

Ammunition for the Workers' Arsenal

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Distribution of Working Population Into Employer, Salaried and Wage-earning Classes.

Capitalist industry means ever-increasing wage slavery. The tendency is for the working class to include a greater and greater proportion of the whole population, while the fortunate few who reap the profits of industry become ever fewer, and at the same time more fortunate. This tendency, pointed out by Karl Marx nearly three-quarters of a century ago, can be observed in every capitalist country in the world, not excluding the United States. Here are some figures which speak for themselves.

In the years 1910 to 1920—in spite of the fact that American industry expanded tremendously and the wage-earners and salaried employees increased from 24,889,192 to 29,621,297—the number of bosses and individuals self-employed decreased, from 13,175,711 to 11,974,369.

Total Number of Employers and Self-Employed		
	1910	1920
(all industries)	13,175,711	11,974,369
Extraction of Minerals	14,287	17,334
Manufacturing Industries	814,974	562,199
Transportation	59,572	81,488
Building Trades	174,422	90,109
Trade	1,530,340	1,786,902
Professional Service	612,444	758,336
Domestic and Personal Service	512,081	426,688
Agriculture, etc.	9,457,591	8,251,313
Salaried (supervisory and professional)		
Extraction of Minerals	34,285	53,922
Manufacturing Industries	300,792	557,363
Transportation	160,091	212,228
Trade	396,721	524,014
Professional Service	999,251	1,237,286
Domestic and Personal Service	57,273	52,736
Public Service (not elsewhere classified)	476,347	801,826
Agriculture, etc.	14,345	101,233
Wage Earners (manual and clerical)		
Extraction of Minerals	916,597	1,018,967
Manufacturing Industries	6,401,436	8,775,543
Transportation	2,664,674	2,962,614
Building Trades	2,475,329	2,397,391
Stationary Engineers	231,041	242,096
Stationary Firemen	111,246	143,875
Trade	1,568,117	1,937,600
Professional Service	81,666	148,267
Domestic and Personal Service	3,185,907	2,902,956
Clerical Workers	1,631,926	2,950,769
Agriculture	3,143,773	2,600,612

From the above tabulation it appears that the total number of wage earners constituted 62.7 per cent of the "gainfully engaged" persons in 1920 and the employer and self-employed group constituted 28.8 per cent. However, if the self-employed should be removed from the category of employers, the number of the latter would be seen to be much smaller.