

# FACTS

# on Women Workers

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## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN JUNE 1950

Nearly 900,000 women were added to the civilian labor force between June 1949 and June 1950, according to monthly reports of the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Nearly three-fourths of the increase was among women 45 years old and over. The number of girls under 20 in the labor force had declined slightly from June of last year. There were nearly one-fourth million fewer women nonworkers than in 1949.

In June 1950 there were nearly a million more women in the labor force than in May 1950. Some of these represented girls leaving school, there being half a million more girls under 20 in the labor force in June than in May. Girls of this age also added 200,000 to the increase in unemployment of women in the month's time.

	June 1950			
	Number of women	Percent women of all persons	Change since May 1950	Change since June 1949
Population (14 years and over)	56,353,000	50.9	+ 53,000	+ 643,000
Civilian labor force	19,437,000	30.0	+ 965,000	+ 871,000
Employed	18,253,000	29.7	+ 708,000	+ 867,000
In agriculture	2,033,000	22.5	+ 560,000	- 225,000
In nonagricultural industries	16,220,000	30.9	+ 148,000	+1,092,000
Unemployed	1,184,000	35.0	+ 257,000	+ 4,000
Armed forces	22,000	1.7	No change	+ 4,000
Nonworkers	36,894,000	82.9	- 912,000	- 232,000

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

## MINIMUM WAGE

Massachusetts has revised its 1947 "clerical, technical, and similar occupations" order, setting the minimum rate for experienced employees at 65 cents an hour (had been 60 cents) and for inexperienced at 60 cents (had been 55 cents). The order, which became mandatory June 16, 1950, covers women, minors, and men.

Washington revised its 1942 order for minors under 18 years of age who are not expressly covered by another minimum-wage order. Agricultural labor, domestic service, or chores in or about a private residence, and employment directly by telephone or telegraph companies are among the occupations excepted by the order. The revision, effective July 10, 1950, fixes the minimum hourly rate for minors at 50 cents (formerly 25 cents).

## MINIMUM WAGE

The Senate Committee on the District of Columbia on June 26 reported favorably on a bill to amend the District's minimum-wage law by extending application to male workers 18 years of age and over. The law now covers only women and minors. If passed by Congress, the amendment will prohibit the employment of males in the District of Columbia at a "rate less than or under conditions and standards of employment less favorable than the rates fixed or conditions and standards prescribed for women and minors . . . by an applicable minimum-wage order." Five States in the past 10 years have amended their women's minimum-wage laws to apply to men.

## IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary issued in April its findings from a study of immigration and naturalization laws and practices. Recommendations for revision and codification of these laws have been introduced in Congress as S.3455 by Senator McCarran. "One basic principle incorporated in the bill is that which eliminates inequalities between the sexes in all rights and privileges extended to aliens or to citizens from whom such aliens may claim special consideration based on family relationship," says the Report. All of the suggestions the Women's Bureau presented in 1948 for changes in the Immigration laws are included in the McCarran bill.

## WOMEN'S ROLE IN AN INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY

Plans for mobilization in case of emergency would have to include participation by women, according to Miss Frieda S. Miller, Director of the Women's Bureau. "They constitute the only sizeable labor reservoir for industrial production, for essential volunteer work, and they have an established position in the armed services," Miss Miller said.

Those who are responsible for planning "will need to let women know that there is full respect and recognition of their potential contribution and that they are equal partners in the undertaking. Any plan for women's participation in a mobilized economy must recognize and make provision for their other essential contributions to the life of the Nation. Mothers of young children and other women who have full-time family responsibilities must have these basic obligations honored."

The task of disaster work in civilian defense would fall mainly on women, Miss Miller pointed out. Homemakers, with their skills and experience in housekeeping, have invaluable preparation for the provision of feeding, shelter, nursing aid, and other essentials to the maintenance of national morale, she said. "My experience convinces me that American women will rise fully to whatever they might need to do. The big job is to develop channels and an understanding of how they can best prepare and organize themselves for responsible participation."

## WOMEN RESERVISTS URGED TO VOLUNTEER

Women reservists in the Navy and Marine Corps have been called to volunteer for active duty. The Navy especially needs women in these grades: teleman, radio-man, communications technician, yeoman, personnelman, machine accountant, storekeeper, aerographer, trademan, aviation storekeeper, hospitalman, and dental technician.

## EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Opportunities for employment in social work are very good for trained men and women, according to an occupational guide, "Social Worker" prepared recently by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry. In New Jersey the demand for trained social workers far surpasses the supply, and it is expected that employment opportunities will be exceptionally good for at least the next 10 years. However, persons without graduate training will probably encounter growing competition for jobs.

