

TREND IN TEXTILE MILL WAGES IN WESTERN INDIA : 1900 TO 1951

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1. In this paper an attempt has been made to put together the average monthly wages of workers employed in the textile mills in Western India for fifty-two years from 1900 onwards and to observe the movements therein. The study is based on average monthly money-wage and real-wage figures for Bombay city and island and Ahmedabad for the fifty-two years under reference already worked out and published by the author. What has been attempted in the paper is to work out the weighted average figures in order to consider Bombay city and Ahmedabad together. In the process certain comparisons between Bombay and Ahmedabad level of wages become manifest; which have accordingly been attempted. The weights are on the basis of average daily number of workers in Bombay city and Ahmedabad respectively. As regards the Bombay and Ahmedabad wages representing Western India as a whole the proportion of the uncovered working force employed in the textile mills in Western India works out to be as under

1900	19.7 per cent.
1910	18.8 " "
1920	18.8 " "
1930	25.5 " "
1940	35.8 " "
1950	30.7 " "

The wages outside the major city centres are likely to be somewhat lower and their adjustment on account of changes in cost of living is likely to be less automatic. In view of the above considerations the coverage in respect of Western-India as a whole cannot be considered to be very satisfactory.

2. The results of the investigations have been set out principally in the Basic Tables and the Supplementary Tables. When Bombay city and Ahmedabad are considered together, money wages are seen to have risen some ten times from Rs. 12.12 per month in 1900 to 116.69 in 1951, the index for 1900 being 10.4 against 100 for 1951. Over the same period real-wages are seen to have approximately doubled, the index for 1900 being 45.8 compared to 100 for 1951. The implicit price rise over the period being thus about five times. The rupee figures for real-wages in the aggregate and the two centres are also of some interest. They