

FACTS

on Women Workers

U. S. Department of Labor
Maurice J. Tobin, *Secretary*

Women's Bureau
Frieda S. Miller, *Director*

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 30, 1951

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN MARCH 1951

More than a million women were added to the civilian labor force between March 1950 and March 1951. Over 1/2 million of these women were between the ages of 25 and 44. Unemployment of all women fell by 1/4 million.

Between February and March 1951, more than half a million women entered the civilian labor force. The great majority of these women were housewives who are now entering the labor force to take defense and other nonfarm jobs.

	March 1951			
	Number of women	Percent women of all persons	Change since February 1951	Change since March 1950
Civilian population (14 years and over)	56,856,000	52.2	+ 63,000	+ 673,000
Civilian labor force	18,946,000	30.4	+ 527,000	+ 1,150,000
Employed	18,077,000	30.0	+ 472,000	+ 1,403,000
In agriculture	754,000	11.8	+ 144,000	+ 66,000
In nonagricultural industries	17,322,000	32.2	+ 326,000	+ 1,335,000
Unemployed	870,000	40.5	+ 57,000	- 251,000
Nonworkers	37,909,000	81.3	- 465,000	- 478,000

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

MINIMUM WAGE

Washington revised its food processing and fruit and vegetable packing minimum-wage orders, setting a minimum hourly wage rate of 65 cents for each. The new orders became effective March 12 and April 16, respectively.

Massachusetts' revised order for personal services, effective December 14, 1950, replaces its beauty culture order of 1943. It establishes 70 cents an hour as the highest basic minimum-wage in the occupations covered.

In two States—Connecticut and Kentucky—court action was taken on the temporary injunctions against enforcement of minimum wage orders. On December 19, 1950, a Connecticut court set aside the mandatory orders (No. 4A and No. 4B) for restaurants on technical grounds, making it clear, however, that the minimum-wage law was not unconstitutional. In Kentucky, the court dissolved a temporary order which had made the hotel and restaurant order inoperative; the order then became directory, effective February 26, 1951.

331.4
4581
April 1951
LIBRARY
A. & M. COLLEGE OF TEXAS

FEDERAL EQUAL PAY BILL

On April 5 Representative Edna F. Kelly of New York introduced in the 82d Congress a bill, HR 3550, to provide equal pay for equal work for women; it was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. The bill is substantially identical with those introduced in previous Congresses.

STATE LABOR LEGISLATION

Equal Pay -- Massachusetts amended its equal pay law to broaden its application to "work of like or comparable character or work on like or comparable operations" and to eliminate all variations in rates of pay except those based on seniority. Attorneys' fees and costs are again collectible in employees' suits for unpaid wages, and the time limitation on such suits has been extended from 6 months to 1 year.

Hours of Work -- In New York stores, women over 21 may now be employed until midnight; this makes permanent a previous temporary authority. ...The pre-Christmas (December 18-24) relaxation of hours in New York stores may be extended by the employer to any week in the December 4-24 period upon notice to the commissioner; this provision applies to females over 16. ...Under certain conditions, the commissioner may permit females 21 and over to work in dining rooms and kitchens of New York restaurants after midnight.

Emergency Relaxations -- Indiana has again suspended its law relating to hours of work for women 18 and over. The suspension is effective until March 15, 1961. ...Utah will permit employment of women 18 and over at mines and in smelters, except underground, until February 15, 1953, or the end of the national emergency, whichever is earlier. ...Massachusetts has extended until July 1, 1952, the commissioner's authority to suspend the labor laws covering women, minors, or both. ...Washington amended its maximum hour law to establish a commission with authority to relax certain State practices or standards for the purpose of increasing defense and war production. Defense production permits, as they are called, are valid only during the specified emergency for which they are issued. The existence of the commission is limited to the duration of the emergency as proclaimed by the President.

Unemployment Compensation -- Oregon amended its unemployment compensation law to provide that a pregnant woman is unavailable for work 6 weeks prior to her expected confinement in addition to the present 4 weeks' period after her pregnancy has terminated. A pregnant woman, therefore, would not be eligible for unemployment compensation within the 10-week period specified.

MRS. ROOSEVELT RESIGNS AS CHAIRMAN OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt withdrew on April 16 as chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, but will continue as a member. She had served as head of the Commission since its establishment in 1946. As her successor, she nominated Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon, who was elected unanimously.

In withdrawing from her position, Mrs. Roosevelt said, "I don't think it right for a commission as important as this to remain under the chairmanship of one particular country for such a long time, especially of one from one of the larger countries."

