

# Hourly Earnings in 11 Industries

## Selected Wage Areas

June–December 1947

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

*Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary*

**BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS**

*Ewan Clague, Commissioner*



**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,  
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS,  
*Washington, D. C., November 28, 1949.*

The SECRETARY OF LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a publication which provides brief summaries of straight-time hourly earnings for a limited number of occupations in 11 manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries. The studies were made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1947 in the leading localities for the industries selected. They were part of the Industry Wage Studies program of the Division of Wage Statistics. The studies were conducted in the Branch of Industry Wage Studies under the direction of Harry Ober.

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EWAN CLAGUE, *Commissioner.*

Hon. MAURICE J. TOBIN,  
*Secretary of Labor.*

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# Hotel Wages in Large Cities, June 1947<sup>1</sup>

AMONG 31 LARGE CITIES located in all parts of the United States, Seattle hotels paid the highest hourly rates to their employees and Birmingham paid the lowest hourly rates in June 1947. This information was obtained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in a survey of average hourly earnings (excluding premium pay for overtime and night work), for a limited number of occupations in year-round hotels. The earnings data exclude tips and uniforms, as well as the cash equivalent of room and board provided some hotel workers in addition to their cash wages.

The level of earnings in southern cities was generally lower than in other regions. All four Pacific Coast cities studied reported comparatively high wage levels for nonoffice jobs, and Detroit and New York ranked high in rates paid office workers. Measured in percentage terms, there were somewhat narrower intercity differ-

ences in earnings of office than of other hotel workers studied.

Among the occupational classifications covered by the survey, the lowest rates in most cities were reported for chambermaids and men elevator operators, who sometimes carry baggage and receive tips. Earnings of women elevator operators were typically above those of men.

Comparison of earnings in three jobs<sup>2</sup> with those reported for April 1943, the date of a previous wage study of the industry,<sup>3</sup> indicates that in almost all cities hourly wage rates had increased over the period by at least a third, and in many cities, by at least a half. There was a slight tendency for the earnings of general clerks to rise less than those of chambermaids and housemen.

Altogether, hotels in the 31 cities employed about 140,000 workers in June 1947, excluding establishments with fewer than 21 employees, which were not studied. Information was collected by field representatives of the Bureau, who obtained information directly from establishment pay rolls and other records, and classified workers on the basis of uniform job descriptions.

<sup>1</sup> Prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Branch. Greater detail on wages and wage practices for each city presented here is available on request.

<sup>2</sup> Chambermaids, housemen, and men general clerks.  
<sup>3</sup> Monthly Labor Review, July 1944 (p. 139).

TABLE 1.—*Straight-time average hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected occupations in year-round hotels, in 31 large cities, June 1947*

City	Average hourly earnings <sup>1</sup> for—								
	Men				Women				
	Clerks, general	Clerks, room	Elevator operators, passenger	Housemen	Chambermaids	Clerks, general	Clerks, room	Clerk-typists	Elevator operators, passenger
Atlanta.....	\$0.92			\$0.41	\$0.27				\$0.33
Baltimore.....	.81		\$0.49	.45	.35	\$0.72			.42
Birmingham.....	.70			.35	.25	.67			.24
Boston.....	.83	\$0.88	.53	.65	.62				.62
Buffalo.....	.76	.83	.46	.60	.51	.69			.61
Chicago.....	.81	.97	.71	.71	.60	.74	\$0.80	\$0.78	.69
Cleveland.....	.77	.81	.50	.65	.53	.64		.67	.62
Dallas.....	.77	1.05	.39	.49	.33				.41
Denver.....	.72	.87	.44	.59	.49	.61			.49
Detroit.....	.96	1.07	.80	.70	.67	.87		.72	.77
Houston.....	.80			.38	.29				.38
Indianapolis.....	.91	.91	.43	.55	.42				.43
Jacksonville.....	.80			.46	.28	.76			.27
Kansas City.....	.73		.46	.54	.44	.64			.45
Los Angeles.....	.79	1.01	.66	.78	.68	.79			.73
Louisville.....	.73		.37	.48	.39	.56		.58	.40
Memphis.....		.84	.36	.44	.27	.67			.27
Milwaukee.....		.82	.67	.63	.58	.61	.74	.67	.58
Minneapolis-St. Paul.....		.78	.57	.73	.66	.63	.71	.71	.71
Newark-Jersey City.....	.71		.42	.56	.46	.58			.46
New Orleans.....	.70	.78	.41	.44	.28				.39
New York.....	1.00	1.10	.69	.75	.65	.90		.76	.72
Philadelphia.....	.87	.91	.55	.63	.54	.82			.57
Pittsburgh.....	.77	.97	.54	.69	.61	.65			.62
Portland (Oreg.).....	.90		.68	.75	.70	.78			.70
Providence.....	.81	.94	.55	.66	.66	.67			.55
St. Louis.....	.59	.83	.48	.58	.47	.60	.80		.54
San Francisco.....		1.01	.75	.79	.72		.94		.75
Seattle.....	1.20	1.29	.69	.95	.78	.94	1.05		.80
Toledo.....		.85		.66	.62	.70	.87		.51
Washington.....	.89	1.06	.66	.64	.69			.75	.66

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work, tips, uniforms, and cash equivalent of room and/or meals provided some employees.

<sup>2</sup> Where no figures are given, either there were no workers or insufficient data to justify presentation of an average.

## Earnings of Power Laundry Workers in Large Cities, July 1947<sup>4</sup>

IN 19 OF 33 LARGE CITIES throughout the country, women flatwork finishers (machine) and bundle wrappers in power laundries were paid an average straight-time hourly wage<sup>5</sup> of less than 60 cents in July 1947; in 9 of these cities the average was less than 50 cents.<sup>6</sup> Shirt pressers (machine) averaged 60 cents or more in 24 cities, with a top average of 93 cents. Among men workers, washers equaled or exceeded \$1 an hour in 16 of the cities and in 12 others had city-wide average earnings of 80 cents to \$1. In contrast, extractor operators in only 6 cities attained \$1 or more, in 10 others, they averaged 80 cents to \$1.

<sup>4</sup> Prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Branch. This is the second of a series of local industry wage studies which will be made on an annual basis. Data for a limited number of occupations were collected by field representatives under the direction of the Bureau's regional wage analysts. Greater detail on wages and wage practices for each city in the current article is available on request.

<sup>5</sup> Exclusive of premium payments for overtime and night work.

<sup>6</sup> Approximately 112,000 workers were employed in power laundries in the 33 cities in July 1947, exclusive of establishments with fewer than 8 workers, which were not studied.

Pacific Coast cities, especially San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland, generally showed the highest hourly earnings for power laundry workers. Men washers and extractor operators had city averages of \$1 or more in all four cities studied in that region. In these cities, only flatwork finishers in Los Angeles, among the 3 women's jobs currently studied, averaged less than 80 cents. Men washers and extractor operators in Buffalo and Detroit also had averages of \$1 or more. Women shirt pressers in Chicago, Detroit, and New York were the only groups of women, except those on the Pacific Coast, who were able to earn more than 80 cents, on the average.

At the other extreme, earnings in southern cities were relatively low, with Birmingham having lower averages than any other city for the five occupations studied. It was the only city in which all three women's occupations had average straight-time earnings of less than 40 cents, and the only one in which men extractor operators averaged less than 50 cents.

Comparison of the figures obtained in the current study with results of a similar study in July 1945

TABLE 2.—Straight-time average hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected occupations in power laundries in 33 large cities, July 1945 and July 1947

City	Men						Women								
	Extractor operators			Washers, machine			Finishers, flatwork, machine			Pressers, shirts, machine			Wrappers, bundle		
	July 1947	July 1945	Per cent change	July 1947	July 1945	Per cent change	July 1947	July 1945	Per cent change	July 1947	July 1945	Per cent change	July 1947	July 1945	Per cent change
Atlanta.....	\$0.63	\$0.45	40.0	\$0.72	\$0.55	30.9	\$0.36	\$0.28	28.6	\$0.45	\$0.33	36.4	\$0.40	\$0.32	25.0
Baltimore.....	.71	.63	12.7	.82	.70	17.1	.55	.43	27.9	.61	.45	35.6	.52	.43	20.9
Birmingham.....	.48	.44	9.1	.63	.56	12.5	.33	.25	32.0	.39	.30	30.0	.34	.27	25.9
Boston.....	.84	.76	10.5	1.03	.84	22.6	.57	.50	14.0	.72	.60	20.0	.59	.54	9.3
Buffalo.....	1.00	.72	38.9	1.07	.88	21.6	.65	.54	20.4	.72	.61	18.0	.60	.49	22.4
Chicago.....	.99	.82	20.7	1.16	.92	26.1	.68	.54	25.0	.88	.71	23.9	.72	.56	28.6
Cincinnati.....	.72	.62	16.1	.88	.81	8.6	.57	.48	18.8	.61	.57	7.0	.55	.48	14.6
Cleveland.....	.80	.71	12.7	1.00	.95	5.3	.59	.58	1.7	.74	.73	1.4	.61	.58	5.2
Dallas.....	.73	.53	37.7	.80	.70	14.2	.44	.37	18.9	.50	.41	22.0	.44	.39	12.8
Denver.....	.75	.57	31.6	.83	.77	20.8	.54	.44	22.7	.61	.50	22.0	.56	.42	28.6
Detroit.....	1.01	.83	21.7	1.20	1.01	18.8	.75	.54	38.9	.91	.59	54.2	.73	.58	25.9
Houston.....	.66	.55	20.0	.94	.74	27.0	.40	.32	25.0	.49	.37	32.4	.45	.39	15.4
Indianapolis.....	.82	.73	9.6	.89	.83	7.2	.56	.50	12.0	.61	.57	7.0	.57	.54	5.6
Jacksonville.....	.60	.64	-6.2	.78	.68	18.2	.37	.33	12.1	.41	.37	10.8	.42	.43	-2.2
Kansas City.....	.75	.62	21.0	.85	.74	14.9	.55	.45	22.2	.63	.51	23.5	.55	.46	19.6
Los Angeles.....	1.04	.80	30.0	1.15	.93	23.7	.73	.56	30.4	.82	.64	28.7	.84	.64	31.3
Louisville.....	.76	.66	15.2	.98	.80	22.5	.55	.42	31.0	.70	.54	29.6	.54	.44	22.7
Memphis.....	.51	.46	10.9	.67	.50	34.0	.38	.31	22.6	.43	.32	34.4	.37	.29	27.6
Milwaukee.....	.90	.77	16.9	1.13	.98	15.3	.61	.52	17.5	.68	.63	7.9	.65	.56	16.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul.....	.85	.65	30.8	1.06	.81	39.0	.63	.46	37.0	.68	.48	41.7	.66	.46	43.5
Newark-Jersey City.....	.89	.81	9.9	1.00	.90	11.1	.66	.52	26.9	.79	.67	17.9	.71	.57	24.6
New Orleans.....	.57	.51	11.8	.85	.69	23.2	.44	.32	37.5	.53	.42	26.2	.44	.33	33.3
New York.....	.97	.82	18.3	1.22	1.03	18.4	.69	.57	21.0	.90	.72	25.0	.77	.59	30.5
Philadelphia.....	.76	.64	18.8	1.00	.79	26.6	.53	.46	15.2	.68	.58	17.2	.59	.51	15.7
Pittsburgh.....	.78	.68	14.7	.95	.83	14.5	.57	.42	35.7	.65	.53	22.6	.58	.45	28.9
Portland, Oreg.....	1.17	.94	24.5	1.37	1.14	19.3	.84	.61	37.7	.87	.62	40.3	.86	.65	32.3
Providence.....	.84	.68	23.5	1.04	.83	27.7	.63	.47	34.0	.76	.55	38.2	.67	.47	42.6
Richmond.....	.63	.49	28.6	.67	.62	8.1	.45	.33	36.3	.50	.42	19.0	.41	.32	28.1
St. Louis.....	.67	.55	21.8	.91	.67	35.8	.44	.38	15.8	.55	.49	12.2	.45	.43	4.7
San Francisco.....	1.22	.97	25.8	1.38	1.07	29.0	.85	.65	30.8	.93	.72	29.2	1.05	.74	31.1
Seattle.....	1.28	.99	29.3	1.42	1.17	23.1	.89	.64	39.0	.90	.66	36.4	.97	.74	31.1
Toledo.....	.91	.66	37.9	1.15	.90	27.8	.71	.52	36.5	.76	.68	11.8	.74	.57	29.8
Washington.....	.79	.64	23.4	.85	.74	14.9	.61	.51	19.6	.65	.55	18.2	.59	.51	15.7

