

# FACTS

# on Women Workers

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

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

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## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN AUGUST 1951

The number of women employed in the United States was larger by 653,000 in August 1951 than in August 1950, as estimated by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Two-thirds of this increase was accounted for by new entrants to the labor force with the remainder resulting from a decrease in unemployment. The major proportion of the increase in employment was in nonagricultural industries.

A slight decline occurred in comparison with July 1951 in the number of women employed, as farm women withdrew from the labor force during the usual mid-summer lull in agriculture.

	August 1951			
	Number of women	Percent women of all persons	Change since July 1951	Change since August 1950
Civilian population (14 years and over).....	57,118,000	52.5	+ 60,000	+ 644,000
In labor force.....	19,488,000	30.4	- 292,000	+ 439,000
Employed.....	18,866,000	30.1	- 156,000	+ 653,000
In agriculture.....	1,528,000	19.9	- 110,000	+ 67,000
In nonagricultural industries.....	17,388,000	31.6	- 46,000	+ 586,000
Unemployed.....	622,000	39.4	- 136,000	- 214,000
Not in labor force.....	37,630,000	84.2	+ 352,000	+ 206,000

## MASSACHUSETTS ISSUES MINIMUM WAGE ORDER

Massachusetts recently issued a Food Processing Wage Order, effective October 20, 1951, which will supersede three previous wage orders: Canning and Preserving, 1939; Bread and Bakery Products, 1944; and Candy, 1943. The new order is noteworthy because it is the first Massachusetts wage order to set a 75-cent basic minimum wage and the first to set, by wage board action, an industry wage which is higher than the 65-cent statutory rate in effect under the 1949 amendment to the Massachusetts law.

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Married women - Information gathered by the International Labor Organization on married women in the labor force in 11 countries appears in International Labor Review (June 1951). In countries such as Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, where relatively few married women go out to work, there is a tendency for the proportion to increase. Economic necessity was found to be a factor of first importance. For example, a study of Paris metal-works laborers' families in 1949 showed that only if both husband and wife worker could they reach a budget of minimum adequacy.

The age and number of children are important factors in the decision to work. It was estimated that in 1947 in Stockholm, 70 percent of the married women without children were workers, 34 percent of those with one child, and 25 percent of those with more than one child. A sample survey by the Central Office of Information in the United Kingdom, also in 1947, indicated that 32 percent of the married women without children under 16 and only 20 percent of those with children under 16 were in the labor force.

Manpower needs are a factor of varying importance. Several governments have a policy of encouraging women, including married women, to enter employment. Sweden and Denmark have taken steps to protect women workers in order to help meet manpower needs; Norway in 1947 appointed a commission to study ways to expand the employment of women.

Report to UN - The Fifth Report of the ILO to the United Nations (Geneva, 1951, 285 pp.) devotes chapter XIV to women's employment, with stress on equal remuneration for men and women workers; vocational training of adults; proposed revision of Maternity Protection Convention of 1919. Reflecting shift in Government policy in many countries toward insuring more effective use of women in the labor force and toward promoting equality of opportunity, ILO activities relating to women are increasingly concerned with the status of women and their opportunities for employment.

Japan - A report on "Activities of Women in Trade Unions in Japan," by Gladys Dickason, vice president, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, CIO, who recently made a 3 months' study of women workers in Japan as visiting expert for the Economic and Scientific Section, Labor Division, General Headquarters, SCAP, contains the following:

"More than 12 million (12,170,000) women workers were in the Japanese labor force as of February 1951. They comprised 37 percent of the total labor force of 33,030,000. Five million seven hundred and twenty thousand of the women in the labor force, or about half (47 percent) were engaged in agriculture. Farm women work in the rice paddies side by side with their husbands and feed cocoons in the home.... Six million four hundred and fifty thousand women were engaged in nonagricultural employment in February 1951; of this number, 3,650,000 were paid employees. Women constitute 32 percent of the nonagricultural labor force and 27 percent of the total number of paid employees.

"As of June 30, 1950, 1,304,332 women were members of trade unions in Japan. This number represents 23 percent of the total union membership of 5 3/4 million. Nearly one out of every four union members in Japan is a woman. Thirty-eight percent of all women in paid employment are union members. The largest number of women union members in any single occupational group is in the textile industry, where 284,000 women belong to unions."

## EXCHANGE TEACHER PROGRAM ENTERS SIXTH YEAR

Eighty exchange teachers out of 101 arriving from Great Britain are women; also 6 out of 7 from France and all 11 of those from Canada. For a year they will exchange positions with American teachers in 96 communities of 32 States.

