



Facts on Women Workers

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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN FEBRUARY 1947

Estimates of women in the various labor force categories were substantially the same in February 1947 as in the preceding month. The number of women doing nonagricultural work was estimated at 14,770,000 in February. This figure, while differing but slightly from the estimate for January, was 210,000 higher than the estimated number of women in such jobs a year ago.

	February 1947			
	Number of women	Change since January 1947	Total persons Number	Percent women
Population (14 years and over)	54,230,000	+ 50,000	107,060,000	50.7
Employed	15,430,000	- 50,000	55,520,000	27.8
Unemployed	480,000	+ 30,000	2,490,000	19.3
Armed forces	20,000	None	1,620,000	1.2
Nonworkers	38,300,000	+ 70,000	47,430,000	80.8

(U. S. Bureau of the Census)

STATE LEGISLATION

Bills to extend hours of employment for women have recently been introduced in several States. Connecticut has proposals to allow women to work until 1 a.m. in restaurants and other service establishments, and to "remove restrictions on employment of women" by wiping out various labor laws for women. Ohio would increase maximum hours from 8 to 9 a day for women under its hour law. New York proposes to remove all legal restrictions on employment of women at night in dining rooms and kitchens of restaurants.

Other recent bills show favorable trends. Equal-pay bills have been introduced in eight States. Desirable amendments to equal-pay laws propose in Michigan to extend coverage and create civil liability of employer, in New York to include public employees, and in Rhode Island to delete clause permitting sex differentials in union contracts. Nevada would increase women's minimum wage rates from 50 to 65 cents an hour and from \$24 to \$31.20 a week; New Jersey would reduce weekly maximum hours from 54 to 48 and daily from 10 to 8 for women in major industries. Ohio proposes an hourly minimum of 75 cents for all employees 20 years or over working for one employer more than 20 hours a week, except domestic servants. Washington would extend its minimum-wage law to apply to male employees.

MINIMUM WAGE

Kentucky - The revised general industry and occupation order covering women and minors, which became effective February 8, increased the minimum hourly rates established in the former order by 100 percent. The new rates are 50, 45, and 40 cents, according to size of city, and an overtime provision of time and a half is now applicable to hours over 48 in all three zones.

North Dakota - The revised order for the laundry, cleaning, and dyeing industry which became effective March 10 sets a minimum wage of \$18 for a week of 38 to 48 hours for women and minors who have served a 5-month apprenticeship. It also allows them laundry service up to \$5 a week.

Oregon - The revised order for the laundry, cleaning, and dyeing industry--effective February 15--sets a minimum hourly rate of 50 cents for women and minors and eliminates the learner differential.

Rhode Island - The order for public housekeeping occupations--effective March 1--applicable to men, women, and minors, established minimum hourly rates of 50 cents and 30 cents respectively for nonservice and service employees.

Each of the above orders includes working-conditions regulations of various kinds which give the worker additional benefits.

COST-OF-LIVING BUDGETS

New cost-of-living figures for a self-supporting woman worker living in a boarding house have just been issued by the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics. Based on September 1946 prices in San Francisco (including California Sales Tax), the annual amount necessary to maintain a woman at a healthful standard totals \$1,984, including allowances for taxes of \$360.

Kentucky Labor Department priced living costs in March-April 1946 preparatory to issuance of a new minimum-wage order. The annual total, exclusive of taxes, came to \$1,276 for a woman living in a boarding house and \$1,363 for a woman eating all meals in restaurants.

INCREASES IN OLDER PERSONS IN THE POPULATION

The total number of females has increased since 1940 by slightly over 5 million, or 7.7 percent, according to new Census figures received, giving population statistics as of July 1946. There are nearly 2½ million more women aged 45 or over than in 1940.

The numbers of women 65 years and over have increased 17 percent; of those 45 to 64, 13.5 percent; of those under 14, only 9.2 percent; of those 20-24, less than 3 percent; and the number 14-19 has declined.

