UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary

WOMEN'S BUREAU MARY ANDERSON, Director

# Hours and Earnings in Certain Men's -Wear Industries 

SEAMLESS HOSIERY



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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

## United States Department of Labor

Women's Bureau
Washington, July 18, 1938
Madam: I have the honor to transmit a report on earnings and hours in the seamless-hosiery industry, one of the surveys made by this Bureau in order to present current wage data for the use of the this Bureau in order to present current wage data for the use of the Division of Public Contracts in determining prevailing minimum wages. Though the 13 men's-wear industries surveyed constitute a closely related group, printing of these data in several pam has been decided upon as a measure of economy in distribution. The report was written by Arthur T. Sutherland, of the editori division.
Respectfully submitted

# HOURS AND EARNINGS IN CERTAIN MEN'S-WEAR INDUSTRIES 

SEAMLESS HOSIERY

## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the procedure established under the Public Contracts Act by the Secretary of Labor, who is charged with the administration of the Act, the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor made a survey of wages and hours of work in the hosiery industry. The survey covered factories producing seamless hosiery, as the Government's purchases consist largely of this type of product. An analysis of the information obtained was subtype of product. An analysis of Contracts. ${ }^{1}$
mitted to the Division of Public Contracts. 60,000 emplovees in the seamless-hosiery industry, ${ }^{2}$ or well over two-fifths of the number reported by the Census of Manufactures for 1935 for both branchesseamless and full-fashioned - of the industry. The geographic distribution of the industry, as given in a report of the National Recovery Administration, is "that North Carolina and Pennsylvania are by far the most important hosiery-producing States. Together they account for a little more than half the total output. In 1934 North Carolina produced about three times as many seamless hose as Pennsylvania, but only about one-fourth as many full-fashioned.
After North Carolina, the most important States turning out seamless hose are, in order of their importance, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, New York, Wisconsin, and Illinois." ${ }^{3}$
The Women's Bureau study covered 158 establishments in 12 States, as follows: Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. At the time of the survey these firms employed 30,368 workers, or approximately one-half the number reported for the seamless-hosiery industry in 1935 by the National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers. The largest numbers were reported for North Carolina with 9,894 , Tennessee with 6,304 , Pennsylvania with 3,252 , and Georgia with 2,576 . In each of the other States fewer than 2,000 workers were reported. In this report the pay-roll data for Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia have been combined, because too few establishments were scheduled in each for 1 A minimum-wage determination of the Secretary of Labor, which took fffect August 2 , 1937 , states that
85 conts an hour, or 514 for 440 -hour week, shall be the minimum wage for employees on Covernment con
 tracts in the seam less hosiery industry
iNational
NOtion A socilition of Hosiery 'N. N. National Recovery Administration. Division of Review, Eviconce Study Series, No. 18, p. 15 $85150^{\circ}-38$
separate tabulation. The scope of the survey is shown in the summary following.

| State | Number of establishments | Number of employees | Number of | Women |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Number | Percent of total |
| Total | 158 | 30,368 | 19,373 | 20, 995 | (1) |
| Georgia |  | 2,576 |  | 1,766 |  |
| New Hampshire-.. |  | $\begin{array}{r}\text { 2 } \\ 1 \\ 1,079 \\ \hline 17\end{array}$ | ${ }_{258}^{332}$ | 647 759 | ${ }_{74.8}^{66.1}$ |
| North Carolina----- | 67 | 9, 894 | 3,303 | 6,591 | 66.6 |
| Pennsylvania.--- | 33 | 3, 252 | 617 | 2, 635 | 81.0 |
| Tennessee-------- | 18 | 6, 804 | 2,123 | 4, 181 | 66.3 |
| Wisconsin ----- | 6 | 1, 1,087 | ${ }_{292}$ | 1, 795 | ${ }_{73} 1$ |
| Other States ${ }^{\text {I }}$ | 8 | 3,407 | 11, 100 | 2, 307 |  |