<sup>1</sup> Exclusive of premium payments for overtime and night work.

shows that workers in power laundries generally received substantial wage increases during the 2-year interval. A majority of the city occupational averages in July 1947 were at least 20 percent higher than in July 1945. In 13 cities, women flatwork finishers showed gains of 30 percent or more, and women shirt pressers fared equally as well in 10 communities.

## Automobile Repair Shops: Wages in July 1947<sup>7</sup>

STRAIGHT-TIME AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS of class A mechanics in automobile repair shops ranged from \$1.24 to \$2.05 in July 1947 among 32 large cities representing all sections of the country. The lowest average earnings in this job classification were found in Providence, where less than a fourth of the workers were paid on an incentive basis, and the highest average earnings were paid in Detroit where 9 out of 10 mechanics participated in incentive plans. This information was obtained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in a survey of average hourly earnings (excluding premium pay for overtime and night work) for selected jobs in general automobile repair shops and repair departments of retail motor vehicle dealers.<sup>8</sup>

A majority of the establishments studied used one or more incentive plans in their shops, workers in repair-work jobs commonly receiving a percentage of the labor charges on assigned work. With few exceptions, incentive workers in each city and occupation studied earned more than did time workers. An examination of average hourly earnings of class A automotive mechanics in 8 Great Lake cities, for example, revealed that rates for incentive workers were from 15 to 43 percent higher than those for time workers.

The wage spread for most of the other occupations studied exceeded that indicated for class A

<sup>7</sup> Prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Branch. Greater detail on wages and wage practices for each city presented here is available on request.

<sup>8</sup> In July 1947, approximately 70,000 workers were employed in automobile repair shops in the 32 cities, exclusive of employment in establishments with less than 5 employees, which were not studied. Information was collected by field representatives of the Bureau who obtained information directly from establishment pay rolls and other records and classified workers on the basis of uniform job descriptions.

mechanics. Body repairmen and electricians usually had higher average earnings than the mechanics. Earnings in the Great Lakes and Pacific Coast cities were substantially above those paid in other regions. Southern cities as a group showed the lowest rates for car washers but were neither lowest nor highest for the other five classifications.

Comparisons of earnings in four jobs<sup>9</sup> with those reported for July 1946, the date of a previous wage study of the industry,<sup>10</sup> indicates that hourly earnings have increased by at least 10 percent in half of the cities. Owing to a decline in earnings of incentive workers, the increases in earnings of automotive mechanics and body repairmen (commonly employed on an incentive basis) were generally smaller than those for greasers and washers. In 12 of the 32 cities in the study, earnings declined in one or more of the 4 jobs during the 1-year period. Decreased occupational earnings were more common in the South than in all other regions combined.

TABLE 3.—*Straight-time average hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for men in selected occupations in automobile repair shops in 32 large cities, July 1947*

City	Average hourly earnings for—					Washers, automobile
	Body repairmen, metal	Electricians, automotive	Greasers	Mechanics, automotive		
				Class A	Class B	
Atlanta.....	\$1.62	\$1.41	\$0.91	\$1.32	\$0.93	\$0.61
Baltimore.....	1.61	1.46	.78	1.40	.90	.71
Birmingham.....	1.51	1.47	1.08	1.43	.88	.57
Boston.....	1.64	1.44	.90	1.44	1.07	.82
Buffalo.....	1.74	(?)	1.05	1.47	1.19	.92
Chicago.....	2.15	1.90	1.18	1.67	1.24	.96
Cincinnati.....	1.53	(?)	.85	1.35	1.01	.83
Cleveland.....	2.26	(?)	1.25	1.89	1.62	1.19
Dallas.....	1.68	(?)	1.15	1.59	(?)	.70
Denver.....	1.46	1.66	1.03	1.55	(?)	.89
Detroit.....	2.37	(?)	1.57	2.05	1.51	1.03
Houston.....	1.79	1.85	1.09	1.65	(?)	.70
Indianapolis.....	1.52	(?)	.98	1.42	.98	.83
Jacksonville.....	1.58	(?)	1.05	1.45	(?)	.63
Kansas City.....	1.65	1.82	1.17	1.64	(?)	.89
Los Angeles.....	2.03	1.97	1.63	1.87	1.44	1.12
Louisville.....	1.43	(?)	.87	1.34	.95	.65
Memphis.....	1.73	1.81	1.00	1.48	1.02	.57
Milwaukee.....	1.66	(?)	1.01	1.43	1.07	.93
Minneapolis-St. Paul.....	1.62	2.00	1.18	1.50	(?)	1.08
Newark-Jersey City.....	1.55	1.55	.95	1.54	1.12	.96
New Orleans.....	1.66	(?)	.87	1.57	.78	.64
New York.....	2.05	1.66	1.04	1.53	1.15	1.01
Philadelphia.....	1.83	1.97	.81	1.45	1.09	.83
Pittsburgh.....	1.38	1.28	.86	1.40	1.17	.77
Portland, Oreg.....	1.61	1.88	1.33	1.60	(?)	1.15
Providence.....	1.30	1.27	.81	1.24	1.02	(?)
Richmond.....	1.53	1.40	.73	1.46	.88	.64
San Francisco.....	2.01	1.89	1.39	1.81	(?)	1.37
Seattle.....	1.75	(?)	1.27	1.63	(?)	(?)
Toledo.....	2.04	(?)	1.30	1.73	1.19	.99
Washington, D. C.....	1.83	(?)	.83	1.47	1.10	.75

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work.

<sup>2</sup> Insufficient number of workers to justify presentation of an average.

<sup>9</sup> Body repairmen, class A automotive mechanics, greasers, and washers.

<sup>10</sup> Monthly Labor Review, May 1947 (p. 824).

## Wholesale Groceries: Earnings in Large Cities, July 1947<sup>11</sup>

LOCAL DELIVERY TRUCK DRIVERS in the wholesale grocery industry received an average wage of \$1.20 or more an hour in 13 of 30 large cities in July 1947.<sup>12</sup> Order fillers and stockmen fared as well in 9 and 7 cities, respectively (table 4). Over-all averages were below \$1.00 an hour in only 10 cities for truck drivers, averages were under this figure in only 8 cities for order fillers, and in 14 cities for stockmen or helpers.

Hourly earnings of truck drivers averaged \$1.40 or more in Chicago, Newark, New York, and in the Pacific Coast cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle. Workers in the 3 occupations studied in these cities, as well as those in Portland, Oreg., averaged at least \$1.20. At the other extreme were 5 southern cities (Birmingham, Houston, Jacksonville, New Orleans, and Richmond) with averages under 75 cents an hour for truck drivers; only in Richmond were the average rates of pay above 75 cents for the other two jobs.

Truck drivers earned more than order fillers in 21 of the 27 cities in which comparisons were possible. The advantage in favor of truck drivers amounted to 20 cents or more in 4 cities (Cleveland, Los Angeles, Newark, and New York) and to at least 10 cents in 7 additional cities. Although order fillers generally had higher earnings than stockmen, their advantage was usually small. Only Detroit, New Orleans, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Washington had averages for order fillers 10 cents or more above those for stockmen.

The scheduled workweek in about half the wholesale houses in the study was 40 hours. About a fourth had scheduled workweeks of over 40 but not more than 45 hours and slightly more than a fourth of more than 45 hours. Cities with schedules of 48 or more hours in a majority of establishments were Atlanta, Birmingham, Houston, Jacksonville, and New Orleans.

Paid vacation plans which applied to warehouse

<sup>11</sup> Prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Branch. Greater detail on wages and wage practices for each city presented here is available on request.

