UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
L. B. Schwellenbach, *Secretary*
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
A. F. Hinrichs, *Acting Commissioner*

Union Wages and Hours in the Printing Trades July 1, 1945

Bulletin No. 872

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Letter of Transmittal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS,
Washington, D. C., May 17, 1946.

The SECRETARY OF LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report covering union wages and hours in the printing trades, as of July 1, 1945.

This report was prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Branch by Donald H. Gerrish and Herbert M. Abowitz.

A. F. HINRICHS, *Acting Commissioner.*

Hon. L. B. SCHWELLENBACH,
Secretary of Labor

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Bulletin No. 872 of the

United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

[Reprinted from the MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW, April 1946, with additional data.]

Union Wages and Hours in the Printing Trades, July 1, 1945

Summary

Hourly wages of union printing-trades workers in 75 cities on July 1, 1945, averaged $1.355, an advance of 1.4 percent over July 1, 1944. The newspaper branch averaged $1.541—the day-shift workers $1.464, and the night-shift workers $1.611. In the book and job branch hourly rates averaged $1.261. Photoengravers registered the highest trade averages in both the book and job and newspaper branches ($1.736 and $1.814, respectively). A substantial majority of the book and job and day-shift newspaper workers had hourly rates ranging from $1.20 to $1.60; on the night newspaper shifts about half of the workers received $1.60 or more per hour. Approximately one-third of the book and job members and almost two-fifths of the newspaper tradesmen had received rate increases since July 1, 1944, amounting to less than 5 percent in most instances. However, increases ranging from 5 to 40 cents per hour were negotiated between July 1945 and February 1946; almost three-fourths amounted to at least 10 cents per hour.

The straight-time workweek for all printing tradesmen averaged 39 hours. The book and job branch averaged 39.7 hours and the newspaper branch 37.5. Practically all of the workers were covered by agreements stipulating time and a half for work beyond the regular contract hours. Premium rates of double time applied to more than 90 percent of the book and job members and 42 percent of the newspaper printing tradesmen if they were required to work on Sunday or the seventh consecutive day.

Scope and Method of Study [1]

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has made annual studies of union wage and hour scales in various trades on a Nation-wide basis since 1907. Originally, the survey of the printing trades was confined to 7 book and job and 4 newspaper occupations in 39 cities. Coverage was gradually broadened and currently includes 11 book and job and 8 newspaper occupations in 75 principal cities.[1] Field representatives of the Bureau gathered the basic data for this report through personal interview with officials of local printing-trades unions in each city. These data included rates stipulated in the working agreements effective July 1, 1945. Scales in negotiation or awaiting War Labor

[1] Cities are listed in table 4.

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Board action at the time of survey were reviewed prior to tabulation to insure inclusion of any changes retroactive to July 1, 1945. Data regarding wage-rate changes between July 1945 and date of publication were obtained from various sources.

In making use of the information contained in this report, it should be kept in mind that all the averages and tabulations are based on union scales. A union scale is a minimum wage rate or maximum schedule of hours agreed upon through collective bargaining between employers or their bargaining associations and trade-unions. Some union members may receive rates in excess of the minimum agreed upon because of length of service or special qualifications, or for personal reasons. Such special rates were not used in the preparation of this report. Also excluded were scales for apprentices, supervisory foremen, and union members employed in Government printing plants where rates, although negotiated through collective-bargaining procedures, are not incorporated in written agreements signed by both parties. This survey included 2,603 rate quotations, covering 63,735 book and job members and 31,993 newspaper members.

The various averages shown herein were based on effective union scales weighted by the number of members actually covered by each scale.[2] However, because of annual fluctuations in the weighting factor (membership) the averages do not accurately reflect year-to-year changes. For example, a substantial increase in membership during one year in cities or occupations having lower-than-average rates would tend to depress the average, even though rates increased. To eliminate such distortions the Bureau has constructed an index series (1939=100) which measures year-to-year changes.[3] This series should be used to determine the trend of hourly wage rates, while the current averages best serve as a basis for comparing the general level of wage rates among trades, cities, and regions at the time of survey.

Union Hourly Wage Rates

TREND OF UNION WAGE RATES

The index of union hourly wage rates for all printing-trades workers in the 75 cities studied showed an increase of 1.4 percent between July 1, 1944, and July 1, 1945 (table 1). Similar increases were recorded for each branch (book and job, and newspaper), raising the indexes for these branches to 113.7 and 116.7, respectively, since 1939.

Among the individual book and job trades, photoengravers received the highest average increase (2.2 percent), followed closely by bindery women (2.1 percent) and electrotypers (2.0 percent); the smallest increase between July 1, 1944, and July 1, 1945, was recorded for bookbinders (less than 1 percent). All other trades in this branch had increases averaging at least 1 percent. In the newspaper branch, photoengravers also reported the largest advance (2.1 percent), while stereotypers had the smallest (less than 1 percent). All other crafts

[2] Tabulation is available in mimeograph form showing the actual union scale effective for each occupation in each of the cities included in the survey, and where possible the wage changes between July 1, 1945, and date of publication. Copies may be obtained from the Bureau upon request.

[3] Annual percent of change was computed from aggregates of the quotations of unions which furnished reports for identical classifications in 2 consecutive years. The membership weights in both the aggregates used for each year-to-year comparison were those reported for the second year.

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in this section of the industry showed gains averaging between 1 and 2 percent.

The rise in the index during the 5-year period, 1940–45, showed an average increase of 12.7 percent in rates for book and job workers and 14 percent for newspaper workers. In the 5-year period covering World War I (1914–19), rates for book and job workers increased 44 percent, and those for newspaper workers 31 percent.

TABLE 1.—*Indexes of Union Hourly Wage Rates in All Printing Trades, 1907–45*

Year	Indexes (1939=100) of hourly wage rates			Year	Indexes (1939=100) of hourly wage rates		
	All printing	Book and job	Newspaper		All printing	Book and job	Newspaper
1907	(1)	27.0	35.3	1927	87.0	87.5	86.3
1908	(1)	29.9	37.2	1928	88.6	88.7	88.5
1909	(1)	32.1	38.8	1929	89.9	89.9	90.0
1910	(1)	33.8	40.1	1930	91.3	91.5	90.9
1911	36.0	34.7	40.7	1931	91.8	92.1	91.2
1912	36.6	35.3	41.4	1932	91.1	91.2	91.0
1913	37.3	36.0	42.3	1933	85.7	86.1	85.1
1914	38.0	36.8	42.7	1934	87.5	88.5	86.2
1915	38.2	36.9	43.0	1935	90.8	90.4	91.5
1916	38.6	37.5	43.2	1936	92.9	93.0	92.8
1917	39.9	38.8	44.3	1937	96.0	96.0	96.3
1918	43.4	43.0	46.4	1938	99.1	99.2	98.8
1919	53.1	53.0	56.0	1939	100.0	100.0	100.0
1920	68.1	69.1	68.5	1940	101.4	100.9	102.2
1921	74.6	76.1	74.5	1941	102.6	102.0	103.6
1922	75.4	76.4	75.2	1942	107.0	106.4	108.1
1923	77.7	79.4	76.0	1943	110.4	109.3	112.6
1924	81.5	82.7	80.6	1944	113.1	112.2	115.1
1925	82.7	83.5	82.0	1945	114.6	113.7	116.7
1926	84.5	85.4	83.8				

[1] Combined data for years 1907–10 not available.

