

# 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 MAY 1952

The civilian woman labor force, which includes both the employed and unemployed, was estimated at 19.5 million in May 1952. This was an increase of almost three-fourths of a million over the April 1952 figure and one-fourth of a million over that of May 1951. The number of women employed in agriculture increased nearly half a million over the previous month, as many housewives joined the labor force to help out on family-operated farms.

Since May 1950, just prior to the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, the number of women in the labor market has continued to expand. In May 1952, the number of women exceeded the May 1950 total by about 1 million. Much of this increase, however, occurred in the first year following Korea.

Employment status	May 1952				
	Civilian non-institutional population	Women			
		Number	Percent of all persons	Change since April 1952	Change since May 1951
Total, 14 years and over..	109,426,000	57,622,000	52.7	+ 56,000	+673,000
In the labor force.....	62,778,000	19,516,000	31.1	+718,000	+222,000
Employed.....	61,176,000	18,886,000	30.9	+652,000	+251,000
In agriculture.....	6,960,000	1,290,000	18.5	+478,000	-188,000
In nonagricultural industries.....	54,216,000	17,596,000	32.5	+174,000	+439,000
Unemployed.....	1,602,000	630,000	39.3	+ 66,000	- 29,000
Not in the labor force.....	46,648,000	38,106,000	81.7	-662,000	+452,000

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

## MINIMUM WAGE

California recently revised its orders of 1947 to establish a 75-cent minimum hourly wage rate (now 65 cents) for women and minors employed in practically all major industries, effective August 1, 1952. Each of the nine orders also includes provisions governing working conditions and other standards of employment for women; these standards, like the minimum-wage rate, are generally uniform for all of the industries or occupations covered. The list includes: Manufacturing and mercantile; personal service; canning, freezing, and preserving; professional, technical, clerical, and similar occupations; public housekeeping; laundry, dry cleaning, and dyeing; handling farm products after harvest; transportation; and amusement and recreation.

## WOMEN DELEGATES OR ADVISERS AT ILO CONFERENCES

Women have taken a considerable part in the Conferences of the International Labor Organization throughout the period of membership of the United States, which began in 1935. They have served as advisers, and to a lesser extent as full delegates.

Workers' delegations during this period have included women from 18 countries. Great Britain has sent 12, the United States 5, and France and Norway, 4 each. Women employer delegates or advisers have come from only 4 countries. A woman has been sent as employers' delegate in 4 years by the United States, and on at least one occasion by 3 other countries.

Women have been sent as members of Government delegations by 34 countries, most frequently by the United States, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden. Additional countries that frequently have sent women as Government advisers are the United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Switzerland, and Poland.

The United States has sent women as delegates or advisers to most sessions since it has been a member: 3 individual women have represented the United States as delegates, 25 others as advisers. Of these 28 women, 22 have represented the Government, 5 the workers, and 1 the employers.

Members of this year's United States delegation to the sessions in Geneva during June include as alternate delegate Miss Frances Perkins of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, and as advisers, Mrs. Clara M. Beyer and Miss Frieda S. Miller, both of the Department of Labor.

## INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION TO MEET

The Inter-American Commission of Women will hold its eighth meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 8 to 25. The United States will be represented by Dr. Mary M. Cannon, U. S. Delegate to the Commission, and Mrs. Gladys Barber of Lima, Peru.

## REPORTS FROM ABROAD

Industria, monthly magazine of the Swedish Employers' Confederation, Stockholm, published in its February 1952 issue an article by Esther Peterson, wife of the U. S. Labor Attaché in Stockholm. Translated, the title reads "This Is the American Woman - She has climbed over the walls of the kitchen."

An American textile worker, Mary Bruchholz, spent 6 months in French and German work camps under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee, and then obtained a job in an English woolen mill. In Textile Labor (May 24, 1952) she describes the life of English textile workers in a Manchester town where wages are about \$16 a week before deductions, and "free tea is served at midmorning and midafternoon."