<sup>12</sup> The wage information in this summary refers to average hourly earnings (excluding premium pay for overtime and night work) in general line wholesale grocery establishments and grocery chain-store warehouses engaged in wholesale distribution of merchandise to retail outlets. The study included 174 establishments with 8 or more workers located in 30 cities of at least 300,000 population.

employees after 1 year of service were reported in all but 6 percent of the 374 establishments. Three-fourths allowed 1 week with pay and nearly a fifth allowed 2 weeks. Cities with a majority of establishments in the latter group were Boston, New York, and Pittsburgh. After longer service, varying from 2 to 5 years, a large majority of firms allowing 1 week with pay increased the time to 2 weeks. Pay for certain holidays, typically 6 days a year, was also provided by most firms.

TABLE 4.—*Straight-time average hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for men in selected occupations in wholesale grocery establishments in 30 cities, July 1947*

City	Order fillers	Stockmen or stock helpers	Truck drivers, local delivery
Atlanta.....	\$0.84	\$0.75	\$0.87
Baltimore.....	1.01	.98	1.10
Birmingham.....	.71	.63	.62
Boston.....	1.16	1.14	(?)
Buffalo.....	1.05	1.05	1.16
Chicago.....	1.25	1.23	1.44
Cincinnati.....	1.05	.97	1.08
Cleveland.....	1.09	1.08	1.35
Denver.....	(?)	.92	.99
Detroit.....	1.20	1.08	1.28
Houston.....	.69	.66	.72
Indianapolis.....	.99	.93	.98
Jacksonville.....	.66	.71	.73
Kansas City.....	1.19	1.14	1.29
Los Angeles.....	1.27	1.40	1.47
Milwaukee.....	1.06	.97	1.11
Minneapolis-St. Paul.....	1.07	1.05	1.14
Newark-Jersey City.....	1.30	1.30	1.54
New Orleans.....	.74	.64	.68
New York.....	1.36	1.33	1.57
Philadelphia.....	1.18	1.03	1.29
Pittsburgh.....	1.24	1.18	1.34
Portland, Oreg.....	1.24	1.20	1.27
Providence.....	(?)	.98	.89
Richmond.....	.87	.79	.65
St. Louis.....	1.10	.98	1.03
San Francisco.....	1.28	1.28	1.46
Seattle.....	1.23	1.20	1.42
Toledo.....	1.18	1.14	1.25
Washington, D. C.....	.99	.89	.97

<sup>1</sup> Exclusive of premium payments for overtime and night work.

<sup>2</sup> Insufficient data to justify presentation of an average.

## Women's Dress Manufacture: Earnings in August 1947<sup>13</sup>

THE MANUFACTURE of women's and misses' dresses is one of the major divisions of the garment industry, which is New York City's greatest employer of manufacturing labor. In August 1947 an estimated 68,000 workers were employed in New

<sup>13</sup> Prepared by Kermit B. Mohn of the Bureau's Division of Wage Analysis. Data for limited number of occupations were collected by field representatives under the direction of the Bureau's Regional Wage Analysts. Greater detail on wages and related practices for each city presented here is available on request.

York City dress shops;<sup>14</sup> another 7,000 were in the neighboring communities of Newark, Jersey City, and Paterson. Chicago ranks second in the industry in terms of employment, with slightly more than one-tenth as many workers as in New York. Among the other more important centers of dressmaking are St. Louis, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Boston.

The industry is typified by (1) a high degree

<sup>14</sup> Excluding those establishments primarily engaged in the manufacture of aprons, smocks, and hoover and industrial uniforms, and those establishments with fewer than 8 workers, which were not covered in this study.

of unionization in all except a few areas, (2) a labor force composed predominantly of women, (3) small establishments, the majority employing fewer than 50 workers, (4) the predominance of payment on a piece-work basis, and (5) seasonality of operations.

A survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, covering selected occupations in 14 cities in August 1947, revealed that workers in New York generally had higher earnings than those in the other industry centers (table 5). Women sewing-machine operators, single-hand (tailor) system—

TABLE 5.—Straight-time average hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected occupations in women's and misses' dress manufacturing, August 1947

Occupation and sex	Atlanta, Ga. <sup>2</sup>	Boston, Mass. <sup>2</sup>	Chicago, Ill.			Cleveland, Ohio <sup>3</sup>	Dallas, Tex. <sup>3</sup>	Hartford, Conn. <sup>3</sup>	Kansas City, Mo. <sup>3</sup>	Los Angeles, Calif. <sup>3</sup>	Minneapolis, Minn. <sup>3</sup>
			All dresses	Dresses priced by the unit	Dresses priced by the dozen						
<i>Plant occupations</i>											
Cutters, machine, men	\$1.46	\$1.90	\$1.94	\$2.10	\$1.48	\$1.99	\$1.17	\$1.54	\$1.57	\$2.20	\$1.51
Inspectors, final examiners, women			.84	.86	.83	.85	.73			1.04	
Pressers, hand	.60	2.95	1.82	2.46	.82	1.45	.81	.94	.96	1.94	.93
Men		3.74	2.92	2.92		2.38		1.09		2.49	
Women	.60	1.06	.91	1.16	.82	.98	.81	.92	.96	1.59	.93
Sewers, hand finishers, women	.71	1.09	1.31	1.35		.99	.82	.82	.86	1.23	.68
Sewing-machine operators, section system	.83	1.21	.90	(*)	.89	1.07	.83	.98	.96		
Men											
Women	.83	1.21	.90	(*)	.89	1.07	.83	.98	.96		
Sewing-machine operators, single-hand (tailor) system	.85	1.60	1.50	1.54	(*)	1.57	.94			1.69	1.13
Men		2.00								2.11	
Women	.85	1.58	1.50	1.54	(*)	1.57	.94			1.68	1.13
Thread trimmers, women	.61	.73	.78	.79	.67	.76		.69	.84	.84	.72
Work distributors, women			.91	.96	(*)	.76				1.06	
<i>Office occupations</i>											
Bookkeepers, hand, women	1.10	1.17	1.35	1.36	1.29	1.19	1.21	.93		1.48	1.18
Clerk-typists, women		.67	.94	1.03	.88	.96	.67				
Stenographers, class A, women							.98				
Stenographers, class B, women			1.16	1.15	1.17	1.00	.86				.81

  

Occupation and sex	Newark, N. J.			New York, N. Y.	Paterson, N. J. <sup>3</sup>	Philadelphia, Pa.			St. Louis, Mo.
	All dresses	Dresses priced by the unit	Dresses priced by the dozen	Dresses priced by the unit		All dresses	Dresses priced by the unit	Dresses priced by the dozen	Dresses priced by the unit
<i>Plant occupations</i>									
Cutters, machine, men	\$1.98	\$2.01	\$1.74	\$2.34		\$1.91	\$1.94	\$1.88	\$1.64
Inspectors, final examiners, women	.99	.99		1.20	\$1.14	.88	.95	(*)	.82
Pressers, hand	2.01	2.11	1.13	3.31	2.68	1.58	2.06	1.02	1.68
Men	2.45	2.62	(*)	3.38	2.68	2.73	2.73		2.27
Women	1.63	1.70	1.13	2.41		1.06	1.14	1.02	1.07
Sewers, hand finishers, women	1.16	1.16		1.44	1.30	1.32	1.32		.76
Sewing-machine operators, section system	1.30	1.39	.84	1.25	1.44	1.26	1.45	1.04	
Men						2.34	2.53	1.04	
Women	1.30	1.39	.84	1.25	1.44	1.19	1.32	1.04	
Sewing-machine operators, single-hand (tailor) system	1.68	1.67	2.04	2.30	1.87	2.09	2.14	(*)	1.21
Men				2.78	1.68	2.38	2.42	(*)	
Women	1.68	1.67	2.04	2.20	1.87	2.01	2.06	(*)	1.21
Thread trimmers, women	.78	.79	.70	.92	.81	.75	.75	.75	.58
Work distributors, women	.91	.95	(*)	.84		.76	.76		.73
<i>Office occupations</i>									
Bookkeepers, hand, women				1.46		1.06	1.00	1.12	1.47
Clerk-typists, women						.84	(*)	.79	.73
Stenographers, class A, women									
Stenographers, class B, women						.93	(*)	.96	.85

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work.

<sup>2</sup> Predominantly unit-priced dresses at wholesale.

<sup>3</sup> Predominantly dozen-priced dresses at wholesale.

<sup>4</sup> Insufficient number of workers to warrant presentation of an average.

the largest occupational group in New York as well as in most other areas—had average earnings of \$2.20 an hour. In the 13 other cities the average for this job ranged from 85 cents (Atlanta) to \$2.01 (Philadelphia); the average was below \$1.50 in only 4 of the 14 cities. Hand sewers, second largest group of women, averaged \$1.44 in New York, \$1.31 in Chicago, \$1.32 in Philadelphia, \$1.30 in Paterson, and \$1.23 in Los Angeles; the lowest earnings level for this job was 68 cents, in Minneapolis. Thread trimmers, a much less skilled occupation and typically paid on a time-work basis, had city averages ranging from 58 cents in St. Louis to 92 cents in New York.

Most of the men in the industry are employed as cutters, pressers, or sewing-machine operators on the single-hand (tailor) system. In New York, cutters (usually time workers) were receiving \$2.34 an hour on the average, while the pressers and sewing-machine operators (generally paid piece rates) earned \$3.38 and \$2.78, respectively. Pressers in Boston, however, had the highest earnings for this occupation, with a \$3.74 hourly average. The lowest average for cutters prevailed in Dallas (\$1.17); in the other cities, only the Atlanta cutters and those working on dresses priced by the dozen in Chicago had averages below \$1.50.

Many factors contribute to the variations in the wage levels among the cities. Among these are differences in type and quality of garments manufactured, size of establishment, size of city, location, method of wage payment, extent of unionization, etc., but the specific effect of each can not be measured. Tabulations by type of garment in 3 cities (table 5) show that workers

making dresses priced by the unit at wholesale usually had higher earnings than those making dresses priced by the dozen; separate figures for this latter group in New York were not obtained, but it is known that only a very minor portion of the shops were producing such garments.