TABLE 2.—*Indexes of Union Hourly Wage Rates in Each Printing Trade, 1907 to 1945*

[1939=100]

BOOK AND JOB

Year	Bindery women	Book binders	Compositors, hand	Electrotypers	Machine operators	Machine tenders (machinists)	Mailers	Photoengravers	Press assistants and feeders	Pressmen, cylinder	Pressmen, platen
1907	--------	30.6	32.7	28.5	35.2	--------	--------	--------	25.0	32.5	32.1
1908	--------	33.9	32.8	28.6	36.5	--------	--------	--------	27.7	34.1	33.2
1909	--------	34.3	32.8	28.7	37.9	--------	--------	--------	28.1	37.0	34.3
1910	--------	34.7	34.2	29.9	39.2	--------	--------	--------	28.7	37.2	34.9
1911	--------	35.3	35.1	31.6	39.6	--------	--------	--------	29.8	38.0	35.6
1912	--------	35.5	35.9	32.1	40.6	39.7	--------	--------	30.3	38.6	36.1
1913	--------	36.4	36.3	32.7	41.7	40.3	--------	--------	31.0	39.1	36.8
1914	--------	37.0	37.2	34.2	42.1	40.4	--------	--------	31.8	40.0	37.4
1915	33.7	37.1	37.4	34.9	42.2	40.6	--------	--------	32.0	40.0	37.5
1916	34.3	37.1	38.2	35.9	42.3	40.6	--------	33.1	32.5	40.5	38.3
1917	36.7	39.4	39.0	37.0	43.3	41.6	--------	36.0	34.2	41.3	40.2
1918	41.0	44.3	43.0	38.9	46.8	45.7	--------	38.2	39.9	45.8	44.3
1919	53.1	56.5	52.6	44.6	56.4	56.2	--------	44.5	51.5	55.5	54.4
1920	73.3	74.3	69.2	63.8	71.8	70.4	--------	61.4	70.7	72.1	73.7
1921	85.6	81.3	79.4	74.2	81.3	81.4	--------	65.4	76.5	79.6	82.3
1922	82.9	78.0	80.8	75.7	81.4	80.4	--------	66.0	74.0	77.8	80.5
1923	86.6	82.8	82.7	80.4	82.9	82.0	--------	66.7	82.9	83.9	83.8
1924	87.9	86.5	86.4	83.4	86.4	85.6	--------	71.4	82.1	86.4	86.4
1925	88.9	87.5	85.9	83.1	86.4	85.7	--------	73.2	86.7	87.5	86.8
1926	87.2	89.0	87.6	83.9	87.4	88.7	--------	77.9	87.7	89.3	90.9
1927	89.2	90.9	89.2	84.9	90.8	89.2	--------	81.6	88.8	89.4	91.8

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Table 2.—*Indexes of Union Hourly Wage Rates in Each Printing Trade, 1907 to 1945*—Continued

[1939=100]

BOOK AND JOB

Year	Bindery women	Bookbinders	Compositors, hand	Electrotypers	Machine operators	Machine tenders (machinists)	Mailers	Photoengravers	Press assistants and feeders	Pressmen, cylinder	Pressmen, platen
1928	89.7	90.5	90.5	85.6	91.1	89.6	-------	83.9	89.4	90.2	90.2
1929	90.4	91.5	91.0	87.6	92.6	90.3	-------	85.1	90.2	91.7	91.6
1930	91.1	92.6	93.0	90.1	95.1	92.0	-------	85.3	91.3	93.4	93.1
1931	91.5	93.0	93.5	92.1	95.6	92.9	-------	85.5	92.0	94.0	93.6
1932	89.2	89.6	93.3	91.8	95.6	93.5	-------	88.1	88.0	91.6	91.6
1933	85.7	86.4	87.6	86.0	89.7	88.0	-------	86.4	82.0	85.9	85.3
1934	90.1	89.6	88.5	92.0	89.8	90.7	-------	87.7	85.1	88.3	87.6
1935	90.9	90.8	90.1	93.4	91.3	91.1	-------	93.3	87.0	89.4	88.3
1936	92.6	92.0	92.8	93.8	94.4	93.9	-------	95.6	89.9	93.1	91.9
1937	94.0	94.6	96.3	95.0	97.0	96.7	92.8	96.8	94.5	96.4	96.2
1938	98.6	98.1	99.5	99.3	99.7	99.6	98.3	99.2	99.4	99.3	99.1
1939	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1940	100.5	100.5	101.7	100.2	100.7	101.1	102.7	100.8	100.7	100.6	100.6
1941	102.7	102.0	103.2	102.3	101.6	101.9	104.0	101.2	101.7	101.4	101.6
1942	108.8	107.3	107.0	104.1	106.4	106.6	109.4	103.0	107.8	106.4	106.5
1943	112.1	111.3	110.0	107.0	109.5	109.8	111.3	103.5	111.2	109.4	109.9
1944	117.7	112.9	113.5	109.4	110.3	112.3	113.7	108.9	113.7	110.9	111.7
1945	120.1	113.6	114.8	111.6	111.6	114.0	115.8	111.3	115.2	112.1	113.1

