

FACTS

on Women Workers

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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN OCTOBER 1950

Employment of women rose between October 1949 and October 1950 by more than a million, according to monthly reports of the Bureau of the Census. Not far from half of this increase was among agricultural workers, due largely to more favorable weather for harvesting of crops in October 1950 than in October 1949. Unemployment of women fell by nearly 1/4 million and there were fewer women nonworkers than a year ago.

More than half a million women entered the labor market between September and October 1950. Large numbers of these were women in agricultural jobs, both wage workers and unpaid family workers. Unemployment declined somewhat.

	October 1950			
	Number of women	Percent women of all persons	Change since September 1950	Change since October 1949
Population (14 years and over)	56,619,000	50.9	+ 62,000	+ 680,000
Civilian labor force	19,436,000	30.5	+ 595,000	+ 848,000
Employed	18,668,000	30.2	+ 686,000	+ 1,093,000
In agriculture	1,902,000	22.4	+ 458,000	+ 494,000
In nonagricultural industries	16,766,000	31.5	+ 228,000	+ 599,000
Unemployed	768,000	39.6	- 91,000	- 245,000
Armed forces	24,000	1.4	No change	+ 4,000
Nonworkers	37,160,000	81.3	- 532,000	- 171,000

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

COST OF LIVING

The cost of commodities and services allowed in the Massachusetts budget for "certain working persons," which reflects the needs of both a working man and a working woman without dependents, was estimated to be \$1,527 as of August 1950. This figure, obtained by use of the State retail price index, is \$191 higher than the September-October 1946 costs determined by actual pricing. Federal income and social security taxes computed on the most recent commodity and service cost at rates applicable in August 1950 would amount to \$181, but these are not included as part of the State's official budget. The State levies no income tax on single persons whose incomes are under \$2,000.

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MINIMUM WAGE

Ohio's revision of its 1936 minimum-wage order covering hotels and restaurants sets an hourly minimum of 40 cents for service workers in all population classifications and minimums of 55, 53, 51, and 49 cents, according to size of city, for non-service workers. These rates apply to a workweek of over 24 and up to 48 hours. For part-time workers the minimums established are 5 cents higher than those specified above. The order is mandatory, effective December 9, 1950. Deductions for meals are not permitted where meals are regarded as a part of the employee's compensation.

HOURS OF WORK LEGISLATION

In view of the existing National defense situation, California and Connecticut recently amended their hours laws to permit women and minors to be employed for hours longer than the maximums normally in effect. Both Acts became effective on passage. The California Defense Production Act authorizes the Governor, upon application of an employer in accordance with the law, to issue a defense production permit "permitting the employment of female employees at or for such hours, and at such type of work, and under such conditions, as may be helpful in increasing production and furthering the current defense program without unreasonably increasing the risk of impairing the health or safety of said employees." In event of war or other National emergency, Connecticut's labor commissioner, may, after investigation, and with approval of the Governor, increase beyond 8 per year the total number of weeks in which manufacturing and mechanical establishments may lengthen the workday and workweek of women and minors to 10-55 hours.

WOMEN IN UNIONS

The 830 delegates and officers attending the convention of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, AFL, in August 1950, included 39 women-- 26 local delegates, 4 State delegates, and 9 member-at-large delegates. ...Of 149 delegates attending the 1950 convention of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, AFL, 31, or 21 percent, were women.

The New York Women's Trade Union League opened its 48th season recently with a pledge to continue serving the labor movement, even though the parent organization terminated its activities last June. "Despite the growth and strength of the labor movement there are thousands of working women still outside its ranks," the league's bulletin said. "...the league feels that ... its point of view with regard to the millions of organized and unorganized wage-earning women is still needed inside and outside the labor movement."

Seventeen % (184,325) of the total membership of a group of local unions in California are women, according to a study made by the California State Division of Labor Statistics and Research. Each year this office distributes a questionnaire to union locals in the State and publishes a summary of the returns. Over 2,300 locals returned the 1949 questionnaire. Comparing 1948 and 1949 union membership figures for both men and women, it was found that while there was a net decline in over-all membership, the number of women members rose 1 percent.

MAJOR OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN, OCTOBER 1950

From October 1949 to October 1950 employment of women increased in all major occupational groups except one--the proprietary and managerial group. Greatest increase, 473,000, occurred among women farm workers, because of more favorable weather conditions in 1950 than the year before. The number of women manual workers (factory operatives and the like) also rose substantially, reflecting to some extent increased demands in defense industries. In each of two other occupation groups, the clerical group and the household worker group, there were significant increases.