The wholesale-price range of the garments manufactured is an important factor in wage levels. According to an analysis of earnings by price range in unit-price shops in 4 cities (table 6), earnings of workers generally tended to increase with the price range, i. e. workers on the cheapest dresses usually earned less per hour, on the average than those in the next high price range, and so on. On the other hand, the effect of the type of shop (i. e., inside versus contract)<sup>15</sup> was not uniformly apparent. In New York, the averages in 6 of 8 occupations were higher in inside shops. However, in Newark contract-shop workers had a wage advantage in 6 of 8 and in Chicago in 5 of 8 comparable jobs, while the advantages were evenly divided among the occupations in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

### Supplementary Wage Practices

A 35-hour week was almost universal in New York, Chicago (unit-price shops), Boston, Paterson, and Atlanta, and predominated in Newark unit-price shops. A workweek of 40 hours predominated in all other areas; it was very prevalent in shops specializing in dresses priced by the dozen and in the less-unionized cities.

Over four-fifths of all establishments studied

<sup>15</sup> Inside shops are those which purchase material and cut, sew, press, sell and ship the garments for their own account. Contract shops fabricate products from piece goods (or cut goods) for a jobber or other manufacturer who owns the material and sells the finished garments.

TABLE 6.—*Straight-time average hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected occupations in unit-priced women's and misses' dress establishments in 4 cities, by wholesale price range per garment, August 1947<sup>2</sup>*

Occupation and sex	Los Angeles			Newark			New York				Philadelphia		
	\$16.75 and over	\$10.75 and under \$16.75	\$6.75 and under \$10.75	\$10.75 and under \$16.75	\$6.75 and under \$10.75	Under \$6.75	\$16.75 and over	\$10.75 and under \$16.75	\$6.75 and under \$10.75	Under \$6.75	\$10.75 and under \$16.75	\$6.75 and under \$10.75	Under \$6.75
Cutters, machine, men.....	\$2.43	\$2.07	\$2.04	-----	-----	\$1.88	\$2.35	\$2.33	\$2.32	\$2.34	\$2.00	-----	\$1.89
Pressers, hand.....	2.27	1.92	1.44	\$3.60	\$2.10	1.78	3.32	3.60	3.37	3.09	2.80	\$2.50	1.36
Men.....	2.60	2.49	-----	3.78	2.45	2.25	3.45	3.60	3.37	3.17	2.80	2.95	2.31
Women.....	1.92	1.54	1.45	-----	1.92	1.47	-----	-----	3.40	2.67	-----	1.01	1.16
Sewers, hand (finishers), women.....	1.22	1.26	.97	1.64	1.22	1.01	1.62	1.44	1.21	1.21	1.45	1.56	.82
Sewing-machine operators, section system, women.....	-----	1.44	-----	2.27	1.60	1.09	2.42	-----	1.54	1.26	2.52	1.83	1.11
Sewing-machine operators, single-hand (tailor) system.....	1.85	1.70	1.36	2.85	1.67	1.54	2.98	2.50	2.03	1.83	2.32	2.07	-----
Men.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	2.92	3.14	2.33	2.03	2.42	-----	-----
Women.....	1.84	1.69	1.36	2.85	1.66	1.54	3.00	2.24	1.98	1.82	2.27	2.07	-----
Thread trimmers, women.....	.97	.81	.78	.92	.74	.78	1.04	.95	.90	.83	.84	-----	.73

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work.

<sup>2</sup> Where no figures given, there were either no workers or insufficient data to justify presentation of an average.

granted holidays with pay, varying in number, to at least a portion of their plant workers. All establishments studied in Minneapolis, over 90 percent of the New York shops, and a majority of those in Newark (unit-price group) and Paterson paid for at least 6 holidays not worked. In Boston, 19 of the 20 shops paid for 2 or 3 holidays. Although paid-holiday provisions were very common in Chicago (unit-price group), Los Angeles, and St. Louis, only time workers benefited. None of the Atlanta shops, only 2 of 15 plants in Dallas, and only 3 of the 10 Chicago establishments (dozen-price group) provided any paid holidays.

Vacations with pay were common in the industry. In Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Newark, New York, Paterson, and Philadelphia, under terms of the collective-bargaining agreements, plans were in effect whereby employers contributed amounts equal to a fixed percentage of their pay rolls to a fund from which vacation payments were made to union workers.<sup>16</sup> The amounts and conditions of eligibility for such payments varied among the several cities. Other benefits, such as paid sick leave and hospitalization, were also disbursed from these funds.

In the other cities, and in the nonunion establishments in some cities having the aforementioned plans, vacations were usually granted in the customary manner, with employers making payments directly to the workers. One week's vacation after 1 year's service was the most prevalent practice.

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## Hosiery Manufacture: Earnings in September 1947<sup>17</sup>

AMONG THE MAJOR HOSIERY-PRODUCTION CENTERS included in a study of occupational hourly earnings in September 1947,<sup>18</sup> Reading, Pa., had the highest

<sup>16</sup> See Monthly Labor Review, February 1947 (pp. 201 et seq.).

<sup>17</sup> Prepared by Toivo P. Kanninen of the Bureau's Division of Wage Analysis. Data for a limited number of occupations were collected by field representatives under the direction of the Bureau's regional wage analysts. Greater detail on wages and wage practices for each city presented here is available on request.

<sup>18</sup> More than 24,000 workers, or about 40 percent of total employment in the full-fashioned hosiery industry were employed in the four cities included in the study; seamless-hosiery mills in the five cities reported on account for approximately 25,000 workers, or about 45 percent of total employment in the seamless-hosiery industry.

wage level in the full-fashioned branch and the Burlington-Greensboro area of North Carolina held a comparable position in seamless-hosiery manufacture. In most of the jobs selected for study in the full-fashioned hosiery industry, average hourly earnings in Philadelphia also exceeded those in the two North Carolina areas studied—Burlington-Greensboro and Statesville-Hickory. The latter area had the lowest level of earnings in each of the hosiery industries. The relative position of earnings in seamless-hosiery mills in Chattanooga, Philadelphia, and Reading differed among the occupations studied, with a slightly higher general level indicated for Chattanooga than for the Pennsylvania cities.

Differences in types of equipment and yarns used in the production of full-fashioned and seamless hosiery account, in part at least, for the generally higher earnings in the full-fashioned hosiery industry. The interindustry differences in wage levels were most pronounced in knitting. Among the various knitting classifications in the full-fashioned hosiery industry, area job averages ranged from \$1.36 to \$2.98 an hour on a straight-time basis in September 1947. The area job averages for knitters in the seamless-hosiery centers ranged from 63 cents to 99 cents. Nearly all of the full-fashioned hosiery knitters were men, whereas women predominated in this work in the seamless-hosiery industry. To the extent that comparisons could be made in occupations common to both industries, the earnings data indicated that workers in full-fashioned mills held a wage advantage in each of the four areas in which both industries were studied.

The earnings of a great majority of the workers in both industry divisions are determined by their individual output, paid for on a piece-work basis. Of the occupational categories for which average hourly earnings are presented in this report, only the adjusters and fixers of knitting machines are typically paid time rates.

### Full-Fashioned Hosiery

Earnings of knitters varied according to the type of machine, number of sections in the machine, and gauge of hosiery produced. Men knitters on legger machines equipped with back-rack attachments, and workers on the newer, single-unit type of knitting equipment, earned more per hour than did knitters on the con

ventional legger machines (table 7). The spread in average hourly earnings among the knitting classifications was much greater in Reading and Philadelphia than in the southern areas. The highest earnings for men knitters in each of the four areas were recorded for single-unit and back-rack knitters, operating machines with 26 or more sections, making hosiery of 51 gauge or over; these workers had averages ranging from \$1.79 an hour in the Statesville-Hickory area to \$2.98 an hour in Reading. A comparison of earnings in this classification with the averages for knitters on similar machines of 24 sections or less, making hosiery below 45 gauge, reveals that the knitters tending the greater number of sections and producing the finer-gauge hosiery held an earnings advantage amounting to about 45 percent in Reading and Philadelphia, 25 percent in the Statesville-Hickory area, and 15 percent in the Burlington-Greensboro area.

TABLE 7.—*Straight-time average hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected occupations in the full-fashioned hosiery industry in selected areas, September 1947*

Occupation and sex	Burlington-Greensboro, N. C.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Reading, Pa.	Statesville-Hickory, N. C.
<b>Men</b>				
Adjusters and fixers, knitting machines, (4 years' or more experience).....	\$1.84	\$1.71	\$1.86	\$1.71
Boarders, machine.....	1.23	1.61	1.58	1.03
Knitters, legger:				
24 sections or less, below 45 gauge.....	(?)	1.54	(?)	(?)
24 sections or less, 45 gauge.....	(?)	1.76	1.89	1.36
26 or more sections, 51 gauge and up.....	(?)	1.88	2.53	(?)
Knitters, single-unit or backrack:				
24 sections or less, below 45 gauge.....	1.58	1.70	2.05	1.43
24 sections or less, 45 gauge.....	1.52	1.86	2.22	1.39
24 sections or less, 51 gauge and up.....	1.65	2.02	2.28	1.56
26 or more sections, below 45 gauge.....	(?)	2.36	(?)	(?)
26 or more sections, 45 gauge.....	1.58	2.29	2.53	1.72
26 or more sections, 51 gauge and up.....	1.82	2.48	2.98	1.79
<b>Women</b>				
Boarders, machine.....	1.12	1.51	1.58	1.04
Folders.....	1.06	1.09	1.36	.86
Inspectors, hosiery.....	.95	1.03	1.09	.85
Loopers, toe only (1 year's experience or more).....	1.12	1.20	1.09	.99
Loopers, toe and heel (1 year's experience or more).....	.87	1.07	1.24	(?)
Pairers.....	.91	1.07	1.22	.87
Seamers.....	.94	1.25	1.24	.94

<sup>1</sup> Exclusive of premium pay for overtime and night work.

<sup>2</sup> Insufficient number of workers to justify presentation of an average.

