

THE WOMAN WAGE EARNER

HER SITUATION TODAY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WOMEN'S BUREAU BULLETIN 172

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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BY

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APPENDIX

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF WOMAN-EMPLOYING INDUSTRIES

The distribution of women workers in manufacturing and in non-manufacturing industries presents quite different pictures. The location of manufacturing establishments often depends on where they can find raw materials, transportation facilities, and the like. Some factories employing women are established in areas already giving employment to men in heavy industries, so that advantage may be taken of the labor force composed of daughters of the miner, the steel mill worker, and so forth. Moreover, the distribution of factories making one type of goods will vary markedly from that of plants using different raw materials. Nonmanufacturing occupations include a variety of services now considered almost indispensable, and consequently they must be located wherever the people live who are to be served. For this reason, such occupations will be found in greater numbers in the larger centers of population.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The geographic distribution of the chief woman-employing manufacturing industries is shown below in terms of total wage earners (men and women combined) in 1935, complete information for 1937 not being available as this report goes to press. Even in 1929, wage earners in the various States were not reported by sex in the Census of Manufactures. The descriptions cover industries employing well over three-fourths of all women in manufacturing in 1929.

Textile Industries.

While distribution varies for the manufacture of different types of goods, it will be seen from the following that a great part of the textile industry is to be found up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

Cotton Goods.—There are 2 areas of concentration of cotton textile manufacturing—the South east of the Mississippi, and New England. More than seven-tenths of all wage earners are in the South, with nearly six-tenths in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. A little more than one-fifth are in the New England States, more than one-tenth in Massachusetts alone.

Knit goods.—Not far from one-half of the workers in knit goods are employed in the Middle Atlantic States of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, with 30 percent in Pennsylvania alone. The States of the Southeast account for 31 percent, with North Carolina and Tennessee by far the most important. Nearly one-seventh of the wage earners are found in 6 States in the neighborhood of the Great Lakes, Wisconsin ranking first among these.

Silk and rayon goods.—About 95 percent of the wage earners in the manufacture of silk and rayon goods are in States of the Atlantic coast. Well over half are in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, nearly one-fourth are in New England, and less than one-fifth are in the Atlantic States to the South.

Woolen and worsted goods.—Two-thirds of the wage earners making woolen and allied products are in New England, three-tenths in Massachusetts alone. A little more than one-fifth are in the 3 Middle Atlantic States, about one-twentieth in the South.

Clothing Industries.

The clothing industries probably are more widely scattered than is the making of textiles. At least 41 States and the District of Columbia report to the Census of Manufactures some share in the making of clothing.

Men's coats and suits.—While this industry is reported in 36 States, over half of the wage earners are employed in the 3 Middle Atlantic States, three-tenths in New York alone; almost one-fourth are in 6 States on the Great Lakes, in Illinois and Ohio for the most part; and only about one-twelfth are in the Southern States.

Other men's clothing.—Workers in these clothing industries are reported in 41 States and the District of Columbia. About two-fifths are in the 3 Middle Atlantic States, one-fifth in Pennsylvania alone, and about one-fifth are in 10 Southern States. The Great Lakes area accounts for 15 percent; the States bordering on the South—Maryland, West Virginia, and Missouri—for 12 percent; New England for 7 percent. The remainder are scattered through the Pacific, Mountain, and Prairie States.

Women's clothing.—Wage earners in women's, misses' and children's clothing, including millinery, are reported by 40 States and the District of Columbia. It would be interesting to compare the distribution of relatively expensive clothing with that of house dresses, aprons, and other wash garments, but these data are not published. More than half of the workers are in New York and one-sixth in the adjoining States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. About one-eighth are in the Great Lakes areas, in Illinois for the most part. New England reports about 7½ percent, the Pacific coast 4½ percent, the South about 2 percent, and Maryland and Missouri, bordering on the South, nearly 4 percent.

[The 1937 census data for the clothing industries, which became available while the present bulletin was in press, show workers in the more expensive lines concentrated in a much more restricted geographic area than those at work on the cheaper products. For example, nearly three-fourths of the workers on men's suits and overcoats, but less than one-fourth of those making men's work clothing, were in the five States of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois, and Ohio. About 60 percent of those making women's coats and suits and the more expensive dresses, but only about 12 percent of those making house dresses, aprons, and uniforms, were in New York.]

