

LABOR FACT BOOK II

LABOR FACT BOOK II

Prepared by
LABOR RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION.



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BOOKS ON AMERICAN LABOR

This book is one of several prepared under the direction of the Labor Research Association. Already published:

LABOR FACT BOOK I

By LABOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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By GRACE HUTCHINS

FORCED LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES

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Other volumes are planned on the clothing, food, leather and shoes, construction and transportation industries, and on labor in the South.

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NOTE

LABOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, INC., was founded in 1927 to conduct investigations and studies of social, economic and political questions in the interest of the labor movement, and to publish its findings in articles, leaflets, pamphlets and books. It has performed such services for a large number of trade unions and other organizations and publications. It has prepared a series of studies of conditions in specific industries, and has issued reports, surveys, pamphlets and books on other problems of interest to workers. At present it publishes for subscribers five monthly bulletins called *Economic Notes*, *N. R. A. Notes*, *Mining Notes*, *Steel and Metal Notes*, and *Textile Notes*. Local labor research associations, working under its general direction in a number of cities, issue their own bulletins.

The association maintains a research library and files which are open to its subscribers and supporters. Secretaries of unions, political groups, and similar organizations dealing with labor in any of its aspects are requested to put us on the list to receive copies of convention proceedings, reports, official journals and other publications which may be utilized in our work. They will be greatly appreciated. Please address all communications, inquiries and subscriptions to

LABOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
80 East 11th Street, New York, N. Y.

FOREWORD

As we declared in the Foreword to the first volume of the *Labor Fact Book*, published in 1931, the aim of this book is to present facts, figures and reliable information about a wide variety of economic, social and political matters. It is prepared primarily for those who use such material in connection with activity in the working class movement. A real need for conveniently arranged facts exists among workers and farmers as well as among students, speakers and others eager to know what is going on in the world and the meaning of various events. The *Labor Fact Book*, Vol. II, like its predecessor, Vol. I, attempts to provide a ready arsenal of facts for use in the current struggles.

Unlike the books prepared by the L. R. A. on separate industries, and our pamphlets in the International Pamphlets series, which deal with specific subjects, this volume is intended primarily for reference use. The treatment is not, however, uniform throughout. Some facts are summarized with a minimum of interpretation, while other historical and economic material, not usually included in American "labor" compilations, is set forth at greater length. Readers will find this handbook most useful if they not only refer to the table of contents but also look in the full index at the end of the volume for the special topics on which they wish information.

It is quite impossible, within the space limitations of this book, to give "all the facts" on a given subject, or to cover all the subjects of interest to our readers. We have been compelled to select certain topics which we believe to be of greatest importance to workers and farmers during the present period.

The reader will find that in the present volume we have introduced entirely new chapters such as those on the Crisis, the Roosevelt Program for the Crisis, Working Conditions and Struggles in the Crisis, the Negro, Fascism, and War Preparations. We have in several other chapters covered the same field as in Volume I, but

prepared entirely new material. We have at the same time been forced to omit six chapters that appeared in the first volume, so that readers who wish further information, for example, on such topics as "Material Background of the U. S.," "Present Day Imperialism," "Finance Capital in the U. S.," the "Employers' Offensive," "Government and Political Parties" and "Reformist and Revolutionary Internationals" should turn to the first volume. It is possible that in future issues we shall bring up to date these same subjects, but in the present volume we have preferred, for the most part, to deal with entirely new topics not previously discussed.

We have for the first time included an appendix with tabular matter, in this case devoted to some of the important figures from the 1930 census, which were not available when our first volume was published.

Some readers of the first *Labor Fact Book* have complained of the failure to give more references for many of the statements made and facts presented. In the first place there is no space for such elaborate documentation. Furthermore, we conceive of this book as more in the nature of an encyclopedia, where general sources are given at the end of each article, rather than immediately following each statement of fact. In this second volume, we have, however, included more footnotes and have added also a group of selected references for each chapter. This should aid the reader in looking up further material on the subjects discussed.

The main work of preparing the manuscript has fallen on the regular staff of the L. R. A. Among those who have contributed generously to the present work are members of research committees of the Pen and Hammer organization, especially in New York City. To all of these collaborators and many others who joined in this collective enterprise, we are very deeply indebted.

We shall be grateful for criticism and suggestions from all those who use the book. Such criticism will help us greatly in the preparation of future volumes. But we hope that with all its limitations this handbook may prove of real value to the workers in their struggles.

LABOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATION.

