

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions  
Washington 25, D. C.

TWO MORE PUERTO RICAN INDUSTRIES MINIMUM WAGE ORDERS ADOPTED BY MCCOMB

Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor, today announced the adoption of two more minimum wage orders under the Fair Labor Standards Act for industries in Puerto Rico.

Effective June 14, the orders affect some 800 employees in the Foundry, Machine Shop, and Fabricated Metal Products Industry, and approximately 400 in the Small Leather Goods and Related Products Industry. For the first group, the new order establishes a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour, in place of the present 35-cent rate. For the other employees, the new order will set rates from 17 cents to 30 cents an hour for various operations now subject to rates ranging from 15 cents to 24 cents an hour.

The changes in rates for the Small Leather Goods and Related Products Industry are: Small Leather Goods Division—hand-sowing or hand-lacing operations, increased from 15 cents an hour to 17 cents; all other operations in this division, increased from 24 cents to 27 cents; Baseball and Softball Division—hand-sewing operations, increased from 15 cents to 18 cents; all other operations in this division, increased from 24 cents to 27 cents; Braided Leather Button Division—hand-braiding operations, increased from 15 cents to 21 cents; all other operations in this division, increased from 24 cents to 30 cents.

The new wage orders were adopted by the Administrator on the basis of recommendations made to him by a tri-partite industry committee which studied conditions in 14 industries on the Island. A special provision in the Wage and Hour Law permits the establishment in Puerto Rico of minimum wage rates lower than the statutory 40-cents-an-hour minimum the law sets for the continental United States.

Public hearings were conducted on the industry committee's proposals. Copies of the wage orders adopted today and the findings and opinions upon which they are based are available without cost on request.