

Yarn Weight & Wpi

One way of determining the weight of an unknown yarn is to use the wrapping method. By this method it is possible to check yarn with a simple pencil and ruler. Wrap the yarn around a large needle or a ruler. Make sure the yarn lies flat. Push the yarn together so there are no gaps between wraps. Smooth it out so it is neither too loose nor too tight. Measure the number of wraps per inch (2.5 cm). The number of wraps will act as a gauge to assess the thickness of unmarked yarn; for example 12 wraps per inch is 12 WPI, and is used to calculate how much yarn is required for various articles so that 12 WPI is equivalent to 8 ply (worsted weight, medium weight) yarn.

US	UK	Australia	m/100g	Wraps Per Inch,	Recommended knitting needle size, mm	Recommended crochet hook size, mm	Other terms used
0 or Lace	1 ply		More than 800	40+ wpi	1.5 - 2.5	1.5 - 2.5	Single, Cobweb, Thread, Zephyr
0 or Lace	2 ply		600-800	30-40 wpi	1.5 - 2.5	1.5 - 2.5	
1 or Super Fine	3 ply	3 ply	500-600	20-30 wpi	2 - 3	2.25 - 3.5	Light Fingering, Sock, Baby
1 or Super Fine	4 ply	4 ply	350-450	14-24 wpi	2 - 3	2.25 - 3.5	Fingering, Sock, Baby
2 or Fine	5 ply	5 ply	250-350	12-18 wpi	3 - 4	3.5 - 4.5	Sport, Baby, 3-ply (obsolete American)
3 or Light	DK (Double Knit) or 8 ply	8 ply	200-250	11-15 wpi	4 - 4.5	4.5 - 5.5	Light Worsted, DK
4 or Medium	Worsted, Aran, Triple Knit (rare)	10 or 12 ply	120-200	9-12 wpi	4.5 - 5.5	5.5 - 6.5	Worsted, Afghan, Fisherman, 4-ply (obsolete American)
5 or Bulky	Chunky, Double Double Knit (rare)	12 or 16 ply	100-130	6-8 wpi	5.5 - 8	6.5 - 9	Craft, Rug
6 or Super Bulky	Super Chunky		Less than 100	5-6 wpi	>8	>9	Roving
7 or Jumbo			Less than 100	n/a	12.75 mm and larger	15 mm and larger	Roving