

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

*Inactive*

40-CENT MINIMUM RECOMMENDED FOR KNITTED AND MEN'S WOVEN  
UNDERWEAR AND COMMERCIAL KNITTING INDUSTRY

A committee for knitted and men's woven underwear and commercial knitting industry by a majority vote recommended a 40-cent minimum wage in a report filed today with General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. A public hearing on the recommendation will be held in Washington, July 9. If approved by the Administrator the 40-cent minimum will increase the wages of approximately 15,000 of an estimated 68,000 workers in the industry.

The Committee also suggested in its report to the Administrator that he consider a more liberal application of the learner regulations for the industry. The Committee is of the opinion that favorable consideration is warranted for allowing an increase from 5 percent to 10 percent in the proportion of learners working at less than the minimum in any one plant.

The manufacture of men's and boys' woven underwear is now carried on under a 32-1/2 cent minimum wage which went into effect July 15, 1940, as a section of the apparel wage order. The knitted underwear and commercial knitting industry has been operating under a 33-1/2 cent minimum wage, effective May 6, 1940.

The "knitted and men's woven underwear and commercial knitting industry" is defined as:

"a. The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of any knitted fabric made from any yarn or mixture of yarns, except:

"1. The knitting from any yarn or mixture of yarns and the further manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted garments, knitted garment sections or knitted garment accessories for use as external apparel or covering which are partially or completely manufactured in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed; provided that this exception shall not be construed to apply to the garments or garment accessories designated in clause (b) of this definition.

"2. Fulled suiting, coatings, topcoatings, or overcoatings containing more than 25 percent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.

"3. Hosiery.

"b. The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing, from any yarn or mixture of yarns, or from purchased knitted fabric, of any of the following products:

"1. Knitted garments or garment accessories for use as underwear, sleeping wear, or negligees.

"2. Fleece-lined garments made from knitted fabric containing cotton only or containing any mixture of cotton and not more than 25 percent by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.

"3. Knitted shirts of cotton or any synthetic fiber or any mixture of such fibers which have been knit on machinery of 10-cut or finer in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed.

"4. Knitted towels or cloths.

"c. The manufacturing of men's and boys' underwear from any woven fabric."

A public hearing will be held before the Administrator at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to appear for or against the recommended 40-cent minimum.

The committee members are:

For the Public:

William E. Simkin  
Chairman  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Philip Taft  
Providence, R. I.

Dr. Harry D. Wolfe  
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Myrtle Brocke  
Montevallo, Alabama

John DeQ. Briggs  
St. Paul, Minn.

Mary Barnett Gilson  
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. William Haber  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Frank V. Morley  
New York, N. Y.

For the Employees:

Mrs. Willie M. Watson  
Anniston, Alabama

Joseph R. White  
Cohoes, New York

Emil Rieve  
New York, N. Y.

Samuel Shore  
New York, N. Y.

John S. Martin  
Atlanta, Georgia

David Dubinsky  
New York, N. Y.

Dorothy J. Bellanca  
New York, N. Y.

C. M. Fox  
Birmingham, Alabama

For the Employers:

L. B. Boynton  
Newton, Mass.

Ralph M. Jones  
Utica, New York

Robert Spillman  
Knoxville, Tenn.

T. O. Moore  
Winston-Salem, N. C.

T. H. Mueller  
New York, N. Y.

William Ravner  
New York, N. Y.

H. E. Sims  
Piqua, Ohio

Mitchel Schneider  
New York, N. Y.

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