

U. S. Department of Labor  
Wage and Hour Division  
Washington

MINIMUM WAGE ORDER FOR RAILROAD WORKERS  
EFFECTIVE MARCH FIRST

Pay increases of more than \$7,000,000 annually become effective Saturday for an estimated 70,000 employees of the nation's railroads, Railway Express Agency, Pullman Company, car loan, and terminal companies. These workers have been receiving lower wages than specified in the minimum wage orders established by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

The order establishes a minimum wage of 36 cents an hour for employees of trunk line railroads and 33 cents an hour for short lines. These rates were recommended by the railroad carrier industry committee, appointed under the Fair Labor Standards Act, (federal wage and hour law) after an extensive investigation and public hearings. By far the largest group of workers affected by the order will be maintenance of way workers, including crossing, bridge flagmen, and gate-men. It will also include clerical and station workers, some shop laborers, red caps, dining car waiters, and kitchen workers.

Of the million or more workers employed on the nation's trunk lines it is estimated that 65,000 will receive wage increases under the order, including Pullman Company, Railway Express Agency, car loan, and terminal company employees. Of the 21,000 employees of the short line roads, 5,000 will be affected.

Included in the list of employees to benefit by the establishment of the minimum wage will be certain employees of electric railroads which are a part of the steam railroad system.

According to figures submitted by the railroads 26,000 of those employed at less than 36 cents an hour were employees of railroads classed as "western lines"; 24,000 by "southern lines", and 6,000 by "eastern lines".

Railroads principally affected by the minimum wage order with estimated annual increases for lowest paid employees, and employment figures of those roads corrected up to November 15, 1939, are as follows:

<u>ROAD</u>	<u>EST. ANNUAL INCREASE</u>	<u>WORKERS</u>
Seaboard Airline	\$668,000	4,722
Atlantic Coast Line	611,000	3,969
Illinois Central (including Yazoo and Mississippi Valley)	443,000	2,282
Texas and New Orleans	415,000	3,243
Southern Railway System	412,000	4,380
Missouri Pacific	385,000	3,261
Central of Georgia	212,000	1,413
Southern Pacific	165,000	1,762
Louisville & Nashville	136,000	2,241
Florida East Coast	127,000	849
Louisville & Arkansas	126,000	878
Chicago Rock Island & Pacific	126,000	1,227
International Great Northern (Texas Line)	109,000	779
Missouri Kansas Texas	96,000	666
Texas & Pacific	93,000	1,141
Gulf Coast Lines	91,000	854
Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe	81,000	242
St. Louis & San Francisco	54,000	405
Nashville Chattanooga & St. Louis	45,000	783
St. Louis Southwestern	28,000	592