

For Release Monday,
July 7, 1941

R-1487

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

Inactive

WAGE ORDERS INCREASE RATES OF 800,000

About 800,000 workers in low wage industries have received increases through industry wage orders, General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, announced today.

"It is a mistake to think of the Wage and Hour Law as just a 30 cents-an-hour law," General Fleming said in making public mid-year figures on industries operating under wage orders. "The 30 cents-an-hour minimum wage for all those engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for interstate commerce, which went into effect on October 24, 1939, increased the wage rate of about 610,000 workers. Industrial wage orders establishing minimum wage rates above 30 cents an hour up to 40 cents an hour have increased the wages of about 800,000 workers. Forty cents an hour becomes the universal minimum on October 24, 1945."

The largest groups raised by wage orders recommended by committees equally representative of the employers, the employees, and the public, are 300,000 textile workers, 190,000 garment workers, 65,000 railroad workers, and 60,000 shoe workers.

The procedure by which these wage orders have been issued was upheld by the Supreme Court in the Opp Cotton Mills case, and more recently and in more detail by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in the Southern Garment Manufacturers case.

(8627)

The textile wage order requiring payment of at least 37-1/2 cents an hour to all employees in the textile industry is the second issued for that industry. The industry operated for more than a year on a wage order requiring payment of 32-1/2 cents an hour.

Increases in the minimum wage to 40 cents an hour have been recommended by industry committees for the manufacture of those garments not already at the 40 cent rate under the apparel wage order, which went into effect July 15, 1940. A rate of 40 cents an hour has also been recommended for the knitted underwear industry. These recommendations are awaiting administrative approval or disapproval.

A recommendation of 36 cents an hour for the manufacture of seamless hosiery, an industry now operating on a 32-1/2 cent wage order, is also pending.

A tabulation of industries now under wage orders and the number of workers affected follows. The total number of workers affected is 792,900. The total employed by industries under wage orders is 3,476,200. A wage order covering the manufacture of rubber and rubber products, which will go into effect on July 28, will affect 9,900 additional workers and bring the total number of those receiving wage increases to more than 800,000.

WAGE ORDERS

COMMITTEE	WAGE RATE	NUMBER EMPLOYED	NUMBER AFFECTED	EFFECTIVE DATE
Woolen.....	36	150,000	12,000	June 17, 1940
Apparel.....		<u>650,000</u>	<u>190,000</u>	July 15, 1940
<u>Men's Wear:</u>				
Men's & Boys' Clothing.....	40	126,600	13,500	
Sportswear & Other Odd Outerwear...	40	14,000	8,200	
Leather & Sheep-Lined Garments.....	40	4,100	850	
Rainwear.....	40	4,500	2,000	
Single Pants & Breeches Other Than those of 100% cotton fabric.....	37-1/2	7,000	3,100	
Single Pants of 100% Cotton Fabric, Overalls, Coveralls & Work Shirts.	32-1/2	66,000	33,500	
Dress Shirts, Collars & Sleeping Wear.....	32-1/2	68,000	27,900	
Men's & Boys' Underwear of Woven Fabric.....	32-1/2	10,000	6,900	
<u>Women's Wear:</u>				
Cloaks, Suits & Separate Skirts....	40	40,000	600	
Dresses.....	35	134,500	31,000	
Blouses, Shirtwaists, Neckwear, Scarfs.....	35	12,400	2,300	
Corsets & Allied Garments.....	35	17,200	3,400	
Underwear, Nightwear & Negligees... Made of Woven Fabric.....	35	30,150	11,500	
Infants' & Children's Outerwear....	35	29,500	12,800	
Robes.....	35	2,800	900	
Washable Service Apparel.....	35	9,900	2,800	
<u>Accessories & Special Products:</u>				
Caps & Cloth Hats.....	40	3,450	1,350	
Belts.....	40	3,600	800	
Covered Buttons & Buckles.....	35	800	300	
Garters, Suspenders, Arm Bands....	35	3,000	1,000	
Ladies' Handbags.....	35	12,200	4,800	
Artificial Flowers & Feathers.....	35	5,500	1,800	
Men's Neckwear & Scarfs.....	35	10,300	3,000	
Gloves & Mittens Other Than Work Gloves & Mittens.....	35	13,900	5,700	
Work Gloves & Mittens.....	32-1/2	15,000	7,300	
Handkerchiefs.....	32-1/2	5,600	2,700	
Hosiery.....		<u>140,000</u>	<u>46,000</u>	Sept. 18, 1939
Full-Fashioned.....	40	80,000	16,000	
Seamless.....	32-1/2	60,000	30,000	
Hat.....		<u>25,000</u>	<u>5,500</u>	July 1, 1940
Wool-Felt, Fur-Felt, Hatters' Fur..	40	21,100	4,500	
Straw and Harvest.....	35	3,900	1,000	
Millinery.....	40	23,500	3,500	Jan. 15, 1940
Shoes & Allied Industries.....	35	234,000	60,000	Apr. 29, 1940

