

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

L. B. Schwollenbach, *Secretary*

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Ewan Clague, *Commissioner*

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Employment and Earnings in the  
Philadelphia Knitted Outerwear  
Industry, 1944 and 1945



*Bulletin No. 887*

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## Letter of Transmittal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,  
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS,  
Washington, D. C., November 4, 1946.

The SECRETARY OF LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on employment and earnings in the Philadelphia Knitted Outerwear industry, 1944 and 1945. This report was prepared in the Philadelphia regional office by George E. Votava.

EWAN CLAGUE, *Commissioner.*

Hon. L. B. SCHWELLENBACH,  
*Secretary of Labor.*



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*United States Bureau of Labor Statistics*

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**Employment and Earnings in the Philadelphia  
Knitted-Outerwear Industry, 1944 and 1945**

THE knitted-outerwear industry in Philadelphia has had a long history of successful collective bargaining. In 1945, practically all of the manufacturers in this city had agreements with the Knit Goods Workers' Union, Local 190 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (AFL). These firms are members of the Knitted Outerwear Manufacturers Association and operate under a master agreement which provides, among other matters, that employers are to furnish the union with weekly transcripts of pay-roll records for each employee.<sup>1</sup> After consultation with the Knitted Outerwear Manufacturers Association, the union made these unusual record cards of members' hours and earnings available to the Bureau for use in this study.

It is recognized that there were slight imperfections in the data. It was impossible, for example, to exclude learners and handicapped workers, as is normally done in the Bureau's wage studies. Furthermore, the occupational classifications were not always up to date, and working foremen were probably included in some cases under other occupational titles. Nevertheless, the results are deemed fairly accurate, and slight inaccuracies which may exist do not seriously limit the validity of the material.

*Employment and Hours of Work*

The number of workers employed in the Philadelphia knitted-outerwear industry averaged about 2,770 in 1943 and approximately 3,200 in 1945. Twenty-four, or nearly half of the establishments included in this study, had fewer than 50 workers, and 15 employed between 50 and 100 workers.

The greater average employment in 1945 does not represent a corresponding increase in the labor force, because turn-over rose considerably during this period. Between 1944 and 1945 the proportion of all employees who worked less than 11 weeks increased from 26 to 32 percent, while those with an employment record of 46 weeks or

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<sup>1</sup> Under the arrangement with the union, the employer contributes amounts equal to 4 percent of the total weekly wages of the union members for the purpose of financing various benefits. From this fund the union, during 1944, provided vacation pay to its members based on total income for a designated period, with a maximum of \$38.00 and a minimum of \$22.00. Persons in military service received \$25.00. Sick benefits of \$10.00 per week were paid for a maximum of 10 weeks during the year after an initial 4 days of illness. In addition, hospitalization of \$3.00 a day up to 21 days and unlimited medical service at the union health center were provided. In 1945, the maximum vacation pay was increased to \$50.00 and sick benefits to \$12.00 per week. A post-pregnancy allowance of \$50.00 and a surgical allowance up to \$50.00 was provided.

more declined from 42 to only 36 percent in the same period. (See table 1.) Many workers from other textile industries, who were temporarily unemployed because of war conditions in 1945, took short-term employment in the knitted-outerwear industry.

Among the selected occupations listed in table 1, cutters showed the greatest continuity of employment, averaging 43 weeks in 1944 and 38 weeks in 1945. The greatest turn-over was indicated for brushers, folders and packers, and examiners and trimmers. About 27 percent of their total number were employed in the industry for less than 6 weeks in 1944; over 30 percent worked this short time in 1945.

Although the scheduled workweek remained unchanged at 40 hours between 1943 and 1945, average actual hours worked declined from 39.0 in 1943 and 38.3 in 1944 to 37.7 in 1945. In large part this reduction was due to less overtime being worked in the latter period and to the increase in labor turn-over.

