

FACTS

on Women Workers

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U. S. Department of Labor
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN NOVEMBER 1952

The civilian woman labor force, which includes both the employed and the unemployed, was estimated at almost 20½ million in November 1952. This was an increase of approximately ½ million over the figures for October 1952 (478,000) and November 1951 (610,000). Housewives and students who entered the labor force to take nonfarm jobs accounted for most of the increase from October to November.

The expansion in nonfarm employment far exceeded the expected seasonal movement, and possibly indicates some continuing recovery from the production curtailments of the previous year. In nonagricultural activities the number of women employed in November 1952 outnumbered the figure for November 1951 by more than 800,000; a slight decrease took place among the self-employed, there was an increase of some 100,000 unpaid family workers, and an increase of 750,000 women wage and salary workers.

Employment status	November 1952				
	Civilian non-institutional population	Women			
		Number	Percent of all persons	Change since October 1952	Change since November 1951
Total, 14 years and over.....	110,198,000	57,990,000	52.6	+ 60,000	+692,000
In labor force.....	63,646,000	20,428,000	32.1	+478,000	+610,000
Employed.....	62,228,000	19,824,000	31.9	+444,000	+832,000
In agriculture.....	6,774,000	1,286,000	19.0	-168,000	- 8,000
In nonagricultural industries.....	55,454,000	18,538,000	33.4	+612,000	+840,000
Unemployed.....	1,418,000	604,000	42.6	+ 34,000	-222,000
Not in labor force.....	46,552,000	37,562,000	80.7	-418,000	+ 82,000

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

THREE STATES ISSUE NEW MINIMUM-WAGE ORDERS

Utah.—Utah recently revised two of its minimum-wage orders -- public housekeeping and laundry and cleaning, dyeing, and pressing -- establishing increased minimum-wage rates and improved working conditions standards. Both orders retain the vacation-with-pay provision appearing in earlier orders for these industries: Employers must grant one week's vacation with pay to any woman or minor who has had 12 months' continuous employment with the employer.

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MINIMUM-WAGE ORDERS: UTAH -- Continued

The Public Housekeeping Industry Order of Utah, effective November 16, 1952, establishes minimum hourly rates of 65, 60, and 55 cents according to the population of a city or area. (Previous minimum rates were 47, 45, and 40 cents, respectively.) For inexperienced workers the rates are 5 cents less (the former differential was $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per hour). The revised order provides for emergency overtime, but specifies that employer must have permission of the Industrial Commission to employ women for hours over 8 a day or on the seventh consecutive day. It retains the earlier requirement of a 10-minute rest period during each 4 hours of work and, in addition, specifies that such rest period shall be made available to any woman or minor required to work more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ consecutive hours. It also retains the provision for a meal period of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, which must be counted in the 8-hour workday and paid for at the minimum-wage rate.

The revised Laundry and Cleaning, Dyeing, and Pressing Industries Order of Utah, effective January 25, 1953, establishes 65 cents as the minimum hourly wage for experienced employees in the laundry industry and 70 cents for those in the cleaning, dyeing, and pressing industry. (Under the former order, \$22 was the minimum for a 44-hour week in the laundry industry, and \$24.20 in the dry cleaning industry.) Learners may be paid 5 cents per hour less than the minimum rate prescribed during a 3-month period in the laundry industry and a 6-month period in the cleaning, dyeing, and pressing industry. (Former revisions of the order permitted learners, defined as beginners with less than 1 month's experience, to be paid \$2 a week less than the applicable minimum rate.) The new laundry and dry cleaning order retains the provision requiring that hours worked by an employee be consecutive, except for an interval of not more than one hour for a meal, which is not counted as part of employee's working time.

Massachusetts.--Massachusetts has revised its 1949 Building Service Occupations Order, increasing all but one of the minimum-wage rates established by it. Effective December 1, 1952, the revised order provides that no person employed in building service occupations may be paid less than 70 cents (formerly 55 cents) an hour, except residential property employees. The wage rate for residential property employees in building service occupations may not be less than 65 cents (formerly 55 cents) an hour with the following exceptions: Without living quarters as part of wages and working 28 hours or more a week, \$28 a week (same as in the 1949 order); with living quarters as part of wages and working 28 hours or more a week, \$26 a week (formerly \$22 a week). Coverage of the order has been broadened to include elevator operators and starters and also service employees of private schools and colleges, engaged in the "cleaning, servicing, maintenance, protection, and upkeep of buildings and establishments."

North Dakota.--The North Dakota Labor Bulletin for December reports that the revised Laundry, Cleaning and Dyeing Occupation Order has been signed by the commissioner and will become effective January 24, 1953. The order provides for a minimum increase of wages in laundries, etc., from \$18 a week to \$24 a week, about a 33-percent increase.

NEW WOMEN'S BUREAU IN EL SALVADOR

A Division for Women and Young Workers recently established in the Ministry of Labor in El Salvador is headed by a woman. The new division started its work with inspections in textile mills, coffee plantations, and clothing shops.

AFL STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN WORKERS

The Report of the Executive Council of the AFL to the Seventy-First Convention, Sept. 15, 1952, includes a recommendation on women workers:

"We recommend the following program for the coming year:

"1. That every national and international union within whose jurisdiction women workers are employed initiate a special organization program to turn these women workers into good trade unionists.

"2. That the AFL Director of Organization assist this movement by promoting common undertakings and pooling experience.

"The Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor provides excellent data and other information on the problems of women who work. This material would be most useful to such an organization drive. It is high time for unions to realize the importance of organizing all women workers as an integral and essential part of the labor movement."

CIO URGES EQUAL PAY

Among the resolutions adopted Dec. 1, 1952, by the Fourteenth Constitutional Convention of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, was one on equal pay for woman workers (Res. No. 22). The resolution states in part:

"As part of its belief in industrial unionism, the CIO has supported equal job rights, equal opportunities, and equal pay for equal work for all its members. CIO contracts have brought great gains to women workers, and in many situations our women members have been indispensable in the establishment of strong unions....

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

"The CIO reaffirms its support of effective Federal and State legislation to safeguard the principle of equal pay for equal work. We shall continue to support the Women's Status Bill and to oppose the miscalled Equal Rights Amendment.

"We urge our affiliates, in cooperation with the CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination, to intensify their efforts to oppose discrimination against women on the job or in the community, and to support actively protection of women's rights through clauses in union contracts against discrimination in pay, hiring, upgrading, training, layoff or similar procedures. We continue to support community programs that make it easier for women to earn a living without jeopardizing the welfare of their families or their own health.

"We urge our affiliates and the National CIO to renew their efforts to draw women into active participation in our unions as officers as well as members. Similarly, women should be encouraged to play an important role in our community and political activities in order that our goals may be achieved.

"In supporting measures to meet the special needs of women workers, we again affirm the fundamental position of the CIO that all workers are entitled to co-equal rights and responsibilities in the labor movement and in public activities."

JURY SERVICE FOR WOMEN

Five of the six States where women are still barred from jury service will hold regular legislative sessions in 1953: Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia. Mississippi, the sixth State, does not have a session scheduled. Special organizations have been formed to stimulate interest in women's jury service in Texas and Alabama -- the Texas Citizens Committee on Jury Service for Women and the Committee for Jury Service for Women in Alabama. In Georgia and West Virginia women's organizations are planning also to sponsor jury service legislation.

In Maryland, which has a compulsory jury service law but which permits counties to be exempt at their own request, three additional counties by recent action have removed the restriction and now permit women to serve on juries. Nine counties out of a total of 23 still bar women as jurors.

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