

**BACKGROUND FACTS
ON WOMEN WORKERS
IN THE UNITED STATES**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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Labor Force Status and Participation

In June 1965, there were 27.3 million women 14 years of age and over in the labor force. (Table 1) They represented 35 percent of all workers. A total of 42.9 million women were not in the labor force. The median age (half older, half younger) of women in the labor force in 1964 was 41 years.

Almost 2 million women, or 7.2 percent of all women workers, were seeking work in June 1965. By age group, the unemployment rate in 1964 was highest among teenagers. (Table 2) More than 1 out of 7 girls 14 to 19 years old in the labor force was looking for a job.

Of all women in the population, 38.9 percent were in the labor force in June 1965. Labor force participation in 1964 was greatest among women 45 to 54 years of age; more than half of this group were either working or seeking work. (Table 2) Among women 18 to 64 years old, 45 percent were in the labor force.

Industries and Occupations

The largest number of women work in service industries. (Table 3) In March 1964, they numbered more than 10 million and accounted for more than two-fifths of all women workers. Numerically, the service industries were followed by manufacturing (4.7 million women) and retail trade (4.3 million women). Women's employment in the remaining industries totaled 4.7 million. In January 1965, women were more than half of all employees in the apparel and related products industry, telephone communications, general merchandise stores, apparel and accessories stores, eating and drinking places, banking, laundries and cleaning plants, and hospitals. (Table 4)

Women are employed in a great variety of occupations, but in 1964 the largest number (7.5 million) had clerical jobs. (Table 5) Women service workers (outside of households) totaled 3.7 million; women operatives, 3.6 million. The 3.1 million women professional and technical workers represented 1 out of 8 of all employed women. This was about the same ratio as men professional and technical workers were of all employed men. Women predominated in the teaching and nursing professions and also in clerical and service work.

Almost three-fourths of all women workers were on full-time schedules in June 1965, as compared with nine-tenths of all men workers. (Table 6) The women who worked part time did so primarily for personal reasons.

Work Experience

Almost one-half of all women in the population worked at some time during 1963. (Table 7) By marital status, the proportions with work experience ranged from 45 percent for married women with husband present to 54 percent for single women. Women who worked full time the year round constituted 35 percent of both single and married women (husband present) and 46 percent of those with other marital status.

Marital and Family Status

Married women (husband present) accounted for 57 percent of all women workers in March 1964; single women, 23 percent; widows, 9 percent; and divorced and married women (husband absent), 6 and 5 percent, respectively. (Table 8)

One-third of all mothers with children under 18 years of age were in the labor force in March 1964. (Table 9) These mothers numbered 9.5 million. Nearly 3.6 million mothers with children under 6 years of age were working--about one-fourth of all mothers with children of this age group. Two million mothers with children under 3 years of age were workers--about one-fifth of all mothers in this group.

Income

The median (half above, half below) income of year-round full-time women workers was \$3,710 in 1964. (Table 10) This was only three-fifths of the median income (\$6,283) of year-round full-time men workers. Only 28 percent of all women with income in the population were year-round full-time workers.

Forty percent of the women had less than \$1,000 income, and 59 percent had less than \$2,000. Seventy-two percent of the women but only 34 percent of the men had less than \$3,000. At the upper end of the income scale, only 17 percent of women but 57 percent of men had income over \$4,000.

Among women employed year round full time, highest incomes were received by professional and technical workers (\$5,192), managers, officials, and proprietors (\$4,183), and clerical workers (\$4,117). (Table 11)

Educational Attainment

Women in the labor force in March 1964 generally had more education than all women in the population. (Table 12) The median years of school completed by women 18 years of age and over in the labor force was 12.3 years; for all women of that age group in the population, it was 12.1 years. These levels of educational attainment were slightly higher than those achieved by men.

Of women in the labor force, about 1 out of 10 had less than 8 years of schooling, 6 out of 10 had graduated from high school, and 2 out of 10 had some college education.