NEWSPAPER

Year	Compositors, hand	Machine operators	Machine tenders (machinists)	Mailers	Photoengravers	Pressmen, web presses [1]	Stereotypers
1907	35.5	36.2	----------	----------	----------	34.1	37.9
1908	37.4	37.8	----------	----------	----------	36.2	39.9
1909	39.4	39.0	----------	----------	----------	37.8	41.2
1910	41.1	40.2	----------	----------	----------	39.0	42.2
1911	41.9	40.5	----------	----------	----------	39.3	42.5
1912	42.8	41.3	45.0	----------	----------	39.8	43.1
1913	43.5	42.0	45.3	----------	----------	40.7	45.7
1914	44.0	42.4	45.6	----------	----------	41.0	46.1
1915	44.2	42.8	45.9	----------	----------	41.2	46.2
1916	44.4	43.0	46.0	----------	36.3	41.5	46.7
1917	45.5	44.3	46.5	----------	37.9	42.3	47.9
1918	47.5	45.8	48.8	----------	41.0	45.6	49.9
1919	57.1	55.7	61.9	----------	48.3	56.1	56.1
1920	69.4	69.1	76.4	----------	55.7	69.4	68.5
1921	75.7	73.5	79.7	----------	65.9	74.3	79.8
1922	77.4	75.5	80.4	----------	69.0	70.5	78.6
1923	78.1	76.3	80.6	----------	68.8	71.4	80.2
1924	82.3	80.9	85.2	----------	71.6	79.4	82.5
1925	82.9	82.4	82.9	----------	74.5	83.0	84.7
1926	84.8	84.5	82.1	----------	80.1	83.0	85.8
1927	87.7	86.3	86.8	----------	81.2	87.3	86.9
1928	89.3	89.5	88.8	----------	84.5	89.2	86.9
1929	90.8	90.5	90.7	----------	84.9	89.5	91.0
1930	91.7	91.2	91.4	----------	86.2	91.1	91.7
1931	91.7	91.3	91.6	----------	87.1	91.6	92.1
1932	90.8	90.7	91.0	----------	88.1	92.8	91.2
1933	84.8	84.8	84.6	----------	81.5	86.8	86.1
1934	86.1	85.9	85.7	----------	85.3	87.0	87.4
1935	91.7	91.6	91.5	----------	89.4	91.8	91.4
1936	93.3	93.1	93.2	----------	91.6	92.3	92.8
1937	97.3	97.1	97.2	96.7	93.3	95.3	95.7
1938	99.3	99.3	99.5	99.3	98.0	97.9	99.0
1939	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1940	102.1	101.9	101.9	103.1	101.1	102.4	102.8
1941	103.4	102.9	103.1	107.2	101.5	103.9	104.5
1942	107.7	107.3	107.9	114.3	103.6	107.9	109.5
1943	112.4	111.5	112.4	120.1	104.9	113.2	114.1
1944	114.5	114.0	114.9	121.9	107.7	116.1	117.3
1945	116.0	115.2	116.3	123.9	110.0	117.9	118.2

[1] Includes pressmen-in-charge.

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AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE RATES, JULY 1, 1945

Printing-trade workers under union contract in 75 cities averaged $1.355 per hour on July 1, 1945; book and job employees receiving $1.261 and newspaper employees $1.541 (table 3). Day-shift newspaper workers averaged substantially less than those on the night shift, $1.464 compared to $1.611. Night-shift book and job workers were not included in this study, because the normal working force in this classification was too small to yield significant results.

Almost three-fifths of the workers in all the printing trades combined had rates ranging from $1.20 to $1.60. About a third of the book and job members worked under agreements providing rates of $1.20 to $1.40 per hour, and over a fourth earned between $1.40 and $1.60. In the newspaper branch, slightly over a quarter of the membership received between $1.20 and $1.40 and about a third earned between $1.40 and $1.60. Only 11 percent of the book and job workers had rates exceeding $1.60, compared to over a third of the newspaper workers. Twice as many night workers as day workers had rates above $1.70.

TABLE 3.—*Average Union Rates Per Hour and Hours Per Week in the Printing Trades, July 1, 1945*

Trade	Average rate per hour	Average hours per week	Trade	Average rate per hour	Average hours per week
All printing trades	$1.355	39.0	Newspaper—Continued		
			Machine operators	$1.596	37.4
Book and job	1.261	39.7	Day work	1.521	37.6
Bindery women	.655	40.0	Night work	1.660	37.3
Bookbinders	1.252	40.0	Machine tenders (machinists)	1.615	37.4
Compositors, hand	1.415	39.9	Day work	1.539	37.5
Electrotypers	1.615	40.0	Night work	1.692	37.3
Machine operators	1.449	39.9	Mailers	1.219	38.1
Machine tenders (machinists)	1.479	39.8	Day work	1.123	39.2
Mailers	1.205	39.9	Night work	1.278	37.5
Photoengravers	1.736	37.3	Photoengravers	1.814	38.0
Press assistants and feeders	1.101	39.9	Day work	1.719	38.2
Pressman, cylinder	1.406	39.9	Night work	1.928	37.8
Pressmen, platen	1.201	40.0	Pressmen (journeymen)	1.495	37.3
			Day work	1.397	38.7
Newspaper	1.541	37.5	Night work	1.595	35.9
Day work	1.464	38.1	Pressmen-in-charge	1.650	37.5
Night work	1.611	36.9	Day work	1.556	38.8
Compositors, hand	1.617	37.4	Night work	1.764	35.9
Day work	1.546	37.5	Stereotypers	1.500	37.0
Night work	1.677	37.3	Day work	1.404	38.3
			Night work	1.626	35.3

Averages of individual trades in the book and job branch ranged from $0.655 for bindery women to $1.736 for photoengravers. The photoengravers had no rates under $1.20; over a third of their members earned between $1.60 and $1.70 and about a fourth received over $2.00 per hour. On the other hand, more than 8 out of every 10 bindery women earned between $0.50 and $0.70 per hour. Rates in this branch of the industry have always been low, primarily because of the unskilled nature of the work. Electrotypers, with 55.3 percent of their membership covered by rates of $1.70 to $1.90, had the second highest average in this branch ($1.615).

