

FACTS

on Women Workers

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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN JULY 1951

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Estimated at 19 million in the week ending July 14, total civilian employment of women was 368,000 higher than in June, and 1.4 million above the level of a year ago, according to the latest Census Bureau figures. Total civilian employment of men was 78,000 below the level of July 1950, reflecting the fact that young male workers were being inducted into the armed forces in sizable numbers during the year. The increased employment of women compensated for the decrease in male employment and accounted for a rise of 1.3 million in total employment over the past year, bringing the total to 62.5 million men and women, the highest July level on record.

In nonagricultural jobs the number of women has now reached the level prevailing at the peak of World War II, when millions were working as replacements for men in the armed forces.

	July 1951			
	Number of women	Percent women of all persons	Change since June 1951	Change since July 1950
Civilian population (14 years and over)	57,058,000	52.4	+ 56,000	+ 670,000
Civilian labor force	19,780,000	30.7	+ 313,000	+ 1,061,000
Employed	19,022,000	30.4	+ 368,000	+ 1,390,000
In agriculture	1,638,000	20.7	- 110,000	+ 175,000
In nonagricultural industries	17,384,000	31.8	+ 478,000	+ 1,215,000
Unemployed	758,000	40.8	- 55,000	- 329,000
Nonworkers	37,278,000	83.8	- 257,000	- 391,000

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

WOMEN PERFORMING "MEN'S" WORK AT BENICIA ARSENAL

Women now form about 30 percent of the working force at Benicia Arsenal, in the San Francisco Bay Area, and are filling so-called "men's" jobs with notable success, according to a recent news letter of the Office of the Secretary of the Army, Civilian Personnel Division. The jobs on which the women perform best, the arsenal reports, are those of crane operator, lift truck operator, fire control inspector, parts requirements planner, and tallyman. Their work also is said to be satisfactory in most of the arsenal's other mechanical and warehouse jobs, including welding, toolroom operation, and inspection. Benicia's successful utilization of its women workers is credited to job engineering. This, together with equipment modification and the increased use of power tools, has enabled the arsenal to make extensive use of women in "heavy" operations. An outstanding example of the successful use of women, the newsletter notes, is an employee who was hired during World War II as a student in the watch repair school. This woman now is a foreman and is in charge of a shop which operates on three shifts. She supervises 30 employees, most of whom are men.

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MINIMUM WAGE

The District of Columbia's revision of its 1946 laundry and dry cleaning order, effective August 22, 1951, establishes a basic minimum wage of \$30 for a workweek of over 24 but not more than 40 hours. For work in excess of 40 hours, \$1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour must be paid, and for part-time work, i.e., a week of 24 hours or less, 85 cents an hour. Two new standards provide for 4 hours' pay on any day an employee is called to work, whether or not work is provided, and 75 cents, in addition to the applicable minimum wage, for any day on which employee works a split shift or her over-all hours exceed 11. (Former minimum was \$22 for a week of over 16 up to and including 44 hours.)

Connecticut revised its cleaning and dyeing order and extended application of the new order for this industry to adult males, establishing a basic hourly minimum of 75 cents for all workers, with time and a half the employee's regular rate for all hours worked in excess of 45 a week. (Under the former order, 60 cents was the basic hourly minimum for experienced workers and 55 cents for inexperienced.)

Utah amended its 1947 minimum-wage order applying to women and minor restaurant workers, making changes only in the wage rates of part-time employees, which, in two classes of cities, are increased by a fraction of a cent an hour after the first two hours of employment, and, in a third class of cities, are decreased by approximately 3 cents an hour for all part-time work. For towns having a population of 5,000 or fewer, the amended order omits part-time rates entirely.

WOMEN RECEIVING OLD-AGE BENEFITS

The number of women receiving old-age benefits more than doubled in 1950 due to recent amendments to the Social Security Act. These amendments made workers in additional occupations, including household employment, eligible for benefits. Women were 16 percent of those receiving benefits in 1950 under the former provisions of the Act, and 28 percent of those newly eligible under the 1950 amendments. Three-fourths of the women compared to two-thirds of the men beneficiaries were aged 65 and under 70. New eligibles could not qualify if they reached their 75th birthday before the last 6 months of 1950. Among those coming under the Act in 1950 before amendment, 11 percent of the women and 17 percent of the men were 75 or older.