## ${ }_{2}$ Includer 1 establishment in Illinois, 2 each in Indiana and West Virginia, and 3 in Ohio.

It is apparent from the table that the great majority of the workers were women. The proportion varied from 66 or 67 percent in New Hampshire, Tennessee, and North Carolina, to 81 percent in Pennsylvania.
In all cases the data used in this study are for a pay period considered by the plant management as representative of normal operation. Due to incomplete or inadequate records in some plants, the numbers of workers for whom the different types of information were reported varied. The amount of earnings for a pay period was reported for 29,438 employees in the 158 establishments. These workers were engaged in the manufacture, handling, or shipping of the product and do not include office or custodial workers. Of the group covered, 20,866 were women and 8,572 were men. Data were not reported for men in the two West Virginia establishments.
The number of hours worked in the pay period was reported for 19,902 workers in 95 establishments, and for each of these workers hourly earnings were computed by dividing the week's earnings by the number of hours worked.
The occupation was reported for 18,926 workers employed in 90 establishments and representing all the States but New Hampshire. The principal occupational groups for which separate tabulations have been prepared are knitters $(4,928)$, loopers $(3,757)$, boarders $(1,585)$, and machine fixers (889). Women comprised the greater proportion of the knitters, the loopers, and the residual group not shown, but the vast majority of the boarders and all the machine fixers were men.

## EARNINGS AND HOURS

## Week's earnings.

The average week's earnings of the 29,438 workers, regardless of the number of hours worked, were $\$ 13.15$. Week's earnings were considerably higher in the more northern and midwestern States, in each of which they were above the general average for all workers, ranging from $\$ 14.35$ in the group of "other States" and $\$ 14.75$ in Pennsylvania to $\$ 16.60$ in New York. In each of the southern

States the week's earnings were below the general average- $\$ 12.95$ in North Carolina, $\$ 12.85$ in Virginia, $\$ 11.65$ in Georgia, and a low of $\$ 11.50$ in Tennessee. In the table following are shown the week's earnings of the employees reported.

