UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary

WOMEN'S BUREAU
MARY ANDERSON, Director

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

KNIT UNDERWEAR WOVEN COTTON UNDERWEAR



Bulletin of the Women's Bureau, No. 163-2

## Pamphlet

## CONTENTS

Getter of transmittal
Knit underwear
Earnings and hours
Week's earnings Hours worked
Average
Introduction
Earnings and hours
Week's earnings
Hours worked
Average hourly earning
Earnings in individual firms

## TABLES

 KNIT UNDERWEAR1. Number of establishments visited and number of men and women they employ, by State
Average and distribution of week's earnings, by State
2. Hours worked in the week recorded, by sex and State
3. Average and distribution of hourly earnings, by State
woven cotton underwear
4. Average and distribution of week's earnings, by State 3. Average and distribution of hourly earnings, by State

### 331.48872100973 suT

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

## United States Department of Labor,

Women's Bureau,
Washington, June 13, 1938
Madam: I have the honor to transmit a report on earnings and hours in the men's knit-underwear and woven-cotton-underwear industries, two of the surveys made by 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 pamphlets has been decided upon as a measure of economy in distribution
The reports were written by Arthur T. Sutherland, of the editorial division.

Respectfully submitted.
Mary Anderson, Director
Hon. Frances Perkins,
Secretary of Labor.

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

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This study of the men's-underwear industry, one of several surveys of men's-wear industries that come under the scope of the Public Contracts Act, was made by the Women's Bureau in order to furnish wage and hour data to the Division of Public Contracts set up to administer the act. ${ }^{1}$ The data were copied from the firms' pay rolls by agents of the Women's Bureau, and in each instance a pay period was selected that was considered by the management as one representative of normal factory operation. Only those plants were scheduled whose principal products were men's undergarments.
Because of the differences in the manufacturing processes, the data secured are divided according to whether the materials were knit or woven. In the knit-underwear section, comprising plants whose products consisted chiefly of knit union suits, drawers, shirts, athletic garments, and polo shirts, the fabric was knit and the garments were cut and fashioned on the premises. Some establishments had spinning departments and spun their own yarn, but, as these departments generally are classed with the cotton-textile industry, they have been omitted from this study.
The second section, woven underwear, comprises plants that man ufacture woven athletic underwear, pajamas, and other sleeping garments from woven fabrics prepared in other plants. Where a single plant was producing both types of garment, the departments were separated and are included in their respective divisions.

## KNIT UNDERWEAR

## INTRODUCTION

According to the Census of Manufactures for 1935, there were at that time 186 establishments with 34,930 employees in the knit-under wear industry. This number includes all establishments whose product was valued at $\$ 5,000$ or more. It includes boys', women's, misses' and children's garments, as well as men's. The census did not report figures by State. However, the location of establishments in this industry is shown in Davison's knit goods trade directory for 1935, according to which authority there were 230 firms making knit anklets and wristlets, union suits, and underwear. The most important States were Pennsylvania with 82 plants and New York with 43; Massachu-

[^0]$84812^{\circ}-38$
setts followed with 13 , and Illinois with 10 . In each of 9 States there were 5 to 9 plants, and in each of 10 others there were fewer than 5.
In the Women's Bureau survey data were obtained from 72 firms in 12 States-Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin. These establishments employed 16,921 workers, or approximately 48 percent of the number reported by the Bureau of the Census. As shown in the summary following, the largest group of the employees reported were in New York, 4,667, followed by Pennsylvania with 3,841 , and Tennessee with 3,153 . In this report Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio are combined as "other Midwest" and Alabama, Indiana, and Ohio are combined as "other Midwest" and Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina as "other South," because
were scheduled in each of these for separate tabulation.
were scheduled in each of these for separate tabulation
The great majority of the workers, 79 percent, were women; they comprised over 80 percent of the work force in Wisconsin, Pennsyl vania, and the group "other South," and were from 75 to 80 percent in the other State groups.

