

FACTS

on Women Workers

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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November 30, 1949

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN OCTOBER 1949

There was a net increase of 144,000 women in the civilian labor force between September and October 1949, according to Census monthly reports. This change was brought about by a considerable increase in women's non-agricultural employment, a decrease in agricultural employment, and a decline in the number unemployed.

Compared to a year ago (October 1948) women in the civilian labor force had increased over 2/3 million. Nonagricultural employment had risen markedly; but employment on farms was almost 1/2 million less than at this time last year. There was a considerable rise in the number of women unemployed.

	October 1949			
	Number of women	Percent women of all persons	Change since September 1949	Change since October 1948
Population (14 years and over)	55,939,000	50.9	+ 63,000	+ 632,000
Civilian labor force	18,588,000	29.7	+ 144,000	+ 664,000
Employed	17,575,000	29.8	+ 249,000	+ 204,000
Agricultural employment	1,408,000	18.3	- 185,000	- 472,000
Other	16,167,000	31.5	+ 434,000	+ 677,000
Unemployed	1,013,000	28.3	- 105,000	+ 459,000
Armed forces	20,000	1.4	+ 1,000	+ 7,000
Nonworkers	37,331,000	81.2	- 81,000	- 38,000

(U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census)

COST OF LIVING

The 1946 Kentucky priced budgets have been revised to reflect retail prices as of February 1949. On the latter date, the estimated average annual cost of commodities and services for an employed woman was \$1,607 if she lived in a boarding house; \$1,731 if she lived in a furnished room and ate her meals in restaurants. The total costs, including taxes and savings, are \$1,839 and \$1,922 respectively. Since February 1949 the Bureau of Labor Statistics' U. S. average consumers' price ("all items") index has been fairly steady. The latest available index, that for September 15, 1949, was 0.6 points higher than that for February 15, 1949. This would indicate that there has been an increase of \$7 to \$8 in the annual cost of the Kentucky budgets since the February revision.

WOMEN IN UNIONS

The American Federation of Labor endorsed the principle of equal pay for women workers at its 68th annual convention which convened on October 3, 1949, at St. Paul, Minn. The resolution passed at the convention recommends the inclusion of equal pay clauses in all collective bargaining agreements to assure that women workers will receive the same rate of pay as men workers for work of the same or comparable character. It also recommends the enactment of Federal and State laws to safeguard the principles of equal pay for equal work.

The Congress of Industrial Organizations, at its recent convention in Cleveland, went on record in support of equal job rights, equal opportunities, and equal pay for women workers. It reaffirmed CIO support of the Women's Status Bill and urged its Committee to Abolish Discrimination to intensify efforts to oppose discrimination against women on the job and in the community. It also asked all affiliates to renew their efforts to draw women into more active participation in unions, both as members and as officers.

About 50 women attended the 1949 convention of the United Automobile Workers, CIO. ...About 20 women attended the recent convention of the United Packinghouse Workers, CIO, which adopted a resolution calling for action on adequate plant facilities for women workers and equal pay for equal work. ...At the 1949 convention of the Office Employees International Union, AFL, attended by about 35 women delegates, a resolution was passed instructing the union's international officers to set up a program to develop the "obvious talent" of women members in preparation for their leadership in the union. ...The Hotel and Restaurant Employees, AFL, at their 1949 convention, re-elected all officers, including two women—a vice-president-at-large and the 8th district vice-president. About 180 women attended the convention. ...Of approximately 200 delegates attending the 1949 convention of the American Newspaper Guild, CIO, about 25 were women. ...As a result of a decision by its General Executive Board, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, AFL, will open on January 1 a full-time, day school for training business agents, organizers, and administrators. Term of attendance will be 12 months— 8 for academic instruction and 4 for "field work" in shops and factories. Tuition is free, and graduates are assured of employment by the union. Initial enrollment is limited to 40 persons between ages 20 and 30.

WOMEN PART-TIME WORKERS

Over 4 million women (4,246,000) worked part time in May 1949, according to the U. S. Bureau of the Census. Of these, 3,499,000 were regular part-time workers. The other 746,000 usually worked full time but were temporarily part-time workers because of economic factors or for other reasons. Some (333,000) of the women regular part-time workers preferred and could accept full-time work, but 3,165,000 worked part time through choice—they did not prefer or could not accept full-time work. Women and teen-age persons were the large majority of all the regular part-time workers, who totalled 5,944,000. Regular part-time workers were concentrated in such industries as agriculture, trade, and domestic and other service industries which normally provide a good deal of part-time employment.