Table 1.-Average and distribution of week's earnings, by sex and State

| State | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \text { Num- } \\ \text { ber of } \\ \text { em- } \\ \text { ploy- } \\ \text { ees } \end{gathered}\right.$ | Aver-agewear'searn-ings 1 | Percent of employees who earned- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Un- } \\ & \text { der } \\ & \$ 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 5, \\ & \text { un- } \\ & \text { der } \\ & \$ 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\$ 10$, un- der der $\$ 15$ | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 15, \\ & \text { un- } \\ & \text { der } \\ & \$ 202 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 20, \\ & \text { un- } \\ & \text { der } \\ & \$ 25 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 25 \\ \text { and } \\ \text { over } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \begin{array}{l} \text { Un- } \\ \text { der } \\ \$ 8 \end{array} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Un- } \\ & \text { der } \\ & \$ 12 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Un- } \\ & \text { der } \\ & \$ 16 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 16 \\ \text { and } \\ \text { over } \end{gathered}$ | \$18 and over |
| ALL EMPLOYEES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 29, 438 | \$13.15 | 7.3 | 22.6 | 39.7 | 20.3 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 18.4 | 44.3 | 75.9 | 24.1 | 15.4 |
| Georgia | 2, 574 | 11. 65 | 7.7 | 31.2 | 43.9 | 10.8 | 3.5 | 2.9 |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Hampshire. | 979 | 15.60 | 5.8 | 19.1 | 23.9 | 27.1 | 7.9 | 11.3 | 15.3 | 34.8 | 60.4 | ${ }_{39.6}^{10.3}$ | 28.9 |
| North Caroilina | 9,875 | 12.95 | 1.8 8.8 | 12.8 | 30.9 <br> 37.8 | 31.5 19.4 | 14.9 5.7 | 8.2 4.9 | $\stackrel{6.4}{60.9}$ | 22.2 47.0 | 54.3 | ${ }_{24}^{45.7}$ | 33.7 |
| Pennsylvania | 3, 242 | 14.75 | 1.8 | 14.4 | 42.8 | 29.7 | 6. 6 | 4.8 | 7.7 | 28.8 | 68.2 | ${ }_{31.8}^{24.3}$ | 18.6 |
| Virginia | 6, 1,846 | 11. 12.85 | 12.1 6.0 | ${ }_{22.2}^{30.6}$ | 37.4 44.9 | 13.0 | 3.6 <br> 3.2 <br>  | 3.4 | 28.2 | 56.2 | 84.7 | 15.3 | 9.6 |
| Wisconsin ----- | 1,049 | ${ }^{15.85}$ | 6. | 7.6 | 36.6 | 42.0 | 10.8 | 2. ${ }^{2} 1$ |  | 45.2 |  | 19.3 44.9 | 10.7 26.2 |
| Other States ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 2, 674 | 14.35 | 3. 7 | 13.8 | 48.6 | 23.2 | ${ }_{5.3}$ | 5. 4 | 9:2 | 14.9 34.9 | ${ }_{73.7}$ | 26.3 | 26.2 16.9 |
| WOMEN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 20, 866 | \$11.70 | 8.6 | 25.8 | 43.4 | 19.0 | 2.8 | 0.3 | 21.3 | 50.5 | 84.3 | 15.7 | 7.5 |
| Georgia -------- | 1,765 | 10.40 | 8.8 | 34.8 | ${ }^{46.4}$ | 9.2 |  |  | 24.1 |  | 93.7 | 6.3 |  |
| New Hampshire-- | ${ }_{6}^{647}$ | 12.30 14.15 | 7.4 2.4 2.4 | ${ }^{25.8}$ | 37.2 | ${ }_{34}^{25.7}$ | 3.2 |  | 20.1 | ${ }^{46.5}$ | 77.0 | 23.0 | 12.5 |
| North Carolina--- | 6,564 | 11. 10 | 10.9 | 29.0 | 40.7 | ${ }^{34.1}$ | ${ }_{2.9}$ | . 2 | 26.4 | ${ }_{56.7}^{28.5}$ | 69.2 | 30.9 | ${ }_{6}^{17.4}$ |
| Pennsylvania |  | 13. 50 |  | 16.1 | 48.7 | ${ }^{29.1}$ | 3. 2 | . 9 |  | 32.6 | 76.8 | 23.2 | 10.3 |
| Virngessee | 4,121 | 11.15 | 14.9 6.9 | 33.8 25.1 | 38.0 47.5 | 11.8 | 1.4 | . 1 | 33.4 | 62.3 | 91.4 | 8.6 | 3.5 |
| Wisconsin | 1,314 | 11.70 | 6. ${ }^{\text {¢ }}$ | 25.1 8.7 | 47.5 39.7 | 18.3 40.2 | 1.8 <br> 9.6 <br> 1 | 1. 4 | 19.5 3 10 | 50.3 16.3 | 86.7 | 13.3 | 5.7 |
| Other States ${ }^{2}$ - | 2,307 | 12.75 | 4.2 | 15.9 | 54.2 | 22.5 | 3.1 | 1.2 | 10.5 | 40.0 | 82.2 | 17.8 | 24.1 8.6 |
| MEN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 8,572 | \$16.80 | 4.3 | 14.7 | 30.6 | 23.5 | 12.1 | 14.8 | 11.1 | 29.3 | 55.4 | 44.6 | 34. |
| Georgia |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15.3 | 42.4 |  |  |  |
| New Hampshire-- | ${ }^{332}$ | ${ }_{23.85}^{22.10}$ | 2.7 | 6.0 1.6 | 12.7 5.5 | ${ }_{24.0}^{29.8}$ | ${ }^{16.9}$ | 31.9 30.3 | 6.0 | 12.0 | 28.0 | 72.0 | 60.8 |
| North Carolina--- | 3, 311 | 16.70 | 4.3 | 12.4 | 32.2 | 25.9 | 11.3 | 14.0 | 10.1 | 27.7 | $1{ }^{10.2}$ | 89.8 | ${ }_{33.7}^{81.5}$ |
| Pennsylvania----- | 617 | 19.90 | 1.3 | 7.3 | 17.7 | 32.3 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 5.0 | 12.3 | 31.6 | 68.4 | 53.3 |
| Tennessee-.---- | 2, 532 | 14.25 15.65 | 6.5 3.8 1.8 | ${ }_{15}^{24.2}$ | 36.2 | ${ }_{25}^{15.2}$ | 8.0 | 9.9 | 17.9 | 44.0 | 71.3 | 28.7 | 22.2 |
| Wisconsin | 280 | 16.85 | 1.1 | 4.6 | ${ }_{28.2}$ | ${ }_{47.1}$ | 8. 13.9 | 10.9 5.0 | 10.0 4.6 | 32.7 | 65.8 47.5 | 34.2 52.5 | ${ }_{31.8}^{23.3}$ |
| Other States ${ }^{\text {a }}$ - | 367 | 24. 10 | . 8 | . 5 | 13.6 | 27.8 | 19.1 | 38.1 | 1.1 | 3. ${ }^{1}$ | 20.7 | ${ }_{79.3}$ | 69.5 |

