

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington

ADMINISTRATOR APPROVES 37-1/2 CENT MINIMUM FOR TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Increase for 300,000 Workers to go Into Effect June 30

An unanimous recommendation by a committee representative of employers, labor and the public for establishment of a minimum wage of 37-1/2 cents an hour in the textile industry was approved today by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor. A wage order will be issued later this week. The new minimum will go into effect June 30.

It is estimated that the wage rates of about 300,000 workers will be increased. This is the largest number of workers to have their wages raised by an industrial wage order. The pay of the lowest scale workers at the standard 40 hours will be raised from \$13 to \$15 a week.

About 650,000 are employed in the industry affected which, as defined, includes the manufacture of cotton textiles; of certain finished products such as towels, sheets and pillow cases; silk, rayon, linen and jute textiles; and cordage and twine.

"In scheduling the required public hearing on the 37-1/2 cent an hour minimum wage recommendation for the textile industry," General Fleming said, "I also asked for evidence on what, if any, provisions in the wage order were necessary to prevent circumvention of the minimum wage by deductions for purchases in company stores and rentals in company-owned houses. This is a matter of administration and was not a part of the committee's recommendation.

"No evidence was introduced in opposition to the immediate establishment of the 37-1/2 cent minimum rate. Evidence was introduced on deductions.

"The wage order to go into effect June 30 will contain no provisions regarding deductions but I will have a representative take further evidence at hearings in the textile centers with a view to possible amendment of the order in this respect."

The 37-1/2 cent rate will bring increases to workers in the different divisions of the industry in this number:

Cotton workers	207,000
Textile products (sheets, pillow cases, etc.).....	28,700
Silk and rayon	47,000
Cordage and twine	5,000
Jute textiles	1,500
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Total	289,200

It is estimated that the number of workers who will be raised in bleaching and dyeing plants, linen mills, and other establishments under the order will bring the total to more than 300,000.

The first textile wage order under the Wage and Hour Law called for payment of at least 32-1/2 cents an hour, and increased the wage rates of about 175,000 workers. It went into effect October 24, 1939. The Cotton Textile Code under the NRA called for payment of at least 30 cents an hour in the South and 32-1/2 cents an hour in New England.

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