

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**  
**WOMEN'S BUREAU**  
**Bulletin No. 168**

**EMPLOYED WOMEN AND**  
**FAMILY SUPPORT**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary  
WOMEN  
MARY ANI

# EMPLOYED WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT

By  
MARY ELIZABETH PIDGEON  
AND  
MARGARET THOMPSON METTERT



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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,  
WOMEN'S BUREAU,  
*Washington, February 16, 1939.*

MADAM: I have the honor to transmit a report indicating that employed women constitute a major factor in the support of their families and in many cases furnish their entire maintenance.

Since the Women's Bureau has numerous requests from organizations and individuals in this and other countries for information on this matter, through the courtesy of the Bureau of the Census the family schedules from three large industrial cities in 1930 have been examined. The findings, presented in this bulletin, show that women support others to a much greater extent than ordinarily is realized.

The material was analyzed by Mary Elizabeth Pidgeon, chief of the research division of the Women's Bureau, who wrote parts I and II of the report; parts III and IV were written by Margaret Thompson Mettert of the Bureau's research division.

Respectfully submitted.

MARY ANDERSON, *Director.*

HON. FRANCES PERKINS,  
*Secretary of Labor.*

## APPENDIX

**TABLE I.—Age of gainfully-employed women, by occupational group—Fort Wayne**

Occupational group	All women of 16 and over		Women who were—							
			16 and under 20		16 and under 25		25 and under 55		55 and over	
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent
<b>Total in population—</b>										
Number.....	43,541		4,105		10,447		25,656		7,438	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		9.4		24.0		58.9		17.1	
<b>Total gainfully occupied with age reported—</b>										
Number.....	12,887	100.0	1,806	100.0	5,104	100.0	6,902	100.0	881	100.0
Percent distribution.....	100.0		14.0		39.6		53.6		6.8	
<b>Manufacturing—</b>										
Number.....	3,610	28.0	591	32.7	1,608	31.5	1,851	26.8	151	17.1
Percent distribution.....	100.0		16.4		44.5		51.3		4.2	
<b>Clerical occupations—</b>										
Number.....	3,306	25.7	564	31.2	1,701	35.1	1,481	21.5	34	3.9
Percent distribution.....	100.0		17.1		54.2		44.8		1.0	
<b>Domestic and personal service—</b>										
Number.....	2,372	18.4	292	16.2	610	12.0	1,385	20.1	377	42.8
Percent distribution.....	100.0		12.3		25.7		58.4		15.9	
<b>Managerial and professional service—</b>										
Number.....	1,672	13.0	118	6.5	526	10.3	1,025	14.9	121	13.7
Percent distribution.....	100.0		7.1		31.5		61.3		7.2	
<b>Selling trades—</b>										
Number.....	1,393	10.8	293	11.2	448	8.8	850	12.3	65	10.8
Percent distribution.....	100.0		14.6		32.2		61.0		6.8	
<b>Working in own home—</b>										
Number.....	304	2.4	1	.1	9	.2	293	2.9	92	10.4
Percent distribution.....	100.0		.3		3.0		66.8		30.3	
<b>Telephone and telegraph operators—</b>										
Number.....	181	1.4	34	1.9	102	2.0	77	1.1	2	.2
Percent distribution.....	100.0		18.8		56.4		42.5		1.1	
<b>Not elsewhere classified—</b>										
Number.....	49	.4	3	.2	10	.2	30	.4	9	1.0

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 10 women in this study whose age was not reported.

TABLE II.—Occupation of homemakers and of other gainfully-occupied women—  
Fort Wayne

