



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Records About Wage Increases, 11/14/1971 - 4/30/1974

Record Group 432

Updated May 26, 2020

1. What information is in these records?
2. Why were these records created?
3. How can I access a copy of the full file?

1. What information is in these records?

The records contain data from reports of wage increases and requests to increase wages from business establishments subject to the wage controls of the early 1970s. The data in the file varies according to the phase of the Economic Stabilization Program under which it was collected. The Economic Stabilization Program had 4 phases, running from August 15, 1971 to April 30, 1974.

The collection of wage data began with Phase II. During that phase, firms with 5,000 or more employees needed CLC approval to raise wages, firms with 1,000 to 4,999 employees had to report all wage increases but needed approval only for wage increases above 5.5 percent, and firms with less than 1,000 employees merely had to report increases above 5.5 percent. During Phase III and Phase IV, only food industry firms required CLC approval for wage increases, while construction firms with annual sales of \$50,000 or more needed such approval. Health industry firms continued to be subject to Phase II controls. Firms outside of the food, construction and health industries had to report wage increases above 5.5 percent.

The records also contain information about the labor unions at each business establishment.

2. Why were these records created?

The Cost of Living Council used the records to decide if it should approve requests to raise wages according to the guidelines established under the Economic Stabilization Program. The CLC supervised several different offices that attempted to control wage and price inflation.

3. How can I access a copy of the full file?

The raw data file, along with the associated technical documentation, may be downloaded from the National Archives Catalog at: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>. There you can search by the series name, Records About Wage Increases, or using the National Archives Identifier 604415, which is the description identifier for this series.

In the results, select to view the full series description. Click on the link “file(s) described in the catalog” next to “Includes:” for a list of the file units within this series. Then select the file unit containing the records of interest to you. The file unit description will include the list of electronic records and documentation files available for viewing and/or downloading.

Additional information about downloading electronic records from the Catalog is available at: <https://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog-faqs>.

Please keep in mind that the data file consists of the raw structured data as loaded into AAD (i.e. the coded values without meanings), but without the AAD software that displays the meanings for coded values and field titles. For more details about using files containing raw structured data, you may wish to review our "Introduction to Raw Data" at: <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/electronic-records/raw-data-intro.pdf>.