

# FACTS

# on Women Workers

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## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN DECEMBER 1951

The civilian woman labor force, which includes both the employed and unemployed, was estimated at 19.6 million in the first week of December 1951, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Since November, there was a withdrawal of nearly 300 thousand women from agriculture, while non-agricultural industries employed 200 thousand more. The pre-holiday upswing in trade was largely responsible for the increase in employment of women in the nonagricultural industries.

Employment status	Civilian non-institutional population	December 1951			
		Number	Percent of all persons	Change since November 1951	Change since December 1950
Total, 14 years and over	109,200,000	57,356,000	52.5	+ 58,000	+654,000
In labor force.....	62,688,000	19,574,000	31.2	-244,000	+571,000
Employed.....	61,014,000	18,908,000	31.0	- 84,000	+676,000
In agriculture....	6,378,000	1,000,000	15.7	-294,000	+257,000
In nonagricultural industries.....	54,636,000	17,908,000	32.8	+210,000	+418,000
Unemployed.....	1,674,000	666,000	39.8	-160,000	-104,000
Not in labor force....	46,512,000	37,782,000	81.2	+302,000	+ 82,000

For the year as a whole the number of women in the civilian labor force showed a 3 percent increase over the previous year - averaging 19.3 million in 1951 and 18.7 million in 1950. According to the census report, "A further advance in the proportion working among those in the central and older age groups was an important factor in this change. The labor force participation rate for women 35 to 64 years of age rose to 36.6 percent in 1951 from 35.6 percent in the previous year."

## MAINE TEACHERS' EQUAL-PAY LAW

Maine became the sixteenth State, in addition to the District of Columbia, to require that men and women teachers in public schools receive equal pay for comparable duties. The Maine law, enacted by the legislature in 1951, requires that necessary adjustments be made prior to January 1, 1954.



## LOW WAGES PERSIST IN SOME JOBS

In several occupations in power laundries and department and ready-to-wear stores, women's earnings still average below the standard 75-cent hourly minimum (or below \$30 for a 40-hour week), according to recent reports on wages issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data for laundries were reported from 32 cities. In 12 of these, in the South or Middle West, hourly averages were below 75 cents in five or in all six of the occupations characteristic for women. In 7 other cities, chiefly in the Middle West and New England, women's averages were below 75 cents in one or two of these occupations.

Women's earnings in stores were reported from 17 cities. The low-paying occupations were chiefly the nonselling ones of cashier-wrappers, passenger elevator operators, sewers in alteration departments, and stock girls in selling sections. Pay averaged less than \$30 a week for regular employees in one or more of these occupations in 8 cities, chiefly in Southern and Middle Atlantic States.

Similar reports for over 174,000 experienced telephone switchboard operators show that, while over three-fourths received \$1.00 or more an hour, almost a fifth of them at least \$1.40, still some received less than 75 cents. The proportion with such pay was very small, but the number was over 1,000.

## CONFERENCE ON SHORTAGE OF CLERICAL WORKERS

Representatives of 10 national women's organizations met for a second time with officials of the U. S. Department of Labor on January 29 to consider problems underlying the shortage of stenographers, typists, and other clerical workers. They discussed plans by which these organizations can assist in relieving present and anticipated shortages and which may be used later by area management labor committees as a pattern for meeting shortages that develop in other occupations. The conferences are sponsored jointly by the Women's Bureau and the Bureau of Employment Security.

## OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE - AFTER 15 YEARS

At the end of December, Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, with its protective features for the women and children of the Nation, rounded out 15 years of continuous operation.

In December 1951, over one million young widows and children were getting monthly benefit payments under the program. Many millions more were protected against the untimely death of the family breadwinner, and the loss of earned income. In fact, three out of every four of the mothers and children in the country now have this protection under the survivors insurance feature of social security.

The extent to which the program is contributing to families deprived of earned income is shown by the payments made in the program's fifteenth year. In 1951, 360 million dollars were paid in monthly benefits to young widows with minor children and to fatherless children. In addition, 60 million dollars were paid during the same year in lump-sum benefits to the wives or husbands of deceased workers, or to other persons who paid the burial expenses.



## WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Japanese Women Elected to Legislative Boards.—According to a report dated September 19, 1951, there are now 24 women in the Diet—12 in the Lower House and 12 in the Upper House. These women constitute 3.4 percent of the total membership, "but this proportion," states the report, "is not low in comparison with that in other countries." Women Prefectural (State) assembly members increased from 22 to 34. Women members of local assemblies (municipal councils) increased from 776 to 945.

India.—Miss Bibijan, who was a trainee with the Women's Bureau last year, has been appointed Chief of the Women's and Children's Section in the Department of Labor in the State of Mysore, India.

Brazil.—Housewives now have chance to get court action if the butcher's thumb lingers on the scales; Pres. Vargas signs into law a bill providing for jury trial of cheating merchants, price ceiling violators and other "crimes against the economy of the people"; housewives and heads of families will be given preference when making up jury.

## WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Honor medallions were awarded to seven women in November 1951 by the Women's International Exposition in New York, "to inspire and encourage women throughout the world." The women honored were: Sister Loretto Bernard, administrator of St. Vincent's Hospital, New York, named the outstanding woman in the Catholic field for 1951; Mrs. Georgia Neese Clark, first woman to serve as Treasurer of the United States; Mrs. Bessie Gotsfeld, the outstanding "Woman of Israel" for 1951, honorary national president of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America; Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, outstanding and unselfish courage during the years of World War II, and subsequently, in the Pacific area; Dr. Alice Garrigue Masaryk, (sister of the late Czechoslovakian Foreign Minister), who established the practice of Easter Peace in Czechoslovakia; Dr. Maria Montessori, educational worker on the international level, and Mrs. Edith S. Sampson, alternate representative of the United States to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mrs. Wallace Clark, president, Wallace Clark & Co., is a member of the Advisory Committee to the new Mutual Security Agency, successor to the Economic Cooperation Administration. Mrs. Clark, who heads a New York firm of consulting management engineers in which she was her husband's partner until his death, is the only woman on the 18-member board.

Mrs. Maybelle Kennedy has been appointed Assistant Treasurer of the United States. Mrs. Kennedy, of Pawhuska, Okla., is a widow with 5 children and 11 grandchildren, and has been running 5 cattle ranches and a bank.

**MANPOWER RESOURCES AND UTILIZATION; principles of working force analysis.**

By A. J. Jaffe and Charles D. Stewart. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 1951. 532 pp.

**MAN AND HIS YEARS; an account of the first national Conference on Aging, sponsored by the Federal Security Agency. Health Publications Institute, Raleigh, N. C. 1951. 311 pp.**

**"WOMEN WORKERS IN THE DEFENSE PROGRAM," January 1952 issue of Employment Security Review. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, 1952.**

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MARITAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE

Nearly 55 percent of all women workers in April 1951 were married, according to figures recently issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Only 13 months earlier, before the crisis in Korea, the percentage was 52. In the same period the number of married women in the labor force increased by almost 1,000,000 and the number of single women in the labor force decreased by about 200,000.

The proportion of the population participating in the labor force remained smaller for married than for single women. In April 1951, slightly more than one-fourth of all married women and about half of all single women were in the labor force. The percent of married women participating, however, had risen from 24.8 in March 1950 to 26.7 in April 1951.

The number of married women workers living apart from their husbands increased by 373,000, reflecting the marriages of members of the armed forces since the beginning of hostilities in Korea and the recall to active duty of married reservists.

Marital status	Women in the labor force					
	Number		Percent of woman population		Percent distribution	
	April 1951	March 1950	April 1951	March 1950	April 1951	March 1950
Women 14 years of age and over....	18,602,000	17,795,000	32.4	31.4	100.0	100.0
Single.....	5,430,000	5,621,000	49.6	50.5	29.2	31.6
Married.....	10,182,000	9,273,000	26.7	24.8	54.7	52.1
Husband present.....	9,086,000	8,550,000	25.2	23.8	48.8	48.0
Husband absent.....	1,096,000	723,000	51.6	47.4	5.9	4.1
Widowed and divorced..	2,990,000	2,901,000	36.1	36.0	16.1	16.3