



Facts on Women Workers

JULY 1946

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN JUNE 1946

Employment of women in June increased nearly half a million above that of May. There was also an increase in unemployment of women. Summer normally sees increased seasonal employment, and more workers in the market when school is not in session.

	June 1946			
	Number of women	Change since May 1946	Total persons Number	Percent women
Population (14 years and over)	53,750,000	+ 20,000	106,210,000	50.6
Employed	16,710,000	+ 450,000	56,740,000	29.5
Unemployed	560,000	+ 140,000	2,560,000	21.3
Armed forces	60,000	- 10,000	3,000,000	2.0
Nonworkers	36,420,000	- 560,000	43,910,000	82.0

(U.S. Bureau of the Census)

COST OF LIVING COMMITTEE

On request of representatives from minimum-wage States at the annual Women's Bureau Minimum Wage Conference (March 15-16) in Washington, the Bureau is working toward a new cost-of-living budget for working women for minimum-wage purposes. A Joint State-Federal Committee was set up, including technical consultants from Federal agencies such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Social Security Board, and the Bureau of Home Economics. The first meeting, June 17-18, reviewed use of cost-of-living budgets, difficulties of States in devising defensible budgets, varieties of theories used in constructing budgets, and proposed new techniques as developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Problems on individual budgeting, such as clothing, food, and housing, were discussed, as well as methods for pricing the new type budget. The committee includes representatives from California, Utah, Minnesota, Ohio, Connecticut, and three non-Federal consultants. No report on the Committee's work will be available for several months.

PROGRESS IN LABOR STANDARDS

Certain department stores in Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Columbus, and in six other cities recently instituted a year-round, 5-day, 40-hour week for employees. In no store were weekly salaries reduced because of the shorter working schedules. This is in line with the policy adopted by leading New York department stores in 1941. Certain stores in Washington, D. C., and Baltimore have also had this 5-day 40-hour week for some time.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS

The Director of the Women's Bureau prepared a statement for use of the House Ways and Means Committee in considering pending amendments to the unemployment compensation provisions of the Social Security Act. She urged support for provisions that would enable the States to provide insurance protection to persons engaged in household employment, agriculture, small businesses with fewer than eight employees, and in non-profit establishments. Uniform standards were sought in order to limit the number and character of unemployment compensation disqualifications adopted among the States. This revision would prevent undue hardships to wage earners resulting from cancellations or excessive reduction of benefit credits, particularly in cases of merely temporary separation from the labor market. (Copy of full statement available on request.)

WOMEN EMPLOYEES IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

At the end of May 1946 there were 639,373 women employed full time by the executive branch of the Federal Government. Of these, 116,476 were in the Washington, D. C., area. The decrease during May was 27,279 for the entire country and 3,468 for Washington. This compares with an all-time high of 1,086,397 women employed by the Federal Government in July 1944 and with 186,210 in June 1940.
(U. S. Civil Service Commission)

40,000 STUDENT NURSES NEEDED

The shortage of graduate nurses is acute all over the country and hospitals are closing wards because of it. The American Council on Education and the National Nursing Council urge colleges that must refuse admission to women students to make known the opportunities offered in the nursing profession. In spite of the increasing demand for nurses in industry, in veteran and civilian hospitals and clinics, and the prospect of a vastly expanded program of national health services, some schools of nursing report the fewest number of applicants in their history. The goal of the National Nursing Council is 40,000 student enrollments in 1946-47. Women veterans may enroll in these courses under the GI Bill of Rights.

WOMEN ELECTED TO JAPANESE DIET

Thirty-eight women, ranging in age from 27 to 61, and in occupation from typist to university professor, were elected to the Japanese Diet on April 10. There are 6 Social-Democrats, 5 Liberals, 2 Progressives, and 2 Communists; the other 23 are either independents or members of minority parties. (Far Eastern Survey, May 22, 1946)

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H Y R THE TWO LIVES OF WOMEN, by Edward L. Bernays, McCall's Magazine,
A C E June and July 1946. The first article examines woman's ideal life,
V U A as contrasted with her actual existence; the second provides a blue-
E D print for action.