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Volume Title: Real Wages in Manufacturing, 1890-1914

Volume Author/Editor: Albert Rees

Volume Publisher: UMI

Volume ISBN: 0-87014-069-8

Volume URL: <http://www.nber.org/books/rees61-1>

Publication Date: 1961

Chapter Title: Front matter, Real Wages in Manufacturing 1890-1914

Chapter Author: Albert Rees

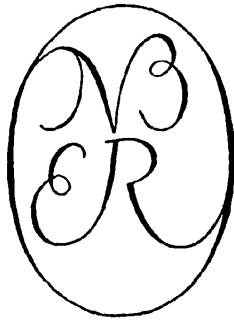
Chapter URL: <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c2282>

Chapter pages in book: (p. -16 - 0)

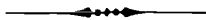
Real Wages in Manufacturing 1890–1914

BY ALBERT REES
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

assisted by Donald P. Jacobs



A STUDY BY THE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, NEW YORK



PUBLISHED BY
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, PRINCETON
1961

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L.C. Card 61-7401

Printed in the United States of America

REAL WAGES IN MANUFACTURING
1890-1914

**NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH
NUMBER 70, GENERAL SERIES**

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(Resolution adopted October 25, 1926 and revised February 6, 1933 and February 24, 1941)

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Preface

THIS study was undertaken in 1954 as part of the National Bureau's study of trends in wages and productivity in the United States, a research program undertaken with the assistance of grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Foundation is, however, in no way responsible for the conclusions.

I should like to thank Leo Wolman for first suggesting this study to me; for his help, encouragement, and patience as the work progressed; and for making available his files and workbooks, on which we have drawn at several points.

Donald P. Jacobs participated actively in the research from its beginning almost to the end. He supervised much of the day-to-day work of gathering and processing data and has read and commented on the draft manuscript.

Robert E. Weintraub did a large part of the work of collecting and processing wage data. Joseph Guggenheim collected the data for the rent index and computed most of it. Sandra Gottlieb began the collection of data for the clothing and home furnishings price indexes. The index of illuminating gas prices is the work of Dan Moose, and much of the final computation of the cost-of-living index was done by Harry Gilman.

The clothing and home furnishings indexes were greatly improved by suggestions made by Dorothy S. Brady and Ethel D. Hoover. Margaret G. Reid gave valuable advice on the rent index and read and commented on the draft of Chapter 4.

During the last half of the study, H. Gregg Lewis was a constant adviser. He read the draft manuscript and made many helpful suggestions. Valuable comments on the draft manuscript were also proffered by Gerhard Bry, Daniel Creamer, Zvi Griliches, Harry McAllister, Clarence D. Long, and George Soule.

Firth Haring prepared the manuscript for press. H. Irving Forman drew the charts.

Our indebtedness to Paul H. Douglas will soon become obvious to any reader. Though we have frequent occasion to disagree with his estimates, they have constantly served as our point of departure.

PREFACE

We are grateful to Sears, Roebuck and Company and to Montgomery Ward & Company for their permission to use files of catalogues at their main offices. In particular, Edward Zink at Sears' and Fred W. Jameson at Ward's were of great assistance to us.

ALBERT REES