

**CURRENT DATA**  
**ON**  
**NONWHITE WOMEN WORKERS**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**  
**W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary**  
**WOMEN'S BUREAU**  
**Mary Dublin Keyserling, Director**  
**December 1965**

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Labor Force Status and Participation

There were 3.6 million nonwhite women workers in the United States in September 1965. (Table 1) They represented 48 percent of nonwhite women in the population and 14 percent of all women workers. Almost 4 million nonwhite women were not in the labor force; about 3 million of them were keeping house, 914,000 were in school, and 199,000 were not working for other reasons.

In each age group except the teenager group, nonwhite women had a higher labor-force participation rate than white women. (Table 2) Similarly, among married women (husband present) with or without children, there were proportionately more nonwhite than white working wives. (Table 3) Among nonwhite working mothers, those with school age children only had the highest labor force participation rate (58 percent).

In September 1965, 284,000 nonwhite women workers were seeking work. (Table 1) The unemployment rate was 7.8 percent. This compares with 4.7 percent for white women.

Unemployment rates of nonwhite women in 1964 were higher than those of white women in each age group except 65 years and over, with the most striking difference occurring among teenagers. (Table 2) About every third nonwhite girl 14-19 years old was looking for a job as compared to every seventh white girl.

Occupations

Nonwhite women were employed in all major occupational groups in September 1965, with the largest number in private-household and other service work. (Table 4) In contrast, the largest number of white women were clerical workers.

Similar proportions of nonwhite and white women were employed as operatives. The proportions of nonwhite women teachers and white women teachers were about the same; all other white-collar categories accounted for relatively fewer nonwhite than white women.

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1/ For detailed information on nonwhite and Negro women workers, see "Negro Women Workers in 1960," Women's Bureau Bulletin 287. 1964.

## Work Experience

Of all nonwhite women at work in September 1965, more than one-fourth were employed on a part-time basis compared with one-fourth of the white women. (Table 5) Relatively more nonwhite women than white women reported they usually worked part time involuntarily.

More than half of all nonwhite women worked some time during 1963. (Table 6) Of these, almost one-third worked full time the year round and another one-third worked a full-time week, but for only part of the year. In contrast, almost half of the nonwhite teenage girls and more than two-thirds of the women 65 years and over who worked some time during 1963 had part-time jobs.

## Income

Nonwhite women with income 2/in 1964 numbered almost 5.1 million and represented two-thirds of the nonwhite woman population. (Table 7) Their median income (half above, half below) was \$1,066. A smaller proportion of white women reported income, but their median was almost half again as high--\$1,513.

More than 2 out of 3 nonwhite women had income of less than \$2,000 in 1964, and almost 1 out of 2 had less than \$1,000. In contrast, about 3 out of 5 white women received less than \$2,000, and 2 out of 5 received less than \$1,000.

There was not much difference in the percentages of nonwhite and white women who were year-round full-time workers. The median income of nonwhite women workers, however, was only 69 percent that of white women workers in 1964.

## Years of School Completed

The educational level attained by nonwhite women in the labor force in March 1964 was higher than that of all nonwhite women in the population, but lower than that of white women. (Table 8) The median school years completed by nonwhite women workers was 10.8 years-- $1\frac{1}{2}$  years less than that of white women workers.

Seven percent of nonwhite women workers and 12 percent of nonwhite women in the population had less than 5 years of schooling. In contrast, only 2 percent of white women workers and 4 percent of all white women had so little schooling.

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2/ Refers to total income from all sources.

Almost 2 out of 3 nonwhite women workers had some high school education, and 1 out of 8 had attended college. For white women workers, the ratios were 4 out of 5 and 1 out of 5, respectively.

#### Information on Negro Women, 1960

The ratio of Negro women workers to all Negro women in the individual States, in 1960, ranged from 30 percent in Hawaii and Maine to 59 percent in Alaska. (Table 9) In each of these 3 States, however, the number of Negro women was very small. In New York, where their concentration was greatest, 50 percent of the Negro women were in the labor force. For the Nation, the proportion of Negro women workers in the Negro woman population was 42 percent.

The median number of school years completed by Negro women in the population also varied widely among the States. It ranged from 7.5 years in Georgia and Mississippi to 12.2 years in Hawaii. For the Nation, the average was 8.9 years.

Table 1.--Labor Force Status of Nonwhite Women and all Women  
September 1965

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Labor force status	Number		Nonwhite women as percent of all women
	Nonwhite women	All women	
Population <u>1</u> /	<u>7,643,000</u>	<u>70,403,000</u>	10.9
Civilian labor force	3,644,000	26,615,000	13.7
Employed	3,360,000	25,246,000	13.3
Unemployed	284,000	1,368,000	20.8
Not in the labor force	3,999,000	43,788,000	9.1
Unemployment rate (percent)	7.8	5.1	

1/ Excludes women in the Armed Forces.