Photoengravers also ranked first in the newspaper branch, with an average of $1.814 per hour, while mailers had the lowest average—

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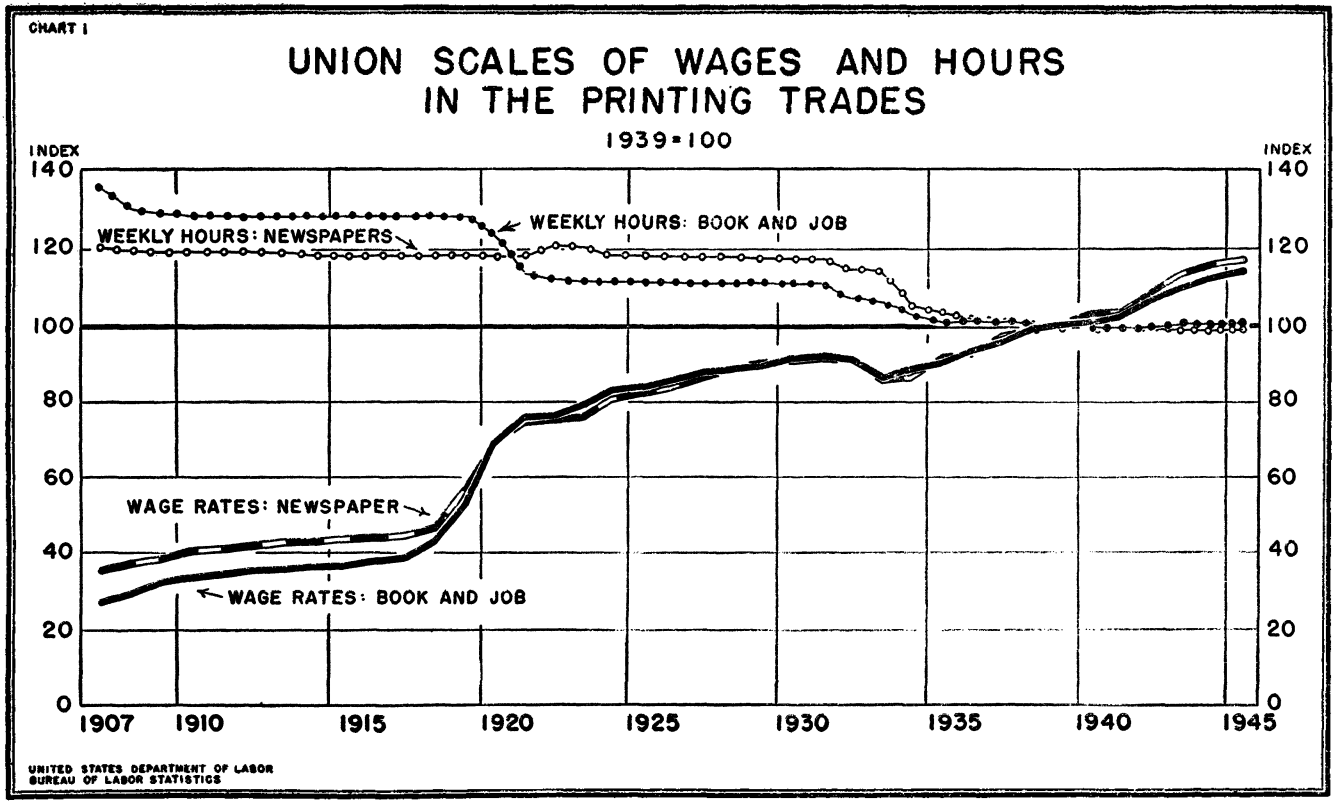

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$1.219. Photoengravers reported almost three-fifths of their night-shift members receiving at least $2.00 per hour, 45 percent of whom were located in the New York and Chicago areas. Pressmen-in-charge, with the second highest average ($1.650), reported two-thirds of their day-shift group being paid $1.30 to $1.60; the night-shift group had the greatest concentration of any trade (10.3 percent) in the top rate bracket ($2.20 and over). All the latter were gravure workers in New York, where the rate on black and white presses was $2.233, and on color $2.315 per hour. Mailers, the only trade in the branch with a substantial portion of its membership receiving less than $1.20, also had very few members covered by rates of $1.50 or over. Trades revealing significant blocks of night-shift membership earning $1.60 or more included hand compositors (60.8 percent), machine operators (59.9), machinists (66.5), photoengravers (93.3), and pressmen-in-charge (58.6). On the day shift only the photoengravers had a comparable proportion of their members (76.2 percent) in these rate intervals. The range of individual rates in the newspaper branch revealed a high of $2.865 for night-shift Hebrew-text hand compositors and machine operators in New York City and a low of $0.588 for day mailers in Portland, Maine.

CHANGES IN UNION WAGE RATES BETWEEN 1944 AND 1945

Wage increases for printing-trade workers during the period of the study seldom exceeded 10 percent; almost two-thirds of those receiving increases benefited by less than 5 percent, a third had advances of 5 to 10 percent, and a small number 10 percent or more. The maximum increase, 27 percent, covered only 8 workers. When the two branches were considered separately, it was found that a slightly higher proportion of newspaper workers (39 percent) than of book and job workers (33 percent) received increases. However, the increases were generally smaller among newspaper workers; three-fourths of the latter who obtained raises benefited by less than 5 percent compared to three-fifths of the book and job members. Very few in either branch had their rates raised by as much as 10 percent.

In the individual book and job trades, mailers had the greatest proportion of members receiving increases (62.1 percent), but practically all in this group benefited by less than 5 percent. Similarly, almost three-fifths of the electrotypers reported gains, but very few of the raises amounted to as much as 5 percent. Bookbinders benefited least by wage changes; only 15 percent of their membership was affected, and only 3 out of every 10 had rates raised by 5 percent or more. In only two trades, photoengravers and bindery women, did the number of members having increases of 5 percent or more exceed the number with gains of smaller amounts. Bindery women were the only group in the book and job branch showing a sizable proportion of members receiving increases of 10 percent or more—4.7 percent had rates raised by 10 to 15 percent, and 5.2 percent received increases of 15 percent or more.

In the newspaper branch about half of the photoengravers, pressmen, and pressmen-in-charge had wage advances during the year. Among night workers, mailers showed the largest percentage of workers getting raises (67 percent). On day work, every trade

