

# FACTS

# on Women Workers

U. S. Department of Labor  
Martin P. Durkin, 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.

February 28, 1953

## NOTICE

We announce with regret that this is the last issue of "Facts on Women Workers." In line with the economy program in government the Bureau of the Budget has not renewed approval for the publication of this monthly newsletter. The Women's Bureau is sorry that it can no longer provide you with this service.

### EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN JANUARY 1953

The civilian woman labor force, which includes both the employed and the unemployed, was estimated at 19.1 million in January 1953. Largely as a result of the withdrawal from the labor force of women who had held holiday jobs in trade, the January figure was some 600,000 below the December level, but slightly higher than the January 1952 figure.

Employment status	January 1953				
	Civilian non-institutional population	Women			
		Number	Percent of all persons	Change since December 1952	Change since January 1952
Total, 14 years and over.....	110,648,000	58,146,000	52.6	+ 96,000	+738,000
In labor force.....	62,416,000	19,082,000	30.6	-599,000	+166,000
Employed.....	60,524,000	18,550,000	30.6	-684,000	+304,000
In agriculture.....	5,452,000	644,000	11.8	-151,000	-194,000
In nonagricultural industries.....	55,072,000	17,906,000	32.5	-533,000	+498,000
Unemployed.....	1,892,000	532,000	28.1	+ 85,000	-138,000
Not in labor force.....	48,232,000	39,064,000	81.0	+695,000	+572,000

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

## NEW MINIMUM-WAGE ORDERS

Effective February 10, 1953, Oregon has issued a minimum-wage order setting 75 cents an hour as the basic minimum wage for women and minors employed in preparing poultry, rabbits, fish, or eggs for distribution. This is the first time Oregon has established a minimum wage for employees in these industries. Women employed in an administrative, executive, or professional capacity are expressly exempted from the order's provisions, as are women and minors employed in canning fresh fruits, vegetables, fish, shellfish, or crustacea, or barreling or preserving fresh fruit and berries (which occupations are covered by another minimum-wage order). Also exempted are operations on the farm, incident to production or preparation for market in their raw, live, or natural state, of the products of that farm.

Except in emergencies, and then only after an emergency overtime permit has been obtained by the employer, maximum hours are 8 a day, 44 a week. Time and a half employee's regular rate must be paid for hours worked in excess of 40 a week. More than 8-44 hours may be worked only if special permit is granted by the Wage and Hour Commission and time and a half paid for hours over 40 a week. The order establishes various standards for working conditions in these industries.

New York in addition to revising its wage orders in five occupations, has issued an order bringing janitors and other building service workers in the State under minimum-wage protection for the first time, effective February 15, 1953. The Building Service Occupations order, applicable to men as well as to women and minors, establishes 75 cents an hour as the minimum wage for employees other than janitors in residential buildings. For the latter, minimum-pay scales are set at 75 cents per unit per week in centrally heated buildings and 60 cents per unit per week in buildings not centrally heated. The term "unit" is defined to mean each apartment, business, or commercial establishment located in a residential building. An overtime rate of \$1.12½ an hour after 48 hours in residential, and after 40 hours in nonresidential, buildings is also established.

## EQUAL-PAY LEGISLATION

Widespread and continuing interest in equal-pay legislation is evidenced by introduction of bills both in State legislatures and in the Federal Congress. New bills are now pending in six States - Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Utah. In addition, in six States that now have equal-pay laws on the statute books - California, Connecticut, Michigan, Montana, New York, and Pennsylvania - amendments have been proposed to extend coverage or otherwise strengthen existing standards. Seven bills which would require employers engaged in interstate commerce to provide equal pay for comparable work have been introduced in the 83d session of Congress, six in the House and one in the Senate.

The Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), which was adopted by the International Labor Conference at its 34th session, June 1951, has now been ratified by three countries: Yugoslavia, Belgium, and Mexico. The Convention will come into force for the first two countries on May 23, 1953, and for Mexico on August 23, 1953, 12 months after the date of ratification.