TABLE 1.—Distribution of Workers in Philadelphia Knitted-Outerwear Industry, by Number of Weeks Worked During 1944 and 1945

Number of weeks worked	All workers		Number of workers in selected occupations													
			Brushers		Cutters		Examiners and trimmers		Finishers		Folders and packers		Knitters			
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945		
1 to 5 weeks.....	620	961	60	45	5	15	120	201	28	44	56	66	12	35		
6 to 10 weeks.....	356	488	10	11	6	11	80	82	27	14	37	49	7	17		
11 to 15 weeks.....	260	318	6	4	6	12	45	47	11	12	32	19	8	17		
16 to 20 weeks.....	195	214	3	5	3	4	33	41	4	11	15	18	6	8		
21 to 25 weeks.....	160	161	4	3	2	3	18	35	10	8	10	7	4	8		
26 to 30 weeks.....	140	169	1	2	3	15	20	3	11	10	14	6	6	6		
31 to 35 weeks.....	130	171	2	2	6	17	28	8	6	11	18	5	9	3		
36 to 40 weeks.....	124	138	2	2	7	22	21	7	6	12	13	6	8	3		
41 to 45 weeks.....	206	234	3	2	5	1	24	25	13	9	13	14	6	8		
46 to 51 weeks.....	1,163	1,224	7	16	62	65	120	124	51	61	48	48	92	93		
52 weeks.....	406	371	3	45	36	37	32	12	12	26	22	66	55	55		
Total.....	3,770	4,404	96	92	137	155	531	656	174	193	260	287	215	259		
Yearly average (weeks)....	30.9	27.9	10.9	17.0	43.4	38.0	25.1	22.1	29.2	28.6	24.5	24.3	42.6	35.7		

  

Number of weeks worked	Number of workers in selected occupations—Continued													
	Menders		Merror operators		Pressers		Singer operators		Special machine operators		Winders		Miscellaneous	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
1 to 5 weeks.....	10	6	38	54	18	35	27	54	24	47	8	16	214	333
6 to 10 weeks.....	5	7	29	35	9	21	16	36	29	50	7	13	94	141
11 to 15 weeks.....	2	6	33	29	8	13	19	22	19	34	7	11	64	87
16 to 20 weeks.....	1	4	30	17	10	9	16	18	15	21	8	5	51	54
21 to 25 weeks.....	2	5	18	17	3	5	22	18	21	15	7	4	30	33
26 to 30 weeks.....	2	2	21	20	4	7	21	16	19	24	6	4	29	37
31 to 35 weeks.....	2	2	20	24	5	3	14	14	12	12	2	8	31	39
36 to 40 weeks.....	2	4	24	25	5	2	15	21	13	16	8	6	24	20
41 to 45 weeks.....	7	4	31	38	7	13	33	31	25	25	5	10	34	33
46 to 51 weeks.....	41	35	238	238	45	44	130	138	136	159	42	35	161	168
52 weeks.....	12	16	50	49	16	15	45	23	28	34	10	9	59	65
Total.....	86	89	532	547	130	167	358	391	341	437	110	121	800	1,010
Yearly average (weeks)....	38.6	36.6	37.1	36.3	33.3	28.4	36.6	32.0	35.4	32.4	34.9	30.1	23.9	20.8

## Hourly Earnings

Straight-time hourly earnings<sup>2</sup> of workers with 6 or more weeks of employment in the Philadelphia knitted-outerwear industry increased from 88.2 cents in 1944 to 94.5 cents in 1945. (See table 2.) Although individual earnings ranged from 40 cents to over \$2.00 per hour, over 65 percent of the employees in both years received between 45 cents and \$1.00. However, the proportion with average earnings of \$1.00 or more per hour increased from 25 to 33 percent between 1944 and 1945.

Cutters and pressers, predominantly men, were the highest paid employees, earning \$1.35 and \$1.26 per hour, respectively, in 1944, and \$1.41 and \$1.40 in 1945. Among the occupations where women were employed in large numbers, Singer operators had the highest earnings—\$1.03 per hour in 1944 and \$1.11 in 1945.

