

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 SEPTEMBER 1952

The civilian woman labor force, which includes both the employed and unemployed, was estimated at 20.2 million women in September 1952. The number of women workers increased two-thirds of a million over the August 1952 figure and nearly three-fourths of a million over that of September 1951. The number of women employed in agriculture increased more than half a million over the previous month and, with the return to work of school employees, the number in non-agricultural industries also increased somewhat over the previous month.

Nonagricultural employment of women was about 1 million higher in September than a year earlier and exceeded the World War II peak for the corresponding month by a similar amount. Practically all of the increase in the number of women in nonagricultural industries since September 1951 was among adult women, in fact those 35 years of age and over.

Employment status	September 1952				
	Civilian non-institutional population	Women			
		Number	Percent of all persons	Change since August 1952	Change since September 1951
Total, 14 years and over.....	109,906,000	57,866,000	52.7	+ 62,000	+690,000
In the labor force.....	63,698,000	20,230,000	31.8	+668,000	+716,000
Employed.....	62,260,000	19,656,000	31.6	+694,000	+906,000
In agriculture.....	7,548,000	1,710,000	22.7	+556,000	- 36,000
In nonagricultural industries.....	54,712,000	17,946,000	32.8	+138,000	+942,000
Unemployed.....	1,438,000	574,000	39.9	- 26,000	-190,000
Not in the labor force..	46,208,000	37,636,000	81.4	-606,000	- 26,000

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

JURY SERVICE IN HAWAII

Women in Hawaii are now eligible to serve on juries by virtue of Public Law 289 of the 82d Congress, effective April 1, 1952, which amended the Organic Act relating to qualifications of jurors to delete the word "male." Women are eligible for jury service in all Territories and all but 6 States.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW

Although the 1952 amendments to old-age and survivors insurance under Federal social security contain no provisions directed especially to them, women share with men the general increase in benefit payment rates.

Under the new amendments, virtually all benefit amounts to people already on the insurance rolls were increased. If the monthly payment to the retired person was less than \$40 it was raised by \$5; if the insured worker's monthly payment was \$40 or over it was raised by 12½ percent. The average increase to old-age beneficiaries on the rolls is \$6. In general, benefit payments to wives, widows, widowers, children, or parents were increased proportionately.

The 1952 amendments also provided for larger payments to future beneficiaries. The payment is now 55 percent of the first \$100 of the average monthly earnings—an increase of 5 percent. The 15 percent of the next \$200 remains unchanged. The effect is an increase up to \$5 a month when the benefit amount is based on the insured worker's average monthly earnings after 1950. Proportionate increases are provided for dependents' benefits.

Beneficiaries may now receive social security payments when their wages are as much as \$75 a month. Similar provision is made for a self-employed person to earn as much as \$900 in a taxable year and still receive all benefit payments for the year. Heretofore, beneficiaries could not accept their insurance payments if their earnings were more than \$50 a month from work covered by the law. This increase will enable many women to supplement their incomes more satisfactorily with part-time work.

Women as well as men in the armed forces are affected by the 1952 amendment which grants social security wage credits of \$160 a month for military service at any time after July 24, 1947, and before January 1, 1954. This provision in the amended law matches the 1950 amendment which granted the same service wage credits to men and women who served in World War II.

Social security field offices will have in November a new edition of "Your Social Security," a free booklet describing the old-age and survivors insurance program in detail, including the provisions of the 1952 amendments.

WOMEN SHAREHOLDERS

The Brookings Institution has issued a study, "Share Ownership in the United States," by Lewis H. Kimmel, which presents evidence contrary to the widely held notion that women own most of the Nation's securities.

Women accounted for 8.4 million shareholdings of common and preferred stocks combined in reporting corporations, or 41.5 percent of the total; men held 7.6 million, or 37.2 percent of the total; joint accounts amounted to 2.6 million; the rest were held by fiduciaries, institutions, brokers and so forth.

