



Facts on Women Workers

WOMEN'S BUREAU
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR

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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN NOVEMBER 1947

There was very little change in the number of women in the civilian labor force from a year ago, according to U. S. Census Bureau estimates. The decline since last month (October 1947) was accounted for largely by a withdrawal of women from the labor force, chiefly women on farms. The unemployment rate was about the same.

	November 1947			
	Number of women	Change since October 1947	Total persons	
			Number	Percent women
Population (14 years and over)	54,759,000	+ 49,000	107,839,000	50.8
Civilian labor force	17,068,000	- 381,000	60,216,000	28.3
Employed	16,623,000	- 321,000	58,595,000	28.4
Unemployed	445,000	- 59,000	1,621,000	27.5
Armed forces	16,000	none	1,294,000	1.2
Nonworkers	37,675,000	+ 430,000	46,330,000	81.3

(U. S. Bureau of the Census)

MINIMUM WAGE

Massachusetts issued a directory order, effective December 1, 1947, applicable to workers in public housekeeping occupations. Minimum hourly rates for service and non-service employees regularly working 40 hours or over per week are 35 cents and 50 cents, respectively. For employees regularly working less than 40 hours per week rates are 40 cents and 55 cents, respectively.

The new order supersedes the mandatory restaurant and hotel restaurant wage order of April 15, 1942 and the office and other building cleaners' order of December 1, 1940 insofar as the latter applied to establishments covered by the new order.

TRENDS IN JOB PLACEMENTS

Among public employment offices throughout the country, placements of service workers (an occupational group composed largely of women) reached 118,400 in October. The United States Employment Service announces that this figure tops all previous levels in the postwar period. In the clerical and sales field, where women also are important, 56,200 placements were made in October—the highest number so far this year.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF WOMEN

Women in the United States who were 20 years of age and over in April 1947 had completed a median of 9.9 years of school, according to a recent estimate by the U. S. Bureau of the Census. Men in the same age group had completed a median of 9.2 years of school.

Of 48,190,000 women and 46,136,000 men 20 years of age and over, 12,300,000 women and 9,345,000 men had completed 4 years of high school. However, only 2,128,000 women had completed 4 or more years of college compared with 2,588,000 men.

WOMEN JUDGES

There are 51 women judges now serving in the United States, according to a listing prepared recently by the National Association of Women Lawyers. Three women are Federal judges: one in the Circuit Court of Appeals, one in the Customs Court, and one in the Tax Court. Among the States, New York, with 10, has the largest number of women in judicial positions; 8 of these are in New York City Domestic Relations, Municipal, or Magistrates Courts. In California, 6 women judges serve: one is presiding justice of the Third Appellate Division; 2 are in Superior Courts; 3 in Los Angeles Municipal Courts. Massachusetts also has 6 women judges: 2 in Municipal Courts and 4 in District Courts.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Chambers of Commerce — The Boston Herald reports that in this country 706 of 740 chambers of commerce included in a survey accept women for membership. While the Boston Chamber of Commerce only recently voted to accept women members, Boston is said to be outstanding among large cities in that its Chamber of Commerce also permits women on the Board of Directors.

Woman Heads Area Apprenticeship Program — In addition to serving as vice president, secretary, and general counsel of the Johnson City (Tenn.) Foundry and Machine Works, Mrs. May A. Ross McDowell is one of the few women in the United States actively occupied in training men for skilled trades. As chairman of the Johnson City Metal Fabricating and Manufacturing Apprenticeship Committee, Mrs. McDowell directs the city-wide program to train men for machinist, foundry, and allied trades.

WOMEN ON ADVISORY COUNCIL TO SENATE COMMITTEE

For assistance on social security legislation, the Committee on Finance in the United States Senate has set up an Advisory Council of 17 members, including 2 women, Miss Mary H. Donlon, Chairman of the New York State Workmen's Compensation Board, and Dr. Florence Sabin, former professor at Johns Hopkins University Medical School and member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

- HAVE Working Conditions of Private Duty and Staff Nurses. MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW, November 1947.
- YOU INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN. U. S. Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 217.
- READ Britain Plans Careers in Domestic Service. WOMAN'S PRESS, November 1947.
- Wages in Glassware Industry, January 1947 /and/ Wages in Wholesale Drugs and Allied Products, January 1947. MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW, November 1947. (Data for men and women shown separately.)