

FACTS

on Women Workers

U. S. Department of Labor
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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN APRIL 1951

There were nearly 800,000 more women in nonagricultural employment in April 1951 than in April 1950. Employment of women on farms fell somewhat, due to unfavorable weather conditions. Unemployment fell substantially.

Between March and April 1951 women in the civilian labor force decreased by more than 1/3 million. This was chiefly due to withdrawal from the labor force of women who had worked during the Easter season. Unemployment of women was considerably less in April than in March. Increases in farm employment were slight, and nonagricultural employment fell.

	April 1951			
	Number of women	Percent women of all persons	Change since March 1951	Change since April 1950
Civilian population (14 years and over)	56,899,000	52.3	+ 43,000	+ 663,000
Civilian labor force	18,607,000	30.1	- 339,000	+ 544,000
Employed	17,890,000	29.8	- 187,000	+ 714,000
In agriculture	840,000	12.6	+ 86,000	- 83,000
In nonagricultural industries	17,051,000	31.9	- 271,000	+ 798,000
Unemployed	716,000	41.1	- 154,000	- 171,000
Nonworkers	38,293,000	81.3	+ 384,000	+ 120,000

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

MINIMUM WAGE

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A. & M. COLLEGE OF TEXAS

Washington State has now completed the revision of its minimum-wage orders, the final one being the order for women and minors in the telephone and telegraph industry. Effective May 1, 1951, this order establishes 65 cents as the basic hourly minimum for experienced workers, 50 cents for inexperienced (160 hours), but excepts (1) persons employed as learners, apprentices, messengers or handicapped workers under certificates issued by Federal Wage and Hour Administrator; (2) workers employed for a certain period during specified hours of the night to whom suitable sleeping facilities are furnished. For the latter group, the order establishes a minimum wage of \$2 per 10-hour shift and allows pro-rating.

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SPECIALIZED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR OLDER WORKERS

A new program providing specialized counseling and job finding assistance to older workers seeking employment through local public employment offices was announced recently by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Employment Security. The purpose is to promote maximum use of older workers in the defense program and to assist older men and women to find jobs for which they are fitted. The U. S. Employment Service plans to send to local employment offices a program guide outlining policies and procedures for use in providing specialized counseling and placement assistance to men and women whose age presents special job problems. This guide is based on the findings of a 5-State survey of the job problems of 342,000 older workers.

AIR LINE HOSTESSES PLAN UNION CONVENTION

The first convention of the Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses Association, AFL, will be held in June, in Chicago. Formed in 1946, the Association has, in the past 5 years, won representation rights for flight attendants from practically all the large U. S. scheduled air lines. The Association now bargains for the employment agreements of more than 3,500 stewardesses, hostesses, flight agents, flight stewards, and flight pursers. Since 1946, working conditions have greatly improved, according to the AFL Weekly News Service; monthly flying hours have been reduced, so that it is rare to find cabin personnel flying more than 85 hours in a month. In 1946 starting wages for flight attendants were about \$125 per month; now beginning pay is closer to \$200 a month.

MARITAL STATUS OF WOMEN WORKERS, 1950

In March 1950, about two-thirds of all the women in the United States were married, one-fifth were single, and a little less than one-seventh were widowed or divorced, according to a report just released by the U. S. Census Bureau. About 25 percent of all married women were in the labor force, compared with 17 percent in 1940.

Numbers of married women in the labor force have steadily increased since the 1940 census period; by 1949, there were more married women workers than single women workers. In 1950 the trend toward increasing employment of married women was even more strikingly apparent; of nearly 18 million women in the labor force in March 1950, 32 percent were single, 52 percent were married, and 16 percent widowed or divorced.

	<u>Women 14 Years Old and Over in the Labor Force</u>					
	<u>Number</u> <u>(in thousands)</u>		<u>Percent of</u> <u>woman population</u>		<u>Percent</u> <u>distribution</u>	
	<u>March</u> <u>1950</u>	<u>March</u> <u>1940</u>	<u>March</u> <u>1950</u>	<u>March</u> <u>1940</u>	<u>March</u> <u>1950</u>	<u>March</u> <u>1940</u>
Total	17,795,000	13,840,000	31.4	27.4	100.0	100.0
Single	5,621,000	6,710,000	50.5	48.1	31.6	48.5
Married	9,273,000	5,040,000	24.8	16.7	52.1	36.4
Widowed or divorced	2,901,000	2,090,000	36.0	32.0	16.3	15.1

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

MAJOR OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN, APRIL 1951

The greatest increases in women's employment between April 1950 and April 1951 were among operatives (chiefly in factories) and women office workers. These gains probably result from the defense program which requires both production and clerical workers. The greatest decline was among saleswomen. Because Easter was two weeks earlier in 1951 than in 1950, women who had taken temporary jobs for the season had left the labor market or taken other work. The increase among women household workers is somewhat counter to recent trends.