## OCCUPATIONS OF EMPLOYED WOMEN, JANUARY 1953

There was little change in the occupational distribution of employed women between January 1952 and 1953. Service workers (except private household) are the third largest occupational group and professional, technical, and kindred workers the fourth, while in January 1952 this ranking was reversed. As in the past, about two-thirds of the employed women are doing clerical work, but their actual number increased only slightly over the 1952 figure. There was an increase in the number of operatives and of service workers and a decrease among women farm workers. Also there was a decrease of 8 percent in the professional group.

### Major Occupation Group of Employed Persons: January 1953

Occupation	Total employed	Employed women			
		Number	Percent of total	Percent distribution	Change since January 1952
Total employed.....	60,524,000	18,550,000	30.6	100.0	+304,000
Clerical and kindred workers.	8,136,000	5,294,000	65.1	28.5	+ 6,000
Operatives and kindred workers.....	12,764,000	3,726,000	29.2	20.1	+200,000
Service workers, except private household.....	5,032,000	2,288,000	45.5	12.3	+254,000
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	5,174,000	1,962,000	37.9	10.6	-178,000
Private household workers....	1,800,000	1,760,000	97.8	9.5	+ 36,000
Sales workers.....	3,862,000	1,454,000	37.6	7.8	+ 86,000
Managers, officials and proprietors, except farm...	6,664,000	1,042,000	15.6	5.6	+ 44,000
Farm laborers and foremen....	1,720,000	462,000	26.9	2.5	-174,000
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.....	8,308,000	296,000	3.6	1.6	+ 38,000
Farmers and farm managers....	3,594,000	162,000	4.5	.9	- 28,000
Laborers, except farm and mine.....	3,470,000	104,000	3.0	.6	+ 20,000

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

## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES: SEPTEMBER 1952

In September 1952 there were 4.4 million women engaged in full or part-time employment of any nature in manufacturing industries in the United States. They constituted 27 percent of all persons employed in manufacturing. Over 100,000 women were working in each of the 12 industries, with the greatest numbers in the manufacture of apparel, textiles, food, and electrical machinery.

More than a third of the 700,000 workers added to the manufacturing work force between September 1950 and September 1952 were women. An increase in the number of women workers in defense-related industries accompanied the general expansion of the past 2 years. Most of the quarter million women added to factory payrolls during this period were employed in plants producing military goods—particularly ordnance, aircraft, and electronic equipment. Other defense related industries, such as instruments and chemicals, accounted for most of the remaining increase in the employment of women in manufacturing.

## ILO TEXTILES COMMITTEE

One of the two U. S. Government delegates to the fourth session of the Textiles Committee, which met in Geneva in February, was Mrs. Mary N. Hilton, Chief of the Research Division of the Women's Bureau. This committee is one of eight industrial committees of the International Labor Organization, and is made up of government, employer, and worker delegates from 22 countries. The representatives approved a series of resolutions relating to the employment of women in the textile industry.

## WOMEN'S BUREAU BULLETINS NOW IN PRESS

Womanpower Committees During World War II; United States and British Experience. WB Bull. 244. 73 pp.

A Short-Term Training Program in an Aircraft Engine Plant. WB Bull. 245. 11 pp.

Employed Mothers and Child Care. WB Bull. 246.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
WOMEN'S BUREAU  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PERMIT NO. 1064

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

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

## LETTER MAIL

- H PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF STATE MINIMUM-WAGE  
A ADMINISTRATORS, held by the Women's Bureau, Washington, D. C.,  
V September 18 and 19, 1952. Multilithed. D-62. U. S. Department of Labor,  
E Women's Bureau, Washington 25, D. C. 1953.
- Y NEGROES IN THE UNITED STATES: Their Employment and Economic Status.  
O Bureau of Labor Statistics Bull. 1119. December 1952. 58 pp. Multilithed.  
U For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office,  
Washington 25, D. C., price 30 cents.
- R  
E EMPLOYMENT, HOURS AND EARNINGS - STATE AND AREA DATA, 1947-51. U. S. Depart-  
A ment of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C. 90 pp.  
D 1952. Multilithed.