

FACTS

on Women Workers

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

The number of women in the civilian labor force increased by $\frac{4}{5}$ million between May 1950 and May 1951, and a million more women were employed, almost entirely in nonagricultural industries. The number of working women in May 1951 represented a larger increase during the past year than could be expected on the basis of population growth alone.

About $\frac{3}{4}$ million more women were employed in May than in April 1951. Some of these were drawn from the unemployed, but most had been nonworkers. Half a million women were added to the unpaid farm workers, a seasonal trend. Many of these farm women had undoubtedly been keeping house before but were not in the labor force.

	May 1951			
	Number of women	Percent women of all persons	Change since April 1951	Change since May 1950
Civilian population (14 years and over)	56,949,000	52.3	+ 50,000	+ 671,000
Civilian labor force	19,294,000	30.7	+ 687,000	+ 822,000
Employed	18,635,000	30.5	+ 745,000	+ 1,090,000
In agriculture	1,478,000	19.9	+ 638,000	+ 5,000
In nonagricultural industries	17,157,000	31.9	+ 106,000	+ 1,085,000
Unemployed	659,000	41.0	- 57,000	- 268,000
Nonworkers	37,654,000	81.8	- 639,000	- 152,000

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

MINIMUM WAGE CONFERENCE HELD IN WASHINGTON

The 16th Annual Conference of State Minimum Wage Administrators was held by the Women's Bureau in Washington on May 24 and 25, 1951. Officials from 13 States and one territory attended: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Puerto Rico. In welcoming the delegates, Under Secretary of Labor Michael J. Galvin emphasized the importance of minimum-wage programs in the defense effort in helping to attract new recruits to the labor market and in keeping essential civilian industries functioning effectively. He also stressed the need for vigilance against the attempts to relax or waive employment standards contained in various State laws. He warned that to do so would lead to lowered production. The Conference agenda included: (1) discussion of current developments in each State represented in minimum wage and other legislation for women; (2) State minimum-wage administration in a stabilized defense economy; (3) equal pay policy and program; and (4) policies as to relaxation of State labor laws for women. Copies of a brief summary of the Conference may be obtained from the Bureau.

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NEW MINIMUM WAGE ORDERS

Connecticut's revised laundry order, effective April 17, 1951, extends protection to men and establishes 70 cents as the basic minimum hourly rate for females, minors under 18, and adult males who are employed in "production work," as this term is defined in the order. For hours worked in excess of 44 a week, time and a half must be paid. (Maximum hours for women and minors in this industry are 9 a day, 48 a week, except in cases of emergency or seasonal or peak demand.)

Oregon revised its orders of 1947 and 1941, applicable to women and minors employed in laundry, cleaning and dyeing establishments, and hospitals, sanitariums, convalescent and old people's homes, respectively. The laundry order sets 60 cents and the hospital order, 65 cents as the minimum for an 8-hour day, 44-hour week (the laundry order providing also for a 5½-day week). The hospital order sets an 8-hour (instead of 9-hour) day as the maximum for the women and minors covered and eliminates the 7-hour day, 7-day week option allowed the employer under the old order. Both orders provide for overtime in emergencies, if 1½ the employee's regular rate is paid. The laundry, cleaning and dyeing order requires that employers obtain a special permit for such overtime and the hospital order makes the hour regulations inapplicable "in the event of disaster within the community."

Rhode Island's revised minimum-wage order for the laundry and dry cleaning industries, effective June 1, 1951, increases the minimum rate for experienced workers from 30 to 70 cents an hour, with 65 cents established for inexperienced workers. Except for driver salesmen and driver saleswomen, \$1.05 must be paid to all workers for each hour worked in excess of 45 a week; maximum hours for women and minors are 48.

MATERNITY BENEFITS LEGISLATION

By amendment, Rhode Island's Cash Sickness Act reduces benefits for unemployment resulting from pregnancy to 12 consecutive calendar weeks in any benefit year, beginning with the sixth week prior to the week in which childbirth is expected and terminating not more than six weeks following such childbirth.

EMERGENCY RELAXATIONS OF STATE LABOR LAWS

California amended its Defense Production Act of 1950 and extended it until 1953. As amended, exemptions for female employees relate only to hours, whereas originally exemption from types and conditions of work were included. The Governor is now empowered, in certain cases of extreme emergency, to issue immediate temporary permits pending processing of the regular permit, normally a 20-day procedure.

Maine has provided that employment of women up to 10 hours a day shall not be prohibited in manufacturing establishments. Agreements to work more than 10 hours, but not in excess of 56 hours a week, are permitted if approved by the Commissioner.

New York's Defense Emergency Act, similar to its World War II emergency legislation, empowers the Industrial Commissioner to grant dispensation from labor laws to employers engaged in defense production. In announcing the policies and procedures which will govern granting of dispensations, the Commissioner said the law "must not be made an instrument to break down the protective labor legislation of which New York State has so much right to be proud."

