

For Release Monday
Afternoon, April 6, 1942

R-1772

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
165 W. 46th St.
New York, N. Y.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY 40-CENT WAGE ORDER AFFECTS 150,000 WORKERS

Direct wage increases for 150,000 workers in the textile industry will become effective April 20, 1942, under a wage order signed today establishing the minimum wage in that industry at 40 cents per hour beginning on that date.

The order was signed by L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, upon the recommendation of a committee which studied economic conditions in the industry. Total employment in the industry is approximately 750,000, but all except 150,000 already are earning 40 cents or more per hour.

The wage order signed today is the third for the textile industry adopted since the Fair Labor Standards Act became effective October 24, 1938. The first order established a minimum wage of $32\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour, effective October 24, 1939, while the second increased the minimum to $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour on June 30, 1941.

The industry, as defined in the wage order, includes all textiles except knitted and woollen goods.

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