

# FACTS

# on Women Workers

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

LIBRARY

Women's Bureau

A. & M. COLLEGE OF TEXAS

Weda 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.

November 30, 1952

## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN OCTOBER 1952

The civilian woman labor force, which includes both the employed and the unemployed, was estimated at almost 20 million in October 1952. This was a decrease of more than a quarter million from September 1952. Much of the loss was due to the return of young women to school or college.

In October, as in most previous months this year, the female civilian labor force was at approximately the same level as a year earlier. For some groups moderate gains have been recorded, but labor force growth generally has been slower than in most recent years. Among young women 18 and 19 years of age, there has been a definite drop in the proportion who are in the labor force -- from 54 percent in October 1951 to 51 percent in October 1952. The school participation rate for this same group increased from 17 percent in 1951 to 22 percent in 1952.

Employment status	October 1952				
	Civilian non-institutional population	Women			
		Number	Percent of all persons	Change since September 1952	Change since October 1951
Total, 14 years and over.....	110,074,000	57,930,000	52.6	+ 64,000	+692,000
In labor force.....	63,146,000	19,950,000	31.6	-280,000	+ 20,000
Employed.....	61,862,000	19,380,000	31.3	-276,000	+176,000
In agriculture.....	7,274,000	1,454,000	20.0	-256,000	-338,000
In nonagricultural industries.....	54,588,000	17,926,000	32.8	- 20,000	+514,000
Unemployed.....	1,284,000	570,000	44.4	- 4,000	-156,000
Not in labor force.....	46,928,000	37,980,000	80.9	+344,000	+672,000

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

## WOMEN GAIN ONE SEAT IN 83D CONGRESS

Mrs. John B. Sullivan, newly elected to the House of Representatives, is the first woman to represent Missouri. With the election of Gracie Pfost from Idaho, and the defeat of Reva Bosone of Utah, the total number of women in the House was increased from 10 to 11. Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine remains the only woman Senator.

331.4  
U581  
Digitized for FRAS  
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/  
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

## NEW MINIMUM-WAGE ORDERS

Rhode Island.—A revised Retail Trade Occupations Order in Rhode Island increases all wage rates. The new order, effective November 15, 1952, and like the former order applicable to men as well as to women and minors, establishes a basic minimum of \$28 (instead of \$22) for a 36- to 44-hour workweek; 70 cents an hour (formerly 55 cents) for a week of less than 36 hours, and 95 cents an hour (instead of 75 cents) for hours over 44 a week. For each hour worked on the seventh consecutive day, \$1.25 (instead of \$1.00) must be paid; and for any day on which the spread of hours exceeds 12 or a split shift occurs, \$1.00 (instead of 75 cents) must be added to the applicable minimum wage.

Oregon.—Two wage orders in Oregon have been revised: The Canning, Dehydrating, and Barreling Operations Order and the Mercantile Order. The Canning Order makes no change in the minimum-wage rate of 66 cents an hour, but includes new standards for seating and for lifting. The Mercantile Order establishes 70 cents (instead of 65 cents) as the basic minimum hourly rate. For hours over 44 a week, an emergency permit may be issued on condition that  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the applicable minimum rate is paid. The new order, like the old, makes provision for two 10-minute rest periods -- one in each 4 hours of working time. It adds, however, a new proviso: When the time worked in the forenoon is less than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  hours, a double-length rest period in the afternoon may be substituted for the morning rest.

## WOMEN IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At the seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, women hold a more important position than ever before. Twenty-two nations include women in their delegations, and there are 10 women serving as full delegates, according to United Nations Bulletin (Nov. 15, 1952).

Among the old-timers are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who has been a delegate of the United States at each of the seven sessions of the General Assembly, and Mrs. Ulla Lindstrom, who represents Sweden for the sixth consecutive session. Also in the United States delegation is Mrs. Edith Sampson, serving as an alternate. The Netherlands also has two women in its delegation - Dr. Maria Z.N. Witteveen and Dr. Marga A.M. Klompe<sup>1</sup>. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit is chairman of the delegation of India for the fourth time. Minerva Bernardino of the Dominican Republic has attended every session of the General Assembly and has been a permanent representative of her country since 1949.

The United Kingdom for the first time has appointed a woman not a Member of Parliament as a full delegate to the General Assembly. She is Mrs. Evelyn Emmet, chairman of the women's advisory committee of the Conservative Party. Another new delegate is Begum Liaquat Ali Khan of Pakistan, widow of the assassinated Prime Minister.

## COSTA RICA NAMES WOMAN TO CABINET

Dr. Emma Gamboa, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Public Education, was named acting Minister of Education during the absence of the present minister from the country, by a decree issued November 6 by Otilio Ulate, President of Costa Rica.

