

# HOURS AND EARNINGS OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE HOSIERY INDUSTRY

## INTRODUCTION

Pennsylvania has been called the original hosiery state, since it was in this State that the first machine-made hosiery was manufactured. Since the introduction of machinery into the hosiery industry, Pennsylvania has taken the lead in this branch of the textile industry, producing more than one-third of the hosiery manufactured in the United States.\* The manufacture of the two main types of hosiery, seamless and full-fashioned, form what is in essence two industries. The past few years have seen significant changes in these industries. Seamless hosiery has been more and more supplanted by full-fashioned hosiery and the use of cotton as a raw material has given way to silk.\*\* As a result, at the present time seamless hosiery manufacture is on the wane while the full-fashioned industry flourishes.\*\*\*

Since 1923 employment and wage payment figures for the hosiery industry have been collected by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and published by the Department of Labor and Industry in its monthly bulletin. These figures, while of great value in showing the general trend of the industry from year to year, offer no information as to hours of work and earnings as affected by type of hosiery manufactured, geographical location, occupational classification, or sex. The purpose of this study is to present a more detailed analysis of the hours and earnings of hosiery workers, giving this additional information. In order that the material used in this study might be on a basis comparable to the data gathered through the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, the payrolls of the same establishments have been reviewed.

\*U. S. Census of Manufacturers, 1920, page 1296.

\*\*At the time this study was made, very little rayon was being used in the manufacture of hosiery.

\*\*\*Full-fashioned hosiery production increased about 81 per cent from 1925 to 1928, while seamless hosiery production declined about 43 per cent. These data are based on monthly reports of production issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce and published in "Significant Post-War Changes in Full-Fashioned Hosiery Industry," George William Taylor, University of Pennsylvania Press 1929.