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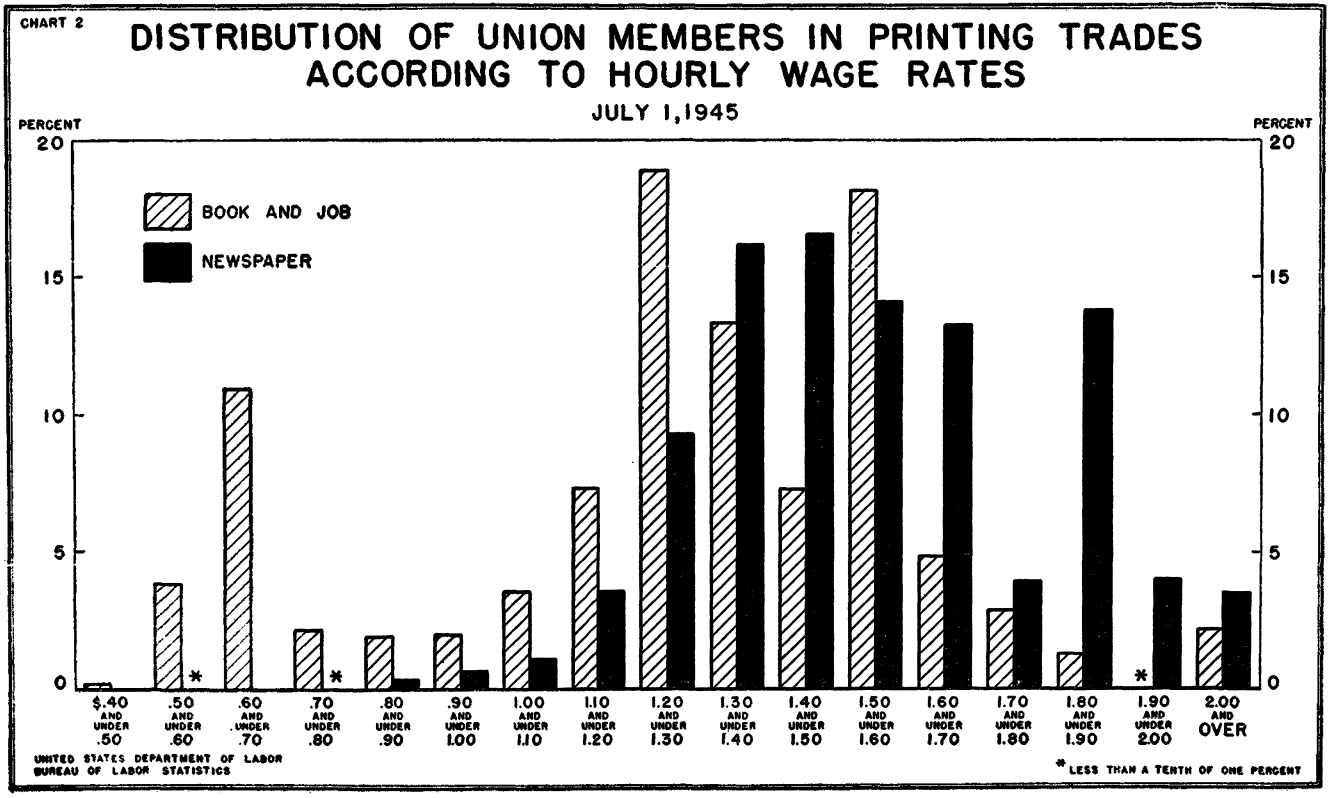

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except photoengravers reported that most of the raises amounted to less than 5 percent. Stereotypers were the only newspaper group with a significant proportion of those receiving increases (13 percent of the day workers and 9 percent of the night workers) benefiting by 10 percent or more.

WAGE CHANGES BETWEEN JULY 1945 AND FEBRUARY 1946

Wage increases negotiated through collective bargaining in the industry since the survey date (July 1) have been both extensive and substantial. Practically all the increases occurred after August 18, the date of the Executive order permitting general wage changes under certain conditions. A check in February 1946 indicated that raises ranged from 5 to 40 cents per hour. About one-third of the increases fell between 10 and 15 cents; one-fifth were in the 5- to 10-cent bracket; and another one-fifth provided increases of 15 to 20 cents per hour. Over two-fifths of the book and job employees included in the July study and about three-fifths of the newspaper employees were covered by these raises. As checks of the basic data on wage changes were not possible in all cases, owing to time and staff limitations, this material is meant only to give a general picture of the wage changes in the industry since VJ-day.

NIGHT-SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS IN NEWSPAPER TRADES [5]

On July 1, 1945, union members on night shifts in the newspaper printing trades were paid 11.5 cents more per hour on the average than day-shift workers. Average differentials ranged from 8.1 cents per hour for type-setting-machine operators to 19.5 cents for photoengravers. Actual earnings of night-shift newspaper journeymen were not necessarily higher than those of day workers, as in many instances the night force worked fewer hours for the same daily or weekly scales set for day workers.

Shift differentials varied from 2 cents to 71.5 cents per hour. Stereotypers showed the greatest differences between day and night scales, with over 29 percent of the night stereotypers earning as much as 40 cents more per hour than day workers. Virtually all of these tradesmen were employed in New York City, where the same daily rate was paid to the night shift working 6 hours and to the day shift working 7.5 hours. The differential for this trade in Newark was 46.7 cents, resulting from the same daily scale applying to a day shift of 8 hours and a night shift of 6 hours. In Chicago, a combination of shorter night hours and higher night scales resulted in a differential of 36.3 cents for night-shift stereotypers on foreign-language newspapers. Photoengraving was the only trade which showed a majority of its members receiving differentials exceeding 20 cents an hour. Most of the latter were concentrated in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia, where higher night scales prevailed for equivalent work shifts.

Over half of the night mailers (54.5 percent) received between 14 and 16 cents an hour more than those on the day shift. These night mailers, all working in New York City or Chicago, were covered by agreements providing both higher scales and shorter hours for night work. The highest differential was found in the Hebrew publishing

[5] As some cities did not report both day and night workers, the average differentials discussed in this section are not the same as the differences between the averages for day and night work shown in table 3.