1 The mean-the simpie arithmetic average.
2 Inliniois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.
${ }_{3}$ Date
Considering all employees as a group, it may be seen from table 1 that two-fifths of the workers earned $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15$, between one-fifth and one-fourth ( 23 percent) earned $\$ 5$ and under $\$ 10$, and one-fifth and one-fourth ( 23 percent) earned $\$ 5$ and under $\$ 10$, and
one-fifth earned $\$ 15$ and under $\$ 20$. Only one-tenth of the entire one-fifth earned $\$ 15$ and un
group earned as much as $\$ 20$.
In each of the States but New York and Wisconsin, the largest group of workers, ranging from 29 percent in New Hampshire to 45 percent in Virginia, had earnings of $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15$; in four of these States-Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia-the next
largest group, ranging from 22 to 31 percent, earned $\$ 5$ and under \$10, but in New Hampshire and Pennsylvania the second largest group had earnings of $\$ 15$ and under $\$ 20$. The proportion of workers with earnings of $\$ 16$ or more varied from less than one-fifth in Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia to two-fifths and more in New Hampshire, New York, and Wisconsin. Onė-fourth or more of the workers in New Hampshire, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee had earnings of less than $\$ 10$.
Women comprised much the larger proportion of the employees in seamless hosiery, and their wage level was very much lower than the wage level of men. The average week's earnings of all women combined were only $\$ 11.70$. The figure varied from $\$ 10.15$ in Tennessee and $\$ 10.40$ in Georgia to $\$ 15.45$ in Wisconsin. Other States with averages well above the figure for all States were New York with $\$ 14.15$ and Pennsylvania with $\$ 13.50$.
The table indicates that the week's earnings of large proportions of the women in seamless hosiery were very low. In four States-Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia-from one-half to twothirds of the women, and in all the other States but Wisconsin more than one-fourth of the women, had earnings of less than $\$ 12$; in fact, from one-fifth to one-third of the women in the four southern States and in New Hampshire earned less than \$8. The much higher wage level in Wisconsin and New York is shown by the large proportions, 42 and 31 percent, respectively, with earnings of $\$ 16$ and over, in contrast to only 3 and 8 percent, respectively, with earnings below $\$ 8$.
The average week's earnings of the men amounted to $\$ 16.80$, or more than $\$ 5$ above the women's average. By State, the men's average ranged from $\$ 14.25$ in Tennessee and $\$ 14.40$ in Georgia to $\$ 23.85$ in New York. The difference in the wage levels of men and of women varied considerably among the States, but in every case the men's average was above that of women. The least difference was in Wisconsin, where the men's figure exceeded the women's by only $\$ 1.40$, but the differential favoring men was as much as $\$ 9.80$ in New Hampshire and $\$ 9.70$ in New York, and ranged from about $\$ 4$ to almost $\$ 6.50$ in the other States.

