



Facts on Women Workers

WOMEN'S BUREAU
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR

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JUNE-JULY 1948

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN JUNE

The number of women in the civilian labor force in June 1948 exceeded that in any month since August 1945, according to Census reports. It exceeded the number reported in March 1940 by nearly 5 million, a number only slightly smaller than the increase in the woman population 14 years old and over. Women in nonagricultural employment numbered 15,737,000 in June, the highest since September 1945.

| | June 1948 | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Number of women | Change since May 1948 | Total persons | |
| | | | Number | Percent women |
| Population (14 years and over) | 55,071,000 | + 50,000 | 108,346,000 | 50.8 |
| Civilian labor force | 18,685,000 | + 1,561,000 | 63,479,000 | 29.4 |
| Employed | 17,876,000 | + 1,274,000 | 61,296,000 | 29.2 |
| Unemployed | 809,000 | + 287,000 | 2,184,000 | 37.0 |
| Armed forces | 16,000 | - 1,000 | 1,261,000 | 1.3 |
| Nonworkers | 36,370,000 | - 1,509,000 | 43,605,000 | 83.4 |

(U. S. Bureau of the Census)

The June total of more than 61½ million persons employed is a new all-time peak. Jobs in many industrial and commercial fields were far more numerous than a year ago, and usual seasonal demands for summer workers will expand employment statistics in July. The textile and apparel industries showed higher levels of employment in June than at this time last year (the usual seasonal decline in textiles did not occur). Although women's unemployment rose between May and June, as it usually does, it was considerably under that of a year ago.

COST OF LIVING

The February 1948 estimate for the District of Columbia's cost of living budget for an employed woman without dependents is \$1,421.11 per year for the commodities and services; \$1,793.16 for the total budget, including taxes and savings. The estimate for commodities and services represents an increase of 4.2 percent over the June 1947 estimate for these items. However, the estimate for the total cost rose only 0.9 percent in the eight-month period largely because of the reduced Federal income tax rate for 1948.

331.4
4587
July 1948
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Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

FEDERAL JURY BILLS

In the recent session of Congress which adjourned in June, S.18, proposing uniform juror qualifications, did not come to a vote. H.R.3214, proposing adoption of a revised judicial code, became Public Law No. 773. Chapter 121 of this code makes extensive changes in the present law relating to Federal juries. Federal courts now have their own standards for choosing, exempting and excluding or excusing jurors, except that a juror who is incompetent for grand or petit jury service by the law of the State where the Federal court is held, is incompetent also for Federal jury duty in that State. Thus, women, presumably, are ineligible for Federal jury duty in the 13 States where they are now incompetent for State jury duty.

MINIMUM WAGE

Arizona revised its minimum-wage order covering the laundry and dry cleaning industries, effective July 12, 1948. The revised order establishes hourly rates of 52 cents for laundries, 60 cents for dry cleaning; part-time rates (work less than 36 hours per week) 57 cents for laundries, 66 cents for dry cleaning. Regular employees are guaranteed 36 hours per week.

Massachusetts amended its minimum-wage law to broaden the definition of the term "occupation" by including businesses or industries operated for profit or otherwise, and also "any other class of work." The amendment added to the definition's exceptions "work by persons being rehabilitated or trained under rehabilitation or training programs in charitable, educational, or religious institutions or work by members of religious orders." (Act declared an emergency measure and became effective on approval May 24, 1948.)

Massachusetts' revised mercantile minimum-wage order, effective July 1, 1948, sets \$22.50 for a 36-44 hour workweek for experienced workers and \$20.50 for inexperienced. For a workweek of less than 36 hours, or more than 44 hours, the "experienced" hourly rate is 55 cents, and the "inexperienced," 50 cents. Persons employed in the home in mercantile occupations must be paid no less than the minimum rate.

HOURS

Massachusetts amended the woman's hour law to give the labor commissioner authority, in establishments in which the employee's principal source of income is in tips or gratuities, to permit the work period to fall within a 12-hour over-all period, upon petition of at least 60 percent of such employees. Previous requirement provided that split shifts must, with certain seasonal exceptions, fall within a period of 10 consecutive hours.

INDIVIDUAL WORK HISTORY OF WOMEN

The proportion of all women in the population who have been in gainful work at some time in their lives far exceeds the proportion who are in the labor force at any one time. Census sampling now makes available some measure of the former, not heretofore possible.

An August 1946 sample study indicates that 77 percent of all women 14 years of age and over (who were able to work) had worked at some time in their lives.

Of the women 20-44 years of age, 86 percent had worked at some time in their lives. Of those older (45 and over) about 70 percent had worked at some time, and of younger women (14 to 19) about 60 percent had worked.

WOMEN CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Women in Federal employment in the executive branch of the Government (full time, in Continental United States) numbered 402,400 according to the latest monthly report of the Civil Service Commission (May 1948). Women constituted at that time 25 percent of all such Federal employees, and 45 percent (less than half) of those whose work was located within the District of Columbia.

The proportion of women among all such civilian Federal employees has declined from 39 percent during the war to the present 25 percent. No current data exist as to the occupations of women in the Federal service. Prewar data indicate that about 4 percent of the women in the Federal service were in professional, scientific, or technical jobs.

PART-TIME WORK FOR WOMEN

At the June meeting of the Labor Advisory Committee of the Women's Bureau, the following motion was unanimously passed:

"That the Labor Advisory Committee express its interest in having the Federal Government take favorable action toward the encouragement of part-time employment of women in Federal service, with a view to exploring the possibilities of making such work feasible from the employer point of view, equitable to the workers, and increasing public understanding of the needs of women involved."

A N N O U N C E M E N T

With regret the Women's Bureau announces the closing of its field offices in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, and San Francisco, as of July 1, 1948. The Bureau's appropriation was cut in the amount of \$61,800 which was the sum set up for their maintenance.

The action of Congress did not in any way curtail the statutory responsibilities of the Bureau - "to formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment," but changed one of the methods of fulfilling these responsibilities.

While the Bureau will not be able to give quite the same kind of "on the spot" services to those employers, women's organizations, unions, civic groups, and others interested in the problems and opportunities of women workers that was possible through the field representatives, the Bureau will respond promptly to requests for information and help as it has in the past.

The Outlook for Women in Mathematics and Statistics, Bul.223-4) Women's Bureau
The Outlook for Women in Physics and Astronomy, Bul. 223-6) U. S. Department
of Labor

Women in Policy-Making Posts) INDEPENDENT WOMAN,
More People Need Jobs Longer) May 1948

Security in Family Life - Threats and Opportunities. THE SURVEY midmonthly,
June 1948. (A report on the National Conference on Family Life.)

A Job for Every Woman. Louise M. Neuschutz. H. S. Wilson Co. New York. \$3.00
(The book "is designed to meet the needs of women who are interested
in self-created jobs" - nursery schools, services for the sick, small-
scale catering, needlecraft, handicrafts, rental exchanges and
services, commercial services, gardening, specialty laundry work, etc.)

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YOU
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