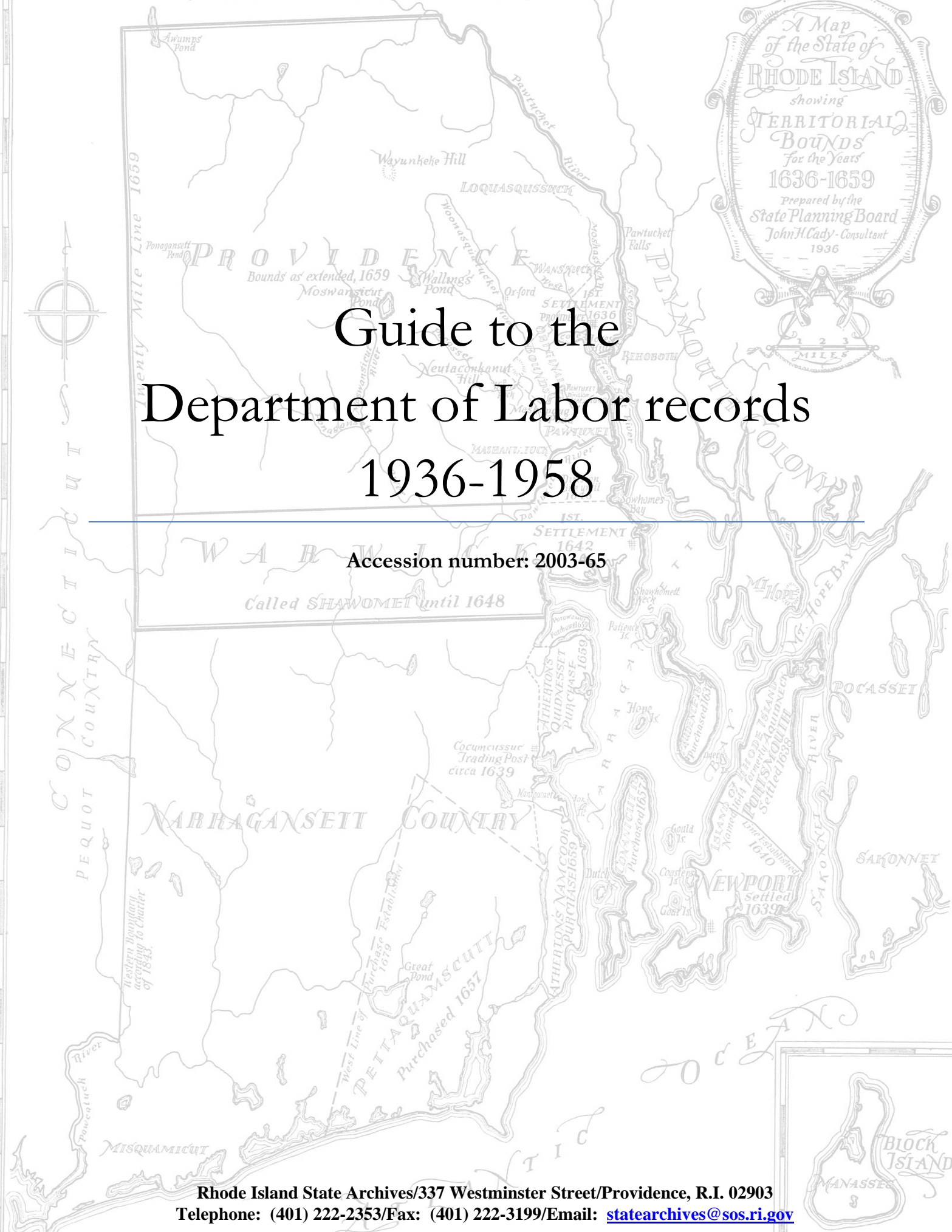




Guide to the Department of Labor records 1936-1958

Accession number: 2003-65



Guide to the Department of Labor records

Title:

Guide to the Department of Labor records

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English

Abstract:

Guide to the Department of Labor records consist of records of the Division of Women and Children, the Division of Industrial Inspection and the Division of Statistics and Census.