Women seamers averaged \$1.24 and \$1.25 an hour, respectively, in Reading and Philadelphia, and 94 cents in the southern areas. Among the selected jobs studied, the highest earnings for women were found in machine boarding work, with averages of \$1.58 in Reading, \$1.51 in Philadelphia, \$1.12 in Burlington-Greensboro, and \$1.04 in the

Statesville-Hickory area. In contrast to the inter-area differences in average earnings noted among these and other piece-work jobs, average wage rates paid to adjusters and fixers of knitting machines did not differ significantly by region. Fully qualified men adjusters and fixers averaged \$1.86 in Reading, \$1.84 in Burlington-Greensboro, and \$1.71 in Philadelphia and Statesville-Hickory.

Comparisons of earnings in these four areas with those reported for January 1946 in a previous wage study, indicated that three-fourths of the area occupational earnings had increased by at least 20 percent and half of the job averages by 30 percent or more. Increases in Reading, ranging from 23 to 55 percent among the selected jobs, were somewhat higher than in the other areas.

A 40-hour workweek was scheduled by nearly all of the full-fashioned hosiery plants in September 1947. More than 90 percent granted paid vacation leave to plant and office employees having a year or more of service. With few exceptions, employees with a year of service qualified for a 1-week vacation and almost half of the establishments provided a 2-week vacation to workers with 5 years of service or more.

### Seamless Hosiery

Men and women operators of automatic knitting machines in the Burlington-Greensboro area averaged 99 cents an hour in September 1947, the highest earnings in the knitting classifications among the two northern and three southern areas

TABLE 8.—*Straight-time average hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected occupations in the seamless hosiery industry in selected areas, September 1947*

Occupation and sex	Burlington-Greensboro, N. C.	Chattanooga, Tenn.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Reading, Pa.	Statesville-Hickory, N. C.
<b>Men</b>					
Adjusters and fixers, knitting machines (4 years' experience or more).....	\$1.39	\$1.27	\$1.37	\$1.21	\$1.21
Knitters, automatic.....	.99	.93	(?)	.82	.82
Knitters, rib.....	(?)	.82	(?)	(?)	.71
<b>Women</b>					
Folders and boxers.....	.86	.68	.67	.74	.70
Inspectors, hosiery.....	.79	.74	.67	.68	.65
Knitters, automatic.....	.99	.91	.88	.80	.78
Knitters, rib.....	.63	(?)	.85	(?)	(?)
Knitters, string.....	(?)	.74	.91	.87	.71
Knitters, transfer.....	.73	.79	.79	.78	.64
Loopers (1 year's experience or more).....	.88	.82	.83	.84	.79
Pairers.....	.83	.81	.79	.75	.67

<sup>1</sup> Exclusive of premium pay for overtime and night work.

<sup>2</sup> Insufficient number of workers to justify presentation of an average.

studied (table 8). The lowest earnings level in this knitting category was found in the Statesville-Hickory area, where the averages were 82 cents for men and 78 cents for women. The relative earnings position of workers in the more important knitting jobs varied from one area to another. Among women workers, for example, the hourly earnings of automatic knitters in Chattanooga were, on the average, 23 percent higher than those of string knitters; in Reading, earnings of string knitters averaged 9 percent more than those of automatic knitters.

Wage levels for women loopers, the largest occupational group in the industry, showed the least variation from area to area; experienced loopers averaged 88 cents in Burlington-Greensboro, or 9 cents more than in Statesville-Hickory, the area with the lowest general level of earnings. Knitting-machine adjusters and fixers were by far the highest-paid workers in the study. Average hourly earnings of experienced men workers in this job, ranging from \$1.21 in the Reading and Statesville-Hickory areas to as high as \$1.39 in Burlington-Greensboro, exceeded the earnings of men automatic knitters by more than a third in each of the areas.

Straight-time average hourly earnings of workers in a majority of the selected jobs had increased by 20 percent or more in each of the five production centers during the 20-month period ending September 1947. A comparison of occupational earnings presented in this report with those found in the January 1946 study revealed that for the five areas as a group, a third of the occupational earnings averages had increased by 30 percent or more.

With the exception of two northern mills operating on a 48-hour week, the establishments in the study reported a 40-hour weekly work schedule for their employees. Formal provisions for granting paid vacation leave to plant and office employees with at least a year of service had been established by all or a majority of the seamless-hosiery establishments in Reading, Philadelphia, and Chattanooga; only 6 of 18 mills in the Statesville-Hickory area and 11 of 26 mills in Burlington-Greensboro had provisions for paid vacations. As in the case of the full-fashioned hosiery industry, vacation plans typically provided a 1-week vacation for employees with a year of service. Two weeks of vacation leave were granted to

employees with 5 years of service, however, by a considerably smaller proportion of the seamless-hosiery firms.

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## Ferrous Foundries: Earnings in November 1947<sup>19</sup>

STRAIGHT-TIME HOURLY EARNINGS of machine molders in ferrous foundries averaged over \$1.70 in November 1947 in 12 of 23 large cities; average earnings of floor molders and hand bench molders generally ranged between \$1.50 and \$1.70 an hour.<sup>20</sup> This information was obtained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in a study of earnings for 8 key jobs in ferrous foundries in 23 of the country's large cities, which together employed about 70,000 foundry workers. The results of this survey are summarized in the accompanying table.

For the 8 occupations studied, increases in straight-time hourly earnings averaged roughly 10 percent between October 1946 and November 1947, and about 30 percent between January 1945 and November 1947.<sup>21</sup> Wage changes were not uniform from job to job or from city to city, partly because of varying incentive earnings; in the majority of cities increases in earnings generally ranged from 6 to 13 percent during the year period and from 25 to 40 percent during the 3-year period.

Over the 3-year period, the greatest proportionate gains in hourly earnings in most cities were for shake-out men—one of the less skilled jobs studied; although in a number of cities, the highest wage occupation—wood patternmakers—showed the greatest relative gain. Among individual cities, Birmingham showed the greatest percentage increase in earnings—at least 40 percent since January 1945 in each of the occupations studied. Except for patternmakers, however, the level of earnings remained lower in Birmingham than in any other city studied. Detroit wages generally exceeded those in other cities. On the

<sup>19</sup> Prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Branch. Further detail for each of the areas studied will be furnished upon request.

<sup>20</sup> Machine molders are frequently paid on an incentive basis, whereas other molders are more commonly paid on a time basis. Straight-time hourly averages in this study include incentive pay, but exclude premium pay for overtime and night work.

<sup>21</sup> Refers to median change for all occupations and cities combined.

TABLE 9.—Average straight-time hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for men in selected occupations in ferrous foundries in 23 cities, November 1947

City	Chippers and grinders	Core-makers, hand	Molders, floor	Molders, hand bench	Molders, machine	Pattern-makers, wood	Shake-out men	Truckers, hand
Baltimore.....	\$1.00	\$1.34	\$1.44	\$1.36	\$1.46	\$1.55	\$0.95	(?)
Birmingham.....	.86	1.10	1.24	1.08	1.23	1.70	.84	\$0.82
Boston.....	1.04	1.50	1.49	1.49	1.47	1.63	1.01	(?)
Buffalo.....	1.58	1.71	1.63	1.55	1.78	1.67	1.50	1.13
Chicago.....	1.42	1.73	1.61	1.63	1.78	2.05	1.28	1.11
Cincinnati.....	1.15	1.45	1.57	1.45	1.57	1.47	1.06	1.02
Cleveland.....	1.42	1.69	1.70	1.62	1.85	2.06	1.36	1.14
Denver.....	1.05	1.36	1.40	1.40	1.46	(?)	1.12	(?)
Detroit.....	1.66	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.93	(?)	1.46	1.27
Hartford (Conn.).....	1.14	1.34	1.58	1.35	1.84	(?)	.95	(?)
Houston.....	1.01	1.45	1.53	1.41	1.38	1.94	1.02	.92
Indianapolis.....	1.27	1.53	1.53	1.48	1.71	(?)	1.24	1.25
Los Angeles.....	1.23	1.54	1.69	1.58	1.71	2.10	1.17	(?)
Milwaukee.....	1.56	1.72	1.80	1.43	1.91	1.60	1.23	(?)
Minneapolis-St. Paul.....	1.16	1.37	1.41	1.42	1.39	1.42	1.11	1.08
Newark.....	1.04	1.46	1.49	1.53	1.68	1.71	.97	.97
New York.....	1.15	1.53	1.55	1.51	1.92	1.43	1.20	(?)
Philadelphia.....	1.48	1.82	1.67	1.50	1.67	1.78	1.02	(?)
Pittsburgh.....	1.35	1.55	1.57	1.50	1.57	1.74	1.24	1.10
Portland (Oreg.).....	1.39	1.61	1.64	1.64	1.71	2.11	1.37	(?)
San Francisco.....	1.33	1.63	1.63	1.67	1.72	2.14	1.32	(?)
Seattle.....	1.34	1.63	1.64	1.64	1.60	(?)	1.25	(?)
Toledo.....	1.42	1.66	1.66	1.52	1.81	(?)	1.36	1.13

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work, but includes earnings under incentive systems.

(?) Insufficient data to justify presentation of an average.

whole, earnings tended to be highest among cities in the Great Lakes region and lowest in the South, in New England, and in the Mountain area.<sup>22</sup>

### Supplementary Wage Practices

Three out of 4 foundries included in the 1947 study had a 40-hour scheduled workweek; 1 in 14 reported a schedule of 45 hours, and 1 in 12 had a workweek of 48 hours or longer. Those operating in excess of 40 hours were found in relatively greater numbers in New England and Great Lakes cities than elsewhere.

Formal provisions for paid vacations were reported by 9 out of 10 establishments studied. All but a few of these foundries granted 1 week of paid vacation after 1 year of employment, and as many as four-fifths paid for 2-weeks' vacations after 5 years' service. In addition, nearly half of the establishments studied granted their plant workers from 2 to 11 paid holidays a year; the great majority provided 6 such holidays. All establishments that granted more than 6 paid holidays were located in the New York City area. Relatively few southern foundries studied provided paid holidays.

<sup>22</sup> Additional wage increases since the November 1947 survey, ranging from 9 to 13 cents an hour, have been reported for some establishments in such areas as Boston, Cincinnati, Newark, and Philadelphia.