Table 1.-Number of establishments visited and number of men and women they employed, by State

| State | Number of establishments | Number of employees | Number of | Women |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Number | Percent of total |
| Total | 72 | 16,921 | 3,636 | 13,285 | 78.5 |
| Massachusetts |  |  | ${ }_{1}^{286}$ |  |  |
| New York---- | 19 27 | ¢, ${ }_{\text {4, } 667}^{3,841}$ | 1,1888 | 3,479 3 3 155 | ${ }_{82}^{74.5}$ |
| Tennessee.----- | 5 | ${ }_{3,153}^{3,841}$ | ${ }_{675}^{680}$ | 2,478 | ${ }_{78.6}$ |
| Virginia | 5 | 1,180 | 290 | , 890 | 75.4 |
| Wisconsin Other Midwest 1 - | ${ }_{5}$ | 1,490 | 58 | + 432 | 88.2 |
| Other South ${ }^{2}$ - | 3 | 860 | 165 | 695 | 80.8 |

1. Includes 2 establishments each in Indiana and Ohio, and 1 in Illinois.
${ }^{2}$ Includes 1 establishment each in Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina.

## EARNINGS AND HOURS

Though it is not always possible to obtain complete data concerning earnings and hours, this information was reported for the vast majority of the employees in the plants visited. Week's earnings were recorded or 16,386 workers, and the number of hours worked for 15,498 .

## Week's earnings.

The average week's earnings of all workers, regardless of the number of hours worked, amounted to $\$ 14.05$. The average of $\$ 16.10$ in Wisconsin was much the highest for any State. Also above the total were the averages for Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, and "other Midwest," which varied only from $\$ 14.50$ to $\$ 14.75$. The group "other South" had the lowest wages, their average being only $\$ 11.25$. Other relatively low averages were the $\$ 12.55$ for Tennessee and the $\$ 13.55$ for Virginia.

Table 2.-Average and distribution of week's earnings, by State

| Week's earnings | Total | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|} \hline \text { Mas- } \\ \text { sachu- } \\ \text { setts } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|} \hline \text { New } \\ \text { York } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Penn- } \\ & \text { syl- } \\ & \text { vania } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ten- } \\ & \text { nes- } \\ & \text { nee } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Vir- } \\ \text { ginia } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Wis- } \\ & \text { con- } \\ & \text { sin } \end{aligned}$ | Other Mid- <br> west | Other South 2 | Total | Total men |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of em- ployees..... Average earn- ings ${ }^{3}$ _-- |  | $\begin{gathered} 1,294 \\ \$ 14.65 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 4,667 \\ \$ 14.75 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|} 3,841 \\ \$ 14.50 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2,618 \\ & \$ 12.55 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,180 \\ \$ 13.55 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 490 \\ \$ 16.10 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,436 \\ & \$ 14.75 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 860 \\ \$ 11.25 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 13,285 \\ & \$ 12.70 \end{aligned}$ | \$19.70 |
| Percent of employees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under \$5. | 5. 2 | 5.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 2.4 | 8.4 | 3. 5 | . 8 |
| \$5, under $\$ 10$ | ${ }^{173} 8$ | 16.2 <br> 34.5 | 19.0 37.9 | ${ }_{39}^{16.9}$ | 20.6 61.5 | 15.7 53.2 | 88. ${ }^{8}$ | ${ }_{42.2}^{12.7}$ | 30.3 45.3 | 49.0 | 5. 5 |
| $\$ 15$, under $\$ 20$ | 24. 6 | 29.9 | 25.0 | 28.6 | 12.6 | 23.7 | 39.8 | 32.7 | 12.7 | 23.0 | 31.5 |
| \$20, under \$ 25 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 8.2 | 8.8 | 1.8 | 4.2 | 6. 9 | 6. 6 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 20.0 9 |
| \$25, under \$30 | 2.2 | 3.9 2.9 | 3.6 | ${ }_{1}^{2.1} 6$ | $\stackrel{2}{2}$ | 8 | 2.9 | 2.0 | . 9 | ${ }_{1}^{4}$ | 10.2 |
| Cumulative percents |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under \$8 | 11.1 | 15.4 | 12.2 | 8.6 | 11.3 | 7.0 | 3.3 | 9.0 | 23.4 38 | 12.8 | 3. 8 |
| Under \$10 | ${ }_{35}^{21.0}$ | ${ }_{29}^{21.9}$ | ${ }_{35}^{21.9}$ | 19.0 | 23.6 47.0 | $\xrightarrow{17.0}$ | -8.4 | ${ }_{25.7}^{15.2}$ | 38.7 55.6 | 40.8 | 12.5 |
| Under \$14- | - 55.8 | 45.9 | 51.1 | 50.5 | 77.8 | 61.8 | 37.1 | 41.7 | 78.0 | 63.5 | 22.5 |
| \$14 and over | 44.2 | 54.1 | 48.9 |  | 22.2 | 38.2 |  |  | 22.0 | 36.5 | 77.5 |
| \$16 and over- | 27. 2 | 34.3 | 33.8 | 32.5 | 8.6 | 20.2 | 40.6 | 30.4 | 11.0 | ${ }_{7}^{18}$ | ${ }^{64.7}$ |
| \$20 and over | ${ }_{10.6}$ | ${ }_{13.7}$ | 15.3 | 12.5 | 2.2 | 5.9 | 13.3 | 9.9 | 3. 3 | 3.7 |  |
| \$25 and over- | 4.2 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 3.7 | . 4 | 1.7 | 6.3 | 3.6 | 1.5 | 5 | 420.1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | \$12.70 | \$15. 00 | \$13. 30 | \$10.45 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$19.70 | \$21.10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1 Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio
2 Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina.
3 The mean-the simple arithmetic averase
\$ 10.2 percent at $\$ 30$ and over.
From the foregoing it is apparent that the most common earnings were in the two wage intervals that combined form $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 20$. In each locality with the exception of Wisconsin, the largest group of workers, varying from 35 to 62 percent, had earnings of $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15$; and in each of these but Tennessee and "other South," the $\$ 15$; and in each of these but Tennessee and "other South," the second largest group earned $\$ 15$ and under $\$ 20$. In Tennessee and "other South," the second largest group earned $\$ 5$ and under $\$ 10$.
The largest group in Wisconsin, 40 percent, earned $\$ 15$ and under $\$ 20$, The largest group in Wisconsin, 40 percent, earned $\$ 15$ and under $\$ 20$,
but practically as many, 39 percent, had earnings of $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15$. but practically as many, 39 percent, had earnings of $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15$.
Because of the concentration of earnings just described, the proportions at the extremes of the earnings scale were small. In only two localities were as many as 1 in 20 of the workers paid less than, $\$ 5$; these were Massachusetts with 6 percent, and ous 1 in 20 paid $\$ 25$ or more - 6 percent in Wisconsin and 7 percent in Massachusetts and in New York.