The records are primarily of the Division of Women and Children and document activities relating to the establishment of minimum wages for women and minors employed in certain trades and industries as stipulated by powers established in Chapter 2289 of the 1936 Public Laws of Rhode Island

Administrative/Biographical History:

The Department of Labor was established in 1935 by statutory authority in PL 1935, chapter 2250. Upon creation, the department assumed the responsibilities of the former Commissioner of Labor and the Superintendent of Industrial Statistics existing before that title. The department gradually evolved over the following decades to include a variety of divisions, boards, and advisory councils related to all fields of labor. The department was also responsible for conducting the state census, and keeping related statistics. The last census was taken in 1935/6 and the statute was repealed completely in 1985. In 1996 PL 226 renamed the department as the Department of Labor and Training (RIGL §42.16.1)

Guide to the Department of Labor records

The Department began with three divisions, the Division of Labor Relations, the Division of Industrial Inspection, and the Division of Personnel. In 1936 the Division of Women and Children was created under the Department per Chapter 2289 of the Public Laws of 1936.

The Division of Women and Children administered the regulations affecting the employment of women and minors: The Minimum Wage Law, the Forty-Eight Hour Law, the Industrial Homework Law and the Child Labor Regulations. The Division also acted as a clearinghouse for requests for information regarding the federal law, supervised the issuance of minor work permits by school departments throughout the state and processed complaints received regarding the enforcement of the Federal law (Fair Labor Standards Act, 1938). The passage of RI Equal Pay Law in 1946 abolished wage differentials based on sex and Chapter 3420 established the state minimum wage in 1955.

[link to agency history/timeline here]

Conditions governing access:

No special restrictions unless otherwise specified.

Scope and content:

Records include meeting minutes and transcripts of various wage boards convened to study particular industries and wages, correspondence, reports, surveys, petitions, nomination forms, letters of appointment and a small amount of photographs held by the Division of Women and Children. Also includes annual reports of the Division of Industrial Inspection and monthly reports and press releases of the Division of Statistics and Census.

System of arrangement:

The Guide to the Department of Labor records are arranged into the following series:

Series 1 – Wage Study and Wage Board records of the Division of Women and Children 1936-1954

Sub-Series 1 – Restaurant and Hotel Restaurant Occupations, 1941-1954

Sub-Series 2 - Jewelry Industry, 1936-1942

Sub-Series 3 – Wearing Apparel Industry, 1936-1940

Sub-Series 4 – Public Housekeeping Occupations, 1937-1951

Sub-Series 5 – Laundry and Dry Cleaning Industries, 1938-1951

Sub-Series 6 – Retail Trade Occupations, 1939-1952

Series 2 - Annual Reports of the Division of Industrial Inspection 1938-1958

Series 3 - Reports and Press Releases of the Division of Census and Statistics 1935-1949

Guide to the Department of Labor records

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

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Preferred Citation:

Rhode Island State Archives, 2003-65, Department of Labor records

Custodial history:

Records were in the custody of the Department of Labor, Division of Labor Standards (successor agency to the Division of Women and Children). Records were stored in the state records center until 1999 when the Department requested the records be returned to them. Records were subsequently earmarked by Public Records Administration staff as having historical value during the creation of the records retention schedule for the department and were then deposited with the State Archives.

Accruals:

Accruals are not anticipated.

Related archival materials:

State Census records for 1865, 1875, 1885, 1905, 1915, 1925 & 1935/6

RIAMCO Browsing Term (if applicable):

Business

Government, Politics and Law

Race, Ethnicity and Gender

Rhode Island/Local Interest

Subjects:

Hours of labor--Rhode Island.

Jewelry--United States--History.

Jewelry--United States--History--20th century.

Labor and laboring classes--Rhode Island

Labor laws and legislation--Rhode Island.

Minimum wage

Minimum wage--Law and legislation--United States.

Minimum wage--Law and legislation--United States--History.

Minimum wage--Law and legislation--United States—States

Minimum wage--Rhode Island.

Minimum wage--Rhode Island.

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Minimum wages--United States.

Minimum wage--United States--History.

Retail trade--Rhode Island

Rhode Island. Dept. of Labor

Rhode Island. Dept. of Labor and Training

Sweatshops.

Sweatshops--United States.

Types of Materials:

Advertisements

Black-and-white photographs

Correspondence

Minutes

Press Releases

Records (documents)

Reports

State government records

Occupations:

Employment--United States—Statistics

Hotels--Employees--Salaries, etc.--United States--Statistics.