EQUAL PAY

As of June 15 a total of 15 equal pay bills have been introduced into the Congress. Mrs. Kelly, of New York, introduced a new bill, H.R. 4101, which supersedes her earlier bill, reported in the April issue of Facts on Women Workers. Other sponsors are: Senators Murray, Mont. and Morse, Ore.; Representatives Rodino, N. J.; Anfusio, N. Y.; Addonizio, N. J.; Havenner, Calif.; Fine, N. Y.; Howell, N. J.; Klein, N. Y.; Multer, N. Y.; Kennedy, Mass.; Doyle, Calif.; Holifield, Calif.; Heller, N. Y.; and Dempsey, N. Mex.

TRENDS IN THE WOMAN LABOR FORCE

Women will account for nearly one-half of the expected labor force increase between 1950 and 1975, according to a paper presented by Harold Wool, a Labor Department economist, before the annual Conference on Research in Income and Wealth in New York City last month. The greatest relative growth is expected among women between 35 and 54 years, at ages when relatively few women are responsible for care of young children. By 1975 the total labor force is expected to be nearly 90 million men and women, about 25 million higher than the actual 1950 figure.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

A total of 471,073 women were working for the executive branch of the Federal Government within the continental United States in December 1950, according to figures released by the U. S. Civil Service Commission. They were 23 percent of the 2,024,347 persons so employed. Among the 9 executive departments of the Government, the Labor Department had the highest percentage (49 percent) of women employees, State Department was next, with 44 percent, followed by Treasury, 43; Justice, 32; Commerce, 31; Agriculture, 25; Defense, 23; Interior, 21; Post Office Department, 9.

Nine percent of all women employees in the entire executive branch (executive departments, independent agencies, and executive office of the President) were veterans. Of all male employees, 60 percent were veterans.

WOMEN IN EDUCATION

Over the past 25 years, there appears to have been little progress made in the number of women holding administrative positions in education, according to a study released recently by the National Education Association. In 1925, eight of the State superintendents of education were women. Today there are five. The woman membership in the American Association of School Administrators and the NEA Department of Elementary School Principals was less in 1950 than in 1925; the percentage of women members of the National Association of Secondary School Principals increased over the same period only from 7.7 to 9.4. Fifty years ago, in 1900, 7.5 percent of the public high-school principals were women. The increase since then has been extremely small; women are today only 7.9 percent of all public high-school principals.

As recently as 1939, 46 of the city superintendents of schools were women. Today there are 8 in 1,583 cities with over 2,500 population and only one in 360 cities with over 30,000 population.

WOMEN IN MEDICINE

The June graduating class of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., included the first women students ever admitted to the University's School of Medicine. Of the entire class of 103 (98 men and 5 women), the top-ranking graduate was a woman--Sister Frederic Niedfield. She was graduated magna cum laude, with the highest average in the class for the four years, and she delivered the valedictory address. After completing her internship at St. Michael's Hospital in Newark, N. J., she plans to work as a medical missionary.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION LEADERS RETURN FROM GERMANY

A panel of 11 women delegates from national non-Governmental organizations this month completed a 6-week period of work and consultation in Germany with German women's organizations. The American and German women exchanged ideas on the participation of women in civic affairs, and the objectives and functions of women's organizations. Many of the educational, welfare, and civic projects sponsored by German women's organizations were visited. Travel to and from Germany was financed by the participating organizations, which included the League of Women Voters, Congress of Industrial Organizations, Associated Country Women of the World, Young Women's Christian Association, United Council of Church Women, National Council of Negro Women, American Federation of Labor, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., American Association of University Women, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of Catholic Women.

WOMEN HELP EXTEND U. S. "KNOW-HOW" TO OTHER COUNTRIES

A number of women have recently been sent abroad by the Government on missions to help other countries develop their economies and improve social and living conditions. During June three women specialists in public health left to work abroad under the Point Four program. One will help establish a public health mission in Iran and teach nurses there; another will go to Brazil as a child welfare consultant; the third will aid in reorganizing the School of Social Work at the University of Panama. Earlier, a woman expert on social security was sent with her husband, also a specialist in this field, to Egypt at the request of the Egyptian Government, to work there with the Ministry of Social Affairs. They will help to develop an in-service training program for personnel selected to administer the new social security program in Egypt.

A few women from other countries have been among the teams of specialists brought to the United States under the technical assistance program of the Economic Cooperation Administration. One of the most recent groups to arrive, a French team studying modern methods of rehabilitating the physically handicapped, includes three women and nine men. The women are a technical adviser, French Social Security Administration; chief of the medical social section, Social Security Administration; and a physiotherapist. All are from Paris.

THE OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN IN SOCIAL CASE WORK WITH CHILDREN, Bulletin 235-3; and
THE OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION IN SOCIAL WORK, Bulletin 235-5.
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THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau.
27 pp. 1951.
"Part-time Work--a Sampling from the AAUW Questionnaires," by Eva Vom Baur Hansl,
in JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, Vol. 44. No. 3.
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