The highest educational levels of employed women were found among professional and technical workers, followed by clerical workers, managers and officials, and sales workers. (Table 13) Women private-household workers and operatives had the least schooling on the average.

College Enrollments

In the fall of 1964, 1.9 million women were enrolled in college. (Table 14) This was 1.1 million less than the number of men. However, the proportion of women among all college students rose from 35 percent in 1957 to 39 percent in 1964.

Table 1.--Women in the Labor Force, June 1965
(14 years of age and over)

Labor force status	Women		
	Number	As percent of total men and women	
Population <u>1</u> /	70,156,000	52.6	
Civilian labor force	27,257,000	34.9	
Employed	25,284,000	34.3	
Unemployed	1,972,000	46.0	
Not in the labor force	42,899,000	77.3	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
Unemployment rate (Not seasonally adjusted)	5.5	7.2	4.6

1/ Excludes women in the Armed Forces, who numbered about 30,000.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, July 1965.

NOTE

Because of rounding, percentages in statistical tables do not necessarily add to 100.

Table 2.--Labor Force Participation and Unemployment
 Rates of Women, by Age,
 1965 1/ and 1964 2/
 (Women 14 years of age and over)

Age group	Women workers as percent of woman population		Percent of unemployed women in the labor force	
	1965	1964	1965	1964
All women workers	37.5	37.4	6.0	6.2
14-19 years	26.2	28.2	17.5	15.0
20-24 years	49.3	49.4	7.8	8.6
25-34 years	38.3	37.2	6.0	6.3
35-44 years	46.0	45.0	4.7	5.0
45-54 years	50.7	51.4	3.3	3.9
55-64 years	41.3	40.2	3.2	3.5
65 years and over	10.2	10.1	3.1	3.4
18-64 years	45.0	44.7	--	--

1/ Average for first 6 months.

2/ 12-month average.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics:
 Employment and Earnings, January 1965 to July 1965.

Table 3.--Major Industry Groups of Employed Women, March 1964
(Women 14 years of age and over)

Industry group	Employed women	
	Number	Percent distribution
Total	<u>23,786,000</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Services	10,128,000	42.6
Professional and related	5,700,000	24.0
Personal	3,839,000	16.1
Business	426,000	1.8
Entertainment and recreation	163,000	0.7
Manufacturing	4,667,000	19.6
Retail trade	4,327,000	18.2
Finance, insurance, real estate	1,551,000	6.5
Public administration	1,048,000	4.4
Transportation, communications	753,000	3.2
Agriculture	597,000	2.5
Wholesale trade	473,000	2.0
Construction	217,000	0.9
Mining	25,000	0.1

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: Current Population Report P-60, No. 43.

Table 4.--Industries Employing 250,000 or More Women,
January 1965
(Women 14 years of age and over)

Industry	Women	
	Number	As percent of total in industry
Manufacturing	4,545,000	26
Electrical equipment and supplies	600,400	38
Food and kindred products	380,600	23
Textile mill products	394,700	44
Apparel and related products	1,039,200	79
Men's and boys' furnishings	291,100	85
Women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear	325,900	82
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	276,600	29
Transportation and public utilities		
Communication	422,600	49
Telephone communication	391,200	55
Wholesale and retail trade	4,603,000	37
Wholesale trade	708,000	22
Retail trade	3,895,000	43
General merchandise stores	1,233,400	69
Department stores	766,500	69
Food stores	477,000	33
Grocery, meat, and vegetable stores	379,100	30
Apparel and accessories stores	413,500	65
Eating and drinking places	989,300	56
Other retail trade	666,200	22
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1,466,000	50
Banking	461,700	60
Insurance carriers	428,700	48
Service and miscellaneous		
Hotels and lodging places		
Hotels, tourist courts, and motels	256,500	47
Personal services		
Laundries, cleaning and dyeing plants	358,500	67
Medical services		
Hospitals	1,117,700	81

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, May 1965.