Both in the number of shares held and in market value, however, men outranked women by a substantial margin—men had 1,050 million shares valued at \$32 million and women 823 million shares valued at \$29 million. In the adult population it was estimated that there were 3,210,000 men who owned shares in publicly owned stocks and 3,140,000 women. Only in the age group 60 and over did women shareholders exceed men appreciably in number, and in this group the proportion of shareholders was the same for men and women—9.1 percent.

EMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS

It is the policy of the Federal Government, as stated in Defense Manpower Policy No. 7, issued August 14, 1952, to promote the employment and effective utilization of older workers in public employment, and to encourage labor and management to adopt policies and practices which will promote the employment and effective utilization of older workers in private employment.

One of the specific recommendations is that older women be given equal consideration with men for employment, on the basis of individual ability and qualifications to perform the job.

WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Indiana University has created a new high-level administrative position, Assistant Dean of Faculties for a director of women's education, and has appointed Eunice C. Roberts, formerly dean of Lindenwood College. She will develop a long-range program of investigation into the problems and functions of women's education.

Two of the three winners of the 1952 Thalheimer Awards given by the National Urban League in conjunction with its vocational opportunity campaign are girls. Contest winners are selected among students submitting essays on "What I Want To Be." Gloria Lenton, 18, first prize, is studying at Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga., to be a teacher of home economics; Treopia Green, 16, third prize, is at Hampton Institute, studying to be a kindergarten teacher.

WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Textile wages.—Sex differentials in wages paid to textile workers are shown for 21 countries in an international study of "Textile Wages" recently published by the ILO. In all these countries, average hourly earnings of all classes of women textile workers were lower than the corresponding averages for men workers. In France, the Union of South Africa, and Colombia, women's wages averaged over 90 percent of men's in 1948. In most of the other countries women's wages averaged 60 to 80 percent of men's. However, the differences reported in the postwar years (1947-49) were less great than in prewar years. The report points out the difficulty of determining to what extent the differences in wages between men and women can be attributed to differences in skill and efficiency and to what extent they are due to inequality of pay for work of equal value.

England.—The Women's Service Library has built up a unique collection of research materials on the position of women through the ages. The contents of the library fall into four sections: Antique, Historical, Modern, and Biographical. The library, which has been housed in the Westminster Public Library since 1949, also serves as an information and research center.

INCOME OF WOMEN IN 1951

All women who had income in 1951 received an average of \$1,045 in the year, according to a report just released by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. This was 35 percent of men's average which was \$2,952. Of the women 49 percent and of the men 18 percent had income below \$1,000. At the other end of the scale, 37 percent of the men but only 5 percent of the women had income as high as \$3,500 or more. The income referred to came from all sources - earnings, rent, own business, pension, and so forth. Of all women in the population only 44 percent had any income, of all men 90 percent had income.

Women's average income has increased 10 percent from 1950 and 15 percent from 1944. Men's average has increased considerably more - 15 percent from 1950 and 44 percent from 1944.

Women's average income was a smaller proportion of men's than formerly -- 35 percent in 1951, 37 percent in 1950, 44 percent in 1944.

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- H THE OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN AS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS. Women's Bureau. Bull. 203-2.
A Revised 1952. 51 pp. Price 20 cents, Supt. of Documents, Washington 25, D.C.
V
E STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, 1952. Women's Bureau, D-55.
Multilithed. 15 pp.
Y
O CHARTING STATISTICS, by Mary Eleanor Spear. McGraw-Hill Book. Co., New York,
U 1952. 253 pp. \$4.50. Author is visual information specialist,
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.
R
E AGE IS NO BARRIER. N. Y. State Legislative Doc. (1952) No. 35. 171 pp.
A Available free from State Senator Thomas C. Desmond, Chairman, New York
D State Joint Legislative Committee on Problems of the Aging, 94 Broadway,
Newburgh, N. Y.