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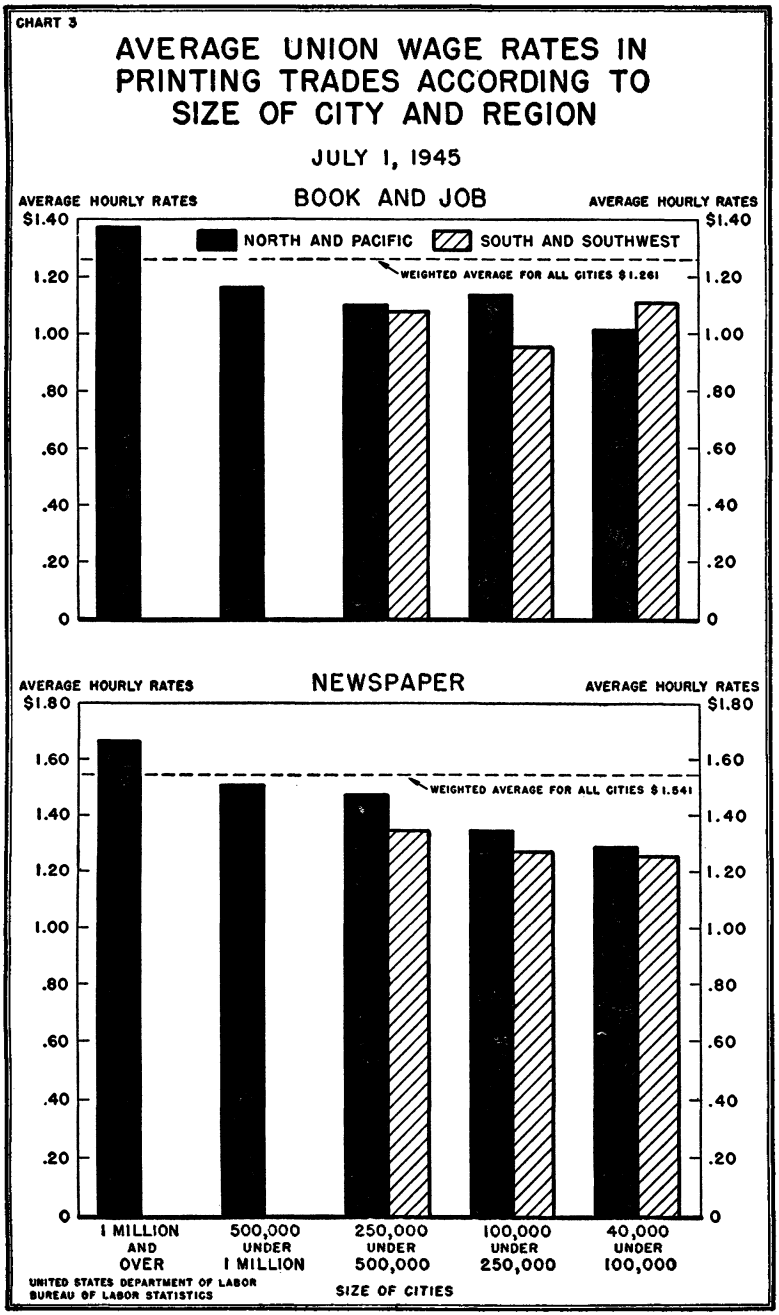

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field in New York City; the same weekly scale for both day and night work, combined with 25 percent shorter hours for night work than for day work, resulted in a 71.5-cent hourly premium for night hand compositors and machine operators.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN WAGE RATES

Union rates in the printing trades show a decided tendency to vary with size of city. In every trade, workers employed in cities of over a million population had higher average rates than those in cities of 500,000 to 1,000,000. However, in both the newspaper and book and job branches some cities of 100,000 to 250,000 had rates higher than in larger cities. Similarly, the smallest-size cities (populations under 100,000) reported higher trade averages than larger cities in a few cases. In general, however, the larger the city, the higher the average rate.

Union rates of printing-trades workers in the North and Pacific regions generally exceeded those in the South and Southwest. In the book and job branch, this relationship prevailed in 25 out of 29 possible comparisons of average rates; in the newspaper branch, in 44 out of 46 cases.

TABLE 4.—*Average Union Hourly Wage Rates in Newspaper Printing Trades, by City and Population Group, July 1, 1945, and Percent of Increase Over Previous Year*

City and population group	Average hourly rate	Percent of increase
Group I (1,000,000 and over):		
New York, N. Y	$1.810	0.8
Average for group I	*1.674*	------
Chicago, Ill	1.655	3.4
Detroit, Mich	1.606	.2
Los Angeles, Calif	1.409	0
Philadelphia, Pa	1.407	.9
Group II (500,000 to 1,000,000):		
Washington, D. C	1.645	2.5
Boston, Mass	1.556	1.1
Cleveland, Ohio	1.511	1.0
Average for group II	*1.507*	------
Milwaukee, Wis	1.504	3.3
San Francisco, Calif	1.480	0
St. Louis, Mo	1.462	.2
Baltimore, Md	1.436	.7
Pittsburgh, Pa	1.432	2.3
Buffalo, N. Y	1.413	.4
Group III (250,000 to 500,000):		
Newark, N. J	1.627	1.5
Providence, R. I	1.568	1.9
Cincinnati, Ohio	1.555	.3
Toledo, Ohio	1.493	0
Columbus, Ohio	1.491	.8
Indianapolis, Ind	1.482	.3
Seattle, Wash	1.480	.1
Minneapolis, Minn	1.448	2.2
Average for group III	*1.438*	------
St. Paul, Minn	1.435	.3
Houston, Tex	1.420	1.8
Dallas, Tex	1.418	5.8
Portland, Oreg	1.410	.7
Denver, Colo	1.393	1.3
Kansas City, Mo	1.385	2.5
Memphis, Tenn	1.384	.3
Atlanta, Ga	1.356	5.1
Rochester, N. Y	1.345	0
Louisville, Ky	1.306	0
San Antonio, Tex	1.272	.2
New Orleans, La	1.265	4.4
Birmingham, Ala	1.239	.4
Group IV (100,000 to 250,000):		
Dayton, Ohio	$1.480	3.5
Jacksonville, Fla	1.427	1.2
Scranton, Pa	1.426	4.2
Youngstown, Ohio	1.417	.3
Des Moines, Iowa	1.409	.6
Erie, Pa	1.403	1.9
Springfield, Mass	1.367	5.8
Reading, Pa	1.353	0
Rock Island (Ill.) district [1]	1.350	.3
Omaha, Nebr	1.344	.2
Worcester, Mass	1.340	.4
Peoria, Ill	1.331	.5
Average for group IV	*1.331*	------
Salt Lake City, Utah	1.322	.3
Duluth, Minn	1.317	2.2
Tampa, Fla	1.302	0
Spokane, Wash	1.293	3.3
Grand Rapids, Mich	1.291	.6
Richmond, Va	1.269	.2
New Haven, Conn	1.259	.8
South Bend, Ind	1.256	0
Oklahoma City, Okla	1.247	4.0
Norfolk, Va	1.245	0
Nashville, Tenn	1.231	1.1
Charlotte, N. C	1.217	.1
Wichita, Kans	1.140	3.8
Group V (40,000 to 100,000): [2]		
Butte, Mont	1.425	2.8
Charleston, W. Va	1.341	3.5
Phoenix, Ariz	1.328	2.9
Madison, Wis	1.323	2.9
Binghamton, N. Y	1.304	0
El Paso, Tex	1.282	.5
Average for group V	*1.274*	------
Manchester, N. H	1.245	2.1
Mobile, Ala	1.215	3.4
Portland, Maine	1.207	1.4
Little Rock, Ark	1.200	2.3
Charleston, S. C	1.185	0

[1] Includes Rock Island and Moline, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa.

[2] Newspaper trades not organized in Jackson, Miss. and York, Pa.

