40. Casual labour costs per 100 acres were twice those of 1944-5 but the costs of women's labour was nearly halved.

Table XVII.

Cost of Labour per 100 Acres Cultivated Crops and Grass.

	1941-2	1942-3	1943-4	1944-5	1945-6
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Regular Labour:					
Adult Males	226.15.6	244.9.0	258.17.5	292.15.5	342.5.5
Boys	19.18.3	22.2.0	37.13.2	21.9.9	26.19.10
Prisoners of War	-	3.4.9	10.1.11	11.2.5	7.4.8
Women	22.0.3	35.6.3	39.4.0	34.9.7	19.19.8
Total	<u>268.14.0</u>	<u>305.2.0</u>	<u>345.16.6</u>	<u>359.17.2</u>	<u>396.9.7</u>
Casual	24.7.3	30.10.9	23.7.7	18.3.9	37.0.4
Family	7.3.4	14.13.7	18.10.5	23.15.4	19.9.11
Total	<u>300.4.7</u>	<u>350.6.4</u>	<u>387.14.6</u>	<u>401.16.3</u>	<u>452.18.10</u>

Contract Work. The cost of manual and of other work done by W. A. E. C. and private contractors amounted to a little over £0 per 100 acres of cultivated area and was less than the amount recorded on the farms surveyed in the four previous years, though it was still more than twice as much as that recorded in 1939-40.

Table XIII.

Cost of Contract Work per 100 acres
of Crops and Grass.

	£. s. d
1939-40	3. 7. 2
1940-1	7. 8. 7
1941-2	8.13.10
1942-3	14. 5. 9
1943-4	11. 0. 7
1944-5	11.11. 2
1945-6	8. 6. 0

Conclusions. The increase in the farm costs of labour during the period 1945-6 was largely accounted for by the increase in July 1946 of ten shillings on the national minimum wage payable to ordinary adult workers in agriculture. To some degree also the increased employment of adult male casual labour to replace that of women and members of the Women's Land Army added to the labour costs. The actual labour complement of these farms appears to show little change, the tendency being to make use of the available force by working overtime or employing casual labour when necessary.

