

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

NEW MINIMUM WAGE ORDERS TAKE EFFECT JULY 19 FOR SUGAR MANUFACTURING
AND PEARL BUTTON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN PUERTO RICO

Adoption of new minimum wage orders for two industries in Puerto Rico subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act was announced today by Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

Both effective July 19, the new wage orders will establish a rate of 40 cents an hour for the Sugar Manufacturing Industry, and a $37\frac{1}{2}$ -cents-an-hour rate for the Pearl Button Industry. Both industries now operate under wage orders which provide for minimum wages of 35 cents an hour.

Approximately 20,000 employees are engaged in the Sugar Manufacturing Industry, while the Pearl Button Industry employs some 600 persons.

The new wage orders were adopted by McComb on the basis of recommendations made to him by tri-partite industry committees following study of conditions in the industries. While the statutory minimum wage under the Wage and Hour Law is 40 cents for the continental United States, a special provision in the law makes possible the setting of lower minimum wage rates for Puerto Rican industries.

McComb's announcement today follows public hearings conducted on the committees' recommendations, and public notice of his intention to adopt the new wage orders. Copies of the orders and the findings and opinions upon which they are based are available without cost on request.

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