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AVERAGE UNION WAGE RATES AND PERCENT OF CHANGE IN NEWSPAPER PRINTING, BY CITY [6]

Average rates for individual cities in the book and job branch were not computed because of the unrepresentativeness of such averages. In this branch the bindery women, a low-wage group, were more completely organized in the large cities than in the small ones, and in some cases they outnumbered the highly paid skilled workers. As a result, a general weighted average which included all crafts in the well-organized areas would be seriously deflated and lack comparability with averages reported for areas in which bindery women were poorly organized.

In the newspaper branch, intercity comparisons can be made from the available data. Table 4 shows city averages and the percent of change since 1944 for each city. New York had the highest average rate among the 73 cities covered in this branch ($1.81). Chicago ($1.655) ranked next, followed closely by Washington, D. C. ($1.645), and Newark ($1.627). The lowest averages were found in Charleston, S. C. ($1.185), and Wichita, Kans. ($1.140). Atlanta also reported a substantial increase during the survey period (5.1 percent). There were no other increases as high as 5 percent; 11 cities reported no change in scales. These figures do not include any wage adjustments that have occurred since July 1, 1945.

Average Union Hours

TREND OF WEEKLY HOURS

There was no change in the index of straight-time weekly hours between July 1, 1944, and July 1, 1945. For both the book and job and newspaper branches weekly hours have shown only slight variations since 1939 (table 5). During both war periods (1914–19 and 1940–45) contract hours remained practically unchanged.

TABLE 5.—*Indexes of Union Weekly Hours in All Printing Trades, 1907–45*

Year	Indexes of weekly hours (1939=100)			Year	Indexes of weekly hours (1939=100)		
	All printing	Book and job	Newspaper		All printing	Book and job	Newspaper
1907	(1)	136.6	120.5	1927	114.0	111.7	118.3
1908	(1)	130.3	119.9	1928	114.0	111.7	118.0
1909	(1)	129.2	119.6	1929	113.9	111.6	117.8
1910	(1)	128.8	119.3	1930	113.8	111.5	117.6
1911	127.1	128.8	119.3	1931	113.7	111.5	117.6
1912	127.0	128.7	119.1	1932	109.9	107.2	114.6
1913	126.9	128.7	119.0	1933	109.0	106.1	114.0
1914	126.8	128.7	118.7	1934	103.4	102.4	105.0
1915	126.8	128.7	118.6	1935	101.7	100.9	103.2
1916	126.8	128.7	118.5	1936	101.3	101.0	101.9
1917	126.8	128.7	118.5	1937	100.8	100.8	101.0
1918	126.8	128.7	118.5	1938	100.3	100.3	100.5
1919	126.8	128.6	118.7	1939	100.0	100.0	100.0
1920	123.1	123.8	118.6	1940	99.8	99.8	99.7
1921	115.6	113.9	118.3	1941	99.8	99.8	99.3
1922	115.2	112.5	120.6	1942	99.5	99.8	99.2
1923	114.7	111.8	120.4	1943	99.8	100.1	99.2
1924	114.2	111.8	118.7	1944	99.8	100.1	99.2
1925	114.2	111.9	118.4	1945	99.8	100.1	99.2
1926	114.1	111.7	118.6				

[1] Combined data for the years 1907–10 not available.

[6] These net changes were based on the specific rates for 1944 and 1945 weighted by the membership reported in 1945. Only comparable data for both years were included. Specific increases for 1944 reflected a larger percentage change in those cities with comparatively low actual scales. Thus, if rates of pressmen in city A increased from $1.00 to $1.10, a gain of 10 percent was registered. If in city B rates rose from $1.40 to $1.50 the percentage change was only about 7 percent.

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The most marked changes recorded by the index series occurred in 1921, when the 44-hour week for commercial printers was established. Hours were reduced in both branches of the industry between 1932 and 1935 as a result of union efforts to minimize lay-offs and spread available work.

UNION HOURS IN 1945

Straight-time hours specified in union agreements changed very little between 1944 and 1945. The workweek averaged 39.7 hours for book and job members and 37.5 for newspaper members on July 1, 1945 (table 3). More than 9 of every 10 book and job workers had 40-hour workweeks, while over three-fourths of the newspaper members worked under agreements providing 37.5 hours or less. Newspaper workers on the night shift generally had shorter hours than those on day shifts. Over a third of the day-shift men averaged more than 37.5 hours, while but 13.3 percent of the night workers were in this category.

TABLE 5.—*Indexes of Union Weekly Hours in Each Printing Trade, 1907 to 1945*

[1939=100]