Table 5.--Occupations of Employed Women, 1964
(Women 14 years of age and over)

Occupation	Employed women		
	Number <u>1/</u>	Percent distribution	As percent of total employed
Total	<u>24,218,000</u>	<u>100.0</u>	34.4
White-collar workers			
Professional, technical workers	3,110,000	12.8	36.4
Medical, other health workers	834,000	3.4	59.4
Teachers (except college)	1,330,000	5.5	70.8
Other professional, technical workers	946,000	3.9	18.0
Managers, officials, proprietors	1,109,000	4.6	14.9
Salaried workers	637,000	2.6	14.8
Self-employed workers (retail trade)	307,000	1.3	20.8
Self-employed workers (except retail trade)	165,000	0.7	9.8
Clerical workers	7,453,000	30.8	69.9
Stenographers, typists, secretaries	2,651,000	10.9	97.9
Other clerical workers	4,802,000	19.8	60.3
Sales workers	1,749,000	7.2	39.3
Blue-collar workers			
Craftsmen	250,000	1.0	2.8
Operatives	3,649,000	15.1	28.2
Nonfarm laborers	91,000	0.4	2.5
Service workers			
Private-household workers	2,259,000	9.3	97.3
Service workers (except private-household)	3,729,000	15.4	53.8
Waitresses, cooks, and bartenders	1,377,000	5.7	72.1
Other service workers	2,307,000	9.5	55.8
Farm workers			
Farmers, farm managers	132,000	0.5	5.7
Farm laborers and foremen	689,000	2.8	32.4

1/ 12-month average for 1964.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: **Employment and Earnings**, January 1965.

Table 6.--Full-Time and Part-Time Job Status of Women
and Men Workers, June 1965
(Persons 14 years of age and over)

Job status	Women at work	Men at work
Total at work: <u>1/</u>		
Number	<u>22,302,000</u>	<u>42,029,000</u>
Percent	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>
On full-time schedule <u>2/</u>	74.6	91.2
On part-time schedule <u>3/</u>	25.4	8.9
For economic reasons	4.4	3.0
Usually work full time	1.6	1.4
Usually work part time	2.8	1.6
For other reasons (usually work part time)	21.0	5.9

1/ Excludes workers in agricultural industries.

2/ Refers to 35 hours or more a week.

3/ Refers to less than 35 hours a week.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, July 1965.

Table 7.--Work Experience of Women in 1963, by Marital Status
(Women 14 years of age and over)

	Total	Marital status		
		Single	Married (husband present)	Other
Number of women in population with work experience	<u>32,188,000</u>	<u>7,398,000</u>	<u>18,985,000</u>	<u>5,805,000</u>
Percent of women in population with work experience	46.9	53.7	45.1	45.5
Percent distribution				
Total with work experience	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>
On full-time jobs <u>1/</u>				
50-52 weeks	36.9	34.9	34.9	45.8
27-49 weeks	15.2	10.5	16.3	17.5
1-26 weeks	15.9	16.4	16.8	12.5
On part-time jobs <u>2/</u>	32.0	38.2	32.1	24.2

1/ Refers to work of 35 hours or more a week.

2/ Refers to work of less than 35 hours a week.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Special Labor Force Report No. 48.

Table 8.--Marital Status of Women Workers, March 1964
(Women 14 years of age and over)

Marital status	Women workers		
	Number	Percent distribution	As percent of all women
Total	25,399,000	100.0	36.5
Single	5,781,000	22.8	40.9
Married, husband present	14,461,000	56.9	34.4
Married, husband absent	<u>1</u> /1,329,000	5.2	49.1
Widowed	2,355,000	9.3	27.6
Divorced	1,473,000	5.8	70.7

1/ Includes 102,000 wives whose husbands were absent in the Armed Forces.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Special Labor Force Report No. 50.

Table 9.--Labor Force Status of Mothers, March 1964
(Women 14 years of age and over)

Presence and age of children	Number of women		Percent of population in labor force
	Population	Labor force	
Ever-married women, total	55,371,000	19,618,000	35.4
Mothers with children under 18 years	27,609,000	9,527,000	34.5
With children 6-17 years only	12,952,000	5,934,000	45.8
With children under 6 years	14,657,000	3,593,000	24.5
With some under 3 years	9,366,000	2,043,000	21.8
With none under 3 years	5,291,000	1,550,000	29.3
Women without children under 18 years	27,762,000	10,091,000	36.3

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Special Labor Force Report No. 50.

