



## OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS OF REFUGEES UNDER IRO CARE

A review of this survey of occupational skills of refugees, the third to be conducted by the International Refugee Organisation, indicates that the refugee population still contains a high proportion of skilled workers.

Even though large numbers of displaced persons with special skills - such as, miners, construction workers and lumbermen - have been resettled in recent months to help to meet specific labour shortages in certain countries, 28 per cent of all refugees classified occupationally as of 30 September are skilled in manufacturing or non-manufacturing trades. Of the major group breakdown, agricultural workers are next in importance, representing 22 per cent of all refugees, and the professional and managerial group is third, with 13 per cent.

The percentage distribution of all refugees in the major occupational group classification is compared for the March and September surveys as follows:

	<u>31 March 1948</u>	<u>30 September 1948</u>
All groups	<u>100.0 percent</u>	<u>100.0 percent</u>
Professional and managerial	12.8	12.5
Clerical and sales	6.1	6.3
Services	7.8	6.5
Agricultural	22.3	22.3
Skilled, manufacturing	19.1	18.5
Skilled, non-manufacturing	9.8	10.1
Semi-skilled and apprentices	7.0	6.6
Helpers and labourers	3.9	5.8
Inexperienced	11.2	11.4

Men refugees make up two-thirds of the total classified population and are more numerous in all of the broad occupational groups, with the exception of services.

A review of the major groups and sub-group summaries shown in Table I and Table II (pages 13 and 14) reveals that men and women are distributed almost evenly in such groups as clerical and sales, semi-professional, and semi-skilled in manufacturing, while men refugees represent 90 to 95 per cent of the total classified in such groups as skilled and semi-skilled in non-manufacturing and the managerial and official groups.

Of all men refugees surveyed, one-fourth are agricultural workers. The combined skilled occupations account for 33 per cent, (18 per cent in manufacturing and 15 per cent in non-manufacturing trades), and the professional and managerial group

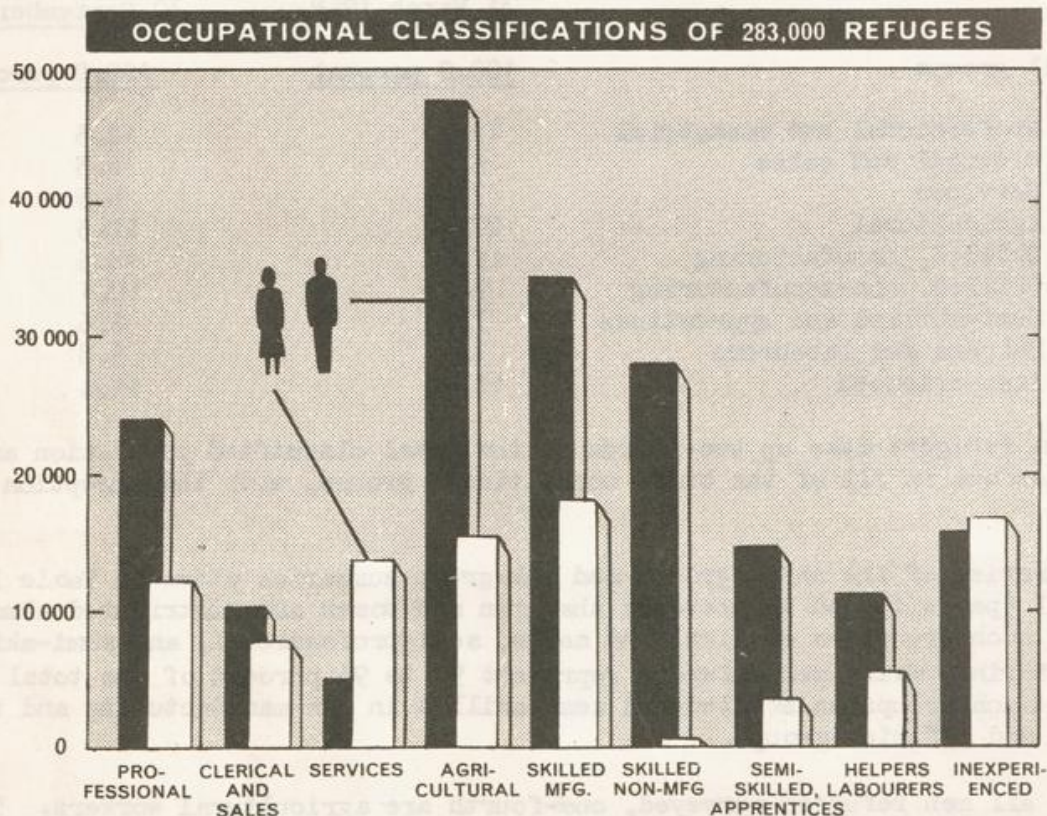
makes up over 12 percent of all men refugees classified.