Hotels--Employees--United States.

Hotels--United States--Employees.

Jewelry trade--Rhode Island.

Laundry workers—Wages

Occupations--Rhode Island.

Occupations--Rhode Island--Statistics.

Guide to the Department of Labor records

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2. Findings of survey of wages in the Restaurant Service, December 12, 1941
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4. Report – Women and Minors in the Restaurant Occupations of RI, 1941
5. Summer – hotel and restaurant
6. Restaurants – general, 1942 – 1949
7. Directory – Restaurant order, June 15, 1942
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9. Press Release #4, May 25, 1942
10. Legal advertisement – public hearing (restaurant mandatory), November 12 & 17, 1942
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17. General correspondence restaurant, 1940 – 1944
18. Letters of appointment – restaurant Wage Board Members, February 2, 1942
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39. Press Release #5, October 16, 1944
40. Restaurant Wage Order – mandatory, November 15, 1944
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42. Survey – restaurant, October 1949
43. Press release – restaurant wage revision, November 2, 1949
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46. Wage Board – restaurant wage revision (correspondence), January 10, 1949 – February 6, 1950
47. Minutes – office copy (rough draft), December 14, 1949 – February 9, 1950
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15. Restaurant revision majority report, April 17, 1953
16. Restaurant revision correspondence, April 20, 1953
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27. Letters to board members on effective date of order, May 27 – 31, 1939
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29. Enclosures directory order [and notice], July 10, 1939
30. Retail trade minimum wage order directory period, January 15, 1940
31. Summary of background material prepared for Mr. Saul
32. Mandatory wage order, notices – Retail, March 18, 1940
33. Summary [statistics] of learners, active – inactive – self employed, January 11, 1940
34. Follow-up letter [form letter, questionnaire], December 9, 1939
35. Press release (mandatory wage order and hearing) January 31 and February 19, 1940
36. Interpretations, [definition of “working time.”] [1939]
37. Minimum wage order in retail occupations, May 18, 1939
38. Table Showing Status of Wages in Original Retail Survey [1939]
39. List of Stores included in Original Retail Survey [1939]
40. Notice of public hearing on mandatory order, January 15 – 31, 1940
41. Minutes – Public Hearing preparatory to making retail directory order mandatory, Jan. 31, 1940
42. Retail Trade Original Petition, n.d.
43. Firms used for Survey
44. Director’s acceptance following public hearing (retail revision #2, October 3, 1952
45. Retail revision – press release, October 10 1952
46. Retail revision – clippings, June 20 – October 10, 1952
47. Minimum wage revision – retail
48. Retail Trade Board, Chamber of Commerce, June 3, 1955
49. Retail revision – press release, August 22, 1952

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50. Press Release – retail trade revision, September 23, 1952
51. Transcript, public hearing – retail wage order, September 25, 1952
52. Retail trade revision stencils, September 24, 1951
53. Retail trade revision – Press Release, June 20, 1952
54. Director's instruction to Wage Board – retail revision
55. Minutes – first meeting – retail revision, June 24, 1952
56. Minutes – second meeting – retail revision, July 1, 1952
57. Minutes – third meeting – retail revision, July 8, 1952
58. Minutes – fourth meeting – retail revision, July 15, 1952
59. Minutes - fifth meeting – retail revision, July 22, 1952
60. Minutes – sixth meeting – retail revision, July 29, 1952
61. Stenographer notes – Wage Board retail revision, June 24 – July 22, 1952
62. Director's letter of acceptance – retail revision #2, August 19, 1952
63. Briefs (against mandatory retail order), February 9 – 13, 1948
64. Wage Board report – 2nd revision retail, August 12, 1952
65. Retail revision – letters on legal ad., September 21, 1951
66. Retail revision – legal paid ad, September 3, 1952
67. Press Release – retail trade revision, August 13, 1952
68. News Boys, January 30, 1940 – November 20, 1951
69. Request for revision of retail wage order, February 21, 1950
70. Retail revision survey, February 1951
71. Retail revision – nomination blanks, October 15, 1951
72. Retail revision – press release, September 24, 1951
73. Letters of appointment to Wage Board – retail revision, correspondence with board members, June 17 – September 23, 1952
74. Nominations for Wage Board (retail revised), September 25 – December 3, 1951
75. Retail revision – paid legal ad, September 26, 1951