The U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics is making a Nation-wide survey of working conditions and salaries of social workers. Information on current salaries, hours on duty, retirement, vacation, and sick leave benefits, education and experience will be collected for use in preparing a comprehensive report on earnings and working conditions in the social service profession. Federal and private agencies in the field of social service are cooperating in the survey.

The current Women's Bureau study of the employment outlook for women in social work will cover the following: social case work in a medical setting; social case work in a psychiatric setting; social case work with families; social case work with children; social group work; community organization; research, teaching, and administration in social work.

## WOMAN HEADS PUBLIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Recently named director of the American Public Welfare Association is Miss Loula F. Dunn, former Welfare Commissioner for the State of Alabama. Miss Dunn is the first woman to head the Association, which represents some 5,000 State, local and Federal officials, individuals, and private agencies interested in welfare work.

## WOMEN IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Latest figures released by the U. S. Civil Service Commission on employment in the Federal Government show that on March 31, 1950, there were 498,459 women Federal workers in the continental United States. They were 26 percent of the total (1,939,825) employed. In the Washington, D. C. Metropolitan area, 93,649 women were employed—48 percent of all Federal workers there.

At the wartime peak for all Federal employment at home and abroad, there were 1,078,883 women working for the Government in the continental United States; women were 40 percent of total employment. Their numbers, however, dropped below 450,000 during 1947 and 1948.

Women in "Super-Grade" Jobs — In April 400 Government officials were advanced to newly created salary grades ranging from \$11,200 to \$14,000 yearly. Until these new grades were created, \$10,330 had been the ceiling for officials in the classified Federal service. No women were named to the top of the three new grades—GS 18 (\$14,000), GS 17 (\$12,200 to \$13,000), and GS 16 (\$11,200 to \$12,000). Two women were advanced to GS 17—the Deputy Commissioner of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, and the Director of the Bureau of the Mint, U. S. Department of the Treasury. Four women were named to GS 16—one from the Department of Agriculture, 2 from Federal Security Agency, and one from the Department of the Treasury.

## ILO MEETING CONSIDERS EQUAL PAY ISSUE

The 33rd Conference of the International Labor Organization met in Geneva from June 7 to July 1. The Conference considered, for the first time in its history, drafting of international regulations for effecting equal pay for men and women workers. Although this principle has been incorporated in the ILO constitution since its earliest days, the Organization has only now come to consider means of implementing the equal-pay principle. Workers as a group, U. S. employers, and representatives from some Governments expressed their belief that there was experience sufficient to serve as a basis for formulating effective regulations, but there was emphatic objection from other sources. However, a first draft of possible regulations was adopted by the full Conference and will be finally considered—as is the regular ILO procedure—at the succeeding conference in 1951.

At the Governing Body meeting, held concurrently, final action was taken for the establishment of an Expert Committee which will begin a study of the whole area of domestic employment—still one of the largest employers of women and one of vital importance in the world.

## WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Women in Government - Women's advance into politics continues as a world-wide movement. Recent news items tell of progress on many fronts: Colombia — Appointed head of the Latin American bureau of the Colombian Foreign Ministry was Miss Maritza de la Vega, a newspaper woman who is well known as a commentator on European affairs in *El Siglo*. Denmark — The Danish Parliament has elected a woman as its President, Mrs. Ingeborg Hansen. According to the International Alliance of Women, this is the first time in Parliament's century of history that a woman has been elected. Panama — Señora María Santa Domingo de Miranda was appointed on June 22 as the first woman Cabinet Minister of the Republic of Panama. She will serve as Minister of Labor, Social Welfare, and Public Health. Thailand — Thailand now has its first woman member of Parliament, Mrs. Orphin Chayakarn.

Women's Bureau Trainees - Miss Felina Reyes of the Philippines and Miss Lelia Arosemena of Panama recently completed training programs in labor problems at the Women's Bureau and were awarded certificates on June 30 by the Undersecretary of Labor. Miss Marina Prats of the Dominican Republic and Miss Otilia Velasco of Peru, who began their training programs in May, have worked for three weeks in the Rhode Island Department of Labor and are now attending the Kentucky Labor School. They will later work in Milwaukee with the Woman and Child Labor Department, Industrial Commission of Wisconsin.

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WOMEN IN THE FEDERAL SERVICE, PART II: Occupational Information. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Bulletin 230-II.

Statement of Frieda S. Miller, Director, Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, before a Subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor on HR 1584 and HR 2438, to Provide Equal Pay for Equal Work for Women. May 19, 1950.

Statement of Frieda S. Miller, Director, Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, before a Subcommittee of the House Committee on the Judiciary, on HR 2051, Regarding Uniform Qualifications for Jurors in Federal Courts. May 17, 1950.

THE WOMEN'S BUREAU: ITS PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS. (Leaflet) U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau. 1950.

(The printing of this publication has been approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, March 9, 1950.)