

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
Washington, D. C.

40- AND 35-CENT MINIMUM RATES RECOMMENDED FOR JEWELRY  
INDUSTRY WORKERS

A report by the Jewelry Manufacturing Industry Committee unanimously recommending minimum wage rates of 40 and 35 cents an hour was received today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. These minima will increase the hourly wage rates of an estimated 8,000 workers in the industry.

The 40-cent minimum rate will apply for all workers engaged in the following classifications within the industry:

- (1) manufacturing, processing or assembling of watch cases made of any material;
- (2) manufacturing, cutting, polishing, encrusting, or engraving of precious, semi-precious, synthetic or imitation stones;
- (3) manufacturing, processing or assembling of precious jewelry.

Precious jewelry as used herein means jewelry made of platinum or gold of 10 karat fineness or better, or jewelry containing precious stones such as diamonds, pearls, zircons, emeralds, rubies, garnets, etc.

The 35-cent minimum rate will apply for all workers employed in the production of all other materials covered by the definition of the jewelry manufacturing industry.

Colonel Fleming will schedule a public hearing on the recommendations at which interested parties may appear in support of, or in opposition to, the proposals. The jewelry manufacturing industry is concentrated largely in

New England and the New York metropolitan area. The total number of workers in the industry is normally about 35,000, employed in over 1,000 plants, according to figures compiled by the Research and Statistics Branch of the Wage and Hour Division.

The Jewelry Manufacturing Industry Committee is the twenty-first reporting a recommendation under Section 8 of the Fair Labor Standards Act which authorized the Administrator to act on the recommendations of industry committees by advancing whole industries toward the 40-cent minimum goal of the law where this can be done without substantially curtailing employment.

The Chairman of the Jewelry Manufacturing Industry Committee was Clyde O. Fisher of Middletown, Connecticut. Other members were: For the Public: George Hurley, Providence, Rhode Island; LaRue Brown, Boston, Mass.; William J. Mack, New York, New York; and Frank Kingdon, West Orange, New Jersey; For the Employees: Leon Williams, Bronx, New York; Samuel E. Beardsley, New York, New York; A. J. Gaul, Chicago, Illinois; Anthony J. Sabella, New York, New York; and Sam Sandberg, Providence, Rhode Island; For the Employers: Charles John Simeon, Providence, Rhode Island; Sturgis C. Rice, Plainville, Massachusetts; Rawson L. Wood, New York, New York; August Kappel, New York, New York; and Leo F. Krussman, New York, New York.

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