APPENDIX

Table 1

WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS IN AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND IN CERTAIN SELECTED OCCUPATIONS¹

AGRICULTURE	4,404,683
Farm laborers (wage workers)	2,732,972
Farm laborers (unpaid family workers)	1,659,792
FORESTRY AND FISHING	250,126
Lumbermen, raftsmen, woodchoppers	146,896
EXTRACTION OF MINERALS	1,097,005
Coal mine operatives	621,661
Oil and gas well operatives	105,224
All other operatives	192,256
MANUFACTURING AND MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES	12,869,420
Building industry	2,381,350
Carpenters	766,787
Laborers	419,802
Painters, glaziers, varnishers	415,027
Plumbers, steam and gas fitters	164,601
Brick and stone masons, tile layers	157,180
Other skilled workers	315,263
Manufacturing, including printing	10,488,070
(For subdivisions of manufacturing, see Table 3.)	
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION	4,043,713
Construction and maintenance of roads	411,721
Laborers	290,354
Garages, greasing stations, auto laundries	347,226
Mechanics	196,339
Laborers	66,693
Postal service	245,004
Letter carriers and clerks	231,315
Steam railroads	1,474,099
Laborers	435,058
Clerks	240,621
Engineers and firemen	168,297
Conductors	73,332
Brakemen	88,197
Switchmen and flagmen	92,217
Street railroads	185,953
Motormen and conductors	93,666
Laborers	27,416

¹ Source: Census of 1930, Vol. V, Chapter 7.

The totals given for "wage and salaried workers" in the various industries represent the total numbers gainfully occupied minus "proprietors, officials and supervisors." These totals, however, include salaried lawyers and other non-productive groups, such as credit men. They exclude many working farmers, both owners and tenants, since the report on occupations makes no distinction between large and small farmers.

Telegraph and telephone	548,432
Telephone operators	248,884
Telegraph operators	67,821
Linemen	71,629
Truck, transfer and cab companies	439,714
Drivers and chauffeurs	369,977
Water transportation	268,167
Longshoremen and stevedores	73,954
Sailors and deckhands	64,700
TRADE	5,439,465
Banking and brokerage	403,034
Insurance	477,992
Agents	256,927
Real estate	282,589
Automobile agencies, stores, filling stations	347,653
Wholesale and retail trade	3,716,815
Salesmen, saleswomen	1,611,607
Clerks in stores	401,991
Chauffeurs, drivers	172,203
Deliverymen	146,609
Laborers, porters, helpers	178,537
Book-keepers, cashiers	210,678
Clerks	162,176
Stenographers, typists	108,037
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	1,971,917
Teachers (school)	1,044,016
Trained nurses	287,951
Attendants and helpers	111,030
Clerical workers	207,450
Janitors, cooks, waiters	136,934
Recreation and amusement	381,712
Musicians, music teachers	165,128
Actors and showmen	75,296
DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICE	4,363,505
Hotels, restaurants, boarding houses	960,130
Waiters	347,433
Cooks	243,670
Other servants	193,655
Janitors, laborers, porters	63,787
Domestic and personal service (not elsewhere classified)	3,037,568
Servants	1,240,086
Barbers, hairdressers	374,290
Laundresses	357,525
Nurses (not trained)	153,443
Laundries	279,497
Operatives	194,501
Cleaning, dyeing, pressing shops	86,310
Operatives	60,634
NOT SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES	1,323,828
General laborers	695,865
Clerical workers	271,811
Total "wage and salaried workers"	35,763,662

Note that besides the skilled workers listed under the building industry, more than half a million building trades workers were scattered through other industries, including carpenters, 162,639; painters, etc., 113,904; plumbers, 73,213; electricians, 197,442.

Clerical workers are also very incompletely shown in the few selected groups given above. The following totals (from Table 3, Chapter 2, general report on occupations) are important: book-keepers and cashiers, 739,077; stenographers and typists, 811,190; errand and office boys and girls, 90,379; clerks (except clerks in stores), 1,997,000.

All the figures given above include all who reported the stated occupations, whether they were employed or unemployed in April, 1930. Also, as we have stated, they include all groups of salaried workers except those in managerial and supervisory positions. For the subdivisions of manufacturing we give below a table of *wage earners* (not including technicians or clerical workers) reported by the 1931 Census of Manufactures as the average numbers *actually employed* during that year.

An unofficial grouping of the 1930 occupation figures published in the *American Statistical Journal* for December, 1933, shows a total of 21,986,441 "semi-skilled" and "unskilled" workers; 6,282,687 "skilled workers" (including foremen); and 7,949,455 "clerks and kindred workers."

Table 2
MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS IN 1930¹

	<i>Number Gainfully Occupied</i> ²	<i>Percent</i>
Manufacturing and mechanical industries	14,341,372	29.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	10,752,909	22.0
Trade	7,530,064	15.4
Domestic and personal service	4,814,573	9.8
Transportation and communication (including postal service)	4,438,413	9.1
Professional service (not elsewhere classified; including teachers)	3,408,947	7.0
Extraction of minerals	1,156,377	2.4
Public service	1,049,576	2.2
Not specified industries and services	1,337,689	2.7
Total	48,820,920	100.0

¹ Source: Census of 1930, Volume V, Chapter 7.