The largest single group of women refugees is found in manufacturing (skilled classifications), representing over 19 percent of the total, and reflecting the large numbers of seamstresses and knitters. Agriculture is the second most important occupation reported by women, representing almost 17 percent of all women refugees classified, and the domestic services group is third.

The percentage distribution among the major occupational groups as of 30 September is compared for men and women as follows:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
All groups	<u>100.0 percent</u>	<u>100.0 percent</u>
Professional and managerial	12.4	12.8
Clerical and sales	5.4	8.1
Services	2.6	14.4
Agricultural	25.1	16.7
Skilled, manufacturing	18.1	19.3
Skilled, non-manufacturing	14.7	0.8
Semi-skilled and apprentices	7.8	4.0
Helpers and labourers	5.8	5.9
Inexperienced	8.2	18.1

The chart below shows the number of men and women refugees in these major occupational groups.



Skilled Workers

Some 81,000 displaced persons, or one of every four classified, are skilled in a manufacturing or non-manufacturing pursuit. The Nazi selection process which sought the most highly skilled workers for forced labour probably contributed to this unusually high proportion of skilled workers. In addition, the current training courses conducted by IRO and the international voluntary agencies provide training for young workers and aid in the re-establishment of skills that have been dulled through disuse during the war years.

Men refugees represent the greater part of all workers in the skilled categories. In the non-manufacturing trades such as construction, auto and truck mechanic and locksmith, they comprise 95 percent of the total number classified. (See Table X, page 22). However, there are significant numbers of women refugees skilled in manufacturing, notably in the clothing and textile occupations.

The skilled categories (manufacturing and non-manufacturing) in which there are significant numbers of men are:

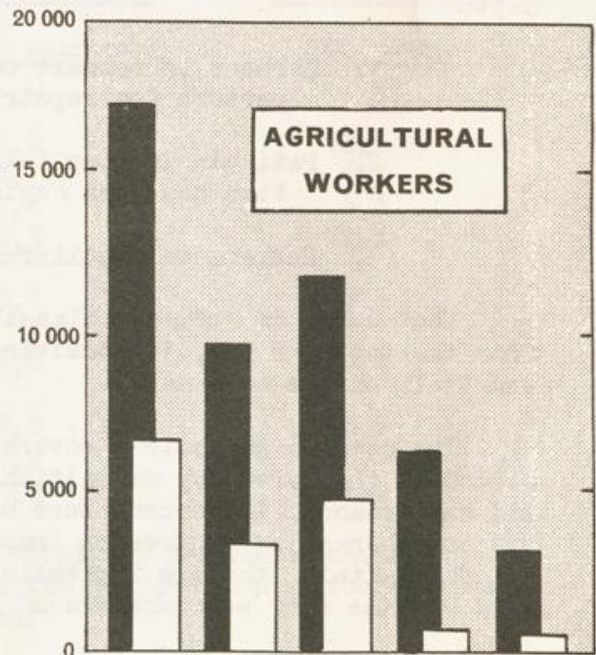
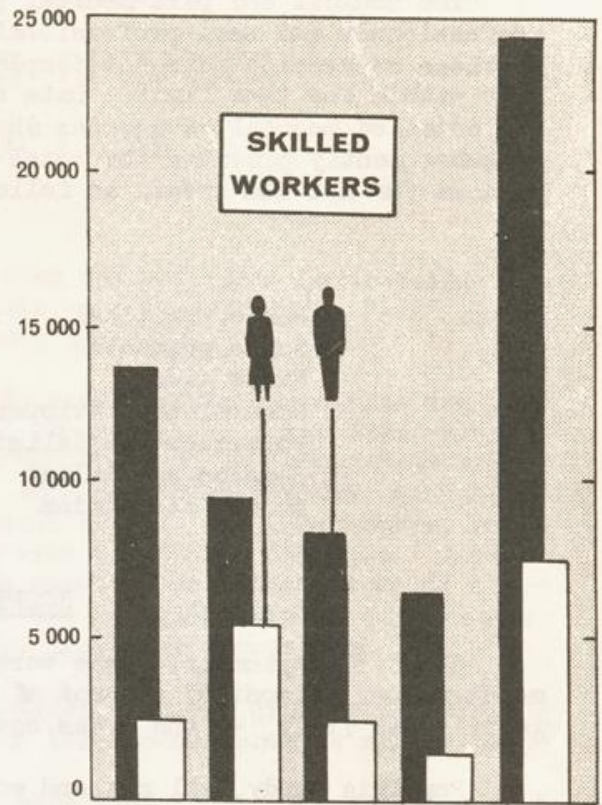
Tailor	5,904
Shoemaker	5,704
Locksmith	5,550
Auto and truck mechanic	4,046
Carpenter	3,576
Electrician	3,240
Butcher	2,725
Joiner	2,642
Baker	2,357
Painter	1,680
Blacksmith	1,243

