

# FACTS

LIBRARY  
A. & M. COLLEGE OF TEXAS

# on Women Workers

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

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

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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

September 30, 1952

## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN AUGUST 1952

The civilian woman labor force, which includes both the employed and the unemployed, was estimated at 19.6 million in August 1952, or approximately the same size as the woman labor force of the previous month and the previous year.

The number of school-age girls and young women (14 through 19 years of age) in the labor force dropped by some 160 thousand in August as compared with July as they either discontinued their search for summer employment or left vacation jobs in anticipation of returning to school.

Although there was a seasonal reduction of almost 300 thousand women in farm activities, the decline was offset by an increase of almost 500 thousand in the number of women in nonagricultural industries between July and August. Apparently many of the women who ceased to work on farms either remained in the labor force in some other capacity or were replaced by other women who entered the labor force to take nonfarm jobs.

Employment status	Civilian non-institutional population	August 1952			
		Number	Percent	Change since July 1952	Change since August 1951
Total, 14 years and over.....	109,804,000	57,804,000	52.6	+ 60,000	+686,000
In labor force.....	63,958,000	19,562,000	30.6	+106,000	+ 74,000
Employed.....	62,354,000	18,962,000	30.4	+204,000	+ 96,000
In agriculture....	6,964,000	1,154,000	16.6	-284,000	-374,000
In nonagricultural industries.....	55,390,000	17,808,000	32.2	+488,000	+470,000
Unemployed.....	1,604,000	600,000	37.4	- 98,000	- 22,000
Not in labor force....	45,846,000	38,242,000	83.4	- 46,000	+612,000

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

331.4  
4458  
Digitized for FRASER  
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/  
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis  
30, 1952

## MINIMUM-WAGE CONFERENCE

The Seventeenth Annual Conference of State Minimum Wage Administrators met in Washington September 18 and 19, with the Director of the Women's Bureau presiding. A panel discussion on preparation for, and servicing of, wage boards was led by Mrs. Margaret F. Ackroyd of the Rhode Island Department of Labor, and one on obtaining public cooperation was led by Elizabeth Magee of the National Consumers League. The conference was attended by representatives of 18 jurisdictions with minimum-wage laws.

## JOB OPENINGS FOR WOMEN

When an Employment Service office is unable to fill a job order locally or in adjoining areas, this order is placed on a Nation-wide list or inventory of hard-to-fill jobs submitted by areas throughout the country. The number of these job openings placed "in clearance" rose rapidly after the beginning of Korean hostilities but has declined considerably within the last year.

In July 1952, 51,400 job orders were in clearance, according to the Bureau of Employment Security. Eighty-three percent of these were specifically for men, 7 percent for women, and 10 percent designated either men or women. The bulk of the jobs open to women were in professional and managerial and in clerical and sales categories.

Openings for nurses constituted the majority of the openings for women in the professional and managerial group. There were also large numbers of openings for women trained as engineers (electrical and electronics) and draftsmen. There were also a considerable number of openings for women teachers, grade and high school, and a sizable demand for women social workers. There were a small number of orders for physicists and chemists and 12 openings for tool designers without regard to sex. One State had an order in clearance for 5 women actuaries. There were openings in clearance for women dietitians, occupational and physical therapists, and medical technicians in many States. While the number of these openings is not large in any one State, the geographical coverage is impressive.

In the clerical and sales category, the jobs designated for women and for either sex comprised 78 percent of all the openings. The largest number of orders was for stenographers, clerk-stenographers, and typists. The next largest number was for various kinds of office-machine operators.

The largest numbers of job openings to be filled by women or men without regard to sex in service occupations were: Asylum and ward attendants, maids (general and specific), waitresses, cooks, and beauty operators.

Only 5 percent of the semiskilled job orders were for women, the largest number for sewing-machine operators. Few openings were in clearance for women within the skilled category; the majority were for inspectors on various machine operations.

## IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Great Britain.—About 3,070,000 married women were estimated to be in the "employee class" in Great Britain at the end of May 1951, according to the Ministry of Labor Gazette (August 1952). This was an increase of 200,000 compared with 1950, and represented about 43 percent of all women employees. In age groups 30 to 49, about two-thirds of women employees were married; on the other hand, only 28 percent of those in age group 20-24 were married. After the age of 50 the proportion of married women among women employees declined steadily.

The London County Council recently implemented a policy of equal pay for staff whose salaries and conditions of service come completely within the control of the Council, as noted in Labor Woman (August 1952). This will benefit some 2,250 women.

Canada.—Ottawa is the only capital city in the British Empire with a woman mayor—Charlotte Whitten, author of an article, "Action Begins with You" in the June issue of The American Soroptimist.

Chile.—Women had the right to vote in a presidential election in Chile this September for the first time. A third of the registered voters were women.

## WORKING WIVES BOOST LABOR FORCE

The steady increase in the extent to which wives and older women work has brought the woman labor force back to its high wartime level. In April 1951 greater proportions of the married women, and also of the widowed and divorced women, were working than in April 1944, but a much smaller proportion of the single women and girls. The increase in labor force participation is almost entirely among the women 35 and over.

Labor Force Participation of Women, by Age and Marital Status, April 1951 and 1944

(Civilians 14 years of age and over)

Year and marital status	In labor force		Percent of woman population in labor force							
	Number of women (thousands)	Percent of woman population	14 to 17 years	18 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 34 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years and over	
Total - 1951	18,602	32.4	16.9	48.4	44.7	34.4	38.7	33.4	9.0	
1944	18,449	35.0	25.7	66.1	54.0	37.9	38.9	29.6	7.3	
Single - 1951	5,430	49.6	17.2	60.1	75.6	82.0	81.7	65.0	18.9	
1944	7,542	58.6	25.6	76.7	86.6	84.7	78.9	59.1	16.3	
Married - 1951	10,182	26.7	9.2	23.7	30.3	27.3	31.9	25.1	7.2	
1944	8,433	25.6	30.7	34.7	30.5	27.5	30.3	21.4	5.0	
Widowed and divorced- 1951	2,990	36.1	—	50.0	53.5	67.5	74.9	50.3	8.8	
1944	2,474	35.7	—	60.0	68.2	82.5	76.2	46.9	7.6	

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

WITH THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

The National League for Nursing, organized at the 1952 Biennial Nursing Convention, brings together for the first time in one national nursing organization nurses and others interested in furthering the development and improvement of nursing education and of suitable nursing services in communities. President of NLN is Ruth Sleeper, R.N., Director of the School of Nursing and Nursing Service, Massachusetts General Hospital.

The National Association of Colored Women, Inc., has awarded a plaque to Frieda S. Miller in recognition of her services as Director of the Women's Bureau.

Newly elected president of Zonta International is Edwina Hogadone, an instructor at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., has elected Helen G. Irwin as its new president.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
WOMEN'S BUREAU  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PERMIT NO. 1084

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

Library  
Agricultural & Mechanical  
College of Texas  
College Station Texas  
143-A

LETTER MAIL

THE OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN AS PHYSICAL THERAPISTS. Women's Bureau Bulletin 203-1.  
Revised 1952. 51 pp.

THE OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN AS FOOD-SERVICE MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS. Women's Bureau  
Bulletin 234-2. 1952. 54 pp.

PROGRESS OF STATE MINIMUM-WAGE LEGISLATION, 1950-51. Women's Bureau. 1952.  
14 pp.

SUMMARY OF STATE LABOR LAWS FOR WOMEN, July 1, 1952. Women's Bureau. 1952.  
Multi. D-54.

OVER FORTY AND LOOKING FOR A JOB? Women's Bureau Leaflet 13. 1952.

WILLOW RUN - A STUDY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND CULTURAL INADEQUACY, by  
Lowell Juilliard Carr and James Edson Stermer. Harper & Brothers, New York,  
1952. 406 pp. \$5.00.

H  
A  
V  
E  
Y  
O  
U  
R  
E  
A  
D