## Machinery Industries: Earnings in November 1947<sup>23</sup>

WAGE LEVELS OF SKILLED WORKERS in the machinery industries in November 1947 showed less variation among the 31 large cities studied by the Bureau of Labor Statistics than did average earnings of workers performing less skilled operations.<sup>24</sup> Straight-time average hourly earnings in the highest wage cities were from 42 to 55 cents an hour above those in the lowest wage cities for skilled jobs; the corresponding range for less skilled groups was generally from 54 to 72 cents.

Hand truckers had nearly a 100-percent range in their average earnings—from 66 cents in Charlotte to \$1.30 an hour in Detroit. For tool and die makers, who typically received the highest pay, average earnings ranged from \$1.45 in Atlanta, Denver, Dallas, and Providence, to \$2 an hour in San Francisco (a difference of about two-fifths). Although earnings averaging \$1.60 or more an hour were reported for production machinists in 4 cities and for class A engine lathe

<sup>23</sup> Prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Division by Donald Helm. Further detail for each of the areas studied will be furnished upon request.

<sup>24</sup> Earnings exclude premium pay for overtime and night work.

Information was collected by field representatives of the Bureau from all or a representative sample of establishments in the machinery industries in each of the cities included in the survey. In classifying workers by occupation, uniform job descriptions were used in all establishments and areas.

TABLE 10.—Average straight-time hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for men in selected occupations in machinery establishments in 31 cities November 1947

City	Assemblers			Drill-press operators, single and multiple-spindle			Engine-lathe operators			Electricians	Inspectors			Machinists, production	Tool and die makers	Truckers, hand	Welders, hand	
	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class A	Class B	Class C		Class A	Class B	Class C				Class A	Class B
Atlanta	\$1.34	\$1.07	\$0.89	(?)	\$0.98	\$0.83	\$1.34	\$1.18	\$0.86	\$1.35	(?)	\$1.05	(?)	\$1.42	\$1.45	\$0.79	\$1.35	\$1.16
Baltimore	1.28	1.14	.98	(?)	1.13	1.03	1.34	1.11	.92	1.35	\$1.43	1.15	(?)	1.47	1.61	.84	1.39	1.39
Birmingham	1.42	1.24	1.16	\$1.34	1.16	1.07	1.49	1.26	(?)	1.45	1.52	(?)	\$1.05	1.46	1.55	.80	1.30	(?)
Boston	1.36	1.21	1.00	1.44	1.17	1.01	1.46	1.24	1.09	1.41	1.48	1.33	1.10	1.32	1.46	1.01	1.38	1.17
Buffalo	1.45	1.22	1.09	1.29	1.13	.96	1.43	1.20	.86	1.35	1.53	1.39	(?)	1.35	1.52	1.03	1.52	1.30
Charlotte	1.16	1.02	.80	(?)	.91	.76	1.19	.99	.84	1.33	(?)	(?)	(?)	1.16	(?)	.66	(?)	(?)
Chattanooga	1.44	1.09	.93	1.31	1.27	.94	1.44	1.31	(?)	1.51	(?)	(?)	(?)	1.40	1.55	.90	1.60	(?)
Chicago-Gary	1.56	1.37	1.24	1.40	1.36	1.25	1.54	1.42	1.37	1.57	1.51	1.37	(?)	1.58	1.78	1.09	1.61	1.37
Cincinnati	1.32	1.17	1.01	1.26	1.15	1.09	1.32	1.14	1.05	1.34	1.45	1.27	1.10	(?)	1.60	.93	1.39	1.33
Cleveland	1.67	1.61	1.26	1.59	1.56	1.22	1.66	1.71	1.20	1.57	1.57	1.47	1.22	1.54	1.77	1.13	1.73	1.67
Dallas	1.19	1.02	.92	1.22	.99	.88	1.49	1.20	(?)	(?)	1.44	(?)	(?)	1.36	1.45	(?)	1.25	1.11
Denver	1.56	1.14	(?)	1.45	1.18	(?)	1.31	1.07	(?)	1.40	1.39	(?)	(?)	1.34	1.45	1.09	1.47	1.25
Detroit	1.66	1.58	1.38	(?)	1.46	1.39	1.67	1.50	(?)	1.75	1.67	1.57	1.43	1.60	1.83	1.30	1.78	1.56
Hartford	1.40	1.21	1.10	(?)	1.30	1.27	1.72	1.33	(?)	1.34	1.62	1.25	1.12	(?)	1.58	1.01	1.53	(?)
Houston	1.46	1.30	1.16	1.47	1.33	.96	1.56	1.32	1.22	1.69	1.61	1.45	(?)	1.49	1.69	.85	1.63	1.50
Indianapolis	1.38	1.26	1.45	1.39	1.36	1.09	1.44	1.34	1.19	1.49	1.47	1.40	1.16	1.48	1.71	1.10	1.41	1.41
Los Angeles	1.48	1.34	1.13	1.40	1.28	1.19	1.56	1.42	1.26	1.75	1.54	1.34	1.22	1.54	1.72	1.10	1.57	1.51
Milwaukee	1.68	1.42	1.44	(?)	1.42	1.38	1.54	1.47	1.24	1.46	1.54	1.39	1.51	1.32	1.61	1.06	1.75	1.69
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1.38	1.32	1.02	1.36	1.27	(?)	1.44	1.30	(?)	(?)	1.45	(?)	(?)	1.43	1.59	(?)	1.43	1.31
Newark-Jersey City	1.63	1.33	1.11	1.51	1.25	1.24	1.61	1.32	1.27	1.49	1.46	1.23	1.04	1.42	1.68	1.06	1.52	1.35
New York City	1.53	1.37	1.11	1.48	1.29	1.11	1.57	1.37	1.07	1.56	1.50	1.34	1.11	1.49	1.75	1.03	1.52	1.36
Philadelphia	1.43	1.26	1.11	1.51	1.32	1.12	1.61	1.33	1.14	1.46	1.71	1.28	1.13	1.45	1.71	1.03	1.60	1.43
Pittsburgh	1.41	1.58	1.39	1.47	1.45	1.14	1.50	1.35	1.40	1.49	1.64	1.37	1.17	1.53	1.56	1.05	1.41	1.30
Portland, Oreg.	1.60	1.45	(?)	1.44	(?)	(?)	1.55	(?)	(?)	1.69	1.66	(?)	(?)	1.58	1.77	1.23	1.58	(?)
Providence	1.29	1.14	1.03	1.19	1.06	.97	1.23	1.08	.91	1.35	1.27	1.20	(?)	1.27	1.45	.94	1.46	(?)
St. Louis	1.53	1.28	1.10	(?)	1.32	1.05	1.65	1.35	(?)	1.40	1.39	1.25	1.11	1.65	1.87	.98	1.43	1.11
San Francisco	1.55	1.38	1.21	1.60	1.39	1.27	1.71	1.44	(?)	1.77	1.61	1.57	1.22	1.67	2.00	1.27	1.68	(?)
Seattle	1.65	1.45	1.27	(?)	1.44	(?)	1.66	(?)	(?)	1.67	1.67	(?)	(?)	1.67	1.91	1.26	1.63	1.60
Syracuse	1.69	1.46	1.39	1.39	1.38	1.33	1.49	1.30	1.04	1.41	1.36	1.17	1.05	1.48	1.53	1.01	1.51	1.73
Tulsa	1.23	1.07	.90	1.18	1.05	.77	1.32	1.21	(?)	1.38	1.26	1.03	(?)	1.41	1.55	.91	1.33	1.17
Waterbury	1.44	1.32	1.23	(?)	(?)	1.39	1.43	1.20	(?)	1.39	(?)	1.26	1.09	1.38	1.57	1.05	(?)	1.32

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work.<sup>2</sup> Insufficient data to justify presentation of an average.

operators in 7 cities, in the majority of wage areas these workers averaged at least 14 cents an hour less than tool and die makers. Indeed, in at least a dozen cities, earnings of production machinists and class A engine lathe operators averaged less than \$1.45 an hour.

The establishments studied were engaged in producing a wide variety of machinery, including engines and turbines, agricultural machinery and tractors, construction and mining machinery, industrial machinery, office and store machines, household and service industry machines, and metalworking machinery (except machine tools and machine tool accessories). Altogether, almost 487,000 of the more than a million workers in the machinery industries were employed in the 31 cities studied in November 1947; these cities represented all sections of the country.

Between October 1946 and November 1947, straight-time earnings for the occupations studied rose by about 9 percent on the average,<sup>25</sup> with the majority of increases falling within a range of 6 to 15 percent. Increases of 15 percent or more were most frequently reported in cities in the

southeastern region and in Hartford, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Indianapolis, and St. Louis. For the period from January 1945 to November 1947, wage increases averaged about 29 percent, typically ranging from 23 to 36 percent. In percentage terms, the greatest gains were generally registered for the less skilled occupations.

A scheduled workweek of 40 hours was reported by 5 out of 8 machinery establishments studied; 1 out of 9 worked 45 hours, and 1 in 12 reported a schedule of 50 hours or longer. Workweeks in excess of 40 hours were most common in New England cities, whereas in Pacific Coast cities, a 40-hour week was prevalent.

Paid holidays (typically, 6 a year) were provided for plant workers by 4 out of 7 establishments; however, the extent of this practice varied widely among regions. Such provisions were most common and most liberal in Middle Atlantic cities, where 3 out of 4 establishments provided paid holidays, with 1 out of 4 of these plants reporting more than 6 paid holidays a year. On the other hand, in Southeast and Southwest cities only about one-fifth and one-fourth of the establishments granted paid holidays; typically, establishments in these regions paid for no more than

<sup>25</sup> Refers to median change, considering all cities and occupations.

5 holidays a year.

Formal paid vacation plans were in effect for plant workers in 9 out of 10 establishments studied. In most cases these workers received a 1-week paid vacation after a year's employment; after 5 years of service, paid vacations of 2 weeks were granted in five-eighths of all establishments studied. All but a few establishments in all regions had formal vacation provisions for office workers; more than half paid for 2-week vacations after 1 year of employment and 4 out of 5 provided 2-week periods after 5 years' service. The most liberal vacation plans for plant workers were found in Pacific Coast cities; on the other hand, office workers fared best in New England cities.