TABLE 2.—*Distribution of Philadelphia Knitted-Outerwear Workers Employed 6 Weeks or More in 1944 and 1945, by Straight-Time Hourly Earnings*

Classified hourly earnings	All workers		Number of workers in selected occupations													
			Brushers		Cutters		Examiners and trimmers		Finishers		Folders and packers		Knitters			
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945		
40.0 to 44.9 cents.....	130	36	2	.....	.....	.....	41	14	18	7	18	7	.....	.....		
45.0 to 49.9 cents.....	300	165	2	4	.....	.....	85	65	26	17	65	22	.....	.....		
50.0 to 54.9 cents.....	318	441	8	10	.....	.....	88	119	27	36	42	49	.....	.....		
55.0 to 59.9 cents.....	212	260	5	7	.....	.....	61	57	21	26	20	38	.....	.....		
60.0 to 64.9 cents.....	200	224	7	4	.....	.....	28	43	16	16	6	24	.....	.....		
65.0 to 69.9 cents.....	176	174	2	5	.....	.....	31	32	11	5	14	16	1	.....		
70.0 to 74.9 cents.....	185	202	.....	4	.....	.....	20	22	13	8	10	18	.....	8		
75.0 to 79.9 cents.....	160	174	4	4	.....	1	15	17	.....	7	11	12	.....	.....		
80.0 to 84.9 cents.....	148	171	1	2	.....	.....	11	18	2	7	6	9	9	4		
85.0 to 89.9 cents.....	159	144	.....	1	.....	.....	11	17	5	2	3	3	19	12		
90.0 to 94.9 cents.....	174	155	3	.....	.....	.....	11	15	5	6	2	4	39	35		
95.0 to 99.9 cents.....	149	176	1	.....	2	.....	4	11	.....	2	3	9	30	35		
100.0 to 104.9 cents.....	118	153	.....	1	9	5	1	8	.....	3	1	5	20	28		
105.0 to 109.9 cents.....	104	126	.....	.....	7	5	2	6	.....	1	.....	1	17	26		
110.0 to 114.9 cents.....	105	113	.....	.....	16	12	1	2	2	3	.....	1	7	10		
115.0 to 119.9 cents.....	100	147	.....	2	25	27	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	16		
120.0 to 124.9 cents.....	80	102	.....	.....	9	10	.....	3	.....	1	2	1	10	4		
125.0 to 129.9 cents.....	59	80	.....	1	9	9	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	5		
130.0 to 134.9 cents.....	45	72	.....	.....	6	8	1	1	.....	1	.....	1	5	8		
135.0 to 139.9 cents.....	45	59	.....	1	8	9	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	3	5		
140.0 to 144.9 cents.....	34	36	.....	.....	4	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	3		
145.0 to 149.9 cents.....	16	35	.....	1	2	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3		
150.0 to 159.9 cents.....	46	63	.....	1	9	6	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	5	7		
160.0 to 169.9 cents.....	25	52	.....	.....	4	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	11		
170.0 to 179.9 cents.....	17	26	.....	.....	4	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1		
180.0 to 189.9 cents.....	12	15	.....	.....	2	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3		
190.0 to 199.9 cents.....	13	16	.....	.....	6	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....		
200.0 cents and over.....	20	40	.....	.....	10	11	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3	6		
Total.....	3,150	3,457	36	47	132	140	411	455	146	150	204	221	203	224		
Average hourly earnings (in cents).....	88.2	94.5	67.3	72.6	135.4	140.9	61.4	66.5	60.8	66.4	61.2	67.8	109.5	112.9		

<sup>2</sup> Exclusive of premium overtime pay, but including piece-rate or other incentive earnings.

TABLE 2.—*Distribution of Philadelphia Knitted-Outerwear Workers Employed 6 Weeks or More in 1944 and 1945, by Straight-Time Hourly Earnings—Continued*

