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## CHAPTER 6

### SUMMARY OF THE HAND TRADES

#### § 6a. Introduction

Prior to and including the census of 1900, the reports of the Census Bureau covered the activities of "the hand trades." Since that date, the study of industries of this type has been omitted because of the large expense per establishment involved in the collection of data. As a result, it has been necessary to base most of the estimates for this study upon the 1900 Census figures. Exceptions to this rule are the power laundries, and custom grist and saw mills (trades for which later census reports have given information), and the construction industry and automobile repair industry, the estimates for which have been made largely from other sources than the Census.

The problem of estimating the net value products of the hand trades has been disproportionately laborious, but because of the paucity of reliable information available, has, nevertheless, not produced results of any high degree of reliability. On the contrary, the totals presented in the accompanying tables must be regarded merely as very rough approximations to the actual quantities which they are supposed to represent. Laundries, perhaps, form an exception to this general rule, the information concerning them being so much more complete that the figures presented here may be regarded as moderately reliable.

Since it is felt that the estimates for the individual trades are so inaccurate, and since the interest in the facts concerning most of them is presumably not very widespread, it seems that the expense of publishing a description of the special procedure used for each trade or group of trades is scarcely warranted; hence a summary only is given except in the case of the construction industry. Suffice it to say that the estimates for the separate fields have, in every instance, been made with as great a degree of care as the nature of the data available seems to justify.

The figures for the construction industry are published in detail in Chapter VII, not because the estimates for that field are of a quality superior to the others, but because construction is the largest of the hand trades and is at present a subject attracting wide attention.

TABLE 6A

A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL OF WAGES AND SALARIES RECEIVED BY EMPLOYEES IN THE HAND TRADES OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

Year	Millions of Dollars										
	All hand trades	Con-struction	Custom tailoring, millinery, dyeing and cleaning	Repair of auto-mobiles	Black-smithing, bicycle repairing, cabinet making and taxi-dermy	Laun-dries	Shoe repairing	Custom dress-making	Repair of sewing machines, type-writers, locks, clocks and jewelry	Custom grist mills	Custom saw mills
1909	\$1,487	\$1,192	\$ 87	\$ 34	\$51	\$ 63	\$13	\$33	\$10	\$1	\$2
1910	1,472	1,146	93	48	54	71	13	34	11	1	1
1911	1,443	1,104	93	55	54	74	14	35	11	1	1
1912	1,580	1,218	96	67	55	80	15	35	11	1	1
1913	1,667	1,276	102	75	57	91	16	36	11	1	1
1914	1,336	932	103	90	58	86	15	38	11	1	1
1915	1,352	927	108	102	58	90	15	37	12	2	1
1916	1,545	1,066	141	106	60	96	20	38	14	2	1
1917	1,575	973	204	153	61	98	23	41	18	3	2
1918	1,744	964	276	220	86	106	27	41	20	2	2
1919			306		91		34	47	25		

TABLE 6B

A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL SHARE OF THE EMPLOYEES IN THE NET VALUE PRODUCT OF THE HAND TRADES OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

(Wages and Salaries, Plus Payments for Contract Work)

Year	Millions of Dollars										
	All hand trades	Con-struction	Custom tailoring, millinery, dyeing and cleaning	Repair of auto-mobiles	Black-smithing, bicycle repairing, cabinet making, and taxi dermy	Laun-dries	Shoe repairing	Custom dress-making	Repair of sewing machines, type-writers, locks, clocks and jewelry	Custom grist mills	Custom saw mills
1909	\$1,498	\$1,192	\$ 97	\$ 34	\$52	\$ 63	\$13	\$33	\$11	\$1	\$2
1910	1,485	1,146	104	48	55	72	14	34	11	1	1
1911	1,455	1,104	103	55	55	74	14	35	11	1	1
1912	1,593	1,218	107	67	56	80	15	36	11	1	1
1913	1,681	1,276	114	75	58	91	16	36	11	1	1
1914	1,350	932	115	90	58	91	16	36	11	1	1
1915	1,366	927	120	102	59	86	15	39	11	1	1
1916	1,563	1,066	157	106	59	91	15	38	12	2	1
1917	1,601	973	227	153	61	97	20	38	14	1	2
1918	1,778	964	307	220	62	99	24	41	18	3	2
1919			340		88	106	28	41	20	2	2
					92		34	47	26		

TABLE 6C

A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE NET VALUE PRODUCT OF THE HAND TRADES IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

Year	Millions of Dollars										
	All hand trades	Construction	Custom tailoring, millinery, dyeing, and cleaning	Repair of automobiles	Blacksmithing, bicycle repairing, cabinet making, and taxi-derry	Laundries	Shoe repairing	Custom dress-making	Repair of sewing machines, typewriters, locks, clocks, and jewelry	Custom grist mills	Custom saw mills
1909	\$2,615	\$1,959	\$209	\$ 59	\$124	\$98	\$ 53	\$68	\$33	\$ 8	\$4
1910	2,521	1,806	223	75	131	116	55	69	33	9	4
1911	2,484	1,734	222	91	133	128	57	72	34	10	3
1912	2,685	1,885	230	111	135	144	61	72	34	8	4
1913	2,521	1,669	244	122	139	162	64	74	34	8	4
1914	2,292	1,413	247	149	142	157	60	78	34	8	3
1915	2,326	1,413	258	171	142	154	61	77	36	11	3
1916	2,702	1,647	337	184	146	171	82	78	43	10	4
1917	2,601	1,267	488	266	148	175	94	84	56	19	4
1918	2,984	1,280	661	367	210	191	111	83	61	15	5
1919			732		222		137	97	77		

## § 6b. Analysis

Table 6D contains an analysis of the combined results presented in the immediately preceding tables. It shows that there has probably been relatively little change in the size of the fraction of the total product of this group of industries received by the employees, the share remaining in the neighborhood of three-fifths of the whole. It also appears that while the average nominal wage has risen sharply throughout the decade, there has been but little increase in the earnings when measured in terms of money of constant purchasing power.

TABLE 6D

AN ESTIMATE OF THE SHARE OF THE EMPLOYEES IN THE NET VALUE PRODUCT OF ALL HAND TRADES COMBINED

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Year	Net value product <sup>a</sup> (Millions)	Share of employees <sup>b</sup> (Millions)	Per cent of net value product going to employees $\frac{100C}{B}$	Total number of employees normally attached to hand trades (Thousands)	Average annual earnings per employee $\frac{C}{E}$	Index of prices of goods consumed by manual and clerical workers <sup>c</sup>	Purchasing power of the average annual earnings per employee $\frac{F}{G}$
1909	\$2,615	\$1,498	57.3	2,144	\$ 699	.955	\$732
1910	2,521	1,485	58.9	2,182	681	.978	696
1911	2,484	1,455	58.6	2,215	657	.984	667
1912	2,685	1,593	59.3	2,230	714	.994	719
1913	2,521	1,681	66.7	2,248	748	1.000	748
1914	2,292	1,350	58.9	2,108	640	1.01	634
1915	2,326	1,366	58.7	1,972	693	1.03	673
1916	2,702	1,563	57.8	1,861	840	1.10	763
1917	2,601	1,601	61.6	1,695	945	1.29	732
1918	2,984	1,778	59.6	1,489	1,194	1.58	756

<sup>a</sup> See Table 6C.

<sup>b</sup> See Table 6B.

<sup>c</sup> See Table 2C.