BOOK AND JOB

Year	Bindery women	Book binders	Compositors, hand	Electrotypers	Machine operators	Machine tenders (machinists)	Mailers	Photoengravers	Press assistants and feeders	Pressmen, cylinder	Pressmen, platen
1907	-------	132.7	119.0	129.3	119.7	-------	-------	-------	131.9	128.5	126.1
1908	-------	120.8	119.0	128.8	119.7	-------	-------	-------	119.8	122.3	121.7
1909	-------	120.1	119.0	128.6	119.7	-------	-------	-------	118.6	120.5	119.2
1910	-------	119.7	119.0	125.2	119.7	-------	-------	-------	118.4	120.3	119.0
1911	-------	119.3	119.0	124.4	119.7	-------	-------	-------	118.4	120.3	119.0
1912	-------	119.3	118.9	124.4	119.3	120.7	-------	-------	118.4	120.3	119.0
1913	-------	119.3	118.9	124.2	119.3	120.7	-------	-------	118.1	120.3	119.1
1914	-------	119.3	118.9	123.9	119.3	120.7	-------	-------	118.1	120.3	119.1
1915	118.4	119.3	118.9	123.9	119.3	120.7	-------	-------	118.1	120.3	119.1
1916	118.4	119.3	118.9	123.8	119.5	120.9	-------	130.0	118.1	120.3	119.1
1917	118.4	119.3	118.9	123.7	119.5	120.9	-------	130.0	118.1	120.3	119.1
1918	118.4	119.3	118.9	123.7	119.5	120.9	-------	129.6	118.1	120.3	119.1
1919	118.4	119.3	118.9	123.7	119.5	120.9	-------	129.6	118.1	120.3	119.1
1920	118.4	119.3	118.9	123.6	119.5	120.9	-------	119.6	118.0	120.3	119.0
1921	112.9	113.2	112.5	119.7	113.3	112.0	-------	119.3	111.7	113.7	112.8
1922	111.5	112.1	110.2	118.1	111.7	111.6	-------	119.3	110.5	112.3	112.1
1923	111.0	111.6	109.1	119.1	111.2	111.2	-------	119.3	109.7	111.8	110.7
1924	111.0	111.2	109.4	118.8	110.8	111.1	-------	119.3	109.9	112.0	111.0
1925	111.0	111.6	109.4	119.9	111.2	111.3	-------	119.6	109.6	111.4	110.9
1926	111.2	111.4	109.4	119.9	111.0	111.1	-------	119.3	109.5	111.2	110.0
1927	110.5	111.1	109.4	120.0	111.2	111.1	-------	119.3	109.4	111.2	110.0
1928	110.4	111.9	109.4	119.9	111.0	111.1	-------	119.3	109.3	111.0	110.3
1929	110.6	111.1	109.4	119.6	111.0	111.1	-------	119.3	109.3	111.0	110.4
1930	110.5	111.0	109.4	118.2	111.0	111.1	-------	119.1	109.3	111.0	110.4
1931	110.4	110.9	109.4	117.4	111.0	111.1	-------	119.1	109.3	111.0	110.9
1932	110.5	110.8	109.1	117.5	110.9	111.1	-------	113.2	96.1	101.4	108.4
1933	110.5	110.7	105.6	111.4	106.1	105.6	-------	109.4	101.5	162.6	105.9
1934	103.4	103.4	103.0	107.8	103.1	101.7	-------	108.0	98.1	99.0	101.5
1935	102.7	101.7	101.1	105.5	101.2	100.8	-------	103.7	97.9	98.7	100.8
1936	102.2	101.7	100.3	103.5	100.3	100.2	-------	102.3	100.4	100.7	100.8
1937	101.7	101.7	100.2	103.2	100.2	100.2	100.0	101.7	100.2	100.3	100.3
1938	101.2	101.3	100.0	101.1	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
1939	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1940	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.7	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
1941	100.0	99.9	100.0	97.7	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.8	100.0	100.0	99.8
1942	100.2	100.0	100.0	97.7	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.4	100.0	100.0	99.8
1943	100.2	100.0	100.0	105.6	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.3	100.0	100.0	99.8
1944	100.2	100.0	100.0	105.6	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.3	100.0	100.0	99.8
1945	100.2	100.0	100.0	105.6	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.3	100.0	100.0	99.8

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TABLE 5.—*Indexes of Union Weekly Hours in Each Printing Trade, 1907 to 1945*—Continued

[1939=100]

NEWSPAPER

Year	Compositors, hand	Machine operators	Machine tenders (machinists)	Mailers	Photoengravers	Pressmen, web presses [1]	Stereotypers
1907	121.8	123.7	----------	----------	----------	113.8	122.5
1908	121.7	123.7	----------	----------	----------	111.8	120.7
1909	121.7	123.7	----------	----------	----------	111.0	119.4
1910	121.7	123.7	----------	----------	----------	110.7	118.0
1911	121.7	123.7	----------	----------	----------	110.7	117.8
1912	121.3	123.4	126.4	----------	----------	110.4	117.5
1913	121.3	123.3	126.4	----------	----------	110.4	117.6
1914	121.0	122.9	126.3	----------	----------	110.4	117.4
1915	120.9	122.5	126.0	----------	----------	110.4	117.3
1916	120.7	122.4	125.9	----------	120.9	110.4	117.3
1917	120.7	122.4	125.9	----------	120.9	110.3	117.2
1918	120.9	122.7	126.0	----------	119.6	110.3	117.2
1919	120.9	122.7	126.0	----------	119.2	111.1	117.3
1920	121.2	122.8	126.1	----------	118.0	110.7	116.7
1921	121.0	122.5	126.1	----------	114.4	110.4	115.1
1922	122.4	124.4	126.9	----------	115.2	116.2	117.3
1923	122.4	124.2	126.9	----------	114.1	115.6	117.2
1924	121.2	122.5	126.1	----------	114.1	112.0	117.1
1925	121.1	122.5	126.8	----------	113.3	111.3	116.6
1926	121.3	122.2	126.5	----------	112.9	112.6	116.6
1927	120.6	122.0	125.8	----------	113.3	112.3	116.4
1928	120.4	121.7	126.0	----------	113.1	111.9	117.0
1929	119.9	121.8	125.6	----------	113.1	112.2	116.1
1930	119.5	121.6	125.4	----------	113.0	112.0	116.1
1931	119.5	121.6	125.4	----------	112.6	112.0	116.3
1932	117.0	116.8	116.7	----------	112.4	109.8	115.3
1933	115.7	116.0	115.7	----------	112.7	110.8	113.9
1934	104.0	103.8	103.8	----------	108.0	105.4	110.2
1935	102.6	102.7	102.3	----------	104.5	103.0	107.7
1936	100.7	100.7	100.4	----------	104.2	102.6	107.2
1937	100.1	100.1	100.1	99.3	103.1	101.3	105.2
1938	100.1	100.0	100.0	99.3	100.2	100.7	103.1
1939	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1940	99.6	99.8	99.9	99.3	99.8	99.8	99.1
1941	99.5	99.6	99.8	99.3	99.7	99.4	97.9
1942	99.4	99.4	99.4	99.8	99.4	99.3	97.8
1943	99.4	99.4	99.4	99.8	99.4	99.3	97.7
1944	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.8	99.4	99.3	97.7
1945	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.8	99.4	99.3	97.7

[1] Includes pressmen-in-charge.

The 40-hour week generally prevailed in the book and job trades. Photoengravers—the one exception—had three-fifths of their members working under agreements stipulating 37.5 hours as the maximum straight-time week and about one-quarter under agreements having a 35-hour straight-time limit.

In the newspaper trades, the 37.5-hour workweek predominated. However, about half of the night newspaper pressmen, pressmen-in-charge, and stereotypers had workweeks of 35 hours or less, while some trades had a substantial proportion of their members scheduled to work more than 37.5 hours.

Overtime and Sunday Rates

Practically all the organized workers in both branches of the industry received an initial overtime rate of time and a half for work beyond the regular contract hours. A few members worked in specialized

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shops where the overtime rate was not indicated in the agreement; some workers were covered by agreements providing other than standard overtime rates.

About two-thirds of the printing-trades quotations, covering three-fourths of the members tabulated, provided double pay for Sunday or the seventh consecutive day of work. This premium rate applied to more than 9 out of 10 members in the book and job branch. However, in the newspaper branch, where Sunday is often a regular workday, almost half the members received time and a half, and over two-fifths received double time for work not regularly scheduled, or for Sunday when the seventh consecutive day of work.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1946

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