Federal Security Administration's Office of Education, in the 5 years of its international teacher exchange program has brought in more than 1,200 teachers from Great Britain, Canada, France, Belgium and Luxemburg, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, New Zealand, and Australia.

## WOMEN LOSE GROUND IN LIFE-INSURANCE COMPANIES

Women life-insurance personnel lost out conspicuously in upper-level jobs after the war. 1951 Life Insurance Fact Book shows 108,800 women employees, of whom 71,800 were home-office workers and 32,390 were agency cashiers and clerks. Only 4,700 women (4.3 percent of all women employees) were managers or agents in 1949, compared with 7,200 in 1945. Men managers and agents increased 30 percent during this time, to 186,000. Conversely, the percentage of managers and agents who were women fell from 5 percent at close of the war to 2.5 percent in 1949. The increase in total number of life-insurance workers, 1945-49, was 30 percent; the increase in women workers, only 24 percent.

## WOMEN AS LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

A Congressional Quarterly survey of women actively engaged as registered lobbyists indicates that the majority of the 35 who filed lobbying law reports with Congress, between January 1 and August 1, 1951, were working for educational and welfare groups, on a voluntary or small salary basis. The 27 organizations represented by women lobbyists currently reporting include 8 women's organizations, 7 welfare groups, 4 citizens' groups, 3 professional groups (two have primarily woman memberships), 3 business or trade groups in the food or food products field, 1 mail order house, and 1 labor union.

The highest-paid woman lobbyist is Mrs. Leone Baxter Whitaker of Whitaker and Baxter, public relations firm lobbying for the American Medical Association's national education campaign, at \$50,000 salary and expenses annually. Mrs. Whitaker's husband also receives a \$50,000 annual compensation from the AMA. They handle the AMA's campaign against compulsory health insurance. Mrs. Margaret K. Taylor, education director for the National Milk Producers Association, is next with a \$9,000 annual salary. (Congressional Quarterly News Features Weekly Report, week ending Sept. 7, 1951.)

## ALL-WOMAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AIDS U. S. ARMED FORCES

A committee of 48 prominent American women was appointed August 11, 1951, to give the United States Department of Defense advice on the administration of the women's branches of the armed forces. The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services reports to Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, the first woman Assistant Secretary of Defense. More than 80,000 volunteers are expected to enlist in the women's branches of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force within the next year. Committee members will help set standards for their training, education, housing, and recreation.

## MORE WOMEN WORKERS BROUGHT UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY

The extension of old-age and survivors insurance under the Social Security Act provides this protection for many additional women workers and their dependent families. Participating for the first time are an estimated 2 million women or more, including, in addition to women working regularly in private households, on farms, and some who are employed by nonprofit organizations or by State and local governments, women who work for themselves. Because of the special provisions relating to the self-employed, and their obligation to report earnings and pay the social security tax early in 1952, this article is directed to women workers in this category.

As of January 1, 1951, self-employed people, with the exception of farm operators and certain excluded professions, were brought under social security. In recent years an ever-growing number of women have entered this field of gainful work--for example, proprietors of beauty shops, gift shops, restaurants, tea rooms, or decorating establishments. Many women are now self-employed as artisans, or conduct their own real estate, insurance, or brokerage businesses. Others are working for themselves as free-lance writers, artists, designers, or photographers. A large number are self-employed as teachers, especially in the fields of music and the other fine arts.

Like men working for themselves in such trades and businesses, their occupations are now covered by social security. If their net earnings are \$400 or more in a taxable year, they must report such earnings up to \$3,600 a year and pay the social security tax of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  percent for their old-age and survivors insurance protection. The first such report will be made when they file their 1951 income tax return by March 15, 1952. The form will contain a special section for entering their self-employment earnings. The social security tax will be due in full at that time.

## WOMEN IN THE NEWS

One of three Negroes elected to the board of directors of the New York City Cancer Committee is a woman pharmacist, Mrs. Ednah R. Boutte.

Chairman of the local defense manpower labor-management committee newly appointed for the Waterbury, Conn., area is Edna M. Harmon. The Waterbury and Hartford committees are the first to be set up in New England.

- H THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, as of January 1, 1948.  
A U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Bull. 157 revised. (1951, 105 pp.,  
V 30 cents, Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.)  
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Y THE OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN IN SOCIAL GROUP WORK. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's  
O Bureau Bull. 235-7. (1951, 41 pp., 20 cents, Superintendent of Documents,  
U Washington, D. C.)  
R STATE MINIMUM-WAGE LAWS. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Leaflet 4,  
E revised 1951.  
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