That men's earnings were considerably higher than women's earnings is shown in table 2. Women averaged $\$ 12.70$ and men $\$ 19.70$, a difference of $\$ 7$. Twenty-four percent of the women, in contrast to 7 percent of the men, had earnings below $\$ 10$; and only 8 percent of the women, in contrast to 51 percent of the men, earned $\$ 18$ or more.

As usual there was wide variation in men's and women's earnings in the different States. Women's average ranged from a low of $\$ 10.45$ in the group "other South" to a high of $\$ 15$ in Wisconsin Other relatively high averages were $\$ 13.50$ in Pennsylvania and $\$ 13.30$ in "other Midwest." For men the highest average was $\$ 24.30$ in Wisconsin, followed by New York with an average of $\$ 21.35$, Massachusetts with $\$ 21.10$, and "other Midwest" with $\$ 20.45$. In the other localities men averaged less than $\$ 20$, the lowest figure being $\$ 14.80$ for "other South."
It is interesting to note that in the Southern States, where wages were relatively low, the difference between men's and women's earnings also was much less than the average, the men's average exceeding the women's average by only $\$ 3.20$ in Tennessee, $\$ 3.45$ in Virginia and $\$ 4.35$ in the "other South." In Wisconsin, on the other hand, where the earnings were highest, men averaged $\$ 9.30$ more than women. The difference in favor of men was very large also in New York (\$8.80) and Massachusetts (\$8.30).

## Hours worked.

As the week's earnings are materially affected by hours worked, it is important to know the hour standards obtaining in the various States. The data as to hours worked by the 15,498 employees for whom this information was reported are shown in table 3. In the week recorded, well over one-fifth ( 23 percent) of all employees worked 40 hours, and two-fifths worked more than 40 hours. In Massachusetts, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and the group "other South," larger propetts, Iennessee, Wisconsin, and the group "other South," larger proportions worked less than 40 hours than worked either 40 or more less than 40 hours was nearly as large as the proportion who worked 40 less than 40 hours was nearly as large as the proportion who worked 40
hours. In the other States-New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginiahours. In the other States-New York, Pennsylvania, and Virgin
the largest groups of employees worked more than 40 hours.

