



June 2006

Wage and Benefit Settlements – 2006

Wage and benefit settlements reported to the Construction Labor Research Council so far in 2006 have resulted in an average first year increase of \$1.74 or 4.6 percent. This is higher than the average of \$1.58 or 4.1 percent that was reported for the comparable period a year earlier. Second and third year averages are similar to first year and are also up from 2005.

Higher increases in 2006 are attributed to a limited number of agreements covering a large number of workers. Only 16 contracts had an increase above the dollar average, while only 19 had an increase above the percentage average. At least half of all settlements were between 3.0 and 4.9 percent in each year.

Regional Variation

While settlements in the East North Central region generally are most numerous, they account for a particularly large portion of the contracts this year. Measured in workers covered, however, the East North Central region accounts for only a third of the national total. Settlements in this region are substantially below the rest of the country and much below the level of a year earlier.

Contract Duration

Three years continues to be the preferred duration for newly negotiated contracts. About two-thirds of new agreements have been three years or more in length.

This report has been prepared to provide an early indication of 2006 bargaining results. Subsequent reports will be released which will be more geographically representative and provide craft detail.

Settlement Dollar Report by US (Summary)

U.S.TOTALS	Year											Total	Average	Covered		
		.59 or	.60	.80	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.60	1.80	2.00	2.20				Over	
		Less	.79	.99	1.19	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.99	2.19	2.39					
	1	6	11	8	10	5	8	17	5					77	\$1.74	68,412
	2	1	2	12	7	3	5	6	14	2			58	\$1.91	57,126	
	3	1	2	7	8	1	4	5	17	2			53	\$1.97	55,412	

Settlement Percent Report by US (Summary)

U.S.TOTALS	Year											Total	Average	Covered		
		0 or	.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0				Over	
		less	.9	1.9	2.9	3.9	4.9	5.9	6.9	7.9	Over					
	1	4	1	22	17	22	6	5	1				77	4.6%	68,412	
	2	1	1	15	13	23	1	5				58	4.7%	57,126		
	3	1	1	13	9	24	3	3				53	4.6%	55,412		

**Wage and Benefit Settlements
United States, Selected Regions and Crafts**

	<u>Settlements</u>	<u>Coverage Workers</u>	<u>Average Increase²</u>			
			<u>Dollar</u>		<u>Percent</u>	
			<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>	<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>
United States	77	68,412	\$1.74	\$1.91	4.6%	4.7%
			<u>Regions</u>			
East North Central	48	22,040	1.36	1.40	3.8%	3.8%

1 Areas with a sufficient number of settlements to show a meaningful average.

2 Weighted by number of workers covered.

* Too few agreements to show a meaningful average.

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