Agricultural Workers

Agriculture, fishery, forestry and kindred occupations account for the largest single group of refugees. The 63,000 agricultural workers, of whom 75 percent are men, represent over 22 percent of all refugees classified occupationally. Of the 9 specific categories included in this group, the most significant are farmers and farm hands or labourers. (See Table X, page 22).

Professional and Managerial Group

Of the 283,000 refugees classified as of 30 September, over 35,000 have occupations in professional or managerial fields, 23,000 men and 12,000 women. There are over 25,000 men and women in the professional sub-group alone, including teachers, engin-



eers, doctors and nurses. The accompanying chart gives the numbers of men and women in the combined professional and managerial groups and shows the breakdown by country of citizenship or ethnic group.

The medical and para-medical professions constitute an important group of professionals and semi-professionals. Figures on the basis of revised titles in these categories were not completed for Austria and the British Zone of Germany within the time limit. Data for these areas are, therefore, excluded from the detailed medical categories shown in Table X. However, information received subsequently provides the total numbers of refugees in these specific occupations for all IRO areas, as follows:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Nurse, practical	33	1,367
Nurse, graduate	5	558
Nurse aide	20	1,370
General practitioner	660	220
Physician specialist	446	202
Surgeon specialist	153	42
Dental technician	222	47

#### SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

As of 30 September, there were 555,300 persons receiving IRO care and maintenance. Almost 97 percent of these, or 537,611 refugees, were in Germany, Austria and Italy - the areas covered by the occupational survey.

For this study, all men and women aged 16 but under 65 were included except:

1. Persons in transit centres or in embarkation centres awaiting departure for repatriation or resettlement;
2. Patients in hospitals or convalescent homes, unless their occupation had been registered previously; and,
3. Mothers with children under 12 years of age.

The number of refugees classified as to occupational skills was 283,188 from the total of 537,611 receiving IRO care and maintenance in Germany, Austria and Italy on the same date.

The returns indicate a coverage of approximately 95 percent of those included in the survey by definition. Among the total number receiving IRO care and maintenance, 10 percent were outside assembly centres - that is, in transit or embarkation centres or temporarily hospitalized. Another 25 percent did not fall within the age limitations, and an additional 10 percent were eliminated because they were mothers of children under 12 years of age.

Occupations are reported separately for the two age groups, persons 16 but under 45 and persons 45 but under 65. All of the areas have reported uniformly on this basis and the detailed breakdown is shown in the individual area tables and in Table X which lists all specific occupations. In the summaries of major occupational groups by country of citizenship or location of the refugees (Tables I and II), the two age groups are combined.

Since the 31 March report of occupational skills, the classification system has been further refined and standardized. In Table X, 235 specific occupational classifications are presented. These have been strictly defined for the most part in terms used by the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, United States Employment Service, June 1939.