



Facts on Women Workers

WOMEN'S BUREAU
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR

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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN SEPTEMBER 1947

Women's employment rose from August to September 1947, according to Census Bureau estimates, as increased agricultural employment considerably more than offset a decline in nonagricultural employment.

	Number of women	Change since August 1947	September 1947	
			Number	Percent women
Population (14 years and over)	54,661,000	+ 49,000	107,675,000	50.8
Civilian labor force	17,233,000	+ 108,000	60,784,000	28.4
Employed	16,714,000	+ 167,000	58,872,000	28.4
Unemployed	519,000	- 59,000	1,912,000	27.1
Armed forces	16,000	- 2,000	1,346,000	1.2
Nonworkers	37,412,000	- 57,000	45,544,000	82.1

(U. S. Bureau of the Census)

MINIMUM WAGE

In the 2-year period since the 40-cent rate of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act became effective (October 1945), 14 States, including the District of Columbia, have issued a total of 34 new or revised minimum wage orders for specified industries. In all but 3 orders, issued by one State, the minimum hourly rate established for an experienced worker in the industry or occupation exceeds 40 cents. In the great majority of these orders the rate is 50 cents or more. Principal provisions of these orders appear in the Women's Bureau mimeograph, "Provisions in State Minimum-Wage Orders Issued Since V-J Day," September 15, 1947.

COST OF LIVING

Latest estimate of the annual cost of the Employed Woman's Budget for the District of Columbia, based on June 1947 retail prices, is \$1,777.80. This budget is designed for a self-supporting woman worker without dependents and allows goods and services necessary for maintenance of health. The budget includes \$414.36 for taxes, savings, and insurance and \$1,363.44 for goods and services.

WOMEN'S EARNINGS - JULY 1947

Weekly earnings of women workers in Illinois in July averaged \$38.67 in manufacturing, \$34.35 in retail apparel, \$27.54 in hotels, and \$27.97 in laundering, cleaning and dyeing, according to the Illinois State Department of Labor. New York State Labor Department reports that during July weekly earnings of women workers in that State averaged \$38.51 in manufacturing industries and \$29.52 in laundry, cleaning and dyeing establishments. According to the National Industrial Conference Board, weekly earnings of women workers in 25 selected manufacturing industries throughout the United States averaged \$38.38 in July 1947.

WOMEN WORKERS IN FEDERAL EMPLOY

Though well over a million women were on the Federal pay roll during the war, by June 1947 their numbers had dropped to 440,600, according to the U. S. Civil Service Commission. Between June 1945 and June 1947 employment of women decreased by 60 percent, while that of men decreased by 23 percent. Total employment in the Washington, D. C., area is now lower than in December 1941, when the U. S. entered the war. The 1945-47 drop in employment in Washington represents a decline of 40 percent among women and a rise of 8 percent among men.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN MEETS IN PHILADELPHIA

In Philadelphia last month (September 5-12), the International Council of Women held its first meeting since the war. Some 1,000 delegates and observers from 25 nations attended the conference, which had as its theme, "Power and Responsibilities of Freedom." Among 9 statements included in a "Declaration of Principles" adopted by the Council were:

"It [The International Council of Women] demands a greater and more active participation of qualified women in the government of the respective countries and urges a more active participation of women in elections both as voters and as candidates.

"It protests against the relative lack of women members in the various committees and commissions of the United Nations.

"It recalls once more its principle of 'to equal capacity, the same responsibility' and 'equal pay for equal work.' "

WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

United Nations — Twenty-two women from 13 countries are representing their governments as delegates, alternates, or advisers at the current second session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Japan — A Women's and Minors' Bureau has been set up under the Ministry of Labor. The new Bureau will determine policy for those sections of the recent Labor Standards Law which apply to women and minors. It will also conduct research in the fields of women's and minors' employment and of the status of all women, both homemakers and those gainfully employed. Directing the new Bureau is Mrs. Kikue Yamakawa, who is the first woman ever to have held a position of such importance in the Japanese Government.

Singapore — The YWCA has established industrial night schools for Chinese factory women and girls in Singapore, according to a letter received in the Women's Bureau from the YWCA Industrial Secretary there. She recently completed a period of observation of YWCA work in Shanghai and Hongkong, and wrote to the Women's Bureau to request copies, for her schools in Singapore, of Bureau posters showing standards for factory working conditions which she had seen in use in Shanghai.

HAVE Working Conditions of Public Health Nurses. MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW,
YOU September 1947.
READ WOMEN WORKERS AFTER V-J DAY IN ONE COMMUNITY: Bridgeport, Connecticut.
U. S. Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 216.