Table 3.-Hours worked in the week recorded, by sex and State

| State | All employees |  |  |  | Women |  |  |  | Men |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | Percent who worked- |  |  | Totar | Percent who worked - |  |  | Total | Percent who worked- |  |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \text { 40 } \end{aligned}$ | $\stackrel{40}{\text { hours }}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { O yer } \\ \text { 40 } \\ \text { hours } \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \text { 40 } \\ & \text { hours } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 40 \\ \text { hours } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Over } \\ \text { 40 } \\ \text { hours } \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \text { 40 } \\ & \text { hours } \end{aligned}$ | ${ }_{\text {hours }}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Over } \\ & \text { 40 } \\ & \text { hours } \end{aligned}$ |
| Total | 15,498 | 38.2 | 22.9 | 38.9 | 12,504 | 43.6 | 23.4 | 33.0 | 2,994 | 15.9 | 20.7 | 63.4 |
| Massachusetts. | 1,289 | 42.2 | 33.6 | 24.2 | 1,008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New York---- | 4,620 | 38.1 | 12. 3 | 49.6 | 3,451 | 46.9 | 12.1 | 41. 0 | 1,169 | 12. 0 | 12.9 | ${ }^{35.1}$ |
| Tennessee --- | 2,616 | ${ }_{44.7}^{28.4}$ | 40. 0 | 59. 3 | 2, 476 | 31.1 49.5 | 11.9 43.6 | 57.0 6.9 | 636 140 | ${ }^{16.5}$ | ${ }^{15.4}$ | 68.1 |
| Virginia- | 722 | 25.5 | 19.4 | 55. 1 | 2,445 | 35.3 | 22.2 | ${ }_{42.5}^{62}$ | ${ }_{277}^{140}$ | ${ }_{9}^{27.1}$ | 14.8 | ${ }_{75.5}^{45.7}$ |
| Wisconsin.--- | 1,489 | 58.7 | 25.8 | ${ }^{15.5}$ | 431 | 61.5 | 26.0 | 12.5 | 58 | 37.9 | 24.1 | 37.9 |
| Other South ${ }^{\text {2 }}$ - | 1,415 | 36.0 44.5 | 36. 3 | 31. ${ }^{27.6}$ | 1, 146 | 40.7 | ${ }_{2}^{37.8}$ | 21.6 | 269 | ${ }^{16.4}$ | 30.5 | 53.2 |

1 Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.
${ }_{2}$ Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina.
The comparison of wage and hour standards among the States indicates that Wisconsin firms maintained the most favorable wage and hour standards, and those in Virginia and Pennsylvania had relatively low standards. Though Wisconsin ranked first in respect to average
week's earnings, a larger proportion of the workers in this State than in any other worked less than 40 hours. In Pennsylvania and Virginia on the other hand, though much more than half the employees worked over 40 hours, the average week's earnings ranked fifth and sixth, respectively, among the localities. In Tennessee and the group "other South," the combination of a relatively large proportion at less than 40 hours and low hourly earnings. (see table 4) results in the lowest weekly earnings among all localities.

It is obvious from these figures that much larger proportions of women than of men worked short hours. In each locality but Pennsylvania and Virginia the largest group of women worked less than 40 hours, though in New York, Tennessee, and "other Midwest," a group with longer hours was nearly as large. In Pennsylvania and Virginia the chief groups, 57 and 43 percent, respectively, worked over 40 hours.

The largest proportion of men in each locality but Massachusetts, "other South," and Wisconsin, and ranging from 46 to 76 percent, worked over 40 hours. In Massachusetts and "other South" the largest groups, respectively 46 and 42 percent, worked 40 hours, and the second largest groups worked over 40 hours; and in Wisconsin the proportions who worked less than 40 hours and over 40 hours were equal, 38 percent in each case.

## Average hourly earnings.

For the 15,498 employees for whom hours worked were reported, hourly earnings were computed by dividing the week's earnings of each employee by the number of hours he or she worked in the pay period. The range in hourly earnings was very wide, from less than 10 cents to $\$ 1.88$, with an average for the total of 35.5 cents. On the basis of 5-cent intervals, the largest concentration occurred at 30 and under 40 cents- 28 percent earning 30 and under 35 cents, and 21 percent earning 35 and under 40 cents. More than one-fourth, 26 percent, had earnings below 30 cents, 5 percent earning below 20 cents.

Among the States the best earnings were in Wisconsin, with an average for all employees of 42 cents, followed by Massachusetts, with an average of 40 cents. Though the largest group in Wisconsin 25 percent, had earnings of 30 and under 35 cents, as many as 19 percent were in each of three intervals above this, including 50 cents and over. This proportion at the highest wage level was not approached by any other locality. In Massachusetts and in "other Midwest" the largest group of workers had earnings of 35 and under 40 cents.

