From November 1946 to December 1946, the employment of women decreased by 600,000, due entirely to a fall in agricultural employment. These women apparently withdrew from the labor market as the number of non-working women rose by 620,000. (Women employment fluctuated throughout the year, the net decrease from December 1945 to December 1946 being 700,000.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 1946</th>
<th>Number of women</th>
<th>Change since November 1946</th>
<th>Total persons Number</th>
<th>Percent women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (14 years and over)</td>
<td>54,150,000</td>
<td>+ 40,000</td>
<td>106,940,000</td>
<td>50.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>16,010,000</td>
<td>- 600,000</td>
<td>56,910,000</td>
<td>28.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>430,000</td>
<td>+ 20,000</td>
<td>2,120,000</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed forces</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1,890,000</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonworkers</td>
<td>37,690,000</td>
<td>+ 620,000</td>
<td>46,620,000</td>
<td>80.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(U.S. Bureau of the Census)

Women's earnings and hours

Women's average weekly earnings for 25 selected manufacturing industries were $33.70 in July, $34.86 in August, and $35.30 in September. Women's average hourly earnings for the same months were 87.1 cents, 90.4 cents, and 91.1 cents. Women's average weekly hours for the same periods were 38.3, 38.5, and 38.6.

(National Industrial Conference Board)

Equal pay

Significant support for equal pay for women appeared in The Economic Report of the President submitted to the Congress on January 8. On "Efficient Utilization of the Labor Force" the President said:

"We must end discrimination in employment or wages against certain classes of workers regardless of their individual abilities. Discrimination against certain racial and religious groups, against workers in late middle age, and against women, not only is repugnant to the principles of our democracy, but often creates artificial 'labor shortages' in the midst of labor surplus. Employers and unions both need to re-examine and revise practices resulting in discrimination. I recommend that, at this session, the Congress provide permanent Federal legislation dealing with this problem."
MINIMUM WAGE

Draft Bills - On December 2, 1946, the U. S. Department of Labor issued two alternative draft bills for use of States interested in minimum-wage legislation. One is a minimum-wage bill for women with supplementary coverage of men; the other is a wage and hour bill with general worker coverage. Also available are drafts of amendments providing for a statutory rate, overtime pay, and extension of coverage of existing women's laws to men. An accompanying memorandum issued with these drafts describes Labor Department policy as follows:

"In States where general public sentiment will support a bill with direct coverage of all workers, the wage and hour type bill may be preferred. In States where there is primary concern for alleviating the economic condition of women workers, the minimum-wage bill may be found to be most feasible.

"In States which already have minimum-wage laws the basic purposes of these draft bills can be accomplished by amendments of various types:

1. An amendment to establish one or more basic rates, where only wage boards are now empowered to establish rates.

2. An amendment to set up wage board procedure where this does not exist.

3. An amendment to provide payment of time-and-a-half the worker's regular rate of pay after specified basic hours.

4. An amendment to extend to men wage and working conditions standards set for women.

New Hampshire - Its revised minimum-wage order for retail trade became effective December 30, 1946. The new hourly rate for experienced workers is 50 cents (formerly 27½ cents) and for learners 35 cents (formerly 22½ cents). Former differentials for small cities were wiped out.

Wisconsin - The revised minimum-wage order covering all occupations, trades, and industries establishes three hourly rates based on size of city - 45 cents in places of 3,500 or over; 40 cents in places between 1,900 and 3,500; and 33 cents elsewhere. Learner rates are abolished. In domestic service and non-industrialized agriculture, minimum weekly wages are set for a workweek of 45 hours or over. Specified deductions for board and lodging are permitted in any industry when furnished by an employer as part payment of wages. Order becomes effective February 10, 1947.

EASTMAN KODAK WAGE DIVIDEND

Directors of Eastman Kodak Company have voted an estimated $8,500,000 to be paid in March to 47,000 men and women employees in the Western Hemisphere — an average of $180 each. The payment is at the rate of 1-3/4 percent of the total of each eligible employee's wages or salary during the 5 years, 1942 through 1946.
WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Dr. Mildred McAfee Horton, president of Wellesley College and wartime commander of the Waves, has been elected president of the Association of American Colleges. All other officers are men.

