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FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



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WPA DEFENSE INDUSTRIES EMPLOYMENT REGISTER LISTS 150,000 JOBLESS SKILLED WORKERS.

The insistent demand for skilled labor in the national defense program has left virtually untouched some 150,000 experienced mechanics and other industrial production workers who are now on WPA rolls or are unemployed and certified as eligible to WPA, Howard O. Hunter, Acting Commissioner of Work Projects, said today in announcing an inventory of the WPA Defense Industries Employment Register.

In addition there are 154,000 with partial skills who can be quickly trained and still another 31,000 who are now undergoing training in defense occupations on the nation-wide Vocational Training Project.

These figures were arrived at, Mr. Hunter said, as a result of a check by each State WPA Administrator of all skilled and potentially skilled workers in their files of persons certified to WPA.

"In a sense, this is a hand-picked list," Mr. Hunter declared. "We started to assemble this register several months ago. There has been sufficient time to check the qualifications of each man whose name appears on it. In many cases former employers were consulted, and where the person had been employed on a WPA project, his performance and work record were taken into consideration. The register is kept up to date by constant revision.

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"Those in training, or eligible for training, are no less important to the nation's labor supply than those already skilled. We have found during the last eight months that there is a very active demand for men being trained on the National Vocational Training Project for Defense Workers. Most of them get jobs within a few weeks after their training is completed, and in some instances even while they are still in training. As rapidly as their places on the training project are vacated, new men move in.

"The names, addresses and occupations of these workers are available to employers either through their local WPA or U. S. Employment Service offices. It is hoped that under the impetus of National Employment Week many of them will find jobs for which they are suited."

A complete file of information on the work experience of each person certified to WPA is maintained in each WPA district office. This file contains data as to education, length of experience in different jobs, special training, avocations, general health and other relevant facts. Names were selected from this file in accordance with a list of approximately 150 mechanical occupations compiled by the National Defense Commission as those in which the greatest labor needs exist, and a few additional occupations for which there is a special demand in a local defense plant.

Mr. Hunter pointed out that the total of 151,323 names appearing on the register as already possessing various skills by no means exhausts the number of skilled persons on or certified to the WPA. Only those possessing the skills included in the list of occupations prepared by the National Defense Commission or requested by

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local defense industries have been included in the Defense Industries Employment Register. Few, if any, occupations in the building trades, for example, general construction work, technical or white collar pursuits have been included.

The 154,027 persons listed as suitable for vocational training and the 31,177 listed as already enrolled in such courses represent, Mr. Hunter explained, a group of partially skilled workers who need only a small amount of training or "refresher" experience to become skilled.

Many of these, for example, formerly worked in industries which either did not revive after the depression or which migrated to other sections of the country. The thousands of stranded textile workers in New England are typical of this group, he said. Their knowledge and experience with machines for making textiles can, with training, be redirected to machines for making guns or motors or ammunition.

Another important group among these potentially skilled workers, Mr. Hunter said, are the more proficient "handy men" who have an innate talent for handling tools and machines but who have never had the opportunity to develop the knack. Enrollment on the National Vocational Training Project for Defense Workers already has transformed thousands of these "handy men" into capable mechanical workers in industry.

The average age of those on the defense industries register is believed to be two or three years lower than the WPA as a whole. A recent study showed, however, that approximately one-half of all

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workers on WPA had, before becoming unemployed, spent as much as five years with a single employer, indicating, he said, a comparatively high degree of employment stability.

(A table is attached showing, by states, the number of persons who are skilled, receiving vocational training or suitable for training on the WPA Defense Industries Employment Register.)

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NUMBER OF PERSONS INCLUDED IN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIES EMPLOYMENT REGISTER
 QUALIFIED FOR EMPLOYMENT IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES, SUITABLE
 FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND ASSIGNED TO TRAINING
 COURSES, BY STATE - April 9, 1941
 (Subject to Revision)

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WPA Region and State	Number of Persons In- cluded in the Defense Industries Register Qualified for Employ- ment in Defense Industries	Persons Currently Assigned to Vocational Training Courses	Persons Suitable For Vocational Training Courses
CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES	<u>151,323</u>	<u>31,177</u>	<u>154,027</u>
REGION I - TOTAL	<u>7,600</u>	<u>1,535</u>	<u>10,938</u>
Connecticut	2,992	208	1,594
Maine	388	214	1,641
Massachusetts	3,400	902	4,871
New Hampshire	284	153	725
Rhode Island	400	52	1,876
Vermont	136	6	231
REGION II - TOTAL	<u>25,544</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>27,171</u>
Delaware	568	73	45
District of Columbia	513	267	529
Maryland	571	226	730
New Jersey	2,030	421	2,205
New York - Total	<u>15,948</u>	<u>3,371</u>	<u>10,823</u>
New York City	8,936	1,793	1,873
New York (Excl. N.Y.C.)	6,962	1,578	8,950
Pennsylvania	5,914	3,190	12,839
REGION III - TOTAL	<u>14,203</u>	<u>3,343</u>	<u>18,472</u>
Florida	3,682	425	1,063
Georgia	878	672	2,829
Kentucky	671	375	2,109
North Carolina	3,152	244	936
South Carolina	3,301	243	3,037
Tennessee	2,060	1,035	7,500
Virginia	459	349	998
REGION IV - TOTAL	<u>64,325</u>	<u>8,969</u>	<u>42,348</u>
Illinois	25,033	2,848	13,491
Indiana	5,205	711	4,559
Michigan	16,053	2,218	4,396
Missouri	5,884	837	7,391
Ohio	7,865	1,832	7,688
West Virginia	4,285	523	4,823
REGION V - TOTAL	<u>11,226</u>	<u>2,815</u>	<u>13,746</u>
Iowa	539	221	958
Kansas	1,032	213	1,471
Minnesota	1,249	439	2,744
Nebraska	651	91	2,272
North Dakota	113	108	1,233
South Dakota	365	59	1,010
Wisconsin	7,277	1,684	4,058
REGION VI - TOTAL	<u>15,656</u>	<u>3,171</u>	<u>27,523</u>
Alabama	2,158	336	1,074
Arkansas	876	108	2,183
Louisiana	8,161	736	7,248
Mississippi	456	577	1,330
Oklahoma	1,570	242	1,892
Texas	<u>2,435</u>	1,172	13,796
REGION VII - TOTAL	<u>2,835</u>	<u>1,454</u>	<u>8,482</u>
Colorado	353	280	1,120
Idaho	509	201	665
Montana	160	92	695
New Mexico	23	127	493
Utah	1,051	410	1,179
Washington	641	226	4,191
Wyoming	98	118	139
REGION VIII - TOTAL	<u>9,934</u>	<u>2,342</u>	<u>5,347</u>
Arizona	787	83	194
California - Total	<u>7,686</u>	<u>1,811</u>	<u>4,369</u>
Northern California	2,941	581	2,328
Southern California	4,745	1,230	2,041
Nevada	26	5	23
Oregon	1,335	443	761
Hawaii/A/	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	1,902	331	374

A/ Data not available.

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 Division of Statistics