Lowest earnings were found in the group "other South," where the workers averaged only 30.9 cents, and in Virginia, where they averaged 31.7 cents. In "other South" the largest proportion, 24 percent, had earnings of 30 and under 35 cents, but over two-fifths ( 43 percent) were in the earnings intervals below this. In Virginia equal proportions, 26 percent in each case, earned 25 and under 30 cents, and 30 and under 35 cents.

In each State there was a wide range in hourly earnings, but the proportions of workers with earnings at the two extremes of the wage scale differed materially. The proportion earning less than 25 cents was as high as 32 percent in the group "other South," and 19 and 17 percent, respectively, in Pennsylvania and Virginia, in contrast to
only 5 and 7 percent, respectively, in Wisconsin and Massachusetts 8 percent in Tennessee and in the group "other Midwest," and 12 percent in New York. At the other end of the wage scale were only from 1 to 4 percent in Tennessee, Virginia, and "other South," compared to 12,14 , and 19 percent, respectively, in New York, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin, with earnings of 50 cents and over.

Table 4.-Average and distribution of hourly earnings, by State

| State |  |  | Percent of employees who earned- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Womenemployees |  | Men employees |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { U } \\ & \text { 曾 } \\ & \frac{2}{2} \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |
| Total | 15,498 | 35.5 | 4.5 | 8.6 | 13.1 | 28.2 | 21.3 | 11.4 | 4.9 | 8.0 | 12,504 | 33.4 | 2,994 | 44.2 |
| Massachusetts | 1,289 | 40.0 |  | 6. 2 | 5. 5 | 20.2 | 28.2 | 18.8 | 7.0 | 13.5 | 1,008 | 36. 3 | 281 | 53.1 |
| New Y ork-- | 4, 4220 | 36.7 | 4.1 | 7.9 | 13.9 | 22.0 | 19.6 | 11.8 | 4.9 | 11.6 | 3,451 | 33.5 | 1,169 | 46.4 |
| Tennessee. | 2,616 | ${ }_{33.4}^{33.5}$ | 2.5 | 5.0 | ${ }^{15.7}$ | 48.4 | 20.3 | 6.0 | 1. 2 | - 9 | 2,476 | 32.5 | 140 | 36. 9 |
| Virginia ${ }_{\text {Wisconsin }}$ | $\begin{array}{r}722 \\ 489 \\ \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 31.7 | 5. 0 | ${ }_{4}^{11.6}$ | 25.8 | ${ }_{24}^{25.5}$ | 19.9 | 8.0 <br> 18.8 | 12.8 | ${ }_{18}^{2.4}$ | ${ }^{445}$ | 31.0 | $\begin{array}{r}277 \\ 58 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 32.6 59.9 |
| OtherMidwest | 1,415 | 37.1 | ${ }^{-4}$ | ${ }_{7}^{4.0}$ | ${ }^{\text {9. }}$. 6 | 20.8 | 19.4 ${ }^{19.4}$ | 18.8 |  |  |  | 34.9 ${ }^{39 .}$ |  | 59.9 46.3 |
| Other South ${ }^{\text {3 }}$ - | 1,859 | 30.9 | 14.9 | 16.6 | 11.3 | 24.0 | 14.6 | 10.7 | 4.0 | 4.0 |  | ${ }_{29.9}$ | 164 | 35.2 |
| Total women | 12,504 | 33.4 | 5. 3 | 9.9 | 14.4 | 30.3 | 22.7 | 10.6 | 3.9 |  | 12,504 | 33. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 19.0 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2,994 | 44.2 |

1 The mean-the simple arithmetic average.
${ }_{2}$ Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.
3 Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina.
46.7 percent earned 70 cents or more.
The foregoing table shows the great difference in men's and women's hourly earnings. The average for all women was 33.4 cents, and the majority of them, 53 percent, earned 30 and under 40 cents. Less than one-fifth ( 18 percent) of the women earned 40 cents or more "By locality the women's hourly earnings ranged from 29.9 cents in
"other South" and 31 cents in Virginia to 39.6 cents in Wisconsin.
Men's average hourly earnings amounted to 44.2 cents. Practically three-tenths of the men earned 50 cents and over, and not far from one-fourth earned 40 and under 50 cents. State averages for men varied from 32.6 cents in Virginia to 53.1 cents in Massachusetts and 59.9 cents in Wisconsin.