## NURSE INSTRUCTORS' COURSE IN MEXICO

A 6-month course for nurse instructors was established by the University of Mexico to mark its 400th anniversary. This is the first organized college course of its kind in Latin America, according to the Journal of the American Medical Women's Association (October 1952). It is sponsored and partly financed by the World Health Organization. All 28 of the first group of women to enroll were graduated recently in a special ceremony.

OCCUPATIONS OF EMPLOYED WOMEN, OCTOBER 1952

Between October 1951 and October 1952, the number of employed women increased only 176,000, and yet the numbers employed as operatives and as service workers, except private household, increased by almost 300,000 each and clerical workers increased by 150,000. These increases were offset in part by a decrease of nearly 400,000 in the farm laborer and foreman group, attributed to an earlier tapering off of the harvest season this year. There was also a decrease of 120,000 in the number of professional and technical workers compared with last year.

Major Occupation Group of Employed Persons: October 1952

Occupation	Total employed	Employed women			
		Number	Percent of total	Percent distribution	Change since October 1951
Total employed.....	61,862,000	19,380,000	31.3	100.0	+176,000
Clerical and kindred workers..	7,908,000	5,240,000	66.3	27.0	+152,000
Operatives and kindred workers	12,480,000	3,868,000	31.0	20.0	+296,000
Service workers, except private household.....	4,838,000	2,390,000	49.4	12.3	+294,000
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	5,222,000	1,872,000	35.8	9.7	-120,000
Private household workers.....	1,744,000	1,708,000	97.9	8.8	+ 4,000
Sales workers.....	3,758,000	1,476,000	39.3	7.6	- 6,000
Farm laborers and foremen.....	3,072,000	1,186,000	38.6	6.1	-382,000
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm....	6,390,000	1,054,000	16.5	5.4	- 58,000
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.....	9,002,000	270,000	3.0	1.4	+ 8,000
Farmers and farm managers.....	3,946,000	208,000	5.3	1.1	+ 6,000
Laborers, except farm and mine	3,502,000	108,000	3.1	0.6	- 18,000

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

WOMEN TEACHERS -- PERSONNEL PRACTICES

Discrimination against women teachers on the basis of sex or marital status is far less general than in the past, the National Education Association of the United States reports in its recent study entitled "Teacher Personnel Practices, 1950-51." (Research Bulletin, February and April, 1952.)

Pay differentials based on sex were reported by only 20 percent of the cities in 1951, compared with 47 percent in 1941. Wage discrimination was less common in cities of 30,000 and over than in smaller cities.

Marriage is still a basis for discrimination in hiring women teachers, but a marked improvement is noted. In 1941, 95 percent of the cities reported marriage a handicap, but only 59 percent in 1951. An unconditional policy against appointment of married women was reported by 58 percent of the cities in 1941 as against 8 percent in 1951.

Termination of service as a result of marriage was also far less common in 1951 than in 1941. As compared with 30 percent in 1941, 90 percent of the cities reported in 1951 that the employment status of a woman teacher already employed was not affected by marriage.

## SALARIES IN INSURANCE CARRIER OFFICES

Average weekly salaries for women in offices of insurance carriers generally ranged from \$40 to \$50 in most of the 30 cities studied by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in late 1951 and early 1952. Comparable figures for men were available for three occupations--accounting clerks, section heads, and underwriters. Men's salaries were consistently well above women's, especially so for section heads and underwriters, the highest paid occupations included in the study. Men section heads' salaries were at least 30 percent above women's in 19 of the 26 cities for which comparison was possible and more than 40 percent above in 12 of these cities. In the majority of cities men underwriters' salaries exceeded women's by over 20 percent.

The study included important insurance centers such as Chicago, New York, Boston, Hartford, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, with employment totaling 287,000. Women accounted for three-fourths or more of the employees in most localities.



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

- H  
A  
V  
E  
Y  
O  
U  
R  
E  
A  
D
- 1952 HANDBOOK OF FACTS ON WOMEN WORKERS. Women's Bureau Bull. 242. 121 pp.  
For sale at 30 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing  
Office, Washington 25, D. C.
- EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN; a rate based on the job, not on the sex of the worker.  
Women's Bureau Leaflet 2, revised 1952.
- "Household Employment in the United States," by Frieda S. Miller. In  
International Labour Review (Geneva), October 1952.
- WORKING WIVES AND MOTHERS, by Stella B. Applebaum. Public Affairs Pamphlet  
No. 188. 1952. 32 pp. Single copies 25 cents from Public Affairs Pamphlets,  
22 East 38th St., New York 16, N. Y.
- COUNSELOR'S GUIDE TO OCCUPATIONS RELATED TO HOME MAKING. California State Dept.  
of Education, Sacramento, Calif. 1952. 21 pp. Mimeo.