In general, small proportions of the men had earnings of less than \$8; the largest proportions with such earnings were 18 percent in Tennessee, 15 percent in Georgia, and 10 percent in Virginia and North Carolina. In the remaining States only 6 percent or less earned so little. Earnings of $\$ 16$ or over were much more common. From 45 to 90 percent in North Carolina, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and New York were paid $\$ 16$ or more; in Georgia and Tennessee, however, only 29 percent had such earnings, and in Virginia only 34 percent.

## Hours worked.

Though actual earnings are of first importance to wage earners, a thorough analysis of their problems must include time worked. Because of inadequate records in many instances, the number of hours worked by each employee was not available in all plants. Table 2 gives the data as to hours worked by the 19,902 workers, employed in 95 establishments, for whom this information was reported.

Considering all employees as a group, it is apparent that large proportions worked short hours in the week recorded; nearly one-half ( 46 percent) of the 19,902 employees worked less than 40 hours. Approximately equal numbers worked 40 hours and more than 40 hours, the proportion being just over one-fourth of the workers in each case.

Among the States, Tennessee had the largest proportion of employees who worked less than 40 hours, 62 percent; no other State exceeded 46 percent. The large number in Tennessee working short hours probably was partly responsible for the low week's earnings in that State, since its hourly earnings (see page 6) are not the lowest. Other States in which a substantial number of the employees worked under 40 hours were North Carolina with 46 percent and New York with 45 percent. In the remaining States the proportion working under 40 hours ranged from 35 to 40 percent. New Hampshire, with 40 percent exceeding 40 hours of work, and Wisconsin, with 42 percent working 40 hours, were the only States in which the largest group of employees worked 40 hours or more, though in Georgia and Pennsylvania the groups working more than 40 hours were nearly as large as the groups working less than 40 hours.

That short hours do not necessarily mean low wages is evident in the case of New York, where average earnings were the highest though as many as 45 percent of the employees worked less than 40 hours and 21 percent worked 40 hours. In Georgia practically two-fifths of the employees worked more than 40 hours, but average week's earnings ranked next to the lowest among the States.

Table 2.-Hours worked during the week, by sex and State

| State | All employees |  |  |  | Women |  |  |  | Men ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underset{\text { Ner }}{\text { Num- }}$ | Percent who worked- |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Num- } \\ \text { ber } \end{gathered}$ | Percent who worked- |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Num- } \\ \text { ber } \end{gathered}$ | Percent who worked- |  |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \text { 40 } \\ & \text { hours } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 40 \\ \text { hours } \end{gathered}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \mathrm{Over} \\ \text { 40 } \\ \text { hours } \end{gathered}\right.$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & 40 \\ & \text { hours } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 40 \\ \text { hours } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l} \mathrm{Over} \\ \text { 40 } \\ \text { hours } \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \text { 40 } \\ & \text { hours } \end{aligned}$ | $\stackrel{40}{\text { hours }}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l} \mathrm{O} \text { ver } \\ \text { 40 } \\ \text { hours } \end{array}$ |
| Total | 19,902 | 46.2 | 26.4 | 27.4 | 14, 173 | 49.7 | 26.3 | 24.0 | 5,729 | 37.5 | 26.8 | 35.8 |
| Georgia | 2, 324 | 39.8 | ${ }^{21.3}$ | 38.9 | 1,604 | 42. 9 | 21.8 | 35.3 | ${ }_{7}^{720}$ | 32.8 | 20.3 | 46.9 |
| New Hampshire-- | ${ }_{993}^{976}$ | 35.3 45.3 | 24.6 20.5 |  |  | 43.0 56.3 | 24.1 | 32.8 25.0 | 330 | 20.3 12.4 | ${ }_{26.1}^{25.5}$ | 54.2 61.4 |
| North Carolina.-- | 3, 111 | 46.1 | 31.1 | 22.8 | 1,919 | 54.0 | 30.3 | 15.7 | 1,192 | 33.3 | 32.4 | 34.3 |
| Pennsylvania | 2,430 | 38.2 | 24.7 | 37.2 | 1,935 | 42.5 | 22.4 | 35. 1 | 495 | 21.2 | ${ }^{33.5}$ | ${ }^{45.3}$ |
| Tennesseo- | 4, 572 1,778 | 61.7 39.0 | 28.1 | 12.0 | 2, ${ }_{1}^{2682}$ | 62.8 41.5 | ${ }_{25.5}^{27.8}$ | - $\begin{array}{r}\text { 9.4 } \\ 33.0\end{array}$ | 1,590 | 59.5 32.7 | ${ }_{34.4}^{23.5}$ | ${ }_{32.9}^{17.0}$ |
| Wisconsin. | 1,047 | 35.4 | 41.7 | 22.8 | 1,769 | 28.1 | 48.6 | ${ }^{23.3}$ | 278 | 55.8 | 22.7 | ${ }_{21.6}$ |
| Other States ${ }^{2}$ | 2, 671 | 45.9 | 23.2 | 30.9 | 2, 307 | 51.3 | 23.7 | 25.0 | 364 | 11.5 | 20.1 | 68.4 |