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## Machine Tool Accessory Plants: Earnings in December 1947<sup>26</sup>

TOOL AND DIE MAKERS in Detroit machine tool accessory establishments in December 1947 had straight-time earnings of \$2.10 an hour—the highest average among 12 centers of the industry. Rates for tool and die makers in other areas ranged from \$1.58 to \$1.94. In 9 out of the 12 areas shown in the accompanying table, hourly earnings for this job averaged \$1.73 or more. This information was obtained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in a survey of average hourly earnings (exclusive of premium pay for overtime and night work) for a limited number of key occupations in this industry.<sup>27</sup> In December 1947, about three-fifths of all workers in machine tool accessory establishments with 8 or more workers were employed in the 12 cities surveyed.

As in many other industries, considerable variation in rate level among cities characterized the wage structure of machine tool accessories. For tool and die makers and production machinists,

<sup>26</sup> Prepared by John F. Lacskey of the Bureau's Wage Analysis Branch. Field work for the study was under the direction of the Bureau's regional wage analysts. Greater detail on wages and wage practices for each area presented is available on request.

<sup>27</sup> Data used in this study were obtained from company pay-roll records by trained field representatives of the Bureau, who classified workers on the basis of uniform job descriptions. Copies of the descriptions used are available on request.

The survey included tool and die jobbing shops, as well as other establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing machine tool accessories. It corresponds to industry 3543 of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual (1941 edition, issued by the Bureau of the Budget).

the intercity range in earnings amounted to about 50 cents an hour, and for other highly skilled workers, such as class A engine lathe operators, to somewhat more. Among the lesser skilled jobs, the spread was generally smaller in terms of cents than for tool and die makers.

Levels of wages in the Great Lakes cities were distinctly above those in other important centers of the industry. Average hourly earnings in Detroit were highest in 10 of the 13 occupations surveyed and were exceeded only by those of Chicago in the remaining jobs.

During the period since the January 1945 study,<sup>28</sup> earnings of tool and die makers rose by amounts ranging from 13 to 28 percent; half of the areas showed increases of at least 20 percent. The proportionate increase was generally greater for other jobs studied, with the lesser skilled jobs usually showing the larger percentage gains. Increases for these latter jobs usually were from 24 to 40 percent, with half of the changes amounting to 32 percent or more.

## Wage and Related Practices

With the resumption of peacetime operations, many establishments have substantially reduced the normal hours of work for individual workers and have curtailed or eliminated their extra shift operations. In December 1947 a scheduled workweek of 40 hours was most common in the industry, although a seventh of the plants reported a scheduled week of 45 hours, and a fifth, 48 hours or more. In January 1945, scheduled workweeks of 48 hours and over were most common; a week as short as 40 hours was reported by very few plants. About 1 of every 6 establishments studied in December 1947 operated at least 2 shifts, and 1 of every 30 had 3 shifts. Of the plants surveyed in January 1945, about 1 in 3 had at least 2 shifts; 1 in 10 was on a third shift basis.

Shift differential payments were provided by 6 of every 7 plants operating a second shift and by all those reporting a third shift in late 1947. The most frequent second-shift differential was 10 cents an hour added to the first-shift rate, reported by more than half the plants paying any differential. For third-shift work, 10 percent above the day rate was typical.

<sup>28</sup> See Monthly Labor Review, March 1946 (page 438), and mimeographed report (Wage Structure: Machine Tool Accessories, 1945, Series 2, No. 2).

TABLE 11.—Average straight-time hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for men in selected occupations in machine tool accessory establishments in 12 areas, December 1947

Occupation	Average hourly rates in <sup>2</sup> —											
	Boston, Mass.	Chicago, Ill.	Cleveland, Ohio	Detroit, Mich.	Hartford, Conn.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Milwaukee, Wis.	Newark, N. J.	New York, N. Y.	Providence, R. I.	Toledo, Ohio
Electricians, maintenance.....		\$1.51	\$1.56	\$1.97	\$1.39						\$1.36	\$1.75
Engine-lathe operators, class A.....		1.72	1.55	1.96	1.29	\$1.49		\$1.54	\$1.58	\$1.58	1.37	1.73
Engine-lathe operators, class B.....		1.63	1.48	1.65	1.42		\$1.37	1.44		1.33		
Grinding-machine operators, class A.....	\$1.42	1.74	1.65	2.06	1.58	1.66	1.67	1.60	1.60	1.49	1.61	1.76
Grinding-machine operators, class B.....	1.22	1.71	1.45	1.68	1.58			1.43	1.27		1.16	
Inspectors, class A.....	1.39	1.66	1.58	1.94	1.44	1.80			1.73		1.50	
Inspectors, class B.....		1.54	1.34	1.61	1.26						1.29	
Janitors.....	.83	1.05	1.02	1.26	.86	.97	1.05	.94			.87	1.01
Machinists, production.....	1.32	1.80	1.59	1.81	1.39	1.61	1.65	1.52		1.51	1.33	1.67
Milling-machine operators, class A.....		1.62	1.59	1.96	1.42	1.49		1.55	1.53	1.55	1.63	
Milling-machine operators, class B.....		1.81	1.42	1.62	1.37			1.44		1.25	1.13	
Milling-machine operators, class C.....	.94	1.40	1.30	1.39				1.25				
Tool and die makers.....	1.62	1.94	1.74	2.10	1.58	1.79	1.83	1.73	1.79	1.85	1.59	1.88

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work.

<sup>2</sup> Where no figures given, data were insufficient to justify presentation of average.

Paid vacations were commonly provided plant workers with a year's service, 1-week vacations being granted by four-fifths of the establishments visited. More than half of the plants provided 2-week vacations after 5 years of service.

## Paint and Varnish Manufacture: Earnings in August 1947<sup>29</sup>

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS<sup>30</sup> were, for the most part, highest in San Francisco and Detroit and lowest in Philadelphia and Louisville, according to a study made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 12 cities in August 1947.<sup>31</sup> Earnings in the 9 occupations studied generally varied by about 40 cents between the highest and lowest paying areas. The numerically important group of mixers had average wage rates of \$1.25 or more an hour in cities in the Pacific and Great Lakes States, although in other areas their earnings ranged as low as \$1.01. Earnings of men labelers and packers ranged from 89 cents in Philadelphia to \$1.30 in San Francisco, while those for women varied from 79 cents to \$1.19 in the same cities.

<sup>29</sup> Prepared in the Bureau's Wage Analysis Division. Greater detail on wages and wage practices for each city presented here is available on request.

<sup>30</sup> The 12 cities studied employed about 25,000 workers—Three-fourths of all workers in the paint and varnish industry at the time of the survey. Establishments with fewer than 8 workers were not studied. Data were obtained from company pay-roll records by Bureau field representatives. Uniform job descriptions were used.

<sup>31</sup> Hourly wage averages are straight-time earnings and exclude overtime and shift premium pay but include earnings under incentive systems.

Wages increased generally during the year preceding the study in all but 1 of the 9 occupations studied. Such increases typically ranged from 11 to 20 percent, although there was wide variation within each city and each occupational group. The most substantial gains were reported for varnish makers, particularly in New York, St. Louis, and Philadelphia, who earned at least a third more in August 1947 than in July 1946. In contrast, probably because of turn-over, 1947 earnings of technicians in 8 of the 12 cities studied ranged from 5 to 15 percent below 1946. In most cities, the wage gains of clerical workers compared favorably with those of plant workers. In 6 cities, earnings of clerk-typists increased at least 16 percent.

## Paid Vacations and Holidays

Nearly all establishments engaged in the manufacture of paints and varnishes granted paid vacations to plant workers, according to the Bureau's study in August 1947. Such vacations are typically 1 week in length after 1 year's employment, although nearly a sixth of the establishments studied provide for 2-week vacations. Vacation policies for workers with greater length of service are more liberal; about half the plants provide 2-week vacations after 3 years' employment, and three-fourths grant 2 weeks or more after 5 years' employment. In addition, nearly all establishments provide paid holidays, typically 6 a year. About a third grant more than 6 days; most of these establishments are located in the New York City, Newark, and Boston wage areas.

TABLE 12.—Average straight-time hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected occupations in paint and varnish establishments in 12 cities, July 1946 and August 1947

