



OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS OF REFUGEES UNDER IRO CARE

In March 1949 the International Refugee Organisation conducted its fourth survey of the occupational skills of refugees under its care. Up to that time nearly half a million had found new homes in Australia, Canada, France, Israel, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other countries of refuge. Many of those resettled had gone through a rigid selection process based on a particular country's need for certain kinds of workmen. Nevertheless, those remaining under IRO care, classified according to the kinds of skills they possess, show about the same proportion in the various groups as formerly. The selection process, with a few exceptions, has taken workers fairly equally from all types of skill.

One of the exceptions to this uniform selection has been in the group of workers skilled in manufacturing and in non-manufacturing activities. The proportion of such workers has dropped slightly - from 29 to 27 per cent. The proportion of agricultural workers on the other hand has increased from 22 to 24 per cent.

When all workers are classified in major groups according to skill, as in Table I, skilled workers in manufacturing and non-manufacturing activities and agricultural workers appear as the two largest groups. Professional and managerial workers, with 13 per cent, rank third.

The distribution of refugees among these major occupational groups is compared for the last three periods studied as follows:

<u>Major Occupational Group</u>	<u>Percentage Distribution</u>			
	<u>March 1948</u>	<u>September 1948</u>	<u>March 1949</u>	
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Professional and managerial	13	13	13	13
Clerical and sales	6	6	6	6
Services	8	6	7	7
Agricultural	22	22	24	24
Skilled, manufacturing	19	19	17	17
Skilled, non-manufacturing	10	10	10	10
Semi-skilled and apprentices	7	7	7	7
Helpers and labourers	4	6	8	8
Inexperienced	11	11	9	9

In the March 1949 survey 234,110 workers were classified in Austria, Germany and Italy. Two thirds of these were men. In all the broad occupational groups except services, men were more numerous than women.

A review of the major groups and sub-groups in Table I shows that women are distributed fairly evenly among all occupational groups while men are concentrated heavily in agriculture, skilled occupations in manufacturing and non-manufacturing activities and in professional and managerial positions. These three broad groups claim nearly three quarters of the men.

Among the men, 28 per cent are agricultural workers. Those skilled in manufacturing and in non-manufacturing activities constitute 32 per cent, while the professional and managerial groups account for 13 per cent. This distribution shows no marked difference from the preceding survey except for the slight increase in the agricultural group and the decline in the skilled group noted above.

Among the women, changes in the distribution during the last six months are more marked. The skilled group has declined from 20 to 16 per cent, the agricultural proportion remains about the same (16 per cent) and the service groups have increased from 14 to 17 per cent.

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

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Professional and managerial	13	13
Clerical and sales	5	8
Services	3	17
Agricultural	28	16
Skilled, manufacturing	17	16
Skilled, non-manufacturing	15	-
Semi-skilled and apprentices	8	4
Helpers and labourers	7	9
No previous work experience	4	17

Skilled workers

This survey shows that among refugees receiving IRO care and maintenance in Germany, Austria and Italy there are still 62,000 classified as workers skilled in manufacturing or non-manufacturing activities. The number is smaller than it was six months ago because among the half million resettled many skilled workers have been chosen. The numbers remaining, not as yet selected, are being augmented constantly by training courses conducted by IRO and by the international voluntary agencies for young workers and for those who can improve or develop secondary skills that will make them more useful workers.

While men represent the most significant proportion of the skilled group there are more than 13,000 women also in this group. The majority of these are seamstresses. (See Table III).

Skilled categories (manufacturing and non-manufacturing) in which there are significant numbers of men are as follows:

Tailor	4,370
Shoemaker	4,527
Locksmith	4,289
Auto and truck mechanic	3,734

Electrician	2,888
Carpenter	2,544
Joiner	2,474
Butcher	2,162
Baker	1,676
Painter	1,263
Blacksmith	1,005

Agricultural workers

Agricultural workers, second in importance to skilled workers (manufacturing and non-manufacturing) number more than 55,000. The group of agricultural workers has declined by only 12 per cent during the past six months while the number of skilled workers in manufacturing and non-manufacturing activities has declined by 23 per cent.

Agricultural workers include 42,000 men and 13,000 women. Among them are 28,000 farmers, 24,000 agricultural labourers or farm hands and 1,738 gardeners. Other specific occupations are shown in Table III.

Professional and managerial groups

About 30,000 professional and managerial workers were found in the survey, including 20,000 men and 10,000 women. This group, also, has diminished less than the group of skilled workers - a little over 14 per cent during the last six months.

Among the principal professions in which men have been engaged are the following:

Teachers and professors	2,528
Engineers	1,947
Lawyers	1,180
Physicians and surgeons	1,167
Clergymen	954
Agronomists	953
Musicians	653
Foresters	630

The women are predominantly teachers (2,459) and nurses (2,022) but women are also found in other professional fields, as the following figures indicate:

Physicians and surgeons	358
Dentists	313
Pharmacists	240

SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

On 31 March 1949 when this study was made, 483,715 refugees were receiving IRO care and maintenance. Almost 92 per cent of these, or 443,901 were in Germany, Austria and Italy - the areas covered by the occupational survey.

All men and women aged 16 but under 65 were included in the study, except the following:

1. Persons in transit centres or embarkation centres awaiting departure for repatriation or resettlement;
2. Patients in hospitals or convalescent homes, unless their occupations

had been registered previously;

and

3. Mothers with children under 12 years of age.

Returns indicate complete coverage of the care and maintenance population in the areas studied. The number of refugees classified as to occupational skills was 234,110 or about 53 per cent of the total of 443,901 receiving IRO care and maintenance in Germany, Austria and Italy on the same date. Those defined as outside the study and therefore not classified included 28 per cent not within the defined age limits, 7 per cent in transit centres, 1 per cent hospitalized and about 11 per cent mothers with 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 the areas have reported uniformly on this basis and the detailed breakdown is shown for each area in Table III. In the summaries of major occupational groups by location of refugees (Table I) and by country of citizenship (Table II) the two age groups are combined.

Since the report for September 1948 the classification system has been further refined and standardised. In Table III figures are presented for 235 specific occupations. Selected originally from the Dictionary of Occupational Titles of the United States Employment Service, these occupations have been defined in somewhat briefer versus by the International Refugee Organisation in co-operation with the International Labour Office and have been published in a handbook for field use, entitled "Occupational Titles", January 1949.

Among the group of skilled workers - a little over 10 per cent - are the following:

Among the technical professions in which we have been engaged are the following:

838	Teachers and professors
839	Engineers
840	Lawyers
841	Physicians and surgeons
842	Clergymen
843	Accountants
844	Musicians
845	Foresters

The women are predominantly teachers (2,129) and nurses (2,782). They were also found in other professional fields, as the following figures indicate:

846	Physicians and surgeons
847	Dentists
848	Pharmacists

On 31 March 1949 when this study was made, 20,712 refugees were receiving IRO care and maintenance, 10 per cent of whom were employed in the study.

All are and women aged 16 but under 65 were included in the study, except the following:

1. Persons in transit centres or emigration centres awaiting departure for resettlement or repatriation;

2. Persons in hospitals or convalescent homes, whose health condition