








Yarn weights and gauges are given in Knitspeak on Pages 202 and 203, but there is a measure that was not included in the book that is used by spinners and weavers, and more lately, on the Ravelry.com site to measure yarn thickness so yarns can more easily be compared. That measurement is Wraps Per Inch, or WPI. As far as I know, there is no standard (yet) for WPI equivalents to the yarn weights as defined by the Craft Yarn Council of America, so I've included information from a few different sources so you can decide which will meet your needs.

To get wraps per inch, wind yarn around a pencil, dowel, or ruler so that the wraps lay next to each other -- but not so tightly that the yarn is stretched. Count the number of wraps around the pencil in one inch (count the number of wraps in two inches and divide by two for a more accurate reading).

Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Names							
Type of Yarns in Category	Fingering 10-count crochet thread	Sock, Fingering, Baby	Sport, Baby	DK, Light Worsted	Worsted, Afghan, Aran	Chunky, Craft, Rug	Bulky, Roving
Australian, British, New Zealand equivalents in Ply		3-4 ply	5-8 ply	8-ply	10-12 ply	12-16 ply	
Knit Gauge Range* in Stockinette Stitch to 4 inches	33-40** sts	27-32 sts	23-26 sts	21-24 st	16-20 sts	12-15 sts	6-11 sts
Wraps per Inch (WPI) according to:							
Ravelry.com	--	14	12	11	8-9	7	5-6
Spin to Knit by Shannon Okey, Interweave, 2006	18 +	16	14	--	12	10	8 or fewer
Handwoven Magazine	--	22 or more	14 to 22	11 to 13	10 to 12	8 to 10	Fewer than 3 to 8
Recommended Needle in Metric Size Range	1.5-2.25 mm	2.25-3.25 mm	3.25-3.75 mm	3.75-4.5 mm	4.5-5.5 mm	5.5-8 mm	8 mm and larger
Recommended Needle U.S. Size Range	000-1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 7	7 to 9	9 to 11	11 and larger

*GUIDELINES ONLY:
The above reflect the most commonly used gauges and needle sizes for specific yarn categories.

** Lace weight yarns are usually knitted on larger needles to create lacy, openwork patterns. Accordingly, a gauge range is difficult to determine. Always follow the gauge stated in your pattern.

Adapted from the Yarn Standards of the Craft Yarn Council of America