...Jo Anne Steane, 25-year-old Stanford graduate (1943) is the first woman to be elected to the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

...Veterans Administration has appointed ten outstanding women doctors, all veterans of World War II, to work with VA branch offices and central office medical staffs to ensure highest possible standards of medical care for women veterans.

...Dr. Flemmie Kitterell, Negro nutritionist and head of Howard University's home economics department, has gone to Liberia, southwest Africa, to make a six-month nutritional survey to determine causes of undernourishment, rickets, and high infant mortality among Liberians. Her trip is financed by the U. S. Department of State.

...Mrs. Felisa Rincon de Gauthier was unanimously appointed city manager of San Juan, Puerto Rico, a city of 300,000.

WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA

...Senora Carmen Vial de Senoret has been appointed Chilean Minister to the Netherlands. Women in Chile will soon have national suffrage, have voted in municipal elections since 1937.

...Senora Maria Marchant de Gonzalez Vera was appointed "Intendente" of the State of Santiago by the President of Chile. The position carries the same responsibilities as Governor.

...Women will be included in jury lists in Panama City this year.

WOMEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, delegate to the UN General Assembly, has been confirmed as a member of the Economic and Social Council, and Miss Dorothy Kenyon as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission on the Status of Women, which became a full commission June 21, 1946, will meet at Lake Success, February 10-28. The following women are members:

- Australia - Mrs. Jessie Mary Grey Street
- White Russia - Mrs. E. I. Ouralova
- China - Mrs. W. S. New
- Costa Rica - Senora Lottie T. de Gonzales Lahmann
- Denmark - Mrs. Bodil Begtrup
- France - Mme. Marie Helene Lefaucheux
- Guatemala - name not received
- India - Begum Hamid Ali
- Mexico - Mrs. Amelia C. de Castillo Ledon
- Syria - Mrs. Alice Kandalf Kuzma
- United Kingdom - Miss Mary Sutherland
- United States - Miss Dorothy Kenyon
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - Mrs. E. A. Popova
- Venezuela - Mrs. Isabel Urdaneta

Miss Alice Bruun of Denmark and Mrs. Krista Djordsevitch of Yugoslavia have been appointed to the Social Commission.
WOMEN IN THE ORIENT

CHINA - A new constitution for China was adopted by the National Assembly December 25, to become effective a year from that date. The constitution guarantees equality of all persons, regardless of race, sex, or political affiliation. The ballot is to be secret. All men and women 20 years old or over will have the right to vote. Women will have a definite quota of members in the National Assembly and Legislative Yuan "as prescribed by law."

JAPAN - Japanese labor unions have organized 80 percent of all industrial workers, according to the Government's Ministry of Welfare, and union membership now totals an estimated 4,100,000 members. One in four is a woman.

KOREA - Lieut. Gen. John R. Hodge, American Military Government head, has appointed four Korean women as members of the interim legislative group of Korea - the first democratic governing group in Korea.

PENSIONS FOR OFFICERS OF ILGWU

International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL, has established a retirement fund for its paid officers. Benefits ranging up to 50 percent of regular salaries will be paid to men retiring at 60 and women at 55. The union will pay two-thirds of the cost of the retirement system and the officer-beneficiaries will contribute the remaining one-third. About 700 officers of the international union and its affiliated locals and joint boards are covered by the program. The ILGWU is seeking employer-financed pension plans for all of its 350,000 members.

PRODUCTION JOBS FOR WOMEN INCREASE

In September 1946 3½ million women were employed in factory production, one million more than in the fall of 1939. The total of 787,000 women workers in the durable goods group is more than double the prewar figure. In such heavy industries as iron and steel, nonferrous metals, automobiles, and electric machinery, employment of women was at least twice the 1939 total. In every branch of nondurable goods except tobacco, the number of women has increased. Apparel tops the list with a total of 822,000 (or 77 percent of all workers in the industry); textiles with 564,800, and food with 329,700, follow.


YOU TRAINING FOR JOBS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS - How to obtain free vocational training. Women's Bureau Leaflet No. 1, 1947.

READ WOMEN WORKERS IN PARAGUAY - Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 210, 16 pp., 1947.

WHAT FLOOR TO WAGES - A 20-min. skit on minimum wage. Women's Bureau.