² Under "gainfully occupied" the Census includes all those who claim gainful occupation whether employed or unemployed.

Table 3
**WAGE-EARNERS EMPLOYED IN
 MANUFACTURING, 1931¹**
 (Average numbers as reported by manufacturers)

	<i>Number of Wage-Earners</i>	<i>Establishments</i>
Textiles and their products	1,406,994	23,566
Cotton goods	342,105	1,200
Knit goods	171,524	1,675
Woolen and worsted	119,437	621
Silk and rayon goods	109,203	1,210
Women's clothing	173,514	7,041
Men's clothing	121,965	2,945
Machinery	685,202	11,153
Foundry and machine-shop products	284,090	7,221
Electrical machinery and supplies	180,064	1,389
Food and kindred products	647,905	48,491
Bread and other bakery products	183,000	17,714
Meat packing	106,594	1,209
Canning and preserving	88,608	2,829
Iron and steel and their products	598,308	5,887
Steel mill and blast furnace products ...	278,131	526
Forest products	512,211	16,106
Lumber and planing mill products	251,106	8,448
Furniture and fixtures	127,372	3,148
Transportation equipment	375,003	2,037
Motor vehicles, bodies and parts	287,225	1,116
Printing, publishing and allied industries.....	315,388	24,761
Printing and publishing	253,640	21,857
Miscellaneous industries	313,400	11,788
Cigars, cigarettes and tobacco	98,967	1,207
Railroad repair shops	309,034	2,156
Leather and its manufactures	276,725	3,661
Boots and shoes	185,928	1,156
Chemicals and allied products	230,377	7,333
Rayon and allied products	38,732	32
Stone, clay and glass products	221,206	6,350
Nonferrous metals and their products	207,381	6,224
Paper and allied products	193,876	2,867
Paper and wood pulp	107,901	846
Products of petroleum and coal.....	120,460	1,297
Petroleum refining	67,036	358
Rubber products	98,087	439
Rubber tires and inner tubes	49,159	48
<i>All manufacturing industries</i>	<i>6,511,647</i>	<i>174,136</i>

¹ Source: Census of Manufactures, 1931.

Table 4
WOMEN WORKERS *

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All occupations	10,752,116	100.0
Domestic and personal service	3,153,549	29.3
Manufacturing and mechanical	2,401,387	22.3
Professional	1,760,917	16.4
Trade	1,714,729	16.0
Agriculture (including forestry and fishing).....	915,844	8.5
Transportation and communication	440,525	4.1
All other	365,165	3.4

* Census of 1930, Vol. V, Chapter 7: 1,986,830 or 18.5% of all gainfully occupied women in 1930 were in clerical occupations distributed among the various industrial groups.

Table 5
YOUNG WORKERS *
(16 to 19 years old)

	<i>Number</i>
Agriculture	1,101,917
Manufacturing and mechanical industries..	1,101,772
Trade, transportation and communication....	607,098
Clerical occupations	549,185
Domestic and personal service	428,458
Extraction of minerals	59,177
All other	173,447
Total	4,021,054

* Source: Census of 1930, Vol. V, Chapter 4.

Table 6
CHILD WORKERS ¹
(10 to 15) ²

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>
Agriculture	469,497	70.4
Manufacturing and mechanical	68,266	10.2
Chiefly: Textiles	20,625	
Cotton mills	10,631	
Silk mills	3,596	
Knitting mills	3,497	
Clothing	8,650	
Building	7,380	
Lumber and furniture	4,790	
Iron and steel and other metals.....	3,236	
Trade	49,615	7.4
Domestic and personal service	46,145	6.9
Clerical occupations	16,803	2.5
Transportation and communication	8,717	1.3
Extraction of minerals	1,184	0.2
Other	6,891	1.1
Total	667,118	100.0

States with most child workers 10 to 15 years of age:

	<i>Number Employed</i>	<i>% of All Children in State 10-15</i>
Mississippi	68,000	24.9
Alabama	63,000	17.5
Georgia	60,000	14.7
Texas	52,000	7.3
North Carolina ..	51,000	11.2
South Carolina ..	49,000	18.3
Arkansas	31,000	12.2
Louisiana	27,000	10.1
Tennessee	26,000	7.9
Pennsylvania	24,000	2.0
New York	20,000	1.6

¹ Source: Census of 1930, Vol. V, Chapter 6.

² The census figure is a serious understatement of child employment since it does not include the children under 10 years old.

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