EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN MAY 1947

Women in the labor force numbered about 400,000 more than a year ago. This figure includes an increase in the employed of 300,000 and an increase in the unemployed of 100,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 1947</th>
<th>Number of women</th>
<th>Change since April 1947</th>
<th>Total persons</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (14 years and over)</td>
<td>54,460,000</td>
<td>+ 40,000</td>
<td>107,330,000</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian labor force</td>
<td>17,120,000</td>
<td>+ 800,000</td>
<td>60,290,000</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>16,580,000</td>
<td>+ 780,000</td>
<td>58,330,000</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>540,000</td>
<td>+ 20,000</td>
<td>1,470,000</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed forces</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>1,960,000</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonworkers</td>
<td>37,320,000</td>
<td>- 760,000</td>
<td>45,570,000</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(U. S. Bureau of the Census)

WOMEN'S EARNINGS, 1945

Average (median) annual earnings of women workers in 1945 were $981, according to Census data recently released. Only 5 percent of all women workers earned as much as $2,500 during the year. Average earnings of women in various occupational fields ranged from $339 in domestic service to $1,475 in professional and semiprofessional work.

Men's earnings in all occupations combined averaged $2,073. Men's earnings averaged approximately twice women's or more in all occupational groups with data for both sexes, except in clerical work.

The shift of women workers during the war from household employment to factory work and their reluctance to return to the former is well known. The lower economic status of the household worker, even during the extreme labor shortage conditions prevailing in wartime, appears from the fact that while 95 out of 100 women in domestic service earned less than $1,000 in 1945, more than this amount was received by well over half the women operatives and kindred workers (the occupational group that includes most factory production workers).

WOMEN'S EARNINGS AND HOURS, 1947

Women's average weekly earnings for 25 selected manufacturing industries as reported by the National Industrial Conference Board were $37.33 in January 1947, $38.04 in February, and $37.90 in March. Women's average hourly earnings for the same months were 95.4 cents, 97.1 cents, and 97.7 cents. Women's average weekly hours for the same period were 39.2, 39.2, and 38.8.
STATE LEGISLATION

Of the 46 State legislatures that were in session in 1947, 34 have adjourned. Recently Enacted Legislation — California exempted from the women's hour law specified groups of executives, administrative officials, and professional workers. Oregon enacted a community property law which applies to all husbands and wives after the effective date, July 5, 1947. Puerto Rico revised its maternity leave act, omitting certain procedural provisions for medical certificate and filing of claim, and deleting the criminal provisions of the act. South Dakota amended the juror qualifications to make women competent for duty on all grand and trial juries of their respective counties.

MINIMUM WAGE

California — The 10 minimum-wage orders scheduled to become effective June 1, 1947, have been delayed because employers filed Writs of Mandate in the District Court of Appeals against the orders. The cases have now been transferred to the Supreme Court for decision on the point whether or not wage boards for individual industries should have been called before amending the orders.

New York — Hearings were held throughout the State early this month by the Industrial Commissioner on wage board recommendations for new minimum-wage orders for the laundry and beauty service industries.

COST OF LIVING

Massachusetts has issued the report of its cost-of-living survey made in September and October 1946. Inasmuch as the Massachusetts law was amended in 1946 to place men within the general coverage of the minimum-wage law, the new Massachusetts cost-of-living figure includes expenditures for both single men and single women workers. The minimum cost for single persons in Massachusetts as of September-October 1946 was found to be $1,336.38, exclusive of taxes, insurance, and savings. As of April 1947 the estimated annual cost, as indicated by application of the Massachusetts Retail Price Index, had risen to $1,388.31.

Washington State in its new cost-of-living survey has begun pricing of major items to determine the minimum amount necessary to maintain adequately an employed woman in that State.

INDUSTRIAL INJURIES TO WOMEN

Maryland — During 1946, the Maryland Industrial Accident Commission allowed 1,699 claims by women for industrial injury. Of these claims 84 were for permanent partial disability and 1,615 for temporary total disability. Among the injured women about 25 percent earned $31 to $40 weekly. Fifty-three percent of the injured women were from 21 to 39 years of age, 15 percent were younger, and 32 percent older.
WORKING MOTHERS

There were, according to the U. S. Census Bureau, 1,240,000 women in the labor force in February 1946 who were either wives in "normal" families (husband and wife present) where there were children under 6 years of age, or who were themselves heads of families with children under 6. These 1,240,000 women represented 8 percent of the total woman labor force. Working mothers living in a family group whose head was someone other than herself or her husband are not included in these statistics.