Classified hourly earnings	Number of workers in selected occupations														
	Menders		Merrrow operators		Pressers		Singer operators		Special machine operators		Winders		Miscellaneous		
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	
40.0 to 44.9 cents.....		1	2		1		3	2	3					42	5
45.0 to 49.9 cents.....		1	2	2	2	1	6	4	6	6				106	43
50.0 to 54.9 cents.....	5	3	12	9	1	12	11	9	22	22	2	2	2	100	170
55.0 to 59.9 cents.....	2	6	9	9	2	3	12	10	18	20	2	1	60	83	
60.0 to 64.9 cents.....	11	10	25	23	5	1	14	17	25	19	6	7	57	60	
65.0 to 69.9 cents.....	19	14	28	16	2	2	9	11	15	24	9	5	36	44	
70.0 to 74.9 cents.....	13	14	25	26	3	1	25	15	20	24	20	16	36	51	
75.0 to 79.9 cents.....	8	8	34	29	3	8	14	10	15	17	19	13	37	48	
80.0 to 84.9 cents.....	4	8	32	30	13	8	17	15	20	23	8	15	25	37	
85.0 to 89.9 cents.....	3	2	40	32	2	3	19	22	20	18	10	8	27	24	
90.0 to 94.9 cents.....	5	4	44	26	2	2	15	11	22	26	12	8	14	18	
95.0 to 99.9 cents.....	2	1	37	35	7	2	18	30	27	27	4	10	14	14	
100.0 to 104.9 cents.....	1	2	45	33	2	5	19	20	11	20	2	4	7	19	
105.0 to 109.9 cents.....	1	1	26	34	7	6	23	15	14	16	1	9	6	6	
110.0 to 114.9 cents.....		2	34	26	9	9	17	13	13	21	2	2	4	12	
115.0 to 119.9 cents.....		1	20	36	2	10	23	27	17	17	3	4	2	7	
120.0 to 124.9 cents.....	2	8	17	25	5	9	21	18	8	15	1	1	5	12	
125.0 to 129.9 cents.....			17	20	2	7	11	17	7	14	1		4	4	
130.0 to 134.9 cents.....		1	10	17	5	8	10	11	7	12			1	4	
135.0 to 139.9 cents.....			7	16	5	6	12	9	6	7			2	5	
140.0 to 144.9 cents.....			11	10	1	1	1	9	5	4	10			1	
145.0 to 149.9 cents.....			3	8	3	2	3	10	3	10				2	
150.0 to 159.9 cents.....		1	5	12	11	8	8	11	8	10				6	
160.0 to 169.9 cents.....			3	4	6	6	5	12	2	8				3	
170.0 to 179.9 cents.....			3	8	3	5	1	5	2	2			1	1	
180.0 to 189.9 cents.....			3	4	2	2	2	3					1		
190.0 to 199.9 cents.....				1	3	2	2	1		2					
200.0 cents and over.....			2	3	10	2	2	4	2	5				1	
Total.....	76	83	494	493	112	132	331	337	317	390	102	105	586	680	
Average hourly earnings (in cents).....	71.8	75.4	97.6	105.8	126.2	139.5	103.0	110.9	95.2	100.2	81.6	87.6	65.8	76.6	

Table 3 shows straight-time hourly and gross weekly earnings of workers with different periods of employment. Since individual productivity in this largely piece-rate industry determines earnings to a large extent, it is interesting to note that workers with the largest employment experience had higher hourly rates and higher weekly earnings than those with shorter employments.

TABLE 3.—*Straight-Time Hourly and Gross Weekly Earnings of Philadelphia Knitted Outerwear Workers with Specified Lengths of Employment, 1944 and 1945*

Length of employment	Number of workers		Average hourly earnings		Average gross weekly earnings	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
1 week or more.....	3, 770	4, 404	\$0.878	\$0.939	\$35.17	\$36.71
6 weeks or more.....	3, 150	3, 457	.882	.945	35.43	37.09
46 weeks or more.....	1, 669	1, 597	.933	.992	38.50	40.44

### Annual Earnings

Annual earnings of workers employed for at least 46 weeks averaged \$1,937 in 1944 and \$2,031 in 1945 (see table 4). Although individuals' earnings varied between \$600 and \$4,200 in 1944, 85 percent of the workers were in the \$1,000 to \$3,200 class and 50 percent earned

between \$1,000 and \$2,000. In 1945 the distribution of workers changed only slightly: 83 percent fell between \$1,000 and \$3,200 and nearly 10 percent earned over \$3,200. Pay-roll deductions for various purposes meant that net take-home pay was substantially less than gross earnings.

