

Wages in the 1890s

Comparative rates of weekly wages paid in the United States as reported in 1892.
From The Century Book of Facts by H. W. Rouff, copyright 1908 (Springfield, MA)

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Occupation	New York	Chicago	* NY 1996
Bakers	\$5 - \$8	\$8 - \$12	\$336 - \$635
Blacksmiths	\$10 - \$14	\$9 - \$12	- - -
Bricklayers	\$12 - \$15	\$9 - \$10.50	\$411 - \$628
Carpenters & Joiners	\$9 - \$12	\$7.50 - \$12	\$448
Laborers, Porters etc....	\$6 - \$9	\$5.50 - \$9	\$190 - \$279 ^A
Painters	\$10 - \$16	\$6 - \$12	\$400 - \$608
Plumbers	\$12 - \$18	\$12 - \$20	\$400 - \$617
Printers	\$8 - \$18	\$12 - \$18	\$380 - \$901
Shoemakers	\$12 - \$18	\$9 - \$18	- - -
Tailors	\$10 - \$18	\$6 - \$18	\$200 - \$400 ^B
Tinsmiths	\$10 - \$14	\$9 - \$12	- - -

*1996 wages compiled from The New York State Department of Labor web site (these wages may include entry level positions).

A) Laborers, stores B) Sewing