

FACTS

on Women Workers

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN APRIL 1949

The number of women in the civilian labor force in April was somewhat smaller than in March, according to the Census monthly reports. Farm operations were delayed in some parts of the country, so that there was not the usual seasonal rise in agricultural employment. The proportion of the women of the United States who are in the labor force (including the armed forces) has continued to increase, in accordance with the historical trend: it was 30.9 percent in April 1949, compared with 27.6 percent in April 1940, and 25.6 percent in April 1930. The proportion of men in the labor force has remained almost unchanged, except during the war period, throughout the past two decades.

	April 1949			
	Number of women	Change since March 1949	Total persons	
			Number	Percent women
Population (14 years and over)	55,609,000	+ 49,000	109,373,000	50.8
Civilian labor force	17,167,000	- 122,000	60,835,000	28.2
Employed	16,356,000	- 199,000	57,819,000	28.3
Unemployed	811,000	+ 77,000	3,016,000	26.9
Armed forces	17,000	+ 1,000	1,492,000	1.1
Nonworkers	38,425,000	+ 170,000	47,046,000	81.7

(U. S. Bureau of the Census)

HOOR LAWS FOR WOMEN

Maine amended its hours law for women to add to the industries covered by the law's daily maximum-hour provisions mercantile establishments, beauty parlors, hotels, restaurants, dairies, bakeries, laundries, dry cleaning establishments, telegraph offices, telephone exchanges employing more than 3 operators, and express or transportation companies. In these, as well as in industries already covered, the daily maximum is set at 9 hours (10 allowed on one day in week) and the weekly maximum at 54. For production workers in workshops, factories, and manufacturing establishments, the maximum weekly hours may not exceed 50.

Tennessee amended its hours law to reduce the maximum hours a female 16 years and over may be employed to 10 a day, 50 a week (formerly 10½ and 57); to permit employment of women in telegraph offices for 54 hours a week; and, in addition, to limit overtime in seasonal employments to 4 hours in any one of 8 weeks in a calendar year. The amendment authorizes suspension of the maximum hours provision for duration of an emergency affecting the operation of certain utility and distribution companies and in other industries which affect the health and well-being of State citizens. It retains the 1943 amendment authorizing suspension, in times of National emergency, of maximum hours limitation for women employed in industries manufacturing Government supplies.

OTHER STATE LEGISLATION

Industrial Homework is now under regulation by the State Department of Labor in the State of Maine. Manufacture by industrial homework is prohibited on 5 specified types of goods, and power is given the Commissioner of Labor to prohibit the process in any other industry, as provided by the law.

Equal Pay for equal work as between men and women in any occupation within the State of Maine is required by an act approved April 25, 1949, which prohibits discrimination in salary or wage rates because of difference in sex. However, the law expressly provides that variations may be made in such pay rates when based on difference in seniority, experience, training, skill, ability, duties performed, shift or time of day worked, availability for other operations, or other reasonable differentiation.

HOMEWORK IN DIRECT MAIL ESTABLISHMENTS - NEW YORK STATE

The rapid growth of homework in direct mail establishments since the war is reported by the New York State Department of Labor. On operations performed by homeworkers — almost exclusively typing addresses on envelopes and labels — homeworkers outnumbered shop workers, according to the study made.

In May 1948 in the 323 direct mail houses employing workers on any operation that can be performed at home, there were about 1,500 homeworkers out of a total work force of almost 5,400; five months later, in October, the number had increased to more than 1,950.

The earnings of homeworkers are reported to be lower than shop workers'. Preliminary reports indicated that the average straight-time earnings of typists at home was 68 cents an hour, compared with 84.2 cents for typists in the shop. For the most part homeworkers in the industry are mothers of small children with husbands working but whose earnings as a result of high cost of living were insufficient to maintain the family.

The New York Department of Labor held a hearing to inquire into the conditions and the need for regulation.

WOMEN FAMILY HEADS

In the spring of 1948, of 37 million families composed of two or more persons related to each other and living together, one-tenth had a woman head, according to a Census report. For the year 1947, the median total money income of such families with a woman head was \$2,172; with a man head, \$3,104.

