New Jersey State Archives Collection Guide

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Institutional History

In 1878, the Bureau of Statistics of Labor and Industries was established by the New Jersey Legislature to "collect, assort, systematize and present in annual reports to the legislature ... statistical details relating to all departments of labor in the state, especially in its relations to commercial, industrial, social, educational and sanitary condition of the laboring classes" (P.L. 1878, chap. 105, p. 169). The agency's name was changed to the Bureau of Industrial Statistics in 1914 (P.L. 1914, chap. 156, p. 287) and merged with the Department of Labor in 1915 (P.L. 1915, chap. 351, p. 657), where it continued to publish the annual reports until 1917.

Content Note

This series consists of the annual reports of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor and Industries to the New Jersey Legislature. The reports provide detailed information on New Jersey manufacturing, trade and agriculture. Report formats varied from year to year, as did subject matter. The following information was regularly included: business openings and closings, goods produced, employment rates, wages, industrial accidents, and trade union activities. In addition to raw data, throughout the series are special reports covering a variety of topics, for example: "Pauperism" (1883), "The Oyster Industry of New Jersey" (1896), and "Economic Changes in the Building Trades" (1907). Volumes up to 1894 include both a table of contents and a subject index; after 1894, only the table of contents is included. Reports up to the year 1904 are also indexed in Adelaide R. Hasse's *Index of Economic Material in Documents of the States of the United States: New Jersey, 1789-1904*, which is available in the Archives Search Room.

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