MAJOR OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN, OCTOBER 1949

Census reports on occupations of women in October 1949, as compared to those of a year ago, show marked increases among professional workers and among those in the service classifications. There was a lesser rise among women in clerical and sales jobs. Agricultural work employed almost 1/2 million fewer women in October 1949 than in October 1948, and there also was a considerable decline in the number doing manual work - operatives, laborers, and the like.

	Women, October 1949			
	Number	Percent distribution	Percent of all workers	Change from October 1948
All occupations	17,575,000	100.0	29.8	+ 204,000
Clerical and kindred workers	4,573,000	26.0	61.4	+ 82,000
Operatives, laborers (except farm and mine), craftsmen, and foremen	3,669,000	20.9	16.2	- 176,000
Service workers (except domestic)	2,041,000	11.6	43.5	+ 202,000
Professional and semi-professional workers	1,826,000	10.4	41.1	+ 228,000
Domestic service workers	1,659,000	9.4	92.7	+ 175,000
Sales workers	1,429,000	8.1	37.5	+ 84,000
Farmers and farm workers	1,391,000	7.9	18.3	- 469,000
Proprietors, managers and officials (except farm)	988,000	5.6	14.9	+ 78,000

(U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census)

EXPENDITURES OF SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN, LOS ALAMOS, N. MEX.

Comparison of expenditures of single men and women with incomes less than \$3,000 in Los Alamos, N. Mex., in 1948 shows that on the average, single men spent more for food, car purchase and upkeep, and recreation; women spent more for housing, furnishings, clothing and personal care. These are findings of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, which obtained data on expenditure patterns of families and single persons for use in constructing a consumers' price index for Los Alamos, at the request of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Annual expenditures for housing by single men and single women with incomes under \$3,000 averaged \$154 and \$204, respectively. Generally, men's housing expenses were lower because many lived in assigned barrack quarters, and also, doubling-up was more common among the men. Total food expense for single men averaged \$965, compared to \$566 for women. Of the annual food expenditures, single women spent \$234 for food to be served at home, \$309 for food purchased and eaten away from home, and \$23 for alcoholic beverages. Comparable figures for men were \$67, \$729, and \$169, respectively.

In the income class \$2,000-\$3,000, single women saved \$36 during the year while men went into debt (or spent previous savings) an average of \$294, but this average net deficit was largely due to the fact that 29 percent were buying cars, generally on the installment plan. Of the single women with incomes under \$3,000, 12 percent bought cars in 1948.

WOMEN IN ADVERTISING

The average woman in advertising has spent 6 to 10 years in advertising and has had more than 10 years in total length of employment. She earned between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in 1948. These were findings of a recent survey by the Advertising Federation of America and the magazine, Printers' Ink. Advertising agencies employed the largest single group of the 1,000 AFA women answering the survey questionnaire, but women working for magazines and printers received the highest median salaries. However, top salary recorded was \$36,000, earned by a woman manager of an advertising agency who had had 23 years of experience in advertising and 37 years of business experience. The survey showed little correlation between education and income.

Of the 1,000 women covered in the study, 55 percent were single, 35 percent married, and 10 percent widowed or divorced. The widows and divorcees were found to be earning more than single and married women. Of all women reporting, about half supported themselves only, and the rest had dependents or contributed to the support of others.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE

United Nations — Ruth Bryan Rohde has been named alternate delegate of the United States delegation to the Fourth General Assembly of the United Nations.

Congress — Congress will soon have a tenth woman member—Mrs. Edna F. Kelly, Democrat of Brooklyn, N. Y.—who was elected November 8 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Representative Andrew L. Somers. Mrs. Kelly is the second New York city woman to be elected to the House, Ruth Pratt, Republican, having served previously.

State Governments — Between July 1948 and July 1949, 17 women were appointed to public office in Delaware, a tabulation by the Women's International Exposition in New York shows. This placed Delaware first among the States in proportion of women appointees to total population—1 for each 15,676 persons in the State. Second was Nevada with 7 appointees—1 for each 15,749 of its population; and third was Colorado, which had 41 appointees, 1 for each 27,397 of population.

WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Canada — Canada's new and only woman member on its delegation to the Fourth General Assembly of the United Nations is Mrs. Cairine Reay Wilson, who is also one of Canada's two women senators.

Trainees at the Women's Bureau — Under the general supervision of the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Miss Felina Reyes of the Labor Department, Republic of the Philippines, has undertaken a 10-month training program in the United States. Miss Reyes was awarded a scholarship by her government for training in labor law for women and young workers, in methods of enforcement, and in apprenticeship training. Miss Reyes won this scholarship in a competitive examination under the Philippine Bureau of Civil Service.

The Women's Bureau also has two trainees from Chile and one each from India and the Philippines for whom a special 4-month program has been arranged for studying and observing methods of improving the welfare of industrial workers, particularly of women workers.