## WOVEN COTTON UNDERWEAR

## INTRODUCTION

In the woven-cotton-underwear industry earnings data were secured from 22 establishments in nine States. More than 2,000 persons were included in Maryland, but in the other States the numbers ranged from 82 to 556 . The 22 firms employed 4,665 workers, of whom the very great majority were women. Data were not obtained for men employees in Delaware.

| State | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Number of } \\ & \text { establish } \\ & \text { ments } \end{aligned}$ | Number of employees | Number of | Women |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Number | $\underset{\text { Potal }}{\text { Percent of }}$ |
| Total | 22 | 4,665 | 280 | 4,385 | (1) |
| Delaware |  |  |  | 383 1,949 |  |
| Maryland_ | 6 3 3 | $\stackrel{2,105}{420}$ | - $\begin{aligned} & 156 \\ & 318\end{aligned}$ | 1,949 | (1) 92.6 |
| Pennsylvania | 3 <br> 7 | ${ }_{4}^{471}$ | ${ }^{38}$ | ${ }_{4}^{433}$ |  |
| Other States ${ }^{\text {4 }}$ | 7 | 1,286 | 68 | 1,218 | 94.7 |

1 Not obtainable; data for men not reported in all cases.
2 Data for men not obtained.
${ }_{3}^{3}$ Data for men in 1 establishment not obtained.

## Week's earnings.

The average of the week's earnings of the 4,665 employees was $\$ 11.85$. Earnings were highest in Pennsylvania, where the average was $\$ 12.75$; they were somewhat lower in Missouri, $\$ 12.25$, and in Maryland, $\$ 11.65$, and were lowest in Delaware (women only), $\$ 8.60$.
More than two-fifths of all the workers earned $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15$, while about three-tenths earned $\$ 5$ and under $\$ 10$ and over one-sixth were paid $\$ 15$ and under $\$ 20$. Seven percent earned less than $\$ 5$ and only 5 percent earned as much as $\$ 20$.
In Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Missouri, the largest groups, ranging from 31 to 48 percent, earned $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15$; in Delaware the largest group earned $\$ 5$ and under $\$ 10$. Nearly one-fourth ( 24 percent) of the workers in Delaware (women only) were paid less percent, of the workers in the other States the proportion in this group was small, ranging only from 9 percent in Maryland and in Missouri to 13 percent in Pennsylvania. Less than 1 percent of the women in Delacent in Pennsylvania. Less than 1 percent of the women in Dela-
ware earned as much as $\$ 16$, but in the other States the proportions with such earnings were 14 percent in Maryland, 17 percent in Missouri, and 25 percent in Pennsylvania.
The average week's earnings of the 4,385 women were $\$ 11.40$, only 45 cents less than the average for all employees. The women in Pennsylvania had the highest earnings, shown by an average of $\$ 12.10$, followed by Missouri and Maryland with averages of $\$ 11.85$ and
$\$ 11.20$, respectively. Lowest earnings were in Delaware, the average in this State being only $\$ 8.60$. Only 2 percent of the women earned as much as $\$ 20$, and 11 percent earned less than $\$ 6$. The largest group, 43 percent, earned $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15$, and the second largest group, 31 percent, $\$ 5$ and under $\$ 10$.

| Week's earnings | Total | ( $\begin{gathered}\text { Dela- } \\ \text { ware }\end{gathered}$ | Mary- land | Missouri | Pennsyl- | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Other } \\ & \text { Stataes } \end{aligned}$ | Total women | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { mone } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of employ Average earnings ${ }^{4}$ - | $\begin{gathered} 4,665 \\ \hline 811.85 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2883 \\ 88.60 \\ \hline 80 \end{gathered}$ | ( $\begin{array}{r}21105 \\ \$ 11.65\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r}\text { \% } \\ \text { S } \\ \$ 12.20 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | \$12.75 | - $\begin{array}{r}1,286 \\ 812.65\end{array}$ | 4.385 S11.40 | (18.850 |
| Percent of employees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under $\$ 5$ <br> $\$ 5$, under $\$ 10$ $\$ 15$, under $\$ 15$ $\$ 20$, under $\$ 25$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.0 \\ & \begin{array}{c} 9.2 \\ \hline 1.7 \\ 17.5 \\ 33.1 \\ 1.5 \end{array} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 17.0 \\ \hline 4.9 \\ 35.5 \\ 2.5 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 6.9 \\ \begin{array}{r} 69.9 \\ \text { 4i. } \\ 15.6 \\ 2.4 \\ 1.4 \\ 1.4 \end{array}, ~ \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} 8.3 \\ \hline 9.3 \\ 3.3 \\ \hline 19.7 \\ .7 .7 \\ 4.4 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.2 \\ \hline 5.9 \\ \hline 1.4 \\ \hline 23.4 \\ 23.9 \\ 1.4 \\ 1.2 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 7.4 \\ \hline \begin{array}{l} 70.5 \\ 42.6 \\ 47.3 \\ 2.1 \\ .2 \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |


