



Facts on Women Workers

WOMEN'S BUREAU
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR

SEPTEMBER 30, 1948

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN AUGUST

Between July and August 1948 there was a seasonal decline in women's agricultural employment of more than 400,000, according to Census reports. At the same time the number of women in other employment rose by 146,000 to nearly 16 million. Since unemployment of women declined, many women at work in July had withdrawn from the labor market in August.

	August 1948			
	Number of women	Change since July 1948	Total persons	
			Number	Percent women
Population (14 years and over)	55,199,000	+ 38,000	108,660,000	50.8
Civilian labor force	17,971,000	- 434,000	63,186,000	28.4
Employed	17,356,000	- 270,000	61,245,000	28.3
Unemployed	615,000	- 164,000	1,941,000	31.7
Armed forces	15,000	No change	1,325,000	1.1
Nonworkers	37,213,000	+ 471,000	44,149,000	84.3

(U. S. Bureau of the Census)

MINIMUM WAGE

A directory wage order for Amusement and Recreation Occupations became effective in Massachusetts on October 1. The order, which establishes a minimum rate of 62½ cents an hour for regular employees, extends minimum wage protection, for the first time, to Massachusetts workers employed in amusement, and in recreation enterprises such as motion-picture houses, billiard parlors, race tracks, athletic fields, golf courses, circuses, arenas, and other similar establishments.

There are now two States - Massachusetts and California - with wage orders in effect for the Amusement and Recreation occupations or industries. Of the four States with a minimum wage law which applies also to men, Massachusetts is the first to issue a wage order for these industries.

COST OF LIVING

The Maine Department of Labor has just released a new cost-of-living study which shows that the minimum cost of goods and services needed by an employed person living in Maine was \$1,659.86 as of June 1948, when the budget was priced. The Maine budget reflects the minimum requirements of both a man and a woman. On the basis of the above figure, federal income and social security taxes amount to approximately \$200 per year.

EARNINGS OF OFFICE CLERICAL WORKERS

A study of office clerical worker's salaries in 11 cities, was made by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics during the past year. Data on earnings of full-time workers in over 20 occupations in all types of industries were obtained. On the whole, San Francisco paid the highest salaries, and Boston and Buffalo the lowest.

The largest group of women workers were the general stenographers; their average weekly earnings ranged from a low of \$37 in Boston to a high of \$48 in San Francisco. Next in numerical importance were the clerk-typists with a minimum average of \$32, again in Boston, and a maximum of \$42, again in San Francisco.

The hand bookkeepers, a relatively small number of women, averaged the highest earnings, ranging from \$44 in Atlanta and Buffalo to \$55 in New York and San Francisco.

The general office girls and lower grade file clerks, a sizeable group, were for the most part the lowest paid occupations, averaging roughly from \$28 to \$30 in the majority of the cities.

WOMEN IN PART-TIME WORK

Of the 16 million women at work in March 1948, 3,448,000 worked fewer than 35 hours in the Census survey week and were classed as part-time workers according to a special Census report. Of the entire number nearly three-fourths preferred the part-time schedule of work. About one-fifth usually worked full time. The remainder, who usually worked part time, really preferred full-time work. Women constituted 60 percent of the labor force classified by the Census as part-time workers.

Among all men and women at work in the week studied the greatest incidence of part-time work was in domestic service or in agricultural work. Of all domestic service workers, two-fifths had worked part time during the survey week, and one-third preferred such an arrangement, as did about one-tenth of "other service" workers and of agricultural workers.

WOMEN MEMBERS OF I.L.O. DELEGATIONS, San Francisco 1948

At the 31st Session of the International Labor Conference, there were 6 women among the technical advisers on the United States delegation: 4 were advisers to the Government delegates; 1, Miss L. E. Ebeling, director of personnel for Sherwin Williams Paint Co., was an adviser to the employers' delegate; and 1, Miss Rose Schneiderman, president of the National Women's Trade Union League, was adviser to the workers' delegate. Miss Ebeling is the first woman to be appointed an adviser to an employers' delegation from the United States.

One woman, Miss Korpela of Finland, was an official delegate of her country. Two women, Miss Stenberg of the Netherlands, and Miss Raffalovich of France were substitute delegates as well as government advisers.

The 7 other women serving their country's delegations in an advisory capacity were: Miss Smieton and Miss Hancock of the United Kingdom, the former a government adviser, the latter a workers' adviser; Miss Skyring of New Zealand, a government adviser; Miss Lafouge and Miss Petit of France, government advisers; Mrs. Kalinowska of Poland, government adviser; and Mrs. de Lorenzi of Uruguay, government adviser.