## 1 Data for men in West Virginia not obtained. : Ilinoisis, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

From the foregoing it is apparent that men, more than women, worked the longer hours. In each State with one exception (Wisconsin), a larger proportion of women than of men worked less than 40 hours, and with two exceptions (Wisconsin and Virginia) a smaller proportion of women than of men worked more than 40 hours. In Wisconsin nearly one-half ( 49 percent) of the women worked 40 hours, and more than one-fifth ( 23 percent) worked over 40 hours.

In the same State the largest group of men, 56 percent, worked less than 40 hours, and only 22 percent worked more than 40.

## Average hourly earnings.

When hourly earnings were computed, by dividing the week's earnings of each individual by the number of hours he or she worked, an indication of the basic wage rate was secured. Hourly earnings were computed for the 19,902 employees for whom hours worked were reported. The average for the entire group amounted to 36.1 cents. Table 3, showing the data as to hourly earnings, indicates that relatively high wages were paid in New York, with an average of 41.7 tively high wages were paid in New York, with an average of 41.7
cents, and in Wisconsin, with an average of 40.2 cents. Lowest cents, and in Wisconsin, with an average of 40.2 cents. Lowest
earnings were found in Georgia, Virginia, and Tennessee, the averages being $30.4,33.4$, and 34.4 cents, respectively.
Individual earnings per hour ranged from less than 10 cents to more than $\$ 1.50$, but the heaviest concentration was at 30 and under 40 cents, 47 percent having such earnings. In several States there were large proportions in the 5 -cent interval of 30 and under 35 cents; these were Georgia, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia, with from 24 to 41 percent in this class. In each of these but Georgia the next largest group of workers, ranging from 17 to 22 percent, had earnings in the interval of 35 and under 40 cents; in Georgia the second largest group, 19 percent, had earnings of 25 and under 30 cents. The chief group in Wisconsin, 23 percent, earned 35 and under 40 cents, followed by 21 percent with earnings in the 5 -cent interval just above. There was less concentration in New York than in any other State, and in each of the 5-cent intervals from 30 and under 35 cents to 50 and under 55 cents were from 11 to 15 percent of the New York workers.
In each State a substantial proportion of the workers had hourly earnings below 25 cents. Only in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were there fewer than one-tenth of the workers with such low earnings, and as many as 15 percent in Tennessee, 16 percent in Virginia, and 32 percent in Georgia were in that earnings class.