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

NOTE

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

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

Age group	Percent of women in population who work		Percent of unemployed women in the labor force	
	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White
All women workers	46.0	36.4	10.8	5.5
14 to 19 years	22.8	29.0	30.6	13.2
20 to 24 years	53.6	48.8	18.3	7.1
25 to 34 years	52.8	35.0	11.2	5.2
35 to 44 years	58.4	43.3	7.8	4.5
45 to 54 years	62.3	50.2	6.1	3.6
55 to 64 years	48.4	39.4	3.8	3.5
65 years and over	12.7	9.9	2.2	3.4

Source: Manpower Report of the President and A Report on Manpower Requirements, Resources, Utilization, and Training by the United States Department of Labor. March 1965.

Table 3.--Labor Force Participation Rates of Nonwhite  
and White Married Women (husband present)  
March 1964  
(Women 14 years of age and over)

	Percent of married women who work <sup>1/</sup>		
	Total	Nonwhite	White
All married women (husband present)	34.4	45.1	33.4
With children under 6 years	22.7	33.7	21.4
Some under 3 years	20.5	29.3	19.3
None under 3 years	26.7	44.6	25.0
With children 6 to 17 years only	43.0	57.7	41.9
Without children under 18 years	37.8	49.1	36.8

<sup>1/</sup> Women in civilian labor force as percent of women in population.

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

Table 4.--Occupations of Employed Nonwhite and White Women  
September 1965

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Occupation	Employed women			
	Nonwhite		White	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All groups	<u>3,644,000</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>22,971,000</u>	<u>100.0</u>
White-collar workers				
Professional, technical workers	255,000	7.0	3,124,000	13.6
Medical, other health workers	55,000	1.5	827,000	3.6
Teachers (except college)	142,000	3.9	1,263,000	5.5
Other professional, technical workers	58,000	1.6	1,034,000	4.5
Managers, officials, proprietors	55,000	1.5	1,080,000	4.7
Salaried workers	22,000	0.6	620,000	2.7
Self-employed (retail trade)	26,000	0.7	299,000	1.3
Self-employed workers (except retail trade)	7,000	0.2	138,000	0.6
Clerical workers	401,000	11.0	7,856,000	34.2
Stenographers, typists, secretaries	117,000	3.2	2,871,000	12.5
Other clerical workers	284,000	7.8	4,985,000	21.7
Sales workers	62,000	1.7	1,838,000	8.0
Blue-collar workers				
Craftsmen	33,000	0.9	253,000	1.1
Operatives	528,000	14.5	3,561,000	15.5
Nonfarm laborers	26,000	0.7	69,000	0.3
Service workers				
Private-household workers	1,064,000	29.2	1,240,000	5.4
Service workers (except private-household)	882,000	24.2	3,262,000	14.2
Waitresses, cooks, and bartenders	200,000	5.5	1,286,000	5.6
Other service workers	678,000	18.6	1,953,000	8.5
Farm workers				
Farmers and farm managers	15,000	0.4	115,000	0.5
Farm laborers and foremen	321,000	8.8	551,000	2.4

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

Table 5.--Full-time and Part-time Job Status of Nonwhite and White Women Workers, September 1965

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Full-time and part-time job status	Women at work <sup>1/</sup>	
	Nonwhite	White
Total at work, September 1965		
Number	2,898,000	20,226,000
Percent	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>
On full-time schedule <sup>2/</sup>	72.8	75.3
On part-time schedule <sup>3/</sup>	27.3	24.7
For economic reasons <sup>4/</sup>	8.8	3.0
Usually work full time	1.9	1.4
Usually work part time	6.9	1.6
For other reasons (usually work part time)	18.5	21.7

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes women at work in agricultural industries.

<sup>2/</sup> Refers to work of 35 hours or more a week.

<sup>3/</sup> Refers to work of less than 35 hours a week.

<sup>4/</sup> Includes slack work, material shortages, repairs to plant or equipment, start or termination of job during the week, and inability to find full-time work.