Occupation Group	Women, ^{Oct} July 1950			
	Number	Percent distribution	Percent of all workers	Change in number from October 1949
All occupations	18,668,000	100.0	30.2	+ 1,093,000
Clerical and kindred workers	4,695,000	25.1	62.2	+ 122,000
Operatives, laborers (except farm and mine), craftsmen, foremen	3,971,000	21.3	16.2	+ 302,000
Service workers (except domestic)	2,044,000	10.9	44.3	+ 3,000
Professional, technical, and kindred	1,902,000	10.2	39.6	+ 76,000
Farmers and farm workers	1,864,000	10.0	22.4	+ 473,000
Private household workers	1,767,000	9.5	97.9	+ 108,000
Sales workers	1,478,000	7.9	37.7	+ 49,000
Proprietors, managers, and officials (except farm)	946,000	5.1	15.2	- 42,000

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

WOMEN IN FACTORIES, JUNE 1950

Factories in the United States employed 3,710,000 women in the summer of 1950 according to quarterly figures recently released by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Women in factory offices as well as women production workers are included in this figure. There were only 9,300 more women reported in June than in March 1950, but in certain industry groups the changes were considerable. The number of women in durable goods factories rose by nearly 64,000, the gains being greatest in making of electrical goods (17,400), transportation equipment (16,600), and in fabricated metal products (11,200). Employment of women in nondurable goods industries fell by nearly 55,000. There was a seasonal drop in apparel factories of 67,300 and a seasonal gain in food processing of 28,200.

Women constituted 25 percent of all wage and salary workers in factories in June 1950, compared with 26 percent in March 1950. In few industries was the change marked. In general the proportion of women to all workers rises in a busy season and falls in a slack season. Seasonal factors probably account for the rise in the ratio of women to all workers in canning and the fall in ratio in millinery, in the making of fur goods, and in confectionery.

WOMEN IN THE 82ND CONGRESS

There will be 9 women in the 82nd Congress--1 in the Senate and 8 in the House of Representatives. Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Republican of Maine, was not up for re-election this year. Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas ran as the Democratic nominee to the Senate from California but was defeated. The following, out of a total of 17 women candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties, were elected to the House:

Mrs. Frances P. Bolton, R., Ohio	(7th term)
Mrs. Reva B. Bosone, D., Utah	(2d term)
Mrs. Marguerite S. Church, R., Ill.	(1st term)
Mrs. Cecil M. Harden, R., Ind.	(2d term)
Mrs. Edna F. Kelly, D., N. Y.	(2d term)
Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, R., Mass.	(14th term)
Mrs. Katharine St. George, R., N. Y.	(3rd term)
Miss Ruth Thompson, R., Mich.	(1st term)

The number of women in Congress has remained within the 8 to 10 range since 1929. In the 71st Congress (1929-31) there were 9 women; 72d, 8; 73rd, 8; 74th, 8; 75th, 9; 76th, 9; 77th, 10; 78th, 9; 79th, 10; 80th, 8; 81st, 10.

WOMEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Two women are serving as Representatives at the fifth session of the UN General Assembly, now meeting in New York--Miss Minerva Bernardino, Dominican Republic, and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, United States of America. Serving as alternates are 12 women from 11 countries--Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, India, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States. The Netherlands has 2 women alternates. Four of the 9 women advisers at this session come from the United States; the other 5 represent Australia, Denmark, France, Netherlands, and Poland.

"FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME"

On November 1 Susan B. Anthony, a leader of the woman suffrage movement, was elected to the Hall of Fame at New York University, becoming the eighth woman so named and the first elected since 1920. Names of two other women were also proposed this year, but they were not elected: Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, nominated by the New York League of Business and Professional Women, and Dorothea Lynde Dix, nominated by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, Inc. Already standing in the Hall of Fame are portrait busts of these women--Mary Lyon, Maria Mitchell, Emma Willard, since 1905; Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frances E. Willard, since 1910; Charlotte S. Cushman, since 1915; and Alice Freeman Palmer, 1920.

- HAVE CAREER WOMEN OF AMERICA, 1776-1840, by Elisabeth Anthony Dexter.
Marshall Jones Company, Frankestown, N. H. 1950.
- YOU "The Woman Chemist," by Cornelia T. Snell, in CHEMICAL AND ENGINEERING NEWS,
September 11, 1950.
- READ WOMEN'S ELIGIBILITY FOR JURY DUTY. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau.
Leaflet. 1950. (Revision of earlier edition.)

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