Table 3.-Average and distribution of hourly earnings, by sex and State

| $\underset{\substack{\text { Hourly earnings } \\ \text { (cents) }}}{\text {. }}$ | Total | $\begin{gathered} \text { Geor- } \\ \text { gia } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { New } \\ \text { Hamp- } \\ \text { shire } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { New } \\ & \text { York } \end{aligned}$ | North Carolin | $\begin{gathered} \text { Penn- } \\ \text { syl- } \\ \text { vania } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ten- } \\ & \text { nes- } \\ & \text { see } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Vir- } \\ & \text { ginia } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Wis- } \\ & \text { con- } \\ & \text { sin } \end{aligned}$ | Other <br> States (1) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { wom- } \\ \text { en } \end{gathered}$ | Tota $\underset{\text { (2) }}{\text { men }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of employ ees with hours Avorage hourly | 19,902 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| earnings ${ }^{3}$ (cents)- | 36.1 | 30.4 | 39.3 | 41.7 | 38.3 | 37.6 | 34.4 | 33.4 | 40.2 | 37.2 | 33.3 | 43.1 |
| Percent of employees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20, under 25 | 8.5 11.0 | 18.0 19.0 | 7.4 10.2 | 7.8 <br> 8.2 | 7.9 12.5 | 6.6 9.6 | 7.7 10 10 | 7.3 13 13 | 5.3 5.8 5 | 6.0 | 10.3 | 4. 1 |
| 30 , under 35-. | 28.3 | 24. 4 | 25.0 | 14.2 | 18.5 | 26. 5 | ${ }_{34.5}$ | 13.8 | 5.9 17.1 | ${ }_{51}^{5.8}$ | ${ }^{12.8}$ | ${ }^{6.6}$ |
| 35 , under 40 | 18.7 | 10.9 | 17.4 | 13.8 | 18.9 | 22.2 | 18.2 | 20.5 | 23.4 | ${ }_{22.2}^{41.8}$ | 19.0 | 18.0 |
| 40 , under 45 -- | 11.3 | 5.2 | 10.9 | 15.1 | 12.1 | 14.5 | 10.9 | 8.0 | 20.7 | 10.8 | 10.5 | 13.3 |
| 50, under over-- | 6.1 10.6 | 2. 6.4 | 8.5 16.9 | 12.4 26.0 | 9.1 15.3 | 7.4 10.4 | 3.5 7.4 | 2.8 5.0 | 12.8 14.4 | 5.3 8.8 | 4.9 4.5 | $\begin{array}{r}8.9 \\ 8.7 \\ \hline\end{array}$ |

1 Hlinois, Indiana, Okio, and West Virginia.
, Data for men in West Vircinia not obtained.
Data for men in West Virginia not obtained.
The mean-the simple arithmetic average.

States in which a fairly large proportion of the workers had earnings at a relatively high level were New York with 38 percent, Wisconsin with 27 percent, New Hampshire with 25 percent, and North Carolina with 24 percent with earnings of 45 cents or more. Less than onetenth in Georgia and Virginia and only 11 percent in Tennessee had such earnings.
Table 3 indicates also the difference in the wage levels of men and women. The average hourly earnings of all women were 33.3 cents. The largest group, 31 percent, had earnings in the interval of 30 and under 35 cents, but as many as 30 percent had earnings below 30 cents; less than 5 percent earned 50 cents and more. The average hourly earnings of men were 43.1 cents, but even among the men there were 13 percent with earnings below 30 cents, and 21 percent with earnings of 30 and under 35 cents. More than one-fourth of the men, however, earned 50 cents or more.