| Under 86 <br> Under $\$ 8$ <br> Under $\$ 12$ <br> , |  | $\begin{aligned} & 23.8 \\ & \text { an. } \\ & \text { si.9. } \\ & 90.9 \\ & 95.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9.1 \\ \begin{array}{c} 90.2 \\ \text { 30. } \\ \hline 5.4 .2 \\ 74.0 \end{array} \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 12.8 \\ & \begin{array}{l} \text { an. } \\ 37.6 \\ \hline 9.9 \\ 63.1 \end{array} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.0 \\ \begin{array}{c} 15.1 \\ \hline 50.1 \\ 43.1 \\ 61.0 \end{array} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 10.7 \\ & 20.7 \\ & 3.7 .7 \\ & 5.9 .0 \\ & 73.1 \end{aligned}$ | 1.4 3.9 a 10.0 38.4 36.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} 29.3 \\ 15.8 \\ 8.3 \\ 4.5 \end{gathered}$ | 5. 8 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \begin{array}{c} 16.5 \\ 8.9 \\ 8.6 \\ 4.3 \end{array} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 39.0 \\ & 19.6 \\ & 10.6 \\ & 4.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.9 .9 \\ & \begin{array}{l} 13.1 \\ 6.0 \\ 2.3 \end{array} \\ & \hline 1 \end{aligned}$ | 66.8 57.8 43.9 40.0 |
| Average earnings of Avomen ---------men. | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 11.40 \\ & \$ 18.85 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 88.60 \\ & \text { (2) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 11.20 \\ & \$ 17.55 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 811.85 \\ (5) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 12.10 \\ & { }^{(0)} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 12.20 \\ & \$ 20.85 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |

[^1]The average earnings of the 280 men amounted to $\$ 18.85$, about 65 percent above the average for women. In only one separate State, Maryland, could the average be computed for men, and here State, Maryland, could the average be computed for men, and here
it was $\$ 17.55$. The largest group of men in all States combined, 28 it was $\$ 17.55$. The largest group of men in all States combined, 28 percent, had earnings of $\$ 10$ and under $\$ 15 ; 22$ percent earned $\$ 15$
and under $\$ 20$ and 19 percent earned $\$ 20$ and under $\$ 25$. Only 1 percent earned less than $\$ 5$, and 11 percent earned $\$ 30$ or more.

## Hours worked.

As shown in table 2, hours worked were reported for 3,859 employees, the largest group of whom worked 44 and under 48 hours. More than one-tenth worked 48 hours or longer. The proportions who worked under 35 hours, 35 and under 40, and 40 hours, varied only from 14 to 15 percent.
In Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Missouri, the largest groups of employees, ranging from 34 to 56 percent, worked 44 hours or more:
in Maryland the largest group, 55 percent, worked 44 and under 48 hours, and only 4 percent worked 48 or more. The proportion who worked less than 40 hours varied from 10 percent in Missouri to 36 percent in Delaware.

| State | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Number } \\ & \text { of em- } \\ & \text { ployees } \\ & \text { with } \\ & \text { hours } \\ & \text { worked } \\ & \text { reported } \end{aligned}$ | Percent who worked during the week- |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Under 35 | 35 , under 40 hours | 40 hours | Over 40 under 4 hours | 44 , under 48 hours | 48 hours and ove |
| Total | 3,859 | 14.0 | 14.3 | 14.9 | 9.4 | 36.4 | 11.0 |
| Delaware | ${ }^{1} 301$ | 26.9 | 8.6 |  |  |  |  |
| Maryland. |  | 12.5 6.8 | 13.5 | 11.1 | 12.9 | 55. 2 | 3.8 |
| Pennsylvania | ${ }_{234}^{294}$ | 6.8 12.8 | 3.1 <br> 8.5 <br> 8.5 | . 3 | $\begin{array}{r}9.9 \\ \hline 16.7 \\ \hline 18.7\end{array}$ | ${ }_{28}^{24.1}$ | 55.8 <br> 3.8 |
| Other States ${ }^{3}$ - | 1,283 | 15.0 | 20.3 | 29.2 | 14.7 | ${ }_{20.7}^{28.2}$ | 33.8 .2 |
| Total women. | 3,642 | 14.6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total men-- | 217 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 13.8 | 6.0 | 48.8 | 24.4 |