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1. New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut wage order – retail, June and October 1945
2. Petition for revision of minimum wage – retail, February 20, 1945
3. Survey – retail trade, March 1945
4. Retail – letters appointing members to new Wage Board, December 5, 1945 – May 29, 1946
5. Minutes of first meeting – retail revision, January 30, 1946
6. Minutes of second meeting – retail revision, February 13, 1946
7. Minutes of third meeting – retail revision, February 27, 1946
8. Minutes of fourth meeting – retail, March 6, 1946
9. Minutes of fifth meeting – retail revision, March 13, 1946
10. Minutes of sixth meeting – retail revision, March 20, 1946
11. Minutes of seventh meeting – retail revision, March 27, 1946
12. Minutes of eight meeting – retail revision, April 3, 1946
13. Minutes of ninth meeting – retail revision, May 9, 1946
14. Retail file – drug stores, April 21, 1949
15. Attorney General's ruling – retail trade order, 4-5, July 10, 1947
16. Rulings clarifying retail wage order, November 1, 1950
17. Applications – Learners (retail), September 9, 1946 – January 13, 1948
18. Retail Trade Occupations – Mandatory Wage Order, September 1, 1948
19. Legal Ad – retail trade occupation
20. Legal Ad retail mandatory – newspaper clippings, January 12, 1948
21. Retail press release – mandatory, January 28, 1948
22. Letters to Wage Board member, August 2, 1948
23. Letters notifying Board Members of mandatory public hearing, January 8 and August 13, 1948
24. Public hearing mandatory order 4-5, February 2, 1948 (Stenotype tape)
25. Mandatory order (retail), September 1, 1948
26. Retail mandatory order – Press Release, August 4, 1948
27. Retail file – below minimum paid, October 1, 1948
28. Press Release Directory, August 19, 1946
- 29-30. Signed statement on retail wage revision (in favor), June 1946 – 2 folders
31. Christmas permits – retail, November 12, 1946
32. Correspondence – retail order, January 18, 1946 – February 18, 1947
33. Handicapped workers – retail, September 13, 1946 – March 25, 1948
34. Retail – re-survey, November – December 1946
35. Retail – legal advertisement (trade), January 9, 1948
36. Clipping, January 23, 1948
37. Stenographic notes – mandatory order, March 20, 1947

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38. [Correspondence – other states} Outside sales – retail trade, July 15 – August 31, 1940
39. Press Release (new Retail Wage Board), January 9, 1946
40. Correspondence from Wage Board Members, April 4 – May 11, 1946
41. Wage order – revised retail, March 27, 1946 – May 22, 1946
42. Stenographic notes on Wage Board Meetings (retail), January 30, 1946 and April 3, 1946
43. Retail Wage Board material
44. Report of Wage Board – retail revision (first report), April 3, 1946
45. Director's letters of rejection, April 11, 1946
46. Minority report (retail revision), May 17, 1946
47. Comparison of majority and minority reports (retail)
48. Second report of Wage Board – retail revision (majority), May 9, 1946
49. Director's letter of acceptance (revised retail), May 17, 1946
50. Press release – retail revision, (Board's report's – Director's acceptance), May 27, 1946
51. Press release – new retail order made – directory, May 19, 1946
52. Signed statements – opposition retail, June 11 – 19, 1946
53. Legal advertisement (retail revision), May 10 – June 19, 1946
54. Director's memo to Commissioner of the acceptance of majority report after hearing (revised retail order), June 27, 1946
55. Letters notifying Board of acceptance after hearing (retail), July 18, 1946
56. Directory order #4-R (retail), September 1, 1946
57. Letter notifying Board of effective date of order (retail revised), August 15, 1946
58. Public hearings – Public Housekeeping (June 17, 1946) and Retail Trade (June 19, 1946)

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Department of Labor, Division of Industrial Inspection Annual Reports 1938-1945
Bound typescripts of employment figures

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Department of Labor, Division of Industrial Inspection Annual Reports 1946-1953
Bound typescripts of employment figures

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Department of Labor, Division of Industrial Inspection Annual Reports 1954-1958
Bound typescripts of employment figures

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Series 3

Department of Labor, Division of Statistics and Census 1935-1949
Monthly reports with attached press releases for employment and payroll figures, construction and manufacturing.