- 4 -
WAGE ORDERS (2)

COMMITTEE	WAGE RATE	NUMBER EMPLOYED	NUMBER AFFECTED	EFFECTIVE DATE
Knitted Outerwear.....	35	23,000	7,500	July 1, 1940
Knitted Underwear & Commercial Knitting.....	33-1/2	60,000	16,000	May 6, 1940
Railroad Carrier.....		<u>1,017,000</u>	<u>65,300</u>	March 1, 1941
Trunklines.....	36	1,000,000	60,000	
Shortlines.....	33	17,000	5,300	
Leather.....	40	50,000	3,000	Sept. 16, 1940
Pulp & Primary Paper.....	40	130,000	8,500	Sept. 16, 1940
Carpet and Rug.....		<u>31,000</u>	<u>1,100</u>	March 17, 1941
Wool and Wool-Yarn.....	40	30,100	1,000	
Paper, Grass, Fiber, Cotton.....	35	900	100	
Luggage and Leather.....	35	18,250	4,900	Jan. 6, 1941
Converted Paper Products.....		<u>200,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	June 30, 1941
Folding Paper Boxes.....	40			
Shipping Containers.....	40			
Paper Cups.....	40			
Bottle Caps & Hoods.....	40			
Waxed Papers.....	40			
Carbon Paper.....	40			
Towels & Toilet Tissues.....	40			
Auto Panels.....	40			
Photo Mountings.....	40			
Waterproof Paper.....	40			
Glazed & Fancy Paper.....	40			
Commercial Envelopes.....	40			
Tags and Labels.....	40			
Gummed Papers.....	40			
Die Cut Specialties.....	40			
Sensitized Papers.....	40			
Sand Paper.....	40			
Stationery.....	40			
Playing Cards.....	40			
Book Matches.....	40			
Loose-leaf & Blank Books, Tablets & Pads, Index Cards.....	40			
All products not included in any of the enumerated divisions of the Industry in which the principal basic component consists of synthetic material.....	40			
All products not included in any of the enumerated divisions of the Industry made by the coating or impregnating of paper or paper board with any material.....	40			

- 5 -
WAGE ORDERS (3)

COMMITTEE	WAGE RATE	NUMBER EMPLOYED	NUMBER AFFECTED	EFFECTIVE DATE
Converted Paper Products (Continued)				
Shipping Sacks.....	38			
Paper Bags.....	38			
Miscellaneous Rolls & Wrapping ...				
Specialties.....	38			
Products not elsewhere classified..	38			
Plain Rolls.....	36			
Set-up Boxes.....	36			
Cans, Tubes, Cores & Related Products,,.....	36			
Expanding Envelopes & Related Products.....	36			
Lace & Fluted Paper Products.....	36			
Twisted Paper Products.....	36			
Embroideries.....	37-1/2	14,250	4,400	Jan. 27, 1941
Portable Lamp & Shade.....	40	10,000	5,000	July 1, 1941
Enameled Utensil.....	40	6,200	1,200	April 21, 1941
Drug, Medicine, Toilet Preparations...	40	44,000	9,000	July 7, 1941
Textile.....	37-1/2	650,000	300,000	June 30, 1941

#

(8627)