CHANGES IN THE AGES OF WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE

Drastic changes have taken place in the age composition of the woman labor force since 1940. Most notable of these changes occurred among women 35 to 54 years of age. In 1940, women in this age group comprised only a third of the woman labor force; in 1950 and 1952 they were two-fifths of all women workers. Over the 10-year period, there was a 60-percent increase in the number of working women whose ages ranged from 35 to 54 years. In the last 2 years their numbers have continued to increase.

The number of women workers 55 to 64 years of age more than doubled between 1940 and 1950, with an additional 3-percent increase in the last 2 years. This group, of course, constitutes only about a tenth of all women workers.

In contrast to women in the older age groups, the proportion which younger women, i.e., those from 20 to 24 years of age, form of the woman labor force has decreased since 1940. These women were a fifth of all women workers in 1940, but only somewhat over a tenth in 1950 and 1952. This decrease in the number of younger women in the labor force is, of course, primarily a reflection of the low birth rate of the depression years. Their numbers in the labor force have decreased by 8 percent over the 10-year period, and by 6 percent in the last 2 years.

The number of women workers in the age group 25 to 34 years of age has changed only slightly in the past 12 years. There has been an 11-percent increase in their number in this period of time. In 1940 this group formed well over a fourth of all women workers; but by 1950 and 1952 they were only a little more than a fifth of the women in the labor force. Probably these slight changes have been due to the increase in the birth rate as well as to the population change in this age group.

Age of Women in the Labor Force: 1940, 1950, and 1952

Age	Percent distribution of women workers			Percent change		
	1940	1950	1952	1940 to 1950	1940 to 1952	1950 to 1952
All age groups...	100	100	100	+ 31	+ 36	+ 4
14 and 15 years.....	1/	1	1	+218	+230	+ 4
16 and 17 years.....	2	3	3	+ 54	+ 69	+10
18 and 19 years.....	8	5	5	- 8	- 5	+ 3
20 to 24 years.....	20	14	13	- 8	- 13	- 6
25 to 34 years.....	28	22	22	+ 6	+ 11	+ 4
35 to 44 years.....	19	22	23	+ 51	+ 63	+ 7
45 to 54 years.....	13	18	19	+ 77	+ 94	+10
55 to 64 years.....	7	10	10	+103	+109	+ 3
65 years and over.....	2	3	3	+ 86	+ 69	- 9

1/ Percent not shown where less than one.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

FIELDS OF WORK FOR WOMEN

For the first time since establishing its program of rotating internships in Army teaching hospitals for approximately 200 newly graduated doctors of medicine each year, the Army Medical Service will have three women interns beginning July 1, 1952.

A new field with rapidly expanding opportunities for women with a flair for writing, dramatic presentation, pictorial art, or with research and teaching skills, is that of audio-visual aids. "A-V", as described in Mademoiselle (June 1952) includes the preparation of nontheatrical and educational films and filmstrips and sound recordings.

The 1951 Yearbook of American Churches reports that 78 religious bodies are known to ordain or license women as ministers. Statistics available for 47 church bodies list 5,791 women ministers, with 2,896 serving in a pastoral relationship.



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LETTER MAIL

WOMEN IN THE NEWS

At the National YWCA Convention held in Chicago in May, Mrs. Edward W. Macy was elected president of the Young Women's Christian Association to serve for 3 years. Mrs. Macy has been a member of the National Board since 1938, and has served the YWCA in a wide range of responsibilities, latterly as vice president.

Barnard College, women's undergraduate college of Columbia University, will have its own president for the first time in its 63 years of operation, beginning July 1. The title goes to Millicent C. McIntosh, Dean of Barnard since 1947, who will also retain her rank as a dean of the university.

**HAVE** Maternity Protection of Employed Women. Women's Bureau. Bull. 240. 1952. 50 pp.  
**YOU** City Worker's Family Budget for October 1951. Reprinted from Monthly Labor Review  
**READ** (May 1952). 3 pp.  
A Short History of the Department of Labor. U. S. Department of Labor. 1952. 21 pp.  
"Women Go To Work - At Any Age" by George Lawton. Altrusa International, 322 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago 4, Ill. 1951. 17 pp. 25 cents.