	Employed women, April 1951			
	Number	Percent distribution	Percent of all workers	Changes since April 1950
All occupations	17,890,000	100.0	29.8	+ 714,000
Clerical and kindred workers	4,931,000	27.6	65.1	+ 392,000
Operatives and kindred workers	3,737,000	20.9	29.7	+ 522,000
Service workers, except private household	2,143,000	12.0	47.4	- 25,000
Private household workers	1,872,000	10.5	97.4	+ 101,000
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	1,784,000	10.0	37.4	- 78,000
Sales workers	1,264,000	7.1	34.9	- 252,000
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm	1,039,000	5.8	16.6	+ 98,000
Farm laborers and foremen	608,000	3.4	26.0	- 55,000
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	211,000	1.2	2.5	+ 30,000
Farmers and farm managers	205,000	1.1	4.9	- 48,000
Laborers, except farm and mine	97,000	.5	2.5	+ 29,000

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

PLACEMENTS OF COLLEGE WOMEN IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Secretarial jobs led all others among placements of inexperienced college women in business and industry in 1950, according to an annual survey of placements of college graduates made at Northwestern University. Reports were received from 150 business and industrial concerns, 60 of which reported on employment of women. Next to secretarial jobs, placements in merchandising, chemistry, accounting, market research, engineering, advertising, personnel, and physics were most numerous, in that order.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS

Two women were among the 1950 Pulitzer prize winners: Marguerite Higgins for international reporting, and Margaret Louise Coit for a biography of John C. Calhoun.

UN COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN MEETS

The Fifth Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women met at Lake Success from April 30 through May 14. The 15 nations currently represented on the Commission are Australia, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Haiti, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Mme. LeFaucheux of France was re-elected chairman, and the United States was represented for the second year by Mrs. Olive Remington Goldman of Illinois. The only resolution passed unanimously was one urging greater participation of women in the work of the United Nations. An equal pay resolution, noting the valuable work done by the International Labor Organization and requesting a resolution by the Economic and Social Council which would urge nonmembers of the ILO to take comparable action, was enacted 12 to 2. The status of nurses was discussed by the Commission and a resolution adopted asking wider recognition for, and legal protection of, the professional status of nurses. On the political status of women, the Commission urged ECOSOC and the General Assembly to enact a Convention that would promote the political rights of women throughout the world entitling them to vote in all public elections, and to qualify for membership in publicly elected bodies established by national law, and for all public offices and public functions. In addition, a resolution was passed calling on the Secretary General to issue a brochure designed to aid women in the exercise of their political rights.

WOMEN IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

President Truman this month appointed Frances E. Willis, legation councilor at Helsinki, Finland, for promotion to Class I in the diplomatic service. She is the first American woman to reach that rank as a professional diplomat. Only the permanent rank of career minister is higher. Miss Willis has served with the State Department for over 20 years and has held posts in Europe and Latin America.

WOMEN IN DENMARK

Helga Pedersen, for some years a judge in the Danish court, is now the head of the Danish Ministry of Justice. According to newspaper reports, she is the only woman in the Danish Cabinet and the first and only woman in Europe to hold such a position.

- H CAREERS IN CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING. A collection of articles
A reprinted from Chemical and Engineering News, July 3, 1950 through
V December 25, 1950. 94 pp. \$1.00. American Chemical Society,
E 1155 - 16th St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C. (Includes reprint of article,
The Woman Chemist.)
Y FILIPINO WOMEN, THEIR ROLE IN THE PROGRESS OF THEIR NATION. 9 pp. 1951.
O U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau.
U EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN AN EMERGENCY PERIOD. 14 pp. 1951. U. S. Department
of Labor, Women's Bureau.
R SUMMARY REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATES TO THE FIRST REGIONAL SEMINAR
E OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN. 11 pp. 1951. U. S. Department
A of Labor, Women's Bureau.
D "What Mining Officials Think About Women Workers," in ENGINEERING AND
MINING JOURNAL, January 1951.

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