Women tend to stay out of the labor market when their children are small. Among all normal families with children under 6 years, only 9 percent of the wives worked, compared with 22.5 percent of the wives in families with children over 6 but under 18, and 23.9 percent where there were no children.

Higher proportions of women heads of families worked than of wives in normal families, but among the women heads also there was a tendency for those with small children to stay out of the labor force. Women heads were workers in 34.7 percent of families with women heads and with children under 6 years, in 50 percent where there were children 6 to 17 years, and in 44.1 percent where there were no children.

The proportion of wives at work has increased since 1940. This is probably due in part to a desire or need to continue work on the part of women forced into the labor market by wartime pressures, and in part to the long-time trends that have raised proportions of married women at work. In February 1946, 24 percent of the wives in normal families without children worked, compared with 17 percent in 1940; 15 percent of wives in normal families with one or more children under 18 years worked in 1946, compared with 9 percent in 1940.

WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

July 1, 1947, marks 4 years since the President signed Public Law 110 changing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to the Women's Army Corps. The WAAC had been created May 14, 1942, and on July 1, 1943, was made a component in the Army rather than with the Army.

In January 1943 the first contingent of enlisted women arrived in Africa to serve with the Allied Force Headquarters under General Eisenhower. Altogether, Wacs served in 400 installations in the United States and in every overseas theater. The peak strength of 100,000 was reached on V-E day, although a total of about 140,000 have worn the uniform of the WAC. Approximately 18 percent of the WAC personnel served overseas.

Still serving, as of May 12, 1947, were 9,517 Wacs, including 2,000 with the occupation forces in Germany and Austria, 150 in Italy, about 700 in Japan, and 300 in Panama. Legislation was recently introduced into Congress asking for the establishment of the WAC as an integral part of the Regular Army and providing also that women be appointed as officers in the Organized Reserve or enlisted in the Enlisted Reserve Corps.
NATIONAL WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE HOLDS TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

The triennial convention of the National Women's Trade Union League, deferred during the war, was held in Washington, D. C., May 19-22. Reports were made by delegates from all parts of the country, some representing local leagues or State committees and others seated from affiliated labor unions. Occupational progress of women was indicated by the fact that the International Association of Machinists, AFL, long an affiliated union, this year for the first time sent a woman as its representative. Also, the delegate from the Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers, AFL, reported that this union now has some 20,000 women members and expects its fall convention to seat many more women than the three or four present formerly.

Some 40 resolutions were passed by the convention, many of which dealt with legislative measures. Subjects of the resolutions included:
- Support of equal pay on both a State and national basis.
- Establishment of a national commission on the status of women.
- Extension of unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation to domestic and farm workers and those in non-profit institutions.
- Amendment of the Federal Social Security Act to increase coverage and benefits.
- Study of night work in service and other industries, and review of position on prohibition of night work where multiple shifts are operated.

WOMEN GLASS WORKERS

Among the 314 persons who were issued Apprentice Identification Cards in the flint glass industry over the 2-year period from May 31, 1944, to June 1, 1946, were 5 women, according to a report of the officers of the American Flint Glass Workers' Union, AFL. All were indentured for 4 years and were to work in the cutting department.

WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

The Bureau of Statistics of the Dominion of Canada will use the term "household worker" instead of "domestic" when the next decennial census is taken in 1951. The Unemployment Insurance Statistics Branch in Canada will also use this term in its occupational classification. Women's organizations in New South Wales, Australia, are advocating a similar change. They suggest the terms "home trainee," "home associate," or "home aide," according to the age and experience of the worker.

Miss Dju Yu Bao of China, who studied industrial safety in the United States from August 1945 to October 1946 as honorary exchange consultant to the Women's Bureau, has been made industrial safety adviser to four factories in Shanghai.

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