

**Chapter 22 Primary Source Activity**

The Industrial Revolution changed the way people throughout Europe lived, especially in cities (textbook pages 564–566). In 1845, Andre Cuchot, a writer for the Paris journal *Revue des deux Mondes*, carefully studied the people of the city of Paris and described the many kinds of work they did. This excerpt describes the largest group, “mechanical professions”—about 43 percent of the city’s working population. ♦ *As you read, notice the difference between the owners and managers and the ordinary workers in these professions. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*

## The People of Paris Earn a Living

Studies made by the city government for the establishment of an industrial advisory council provide a classification of Parisian manufactures. It makes a list of 125 well-defined occupations, which can be divided into five groups. The first includes 24 industries concerned with the manufacture of yarns and textiles. In that class there are 2,480 “notables,” or persons eligible to participate in the election of the council, meaning that they have been active for at least six years, and have never undergone bankruptcy. The second group, including at least 20 metal-working trades, has 5,671 notables, counting only independent producers. It would be astonishing to find 650 master clockmakers and watchmakers, 742 jewelers, 420 makers of musical instruments, 225 bronzeworkers, etc., if we did not know that Paris inspires and satisfies the luxury trade of a large part of Europe.

The third group, chemical products, includes 46 trades, but still amounts to only 2,321 elector-notables. In a fourth group entitled miscellaneous occupations there are 35 trades with 4,491 notables. Among the most numerous are master shoemakers, cabinetmakers, heads of establishments concerned with typography or lithography. . . . A final group . . . consists mainly of the building trades. . . .

Add to these heads of establishments. . . the 6,000 foremen and licensed artisans, and you come to a total of 26,000 proprietors or directors of shops. This industrial aristocracy, assuming four or five persons per household, amounts to only 120,000 souls. Now, since the industrial population taken as a whole must today exceed 380,000 souls, the difference between the two figures, about 260,000, represents the needy crowd of petty workmen and day laborers.

. . . A single figure including all family members comes closer to the truth for this class. . . because here women and children are often employed. The shoemakers’ group seems the most numerous, about 24,000 heads. . . . When we search for a description of the circumstances of most women, we find at least 40,000 dressmakers and lingerie workers, counting the mistresses of shops; 17,000 laundresses and linen women, working mainly on their own; 6,000 who knit, 5,000 who embroider, 1,500 florists, etc.

Source: *Metternich’s Europe*, ed. Mack Walker (Walker and Co., 1968).

### Questions to Think About

- How does the writer explain the many people in Paris who work at making clocks, jewelry, and other luxuries?
- What kind of work do most of the women workers in this category do?
- Drawing Conclusions** Of the 380,000 people involved in the “mechanical professions,” how does the number of ordinary workers compare with owners and managers? From this, what can you conclude about manufacturing businesses in Paris at this time?
- Activity** Choose one of the “mechanical professions” mentioned in the excerpt and develop an advertising poster, writing as if you were the proprietor of that business. Illustrate it if you can.