Food Industries.

The manufacture of food products is, in general, very widespread.

Bread and bakery products.—This industry is reported in every State and the District of Columbia. When the States are arranged according to the number of wage earners, the order corresponds approximately, though with some marked exceptions, to a distribution based on population.

Confectionery.—In the making of confectionery, found in 45 States and the District of Columbia, Illinois ranks first with almost one-fourth of all wage earners, while somewhat over one-third are in the 6 Great Lakes States combined. More than one-fourth are in the 3 Middle Atlantic States, chiefly New York and Pennsylvania; one-eighth are in New England, practically all in Massachusetts; and not quite one-tenth are in the South.

Fruit and vegetable canning.—This industry is found in 46 States. One-third of the business is done on the Pacific coast, mostly in California; nearly one-third on the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida, most extensively in Maryland and New York; not far from one-fourth in the Great Lakes area; and less than 2 percent in the Gulf States (exclusive of Florida).

Meat packing.—It is surprising to find meat packing reported in all States and the District of Columbia, since the industry is more often thought of in connection with a few large centers. The greatest concentration is in Illinois, with a little more than one-fifth of all workers. When wage earners in the North Central States are combined, from Ohio to Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas, practically two-thirds are accounted for there. About one-seventh are in Massachusetts and the Middle Atlantic States.

Machinery.

The two large employers of women in this category are electrical apparatus and supplies and radios and phonographs. The bulk of these industries is found in northern States east of the Mississippi.

Electrical machinery, apparatus, and supplies.—While this type of business is done to some extent in 38 States and the District of Columbia, 8 States report from 12,000 to more than 28,000 wage earners each and account for 85 percent of the total. In order of importance these are: Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Indiana, Connecticut. Wisconsin and Missouri each report between 6,000 and 7,000 workers.

Radios and phonographs.—The manufacture of radios is reported by 16 States and the District of Columbia. New Jersey leads, with nearly one-third of the total. Almost one-fourth are in the Great Lakes area. Some important States, including Pennsylvania, cannot be reported separately.

Paper and Printing Industries.

The making of paper and of paper products is widespread and printing and publishing is found in every one of the 48 States.

Paper and paper products.—Paper production is reported in 35 States and the District of Columbia. More than one-third of the workers are in the Great Lakes area, Michigan and Wisconsin being the leading States here. More than one-fifth are in New England and the Middle Atlantic States, with Massachusetts and New York well in the lead. The South is relatively unimportant as yet. The Pacific States account for 6 percent of the wage earners. Paper products are reported in 41 States and the District of Columbia, important producers of paper being important also in making boxes, bags, and so forth, out of paper.

Printing and publishing.—Every State and the District of Columbia reports printing establishments, and this is true of book and pamphlet printing as well as of newspapers. In only 2 States is there no publication of periodicals other than newspapers. As is true of the bakery industry, important industrial States and those with large populations have great numbers employed in printing and publishing.

Shoe Manufacture.

The making of boots and shoes other than rubber is carried on in 32 States, but for 12 of them information is not reported separately. Nine States together account for 90 percent of all wage earners. In these are reported from 10,000 to nearly 44,000 workers. In order of importance these States are Massachusetts, New York, Missouri, Illinois, New Hampshire, Maine, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Metal Products.

It is probable that many of the great variety of metal-products factories are to be found predominantly in the quarter of the United States north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi. An examination of certain of the more important woman-employers in these groups shows this to be true to a varying degree. In the Great Lakes area are more than half the wage earners in the manufacture of miscellaneous hardware, of stamped and enameled ware, and of wire work, and well over one-third of those in nonferrous alloys. From one-fifth to one-fourth of the wage earners are in the 3 Middle Atlantic States in 5 lines of metal goods—stamped and enameled ware, wire work, nonferrous alloys, jewelry, and tin cans. More than half of the workers making clocks and watches are in Connecticut and Massachusetts, three-tenths are in Illinois. Three-fifths of those making jewelry are in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. States outstanding in a number of these lines of metal ware are Connecticut, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and New York.