That women's and men's earnings varied considerably among the States is shown in the summary following, which gives the average hourly earnings separately for women and men in each State. In every State the men's average earnings exceeded the women's average, the smallest differential being 5.1 cents in Wisconsin and the largest the smallest differential being 5.1 cents in Wisconsin and the largest
16.7 cents in New Hampshire. Women's average ranged from 27.7 16.7 cents in New Hampshire. Women's average ranged from 27.7
cents in Georgia to 38.5 cents in New York and 38.9 cents in Wiscents in. Georgia to 38.5 cents in New York and 38.9 cents in Wis-
consin. For men the average varied from 36.3 cents in Georgia to 51.4 cents in New York.

| State | Women |  | Men 1 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Average } \\ & \text { hourly } \\ & \text { earnings }{ }^{2} \\ & \text { (cents) } \end{aligned}$ | Number | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Average } \\ & \text { hourly } \\ & \text { earnings 2 } \\ & \text { (cents) } \end{aligned}$ |
| Total | 14, 173 | 33.3 | 5,729 | 43.1 |
| Georgia- | 1,604 |  |  |  |
| New York | ${ }_{7}^{646}$ | 33.7 <br> 38.5 | 330 249 | 50.4 51.4 |
| North Carolina | 1,919 | 34.5 | 1,192 | ${ }_{44.5}$ |
| Pennsylvania-...- | 1,935 | 35. 3 | 495 | 46.3 |
| Virginia--- | - 1,267 | 31.8 <br> 31.0 | 1,590 | 39.4 39.6 |
| Wisconsin. | 769 | 38.9 | 278 | 44.0 |
| Other States ${ }^{3}$ | 2,307 | 34.3 | 364 | 55.0 |

${ }_{2}^{1}$ Data for men in West Virginia not obtained. ${ }_{3}^{2}$ The mean-the simple arithmetic average.
${ }^{\text {Ilinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia. }}$

## Average hourly earnings and occupation.

In each State where the material was available to the Bureau's agents, records of the employees' occupations were taken in addition to the records of earnings and hours worked. Average hourly earnings have been computed for each of these workers. The total number for whom this information was reported was 18,926 , and it included all the States surveyed but New Hampshire. Tabulations have been prepared for only the more important occupational groups, as follows: Knitters with 4,928 , loopers with 3,757 , boarders with 1,585, and machine fixers with 889. The fact that data were not reported for men in West Virginia probably affects to some extent the boarder and machine-fixer groups, as the latter is composed solely of men and the
boarder group almost wholly of men. The other groups, as stated previously, are chiefly women.
Hourly earnings showed a very wide range in each occupational group, but Georgia, already shown to rank below other States in hourly earnings, is lowest also for each of these occupations. In all States without exception machine fixers had the highest earnings, boarders the second highest, loopers the next, and knitters the lowest. In the summary following are shown, by State, the average hourly earnings of men and women in these four occupations for each group of 50 or more:

| State ${ }^{\text {P }}$ | $\left\|\begin{array}{c} \text { Number in } \\ \text { Nece fout } \\ \text { occuation } \\ \text { shown } \end{array}\right\|$ | Boarders | Loopers | Knitters | ${ }_{\substack{\text { Machine } \\ \text { fixers }}}^{\text {a }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number reported.----------------- | 11, 159 | 1,585 | 3,757 | 4,928 | 889 |
|  | Average hourly earnings 2 (cents) |  |  |  |  |
| Total. | 11,159 | 40.0 | 36.4 | 33.7 | 58.6 |
| Georsia | 1,4267 | 31.6 | 30.0 | 29.3 | 51.2 |
| North Carolina Pennsylvania | $\xrightarrow{1,775}$ | ${ }^{3} 9.3 .3$ |  | 40.7 <br> 37.4 <br> 35.5 | ${ }^{67.4}$ |
|  | 2,677 <br> 1,055 | 39.4 <br> 35.9 <br>  |  | 31.6 <br> 30.8 | ci. $\substack{54.7 \\ 58.9}$ |
| Wisconsin--s |  |  | ${ }_{4}^{41.4} 4$ |  |  |

[^0]
[^0]:    1. Excludes New Hampshire for which data were not obtained.

    The mean
    Illinoisos, Indiana, Indiana, ohio, and West Virginia.