Table 10.--Income of Women and Men, 1964
(Persons 14 years of age and over)

	Women	Men
TOTAL INCOME RECIPIENTS		
Number (with income)	41,704,000	58,533,000
Percent of population with income	59.7	91.4
Median income	\$1,449	\$4,647
Percent distribution		
Income range	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Under \$1,000	40.0	14.2
\$1,000 to \$1,999	18.8	10.9
\$2,000 to \$2,999	13.3	8.9
\$3,000 to \$3,999	10.6	9.4
\$4,000 to \$4,999	7.6	9.8
\$5,000 and over	9.7	46.8
YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKERS		
Percent of total income recipients	28.2	59.5
Median income	\$3,710	\$6,283
Women's income as percent of men's	59.0	

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census:
Current Population Report P-60, No. 44.

Table 11.--Median Income of Employed Women and Men, 1964
(Persons 14 years of age and over)

Occupational group	All employed		Employed year round full time	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	\$4,417	\$7,950	\$5,192	\$8,655
Clerical and kindred workers	3,507	5,719	4,117	6,225
Managers, officials, proprietors (except farm)	3,425	7,463	4,183	7,793
Craftsmen, foremen, kindred workers	3,141	6,268	(1/)	6,613
Operatives and kindred workers	2,758	5,130	3,288	5,738
Sales workers	1,911	5,764	2,740	6,948
Service workers (except private-household)	1,626	4,065	2,585	4,861
Private-household workers	659	(1/)	1,265	(1/)

1/ Median not shown for occupational groups with fewer than 200,000 workers.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: Current Population Report P-60, No. 44.

Table 12.--Years of School Completed by Women and Men
in the Population and Labor Force, March 1964
(Persons 18 years of age and over)

	Population ^{1/}		Labor force	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Number	<u>61,883,000</u>	<u>55,118,000</u>	<u>24,326,000</u>	<u>45,600,000</u>
Percent	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>
No school years completed	1.3	1.7	0.4	0.7
Elementary school:				
1 to 4 years	3.9	5.1	2.0	3.7
5 to 7 years	9.4	10.4	6.9	9.0
8 years	13.8	14.6	10.9	13.6
High school:				
1 to 3 years	19.2	18.4	18.8	19.4
4 years	36.0	28.1	40.9	31.1
College:				
1 to 3 years	9.8	10.8	10.6	10.6
4 years	4.9	6.1	6.6	6.8
5 years or more	1.6	4.7	2.9	5.3
Median years of school completed	12.1	12.0	12.3	12.1

^{1/} Refers to the civilian noninstitutional population.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Special Labor Force Report No. 53.

Table 13.--Years of School Completed by Employed Women and Men,
by Selected Occupational Group, March 1964
(Persons 18 years of age and over)

Occupational group	Median years of school completed	
	Women	Men
All occupational groups	12.3	12.1
Professional, technical, kindred workers	16.2	16.4
Managers, officials, proprietors (except farm)	12.4	12.6
Clerical workers	12.5	12.5
Sales workers	12.2	12.7
Craftsmen, foremen, kindred workers	11.2	11.5
Operatives and kindred workers	10.0	10.7
Service workers (except private- household)	11.2	<u>1/</u> 10.6
Private-household workers	8.8	--

1/ Includes private-household workers.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics:
Special Labor Force Report No. 53.

Table 14.--Opening (Fall) College Enrollments

Year	Women	Men	Women as percent of total
1964	1,936,106	3,051,761	39
1963	1,738,989	2,789,527	38
1962	1,603,600	2,603,072	38
1960	1,339,367	2,270,640	37
1957	1,064,993	2,003,424	35

Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education: Opening (Fall) Enrollment in Higher Education, 1964.