JURY SERVICE

Tennessee is the 40th State to permit women to serve on State juries, under an optional type law effective in March 1951. There are still 8 States in which women are barred from jury service in State courts--Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia.

SALARIES OF CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

From 1925 to 1949, average salary of public school teachers in large communities rose approximately 84 percent according to a study made by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. This rise was slightly higher than the increase in policemen's and firemen's salaries, but much less than the 125-percent increase in weekly earnings of production workers in manufacturing. Geographically, there were sharp differences in rate of salary increases. The Middle Atlantic States had the smallest rise; salaries in the Southeast more than doubled, and in the Southwest almost doubled. ...According to the National Education Association, the estimated average salary of all public school teachers in the U. S. for the 1950-51 school year was \$3,080.

NURSING EDUCATION EXPANSION PROVIDED IN NEW BILL

A long-range plan for nursing education was outlined in a bill introduced in January by Representative Frances P. Bolton, of Ohio. Mrs. Bolton was the author of the Act establishing the Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and has a long record of successful efforts on behalf of nursing and nursing education. The new bill would earmark \$44,000,000 during the first year of operation for educating registered nurses under administration of the U. S. Public Health Service, and about \$3,000,000 for training practical nurses under the vocational education division of the Office of Education.

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

Women and girls make up about 20 percent of the total membership of the Nation's Civil Air Patrol (CAP). An auxiliary of the U. S. Air Force, the CAP has a total of 183,000 members, all unpaid volunteers, standing ready to help in times of emergency by searching for lost planes, dropping supplies to communities isolated by flood, patrolling forest areas to detect fire, etc. The women are serving not only as pilots but as administrators and technicians, including radio operators for CAP's amateur radio stations.

WOMEN HEADS OF FAMILIES

In March 1950, according to recent reports from the Bureau of the Census, there were 3,637,000 families with a female head. Most of these, 2,740,000, lived in urban areas. Nearly half (1,687,000) of the families were 2-person families; 963,000 were 3-person families; 473,000 were 4-person families. The median size of families headed by women was 2.64 persons. Roughly half (48 percent) of the families headed by women had 1 or more related children under 18.

Median age of the women heads was 53.9. Slightly over a fourth were 65 years of age or over. Most (2,324,000) of the women heads of families were widows; 561,000 were married with husband absent; 437,000 were divorced; 315,000 were single.

WOMEN APPOINTED TO NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

To develop and encourage the formation of a national policy for the promotion of basic research and education in the sciences, the National Science Foundation was created by Congress last year. The Act establishing the Foundation called for the appointment of a National Science Board of 24 persons eminent in the fields of the basic sciences—medicine, engineering, agriculture, education, or public affairs—to be selected on the basis of distinguished service. Among the 24 persons appointed by President Truman to serve on this Board were 2 women: Sophie D. Aberle, special research director, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N. M., and Gerti Theresa Cori, professor of biological chemistry, Washington University Medical School, St. Louis, Mo.

WOMAN DOCTOR NAMED TO FOREIGN PUBLIC HEALTH MISSION

Dr. Estella F. Warner was recently named regional health representative to the Near East, under the Point Four program of lending technical assistance to underdeveloped areas. She will help to set up a school of public health at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon; this will be the first public health training facility in the area. Dr. Warner has been chief of the Division of State Grants, Public Health Service, since 1949. She received her commission in the Public Health Service in 1932, the first woman ever commissioned in this Service.

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

The United Nations has recently released two reports on women's status in countries throughout the world: "Civil Liberties for Women," and "Fiscal Laws As They Affect Women." The report on civil liberties shows that among the 34 governments reporting, women have about the same rights as men in the basic freedoms. Variations in civil liberties for women are primarily in access to courts of law. Eleven countries reported limitations on the right of a wife to sue or be sued in civil suits, usually a requirement that the husband consent to such action. In Argentina, the husband represents his wife as administrator of the "conjugal partnership"; in Chile a married woman must have her husband's written permission before she can appear in court; the Netherlands, Bolivia, Belgium, the Philippines, Thailand, and South Africa are among those requiring some indication of the husband's approval. India and Pakistan provide that women who are veiled need not appear in court, but may give testimony to special examiners in their homes. Some provisions in United States law favor the wife; for example, in some States a wife entitled to a divorce, but without funds, may prosecute her suit without court costs.

The report on fiscal laws shows many exceptions in favor of women, especially widows. In Sweden a married woman who is working or engaged in a business or profession and who lives with the husband has the benefit of a special exemption of 200 crowns a year in respect of local taxation, intended as a compensation for domestic help needed on account of her occupation. The majority of countries permit a married woman who has independent property to make a separate income tax return if she wishes to do so.

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