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

Table 6.--Work Experience of Nonwhite Women  
in 1963, by Age

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Work experience in 1963	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-64 years	65 years and over
Number of nonwhite women	<u>7,373,000</u>	<u>1,216,000</u>	<u>780,000</u>	<u>4,660,000</u>	<u>717,000</u>
Percent with work experience	54.8	32.9	65.5	64.0	20.8
Percent distribution					
Total with work experience	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>
On full-time jobs <u>1/</u>	65.8	51.5	73.0	68.0	32.2
50-52 weeks	31.0	2.2	23.5	36.6	20.1
27-49 weeks	16.5	8.8	15.1	18.2	6.7
1-26 weeks	18.3	40.5	34.4	13.2	5.4
On part-time jobs <u>2/</u>	34.3	48.5	27.0	32.0	67.8

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 7.--Median Income of Nonwhite and White Women in 1964

(Women 14 years of age and over)

	Women	
	Nonwhite	White
<b>Total income recipients</b>		
Number (with income)	5,090,000	36,614,000
Percent of population	67	59
Median income	\$1,066	\$1,513
<b>Percent distribution</b>		
Income range	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Under \$1,000	48	39
\$1,000 to \$1,999	21	19
\$2,000 to \$2,999	14	13
\$3,000 to \$3,999	8	11
\$4,000 to \$4,999	4	8
\$5,000 and over	5	10
<b>Year-round, full-time workers</b>		
Percent of total income recipients	26	29
Median income	\$2,663	\$3,835

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 47 (September 24, 1965).

Table 8.--Years of School Completed by Nonwhite and White Women, March 1964

(Women 18 years of age and over)

Years of school completed	Population		Labor force	
	Nonwhite women	White women	Nonwhite women	White women
Number <sup>1/</sup>	6,514,000	55,369,000	3,144,000	21,182,000
Percent	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>
No school years completed	2.4	1.2	1.3	0.3
Elementary school:				
1 to 4 years	10.0	3.2	5.7	1.5
5 to 7 years	18.0	8.4	17.1	5.4
8 years	11.7	14.0	11.0	10.9
High school:				
1 to 3 years	24.6	18.6	25.1	17.8
4 years	23.7	37.5	26.7	43.1
College:				
1 to 3 years	6.3	10.3	7.8	11.0
4 years	2.4	5.1	3.4	7.0
5 years or more	1.0	1.7	1.8	3.1
Median years of school completed	10.0	12.1	10.8	12.3

<sup>1/</sup> Refers to the civilian noninstitutional population.

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

Table 9.--Negro Women in the Population and Labor Force  
and Years of Schooling, Selected States, 1960  
(Women 14 years of age and over)

State	Number		Percent in labor force	Median years of school completed <sup>2/</sup>
	Population	Labor force <sup>1/</sup>		
UNITED STATES <sup>3/</sup>	<u>6,374,575</u>	<u>2,690,774</u>	42	8.9
Alabama .....	328,282	123,326	38	8.0
Alaska .....	1,605	943	59	11.8
Arizona .....	13,165	5,375	41	9.2
California .....	293,495	130,968	45	10.6
Colorado .....	13,028	6,096	47	11.1
Connecticut .....	36,357	17,544	48	9.9
District of Columbia ..	148,713	78,547	53	10.4
Florida .....	287,148	150,813	53	8.4
Georgia .....	377,860	162,245	43	7.5
Hawaii .....	765	230	30	12.2
Illinois .....	355,174	146,751	41	9.7
Indiana .....	89,640	36,060	40	9.8
Iowa .....	8,428	3,485	41	10.1
Kansas .....	29,854	12,065	40	10.2
Louisiana .....	341,270	122,250	36	7.6
Maine .....	736	237	30	12.1
Maryland .....	171,390	77,410	45	9.0
Massachusetts .....	38,679	18,689	48	10.6
Michigan .....	237,259	86,744	37	9.9
Minnesota .....	7,179	3,359	47	11.0
Mississippi .....	290,503	100,172	34	7.5
Missouri .....	136,706	56,488	41	9.3
Nebraska .....	9,418	4,055	43	10.3
Nevada .....	3,946	2,141	54	9.6
New Jersey .....	181,897	88,523	49	9.6
New Mexico .....	5,046	2,456	49	10.0
New York .....	545,511	272,022	50	10.0
North Carolina .....	358,520	145,011	40	8.3
Ohio .....	266,700	110,369	41	9.8
Oklahoma .....	53,066	19,017	36	9.4
Oregon .....	5,693	2,358	41	10.3
Pennsylvania .....	305,672	132,834	43	9.8
Texas .....	401,786	176,306	44	9.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9.--Negro Women in the Population and Labor Force  
and Years of Schooling, Selected States,  
1960--Continued

State	Number		Percent in labor force	Median years of school completed <sup>2/</sup>
	Population	Labor force <sup>1/</sup>		
UNITED STATES <sup>3/</sup>				
Utah .....	1,273	498	39	10.5
Virginia .....	268,194	105,010	39	8.3
Washington .....	13,916	6,104	44	10.6
Wisconsin .....	22,382	9,536	43	9.9

<sup>1/</sup> Includes members of the Armed Forces.

<sup>2/</sup> Refers to Negro women in the population.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes data for the 12 States not listed separately.

NOTE.--The Bureau of the Census reported data by race only for States with 2,500 or more Negroes and 2,500 or more persons of other nonwhite races.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: 1960 Census of Population. Nonwhite Population by Race.