1 Data for men not obtained.
2
Data for men in 1 firm not

Much larger proportions of women than of men worked short hours. In all States combined only one-tenth of the women worked 48 hours or more, compared to 15 percent who worked less than 35 hours and or more, compared to 15 percent who worked less than 35 hours and
15 percent who worked 35 and under 40 hours. The largest group, 15 percent who worked 35 and under 40 hours. The largest group,
however, 36 percent, worked 44 and under 48 hours. In Pennsylvania, however, 36 percent, worked 44 and under 48 hours. In Pennsylvania,
Delaware, and Missouri from 31 to 55 percent of the women worked Delaware, and Missouri from 31 to 55 percent of the women worked
48 hours or more; in Maryland the largest group worked 44 and under 48 hours.

Practically one-half ( 49 percent) of the 217 men with hours worked reported worked 44 and under 48 hours, and 24 percent worked 48 hours or more. A little more than one-eighth worked 40 hours and only 7 percent worked less than 40 . In Maryland three-fifths of the men worked 44 and under 48 hours, and one-fourth worked 48 hours or more.

## Average hourly earnings.

Average hourly earnings were computed for 3,859 employees. Twenty-two percent earned 25 and under 30 cents; 18 percent earned under 20 cents; and 17 percent in each case averaged 30 and under 35 cents and 20 and under 25 cents. Fourteen percent averaged 40 cents or more.
The largest groups in Maryland and Missouri averaged 25 and under 30 cents, and in Delaware under 20 cents. Thirty cents or more was earned by only 16 percent of the workers in Delaware, but 26 percent in Missouri and 37 percent in Maryland had such earnings

Hourly earnings were computed for 3,642 women, and for these the average amounted to 28.4 cents. Earnings were highest in Maryland, shown by an average of 27.6 cents, and lowest in Delaware, with 22.8 . Missouri earnings were about half-way between. The distribution of earnings was about the same for women as for all employees.

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

${ }_{1}$ The mean-the simple arithmetic average.
${ }_{2}^{2}$ Includes employees in 1 Pennsylvania establishment, not shown separately.
${ }^{3}$ Data for men not obtained.
${ }^{4}$ Data for men in 1 establishment not obtained
${ }^{5}$ Not computed; base less than 50.
${ }^{6}$ Illinois, Indiana, New York, Ohio, and Virginia.
Average earnings for the 217 men were 43 cents; for those in Maryland they were 39 cents. Almost one-fifth of the men earned 60 cents or more, and only 9 percent earned less than 25 cents. Almost one-fifth (19 percent) earned 30 and under 35 cents.

## Earnings in individual firms.

Average hourly earnings were computed for 15 of the 22 establishments, and the range in these was from 20.5 cents to 42.3 cents, a difference of 21.8 cents.

| State | Number of establishments | A verage hourly earnings 1 (cents) |  | Percent lowest average is of highest |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Lowest | Highest |  |
| Total | 15 | 20.5 | 42.3 | 48.5 |
| Delaware ${ }^{2}$ | 2 | 21.4 | 29.0 | 73.8 |
| Maryland | 5 | 24.3 | 32.4 30.3 | 75.0 78.2 |
| Missouri | $\stackrel{2}{6}$ | 23.7 20.5 | $\begin{aligned} & 30.3 \\ & 42.3 \end{aligned}$ | 78.2 48.5 |
| Other States ${ }^{3}$ | 6 |  |  | 48.5 |

1 The mean-the simple arithmetic average.
${ }_{2}$ Data for men not obtained.
3 Illinois, Indiana, New York, and Pennsylvania.
As shown in the summary, the difference between the lowest an.u the highest averages in the States shown separately ranged only from 6.6 cents to 8.1 cents. In the group of States combined as "other" the difference between the lowest and the highest average was 21.8 cents, indicating the strikingly different wage levels existing.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ A minimum-wage determination of the Secretary of Labor, which took effect August 2, 1937, states that
    35 cents an hour or $\$ 14$ for a 4 4-hour week in the North, and $321 / 2$ cents an hour or $\$ 13$ Ior 940 -hour week
    in the cents an hour or sht for a 40 -hour week in the North, and $321 / 2$ cents an hour or 813 for a 40 -hour weel stry.

[^1]:    ${ }_{1}^{1}$ Includes 2 firms each in Illimois and Indiana, and 1 each in New York, Ohio, and Virginia.
    
    