The amendments also increased the average monthly benefits. For eligibles under the old basis, the monthly amount awarded under the 1950 amendments was \$40.44 for women, \$51.37 for men. This was an increase from the old basis of payment of 70 percent for men and nearly 77 percent for women.

WOMEN IN UNIONS

Women are taking an active part in the International Association of Machinists (AFL), according to a series of articles which have appeared recently in THE MACHINIST, the trade union's weekly publication. There are 376 women officers in local and district lodges and several thousand others are shop committeewomen and shop stewards.

MAJOR OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN, JULY 1951

Major increases in the employment of women since July 1950 have occurred among clerical workers and factory workers, which together account for more than a million additional employed women. Women employed as farm laborers and foremen also have shown an increase.

	<u>Employed women, July 1951</u>			
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent distribution</u>	<u>Percent of all workers</u>	<u>Changes since July 1950</u>
All occupations	19,022,000	100.0	30.4	+1,390,000
Clerical and kindred workers	5,128,000	27.0	66.3	+ 520,000
Operatives and kindred workers	3,721,000	19.6	28.9	+ 483,000
Service workers, except private household	2,150,000	11.3	45.8	- 18,000
Private household workers	1,851,000	9.7	97.2	+ 122,000
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	1,617,000	8.5	35.9	- 42,000
Sales workers	1,467,000	7.7	37.2	+ 55,000
Farm laborers and foremen	1,416,000	7.4	39.4	+ 234,000
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm	1,092,000	5.7	17.6	+ 17,000
Craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers	250,000	1.3	2.9	+ 45,000
Farmers and farm managers	212,000	1.1	5.0	- 65,000
Laborers, except farm and mine	118,000	0.6	2.8	+ 38,000

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

WOMEN ESTABLISH NEW RECORD IN PURCHASE OF LIFE INSURANCE

Women established a record during 1950 when they bought more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ billion dollars worth of new life insurance protection, according to the Institute of Life Insurance. This amount represents the largest purchase ever made in a single year. The total amount of life insurance which women now own, the Institute's survey shows, has reached nearly 45 billion dollars, about a fifth of all life insurance in America.

The 1950 purchases by women included nearly 2 billion dollars each of "ordinary" and "weekly premium" life insurance and almost a billion dollars of group life insurance. Of the women who purchased ordinary life insurance during the year, nearly two-thirds were employed outside their homes, 29 percent were housewives, and the remaining 7 percent were in school or living with their families. Women's present ownership of this kind of life insurance is around 23 billion dollars.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF WOMEN BY AGE GROUP

One-half of all women 18 to 24 years of age are in the labor force, according to the figures for July 1951 from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Only slightly over a third of the women in the next age group—25 to 34—are workers; but 40 percent of the women from 35 to 54 are in the labor force. There has been very little change in these figures since December 1950.

Age	Woman	Women in labor force			Women	
	population (14 years and over)	Total Number	Percent of woman population	Employed	Unemployed	not in labor force
Total	57,058,000	19,780,000	34.7	19,022,000	758,000	37,278,000
14-15	2,146,000	400,000	18.6	372,000	28,000	1,746,000
16-17	2,056,000	896,000	43.6	798,000	98,000	1,160,000
18-19	2,078,000	1,280,000	61.6	1,180,000	100,000	798,000
20-24	5,714,000	2,698,000	47.2	2,592,000	106,000	3,016,000
25-34	12,140,000	4,256,000	35.1	4,126,000	130,000	7,884,000
35-44	10,820,000	4,220,000	39.0	4,102,000	118,000	6,600,000
45-54	8,918,000	3,640,000	40.8	3,538,000	102,000	5,278,000
55-64	6,962,000	1,872,000	26.9	1,804,000	68,000	5,090,000
65 and over	6,224,000	518,000	8.3	510,000	8,000	5,706,000

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

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- THE OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK. U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bulletin 998 (prepared in cooperation with the Veterans Administration). 575 pp. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. \$3. This illustrated volume, which contains reports on 433 occupations by which Americans earn their living, will be used by the Veterans Administration in counseling veterans, by all other Federal agencies which provide counseling services, and by high schools, colleges, and community guidance services.
- THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—REPORTS AND SUMMARY FOR THE TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Bulletin 157-50. 77 pp.
- THE OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN IN SOCIAL WORK ADMINISTRATION, TEACHING, AND RESEARCH. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Bulletin 235-6. 83 pp.

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