Wage area	MEN														
	Labelers and packers			Maintenance men, general utility			Mixers			Technicians			Tinters		
	August 1947	July 1946	Per- cent of change	August 1947	July 1946	Per- cent of change	August 1947	July 1946	Per- cent of change	August 1947	July 1946	Per- cent of change	August 1947	July 1946	Per- cent of change
Boston.....	\$0.95	\$0.79	20.3	\$1.24	\$1.04	19.2	\$1.13	\$0.97	16.5	\$1.25	\$1.47	-15.0	\$1.31	\$1.04	26.0
Chicago.....	1.23	1.06	16.0	1.53	1.19	28.6	1.25	1.11	12.6	( <sup>2</sup> )	1.22	---	1.45	1.22	18.9
Cleveland.....	1.10	1.01	8.9	1.42	1.25	13.6	1.27	1.11	14.4	1.28	1.23	4.1	1.46	1.26	15.9
Detroit.....	1.28	1.17	9.4	1.40	1.32	6.1	1.33	1.21	9.9	1.42	1.50	-5.3	1.42	1.42	---
Los Angeles.....	1.10	1.00	10.0	1.61	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	1.25	1.09	14.7	1.35	1.53	-11.8	1.32	1.26	4.8
Louisville.....	.94	.73	28.8	1.21	1.09	11.0	1.02	.85	20.0	1.08	1.19	-9.2	1.25	1.01	23.8
Newark-Jersey City.....	1.07	.92	16.3	1.42	1.22	16.4	1.23	1.10	11.8	1.38	1.24	11.3	1.41	1.21	16.5
New York.....	1.06	.88	20.5	1.35	1.28	5.5	1.17	1.01	15.8	1.31	1.50	-12.7	1.45	1.26	15.1
Philadelphia.....	.89	.81	9.9	1.22	1.07	14.0	1.01	.90	12.2	1.18	1.33	-11.3	1.16	1.00	16.0
Pittsburgh.....	1.03	.89	15.7	1.38	1.15	20.0	1.13	.95	18.9	1.39	1.17	18.8	1.17	.96	21.9
St. Louis.....	1.11	.90	23.3	1.21	1.09	11.0	1.12	.93	20.4	1.50	1.63	-8.0	1.26	1.03	22.3
San Francisco.....	1.30	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	1.41	1.15	22.6	1.45	1.53	-5.2	1.52	1.38	10.1
	MEN						WOMEN								
	Truckers, hand			Varnish makers			Labelers and packers			Clerk-typists			Stenographers, class B		
Boston.....	\$0.96	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	\$1.32	\$1.15	14.8	\$0.86	\$0.71	21.1	\$0.73	\$0.69	5.8	\$0.86	\$0.69	24.6
Chicago.....	1.13	\$1.05	7.6	1.43	1.21	18.2	.96	.86	11.6	.96	.79	21.5	.93	.80	3.3
Cleveland.....	1.07	.94	13.8	1.47	1.26	16.7	.89	.82	8.5	.78	.74	5.4	.94	.82	14.6
Detroit.....	1.22	1.04	17.3	1.45	1.28	13.3	1.07	.96	11.1	.89	.75	18.7	.99	.90	10.0
Los Angeles.....	1.12	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	1.29	1.22	5.7	.99	.84	17.9	1.01	.80	22.2	( <sup>2</sup> )	.98	---
Louisville.....	( <sup>2</sup> )	.82	---	1.23	1.09	12.8	( <sup>2</sup> )	.65	---	.87	.64	35.9	.87	.75	16.0
Newark-Jersey City.....	1.10	.96	14.6	1.52	1.24	22.6	.99	.84	17.9	.89	.70	27.1	.95	.82	15.9
New York.....	1.07	.85	25.9	1.54	1.08	42.6	.93	.71	31.0	.92	.79	16.5	1.11	.97	14.4
Philadelphia.....	.82	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	1.52	1.14	33.3	.79	.70	12.9	.79	.73	8.2	.79	.77	2.6
Pittsburgh.....	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	1.27	1.02	24.6	.83	.65	27.7	.75	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	.80	.71	12.7
St. Louis.....	1.00	.92	8.7	1.49	1.10	35.5	.84	.76	10.5	.91	.68	33.8	.80	.81	-1.2
San Francisco.....	1.31	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	1.46	1.31	11.5	1.19	.93	28.0	1.11	( <sup>2</sup> )	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	---

<sup>1</sup> Excluding premium pay for overtime and night work.<sup>2</sup> Insufficient data to justify presentation of an average.

## Wood and Upholstered Furniture: Earnings in September 1947<sup>32</sup>

OCCUPATIONAL EARNINGS in wood furniture production in Los Angeles were typically higher in September 1947 than in 8 other leading production centers. Among the selected occupations, average hourly earnings in this city on a straight-time basis<sup>33</sup> ranged for men from \$1.08 for machine off-bearers to \$1.58 for hand shaper operators; for 7 additional jobs the average wage amounted to \$1.20 or more (table 13). In 5 comparable occupations, averages in Grand Rapids were at least \$1.20, and all jobs except off-bearers averaged at least \$1 in Grand Rapids, Chicago, and Jamestown

<sup>32</sup> Prepared in the Bureau's Division of Wage Analysis. Further data for each of the areas studied will be furnished upon request.

Establishments in the selected areas studied included only those primarily engaged in the manufacture of wood or upholstered furniture and employing 8 or more workers.

<sup>33</sup> The hourly averages include earnings under pay incentive systems, but exclude premium pay for overtime and night work.

(N. Y.). Occupational averages for men in the Winston-Salem-High Point area ranged from 71 cents for off-bearers to \$1.01 for general utility maintenance men. Two additional southern areas, Morganton-Lenoir (N. C.) and Martinsville (Va.), had slightly higher pay levels, with 2 and 4 jobs, respectively, averaging above \$1. Earnings of men hand sanders were only 1 cent an hour above those for women in both Los Angeles and Grand Rapids, whereas in the other area somewhat greater differences in favor of the men were reported. This information was secured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in a survey of average hourly earnings in selected occupations in wood and upholstered furniture manufacture for leading production centers, as part of the Bureau's program of occupational wage research. Nine areas were covered for wood furniture manufacture, and 4 for upholstered furniture.

Men's earnings in New York City upholstered furniture plants for the 6 jobs for which data were obtained ranged from \$1.62 for gluers of

TABLE 13.—Average straight-time hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected occupations in wood furniture establishments in selected wage areas, September 1947

Occupation, grade, and sex	Average hourly rates <sup>2</sup> in—								
	Chicago, Ill.	Fitchburg, Mass.	Grand Rapids, Mich.	James-town, N. Y.	Jasper-Tell City, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Martinsville, Va.	Morgan-ton-Lenoir, N. C.	Winston-Salem-High Point, N. C.
<i>Plant occupations</i>									
Men:									
Belt sanders.....	\$1.16	\$1.01	\$1.22	\$1.21	\$1.06	\$1.36	\$0.95	\$0.95	\$0.84
Case-clamp men.....	1.22	1.01	1.38	1.44	1.21	1.34	.96	.89	.85
Chair makers.....	1.23	1.01	1.23	-----	1.11	-----	.94	-----	.79
Cut-off saw operators.....	1.12	.95	1.18	1.04	.97	1.43	1.02	1.05	.86
Gluers, rough stock.....	1.02	.92	1.06	1.04	.93	1.30	1.01	.88	.80
Maintenance men, general utility.....	1.21	1.11	1.20	1.11	.98	1.56	1.05	1.04	1.01
Off-bearers, machine.....	.90	.76	.83	.79	.85	1.08	.78	.74	.71
Packers, furniture.....	1.02	.90	1.16	1.06	1.02	1.29	.79	.78	.75
Rubbers, hand.....	1.15	1.04	1.25	1.33	1.33	1.30	.75	.80	.76
Sanders, hand.....	1.06	-----	1.06	1.22	1.04	1.16	.79	.79	.73
Shaper operators, hand, set-up and operate.....	1.31	1.06	1.33	1.13	.99	1.58	1.02	.98	.93
Women:									
Off-bearers, machine.....	-----	.77	.90	.82	-----	-----	.76	.63	-----
Sanders, hand.....	.89	.83	1.05	.76	.91	1.15	.70	.64	.68
<i>Office occupations</i>									
Women:									
Clerk typist.....	.96	.76	.82	.67	.80	.98	.94	.81	.81
Stenographers, class A.....	1.26	.83	1.11	-----	.94	-----	1.08	.94	-----
Stenographers, class B.....	1.02	-----	.92	.81	.82	1.16	-----	-----	.73

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work, but includes earnings under incentive systems.

<sup>2</sup> Where no figures are given, data were insufficient to justify presentation of an average.

rough stock to \$2.27 for complete suite upholsterers. These jobs paid substantially less in the Winston-Salem-High Point area (table 14). Women cover sewers averaged \$1.80 in New York and 95 cents in the southern area. In most cases, hourly pay levels of both men and women in Los Angeles were somewhat below those in New York, but slightly above those in Chicago.

TABLE 14.—Average straight-time hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for selected plant occupations in upholstered furniture establishments in selected areas, September 1947

Plant occupation and sex	Average hourly rates <sup>2</sup> in—			
	Chi-cago, Ill.	Los Ange-les, Calif.	New York, N. Y.	Winston-Salem-High Point, N. C.
<i>Men</i>				
Cut-off saw operators.....	\$1.31	\$1.44	\$1.71	\$0.84
Frame makers.....	1.45	1.50	1.84	.85
Gluers, rough stock.....	1.15	1.33	1.62	.75
Maintenance men, general utility.....	-----	1.61	-----	.97
Off-bearers, machine.....	.92	1.08	-----	.67
Upholsterers, chairs.....	(3)	2.70	2.19	1.14
Upholsterers, complete work.....	(3)	2.24	2.27	1.38
Upholsterers, section work.....	(4)	1.83	2.18	1.22
<i>Women</i>				
Sewers, cover.....	1.15	1.37	1.80	.95

<sup>1</sup> Excludes premium pay for overtime and night work, but includes earnings under incentive systems.

<sup>2</sup> Dashes indicate insufficient information to justify presentation of an average.

<sup>3</sup> No break-down reported for the 3 categories of upholsterers' occupations; combined rate of \$1.69.

A large majority of the job averages in the wood

furniture areas surveyed advanced between 20 and 50 percent in the 2-year period since October 1945, the date of a previous Bureau of Labor Statistics survey. Expressed in hourly pay, the greatest gains occurred in Grand Rapids, where averages for most jobs advanced between 30 and 45 cents an hour. In the upholstered furniture branch, gains in hourly pay over October 1945 were comparable to those for similar jobs in wood furniture. The greatest variations in the extent to which earnings had increased were found among upholsterers, whose earnings in many cases were based on incentive pay plans.

### Supplementary Wage Practices

Upholstered furniture establishments, with few exceptions, had workweek schedules of 35 hours in New York and 40 hours in the other 3 areas surveyed. A 40-hour schedule was also generally reported in wood furniture establishments located in the Los Angeles, Martinsville, and Winston-Salem-High Point areas, whereas schedules of 44 or more hours were found in the majority of the establishments in the 6 additional areas covered. Establishments with schedules exceeding 40 hours for men often had shorter workweeks for women plant workers.

Paid vacation policies allowing 1 week after a year of service were customary in both branches

of the industry in most areas. Exceptions, with a majority of the plants reporting no formal policies for plant workers, were the Winston-Salem-High Point area in both industry branches, and the Morganton-Lenoir area in wood furniture; in New York City upholstered furniture plants, 2-week vacations were provided in a majority of the plants. Many plants allowing 1 week after a year of service increased the time to 2 weeks after longer service, usually after 5 years. Most of these plants were located in Chicago, Los

Angeles, Fitchburg (Mass.), Grand Rapids, and Jasper-Tell City (Ind.).

In addition to paid vacations, New York City establishments allowed both plant and office workers from 6 to 10 paid holidays. Establishments in other areas usually allowed 6 days for office workers. Both types of establishments in most cases also reported 6 days allowed to plant workers in Chicago; 2 days in Los Angeles; and in wood furniture, 1 to 2 days in Morganton-Lenoir. In other areas few firms reported paid holidays for plant workers.