Women of 14-24 years constituted 20 percent of the 1940 population but only 18 percent of that in 1946; those 45 and over were 26 percent in 1940 and nearly 28 percent in 1946.

HOSIERY A WOMAN'S INDUSTRY

Although nylons are again being advertised, even at sale prices, the hosiery industry--in which women are nearly two-thirds of the work force--has not yet reached its prewar employment level of 169,200. Employers of 92 reporting firms, representing two-fifths of the industry, forecast a need for 2,900 additional workers by March.

Most job openings are for women. Workers are needed as skilled sewing machine operators, loopers, seamers, toppers, and knitters. Needs are concentrated in seven States: Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Georgia.

WOMEN GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Since June 1945--the wartime peak for all Federal employment at home and abroad--numbers of women in the Federal service have been cut by one-half. Of the fewer than half a million women remaining in full-time employment in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government at the end of December 1946, 79 percent were outside the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. At the war peak, 86 percent had been outside the Washington area.

Women full-time employees in the Executive Branch of the Federal service (Continental United States)

<u>Month and year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent of total persons</u>
June 1943	960,501	34.4
June 1944	1,058,906	38.7
June 1945	1,078,883	39.6
June 1946	605,067	29.4
December 1946	497,559	28.1

(U. S. Civil Service Commission)

WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONS

Psychology - A committee of the Connecticut State Psychological Society made a survey of salaries of psychologists in Connecticut in 1945 and found that the median earnings of the 22 women who reported were \$2,700, while median earnings of the 42 men who reported were \$4,500.

WORKING MOTHERS

For working mothers, child-care programs started during the war are still being operated in nine large cities: New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, District of Columbia, and Baltimore. Formerly financed with the assistance of Federal funds, the services are now supported by community and--in some instances--State funds.

INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION

Miss Ethel Erickson, Labor Economist on the Women's Bureau staff, left Washington March 19 for Chile where she will work as technical consultant for 3 months with the Divisions of Women and Children of the National Department of Labor and of the Santiago and other State Departments of Labor. Miss Erickson took with her a greeting for Pan American Day (April 14) from the U. S. Department of Labor to the Ministry of Labor of Chile.

FIRST SESSIONS OF THE U.N. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Enthusiastic support for votes for women in all lands was given by the Commission on the Status of Women in the report adopted after the first sessions, held February 10-24. In line with the General Assembly Resolution advocating equal political rights, the Commission called for information from Governments by June 1, to be followed by publication of a preliminary report before the end of the year.

The work of this Commission will be based on responses to a questionnaire on laws and customs affecting women, portions of which already have been sent out. The Commission urged prompt reply to this, and gave priority to items involving educational and economic opportunities as well as political rights.

The Commission expressed satisfaction with the inclusion in Peace Treaties of clauses against sex discriminations. It considered the work of other agencies as it affects women, and the following were some of its suggestions, subject to the approval of its superior body, the Economic and Social Council:

It voted to establish cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission of Women, as an inter-governmental regional organization working on the same problems.

It urged that UNESCO devote particular attention to the education of women in countries where they have not full political rights.

It asked for representation at sessions of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, when an international Bill of Rights is considered.

It urged on the U.N. Trusteeship Council the importance of methods to promote women's political, educational, economic, and social rights in Trust Territories.

BRITISH LABOR LEADER VISITS WOMEN'S BUREAU

Miss Mary E. Sutherland, United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, recently visited the Women's Bureau. Chief Woman Officer of the Labour Party and a member of the Women's Consultative Committee of the British Ministry of Labour, she discussed the present basic problem of the British economy--the shortage of labor.

The British are trying to meet manpower needs by a program of recruitment in specific localities where there are labor surpluses, she said, and the reintroduction of organized part-time work is being considered. Special programs are under way to help recruit women for nursing, domestic service, and teaching.