TABLE 4.—*Distribution of Philadelphia Knitted-Outerwear Workers Employed 46 Weeks or More in 1944 and 1945, by Annual Earnings*

Classified annual earnings	All workers		Number of workers in selected occupations											
			Brushers		Cutters		Exam-iners and trimmers		Finishers		Folders and packers		Knitters	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
\$600 to \$799.....	15	15	1				3	2	2	8	3	1		
\$800 to \$999.....	92	90		4			30	26	13	32	16	8		
\$1,000 to \$1,199.....	168	144	1	3			44	46	17	11	17	14		
\$1,200 to \$1,399.....	179	172		1			33	25	13	10	17	16		1
\$1,400 to \$1,599.....	184	186	2	1			18	20	10	10	10	12		3
\$1,600 to \$1,799.....	183	182	1	3	1	2	21	21	7	1	3	4	1	3
\$1,800 to \$1,999.....	182	150		1			5	14		1	1	5	8	6
\$2,000 to \$2,199.....	111	138		2		1	2	1	1	1	1	4	16	10
\$2,200 to \$2,399.....	97	89	1	4	2		1	1			2	3	10	8
\$2,400 to \$2,599.....	91	76	1		6	5					1	1	21	15
\$2,600 to \$2,799.....	69	78			19	8					2	2	21	28
\$2,800 to \$2,999.....	66	69		1	11	22					2		24	12
\$3,000 to \$3,199.....	34	45	1	1	9	11							13	14
\$3,200 to \$3,399.....	25	41			9	8					1		8	13
\$3,400 to \$3,599.....	25	27		1	11	8						1	9	7
\$3,600 to \$3,799.....	27	22			11	9							7	6
\$3,800 to \$3,999.....	11	14			1	6							4	4
\$4,000 to \$4,199.....	22	12			9	5							8	5
\$4,200 and over.....	18	38			6	14							8	13
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Average annual earnings (in dollars).....</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>1,798</b>	<b>3,263</b>	<b>3,421</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>2,986</b>

Classified annual earnings	Number of workers in selected occupations—Continued													
	Menders		Merrrow operators		Pressers		Singer operators		Special machine operators		Winders		Miscellaneous	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
\$600 to \$799.....	2	2	3	2	2	1	1		1	3			5	3
\$800 to \$999.....	5	3	12	6		1	12	11	11	9	4	4	45	36
\$1,000 to \$1,199.....	15	16	18	21	3	3	11	11	17	15	7	10	46	43
\$1,200 to \$1,399.....	13	8	34	39	1	6	27	13	22	29	12	9	35	36
\$1,400 to \$1,599.....	9	14	55	49	5	2	14	20	28	33	12	5	26	25
\$1,600 to \$1,799.....	5	4	60	39	4	4	25	17	18	33	8	9	18	17
\$1,800 to \$1,999.....	1	2	30	46	4	4	20	22	23	21	3	3	10	21
\$2,000 to \$2,199.....	1	1	25	25	5	4	30	19	9	15	3	1	7	9
\$2,200 to \$2,399.....	1	1	28	21	6	5	11	12	12	11			4	5
\$2,400 to \$2,599.....	1		8	17	3		6	12	6	6			3	5
\$2,600 to \$2,799.....			9	12	6	7	7	8	5	5			1	2
\$2,800 to \$2,999.....			2	4	4	5	3	2	1	6			1	2
\$3,000 to \$3,199.....			2	4	2	9	1	3	2	3				1
\$3,200 to \$3,399.....			1	3	1	2	6		1	1			1	1
\$3,400 to \$3,599.....			2	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	1		1	4
\$3,600 to \$3,799.....			1	5	1			1						2
\$3,800 to \$3,999.....				3	1		1		1	1			1	
\$4,000 to \$4,199.....					3	6	1	8						2
\$4,200 and over.....														
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>Average annual earnings (in dollars).....</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>3,062</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>1,662</b>

Cutters, the highest paid group in the industry, averaged \$3,263 in 1944 and \$3,421 in 1945. Nearly 17 percent of the cutters earned over \$3,800 in 1944 in contrast to 24 percent earning over that amount in 1945. Knitters and pressers ranked next, with average earnings of \$2,921 and \$2,753, respectively, in 1944 and \$2,986 and \$3,062 in 1945.

Finishers showed the lowest annual earnings (\$1,239) in 1944, but they were replaced in that position by examiners and trimmers, who in 1945 earned \$1,319 and \$1,320, respectively. In both years, over 84 percent of the finishers earned between \$800 and \$1,600.