

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

TEXTILE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 40 CENTS MINIMUM

The Third Textile Committee under the Fair Labor Standards Act today unanimously recommended a minimum of 40 cents an hour for the industry, which includes all textiles except knitted and woollen goods. It is estimated that 150,000 workers of the 750,000 employed in the industry will be given direct wage increases, if the recommendation is approved. Most of these workers are in the South. Alexander Hamilton Frey of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Chairman of the Committee, filed a report containing the recommendation with Thomas W. Holland, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, after a meeting of the Committee this morning.

On the recommendation of the first textile committee, a minimum wage of $32\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour went into effect on October 24, 1939, and it was estimated that this increased the wages of about 175,000 workers. A second minimum wage rate of $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour was ordered for the industry, effective June 30, 1941, at which time about 300,000 workers received pay increases. There have been general pay increases in many textile mills since then.

The cotton goods industry employs more than two-thirds of the workers covered by this wage order and an even larger portion of the low wage workers affected. Increases in the average hourly wage in this industry since September, 1938, the month before the Wage-Hour Law went into effect, are shown in the following table:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Hourly Wage</u>
Sept.	1938	38.2 cents
Sept.	1939	38.4 "
Nov.	1939	41.0 "
May	1941	45.0 "
July	1941	47.1 "
Oct.	1941	50.3 "

Under a revision of the definition of the industry, the manufacture of non-wool carpets and rugs will be under a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour if the Administrator approves today's recommendation. Manufacture of such rugs has been under a minimum wage order prescribing at least 35 cents an hour.

Before he acts on today's recommendation, the Administrator will schedule a public hearing at which any interested person may appear. The date of the hearing will be announced shortly.

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