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

*Inactive*

NEW PUERTO RICAN PIECE WORK RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 12

New piece rates for Puerto Rican home needlework to go into effect October 12 were announced today by General Philip B. Fleming the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor. More than 300 rates are listed for hand sewing on underwear, infants' and children's wear, womens' blouses and dresses, handkerchiefs and household art linens.

The new piece rates, based on recent time studies, are contained in a revision of Wage and Hour regulations under the Puerto Rican needlework wage order. All current piece rates under the wage order will be replaced by the new schedules.

Some of the rates are revised upwards, others have been lowered as a result of the time studies conducted by the Wage and Hour Division in Puerto Rico.

The piece rates put into effect December 2, 1940 were based on NRA rates, as there was no opportunity to make time studies. At that time General Fleming announced that the rates would be revised as experience would dictate.

Time studies were immediately begun and revised rates for operations done in the handkerchiefs and household art linens were put into effect April 14. These revised rates are reenacted in the new regulations.

Under an amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act (Wage and Hour Law) with respect to Puerto Rico, the Administrator may set piece rates commensurate with hourly minimums recommended by a Puerto Rican industry committee. The Puerto Rican wage order calls for payment of at least the following rates:

12-1/2 cents an hour for hand sewing; 20 cents an hour for other operations on handkerchiefs, household art linens, cotton underwear, infants' wear, needlepoint and hand-hooked rugs.

15 cents an hour for hand sewing and 22-1/2 cents an hour for other operations on silk underwear.

20 cents an hour for all operations on children's, ladies', men's and boys' apparel.

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