



September 2005

Wage and Benefit Settlements – 2005

Wage and benefit settlements reported to the Construction Labor Research Council so far in 2005 have resulted in an average first year increase of \$1.68 or 4.2 percent and a second year increase of \$1.89 or 4.3 percent. These amounts are almost unchanged from the averages reported earlier this year and the averages at this time last year. The average first year increase a year earlier was \$1.44 or 4.1 percent.

The difference in results between 2005 and a year earlier is in the second and third year average settlements amounts – this year's are higher. A shift in bargaining location to areas with higher rates has resulted in more larger dollar settlements. A majority of increases remain between 3.0 and 4.9 percent, especially in the second and third years of newly negotiated contracts.

Regional Variation

Average first year settlement amounts in all regions were within \$.20 and a half percentage point of the national average. The United States average is strongly influenced by results in the east north central region. Bargaining results in the east north central region are higher compared to a year earlier.

Craft Variation

Reported craft averages reflect the area in which the settlements were reached. Settlements with the carpenters and laborers cover the most workers. While this report includes an unusually large number of laborers agreements, they cover about the same portion of total workers as past years. Laborers settlements are below the all crafts averages and the amounts reported a year earlier.

Contract Duration

The traditional construction industry contract duration of three years continues to prevail. There were some longer agreements.

Settlement Dollar Report by US (Summary)

U.S.TOTALS	Year											Total	Average	Covered							
		.59 or less	.60	.79	.99	1.00	1.19	1.20	1.39	1.40	1.59				1.60	1.79	1.80	1.99	2.00	2.19	2.20
	1	11	7	7	24	29	22	22	19	10	10	10	10	10	12	20	20	20	164	\$1.68	167,674
	2	3	10	9	9	31	22	22	10	13	8	8	8	8	8	17	17	17	131	\$1.89	139,102
	3	1	7	6	6	31	22	22	8	15	7	7	7	6	6	18	18	18	121	\$1.99	131,280

Settlement Percent Report by US (Summary)

U.S.TOTALS	Year											Total	Average	Covered						
		0 or less	1.0	1.9	2.0	2.9	3.0	3.9	4.0	4.9	5.0				5.9	6.0	6.9	7.0	7.9	8.0
	1	3	7	7	20	57	51	51	15	8	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	164	4.2%	167,674
	2	1	6	6	18	45	48	48	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	131	4.3%	139,102
	3	3	3	3	21	46	40	40	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	121	4.3%	131,280

Wage and Benefit Settlements
United States and Selected Regions and Crafts¹

	<u>Settlements</u>	<u>Coverage</u> <u>Workers</u>	<u>Dollar</u>		<u>Average Increase²</u>	
			<u>1st</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>1st</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Year</u>
United States	164	167,674	\$1.68	\$1.89	4.2 %	4.3 %
<u>Regions</u>						
Middle Atlantic	23	40,172	1.69	1.82	4.1	3.7
East North Central	92	89,416	1.88	2.04	4.6	4.6
West North Central	21	9,311	1.69	1.70	4.7	4.5
<u>Crafts</u>						
Carpenters	18	42,205	1.64	*	4.3	*
Laborers	30	38,820	1.03	1.13	3.6	4.0

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.

STATES and REGIONS

New England

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Middle Atlantic

District of Columbia
Delaware
Maryland
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania

Southeast

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia

East North Central

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
Ohio
West Virginia
Wisconsin

West North Central

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

South Central

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Mountain-Northern Plains

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Southwest Pacific

Arizona
California
Hawaii
Nevada

Northwest

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon
Washington

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