Tobacco Products.

The making of cigars is reported in 34 States, that of cigarettes in 9, and that of other tobacco products in 21. Pennsylvania leads in cigar making, with almost one-third of all wage earners, followed by Florida with one-sixth. Nearly one-fifth are in New Jersey and

New York combined, one-seventh in New Jersey alone. About one-seventh are in the Great Lakes area.

Nearly two-thirds of all cigarette workers are in North Carolina, followed by one-sixth in Virginia. Kentucky also is an important center, but the number of wage earners is not reported.

More than two-thirds of the wage earners in other tobacco products are in 5 States, with the numbers in each ranging from 900 to 1,600. These States are Missouri, Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Chemicals and Allied Products.

Rayon and allied products.—Rayon and similar products are reported in 16 States, but because of the small number of firms a report on wage earners is given for only 2—Virginia with over one-fifth of the total and Tennessee with a little less than one-fifth. Among the other States, it is generally understood that Delaware and Pennsylvania are important.

Drugs and medicines.—Production of drugs and medicines, including insecticides, was scattered through 43 States and the District of Columbia, with at least 15 reporting fewer than 100. Only in 7 States were well over 1,000 (1,500 to 4,000) reported, these being New York, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana, and Missouri.

Perfumes, cosmetics, and other toilet preparations.—Toilet preparations are produced in 32 States and the District of Columbia, with only 3 States reporting as many as 500 wage earners and at least 11 with fewer than 100. New York and New Jersey account for almost six-tenths.

Rubber Goods.

Production of rubber boots and shoes is reported in 7 States. Well over one-third of all wage earners are in Massachusetts, but there is no separate report for the other 6 States, which include 1 Middle Atlantic State, 2 in New England, and 3 in the Great Lakes area.

The manufacture of tires and tubes is carried on in 16 States, but more than two-thirds of the wage earners are in Ohio and 6 percent are in California. The other States, not reported separately, are chiefly in the northeastern quarter of the country, and include Massachusetts, one of the leading States in this industry.

Other rubber products, including a great variety of articles, are made in 31 States. More than one-third of the wage earners are in the 3 Middle Atlantic States, nearly three-tenths are in the Great Lakes area, and at least one-eighth are in New England (exclusive of Massachusetts, which is not shown separately). There are a few plants in 7 Southern States, 5 of them not reported in detail.

Transportation Equipment.

Though 25 States are reported as making motor vehicles, nearly six-tenths of all workers in the industry are in Michigan and more

than seven-tenths are in the Great Lakes area as a whole. The making of bodies and parts is widespread, being reported in 41 States; Michigan still leads, however, with nearly two-thirds of all workers, and the total Great Lakes area has 88 percent. Outside of this area, Pennsylvania and New York are most important.

Glass and Pottery.

Production of glass is reported to some extent in 22 States, but nearly six-tenths of all wage earners are in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, with more than 10,000 in each. Indiana, New Jersey, Illinois, New York, and California follow, with between 2,000 and 6,700 wage earners in each. There is some production in 7 Southern States, but the number of wage earners is small.

Porcelain ware and pottery are produced in 34 States and the District of Columbia, but well over one-fourth of the wage earners are found in Ohio alone and more than one-fifth in West Virginia alone. More than one-fourth are in the Middle Atlantic States.

NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Since the chief nonmanufacturing industries are found in every city and most towns, the distribution of employees in these pursuits is, in general, in direct ratio to the total population.

Every city and practically every town has stores, telephone exchanges, banks, doctors' and dentists' offices, and real-estate and insurance agencies, giving employment to the so-called white-collar groups. The same is true of the service groups—laundries, dry-cleaning establishments, beauty parlors, hotels, and restaurants. Hospitals and places of amusement are found in every State and in most cities.

Certain industries employing large numbers of office workers are found in every State though they are likely to be found only in the larger cities. Among these may be mentioned mail-order houses, home insurance offices, investment houses, advertising agencies, and wholesale establishments.