MAJOR OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN APRIL 1949

A net decrease in women's employment in the year since April 1948 reflects a decline in manual workers of more than 200,000, and of professional workers of some 100,000. At the same time the number of service workers grew by about 100,000, and of farm workers by more than 80,000.

Since 1940, women's employment has risen by nearly $4\frac{1}{4}$ million. There were 2 million more women clerical workers and 1 million more women manual workers in April 1949 than in 1940. Both service workers (except domestic) and sales workers increased by more than half a million. The only notable decline was in numbers of domestic service workers, who in 1949 were a half million fewer than in 1940.

	Women, April 1949		
	Number	Percent distribution	Percent of all workers
All occupations	16,356,000	100.0	28.3
Clerical and kindred workers	4,542,000	27.8	61.2
Operatives, laborers, craftsmen, and foremen	3,449,000	21.1	15.2
Service workers (except domestic)	1,911,000	11.7	44.1
Domestic service workers	1,666,000	10.2	91.6
Professional and semi-professional workers	1,477,000	9.0	36.6
Sales workers	1,386,000	8.5	37.7
Farmers and farm workers	1,057,000	6.5	13.9
Proprietors, managers, and officials (except farm)	867,000	5.3	13.9

(U. S. Bureau of the Census)

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Miss Marta Zaidén, Mrs. Léonie Victor, Miss Gudelia Gómez, and Mrs. Teresa Troconis, officials of Labor Departments in Cuba, Haiti, Mexico and Venezuela, are in this country for a four-month training program administered by the Women's Bureau. Various State Labor Departments are cooperating in the training program. Mrs. Parul Chakraborty of Calcutta, India was accepted at the request of the Embassy of India for a period of in-service training under the direction of the Women's Bureau.

WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES

May 14, 1949, marked the seventh anniversary of the Women's Army Corps (WAC), created originally on May 14, 1942, as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and now established as a permanent part of the Regular Army.

The new Women's Armed Services Integration Act passed by the 80th Congress and signed by President Truman on June 12, 1948, has settled the question of the status of women in active duty in the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Under the new Act women are an integral part of the permanent military establishment.

Under the new program opportunities for women to build a career in serving the Nation are widened. Serious study is being given to women's particular skills and training so that they can be properly utilized. Through career guidance and training programs women may be advanced to jobs requiring increased responsibility and to supervisory positions. Promotions for women in the armed services now follow the same general pattern as for men.

There were in the Army May 1949, approximately 5,000 enlisted women, and over 600 officers, including those serving with the occupation forces in Germany and Japan. In the Navy on April 1, there were 2,223 enlisted women and 479 officers on active duty.

SALARIES OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics made a survey, in November 1948, of the salaries, hours, and economic status of social workers in Michigan, in cooperation with the National Council of Social Work Education. An analysis of these data is presented in an article by Miss Lily Mary David of the Bureau's Division of Wage Analysis. Concerning salaries the article states:

The average annual salary for social work positions in Michigan in November 1948 amounted to \$3,100. One out of four workers in such positions was receiving less than \$2,650 a year, and a corresponding proportion more than \$3,850. The average for men was \$3,700, that for women \$2,880. The higher earnings of men were traceable partly to differences in pay for the same type of position, and partly to employment of men in the more responsible positions in greater proportions than women. In some positions, earnings of men were a fourth above those of women, although a slightly higher proportion of women than of men reported graduate study in social work.

A scheduled workweek of 40 hours applied to two-thirds of the workers studied — four-fifths of the government employees and three-eighths of the workers in non-governmental organizations. In private organizations almost a fifth of the workers reported a shorter workweek schedule of 37½ hours, and an eighth a longer workweek of more than 48 hours. Overtime was occasionally required of 7 out of 10 workers, half of whom reported they were compensated, usually in the form of time off rather than by additional pay.

Reprints of the article "Salaries of Social Workers in Michigan, 1948" covering various aspects of the economic status of social workers will be available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics June 13, 1949.

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