Occupation	All gainfully-occupied women		Homemakers		Others	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	12,897	100.0	4,067	100.0	8,830	100.0
Percent distribution.....	100.0		31.5		68.5	
Manufacturing.....	3,614	28.0	1,252	30.8	2,362	26.7
Clothing in factories.....	530		271		259	
Clothing not in factories.....	116		64		52	
Electrical machinery and supply factories.....	1,675		555		1,020	
Knitting mills.....	861		186		675	
All other.....	532		176		356	
Selling trades.....	1,395	10.8	634	15.6	761	8.6
Saleswomen and clerks in stores.....	1,138		498		640	
Owners in retail trade.....	65		48		17	
All other.....	192		88		104	
Telephone and telegraph operators.....	181	1.4	32	.8	149	1.7
Clerical occupations.....	3,308	25.6	622	15.3	2,686	30.4
Managerial and professional service.....	1,672	13.0	406	10.0	1,266	14.3
Teachers.....	783		192		591	
Trained nurses.....	505		56		449	
Owners, managers, officials (except retail).....	130		82		48	
Other.....	254		76		178	
Domestic and personal service.....	2,374	18.4	816	20.1	1,558	17.6
In hotels, restaurants, etc.....	563		252		311	
Waitresses.....	240		70		170	
Cooks.....	164		101		63	
Other servants.....	159		81		78	
In power laundries.....	164		86		78	
In private homes.....	1,020		210		810	
Living in.....	608				608	
Living out.....	421		210		211	
Hairdressers and manicurists.....	203		106		97	
Housekeepers and stewardesses (not elsewhere classified).....	28		15		13	
Nurses not trained (not elsewhere classified).....	106		37		69	
Other.....	281		110		171	
Working in own home.....	304	2.4	274	6.7	30	.3
Taking boarders, lodgers (not elsewhere classified).....	131		120		2	
Taking in washing.....	66		63		3	
Taking in sewing, millinery, knitting—own account.....	82		62		20	
Taking in sewing, millinery, knitting—from factory.....	1		1			
Other work at home—own account.....	24		19		5	
Not elsewhere classified.....	40	.4	31	.8	18	.2

TABLE III.—Age of gainfully-employed women, by occupational group—Bridgeport

Occupational group	All women of 16 and over		Women who were—								
			16 and un- der 20		16 and un- der 25		25 and un- der 55		55 and over		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	
Total in population—											
Number.....	52,158		5,797		12,192		30,565		9,101		
Percent distribution.....	100.0		11.1		23.4		59.2		17.4		
Total gainfully occupied with age reported—											
Number.....	17,056	100.0	3,478	100.0	7,309	100.0	8,566	100.0	1,161	100.0	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		20.4		42.8		50.2		6.9		
Manufacturing—											
Number.....	6,212	36.4	1,642	47.2	2,900	39.7	2,974	34.7	338	28.6	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		26.4		46.6		47.8		5.4		
Clerical occupations—											
Number.....	4,040	23.7	678	25.2	2,106	30.0	1,700	20.9	54	4.6	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		21.7		34.4		44.3		1.3		
Domestic and personal service—											
Number.....	2,598	15.2	358	10.3	691	9.5	1,478	17.3	429	36.3	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		13.8		26.6		56.8		16.5		
Managerial and professional service—											
Number.....	2,107	12.4	185	5.3	731	10.0	1,218	14.2	158	13.4	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		8.8		34.7		57.8		7.5		
Selling trades—											
Number.....	1,384	8.1	281	8.1	532	7.3	755	8.8	97	8.2	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		20.3		39.4		54.6		7.0		
Working in own home—											
Number.....	256	1.5	2	.1	8	.1	162	1.8	90	8.1	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		0.8		3.1		69.4		37.5		
Telephone and telegraph operators—											
Number.....	359	2.1	96	2.8	205	2.8	152	1.8	2	.2	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		26.7		57.1		42.3		0.6		
Not elsewhere classified—											
Number.....	100	.6	36	1.0	46	.6	47	.5	7	.6	

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 10 women in this study whose age was not reported.



TABLE IV.—Occupation of homemakers and of other gainfully-occupied women—  
Bridgeport

Occupation	All gainfully-occupied women		Homemakers		Others	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	17,060	100.0	5,280	100.0	11,786	100.0
Percent distribution.....	100.0		30.9		69.1	
<b>Manufacturing.....</b>	<b>6,217</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>2,303</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>3,824</b>	<b>32.4</b>
Chemical and allied factories.....	530		163		376	
Corset factories.....	921		428		493	
Other clothing in factories.....	933		341		592	
Clothing not in factories.....	110		52		58	
Iron and steel, machinery and vehicle industries.....	1,027		422		605	
Metal industries (except iron and steel).....	373		133		240	
Electrical machinery and supply factories.....	1,230		444		792	
Textile industries.....	324		125		199	
All other.....	754		285		469	
<b>Selling trades.....</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Saleswomen and clerks in stores.....	1,171		363		808	
Owners in retail trade.....	87		76		11	
All other.....	126		50		76	
Telephone and telegraph operators.....	359	2.1	69	1.3	290	2.5
Clerical occupations.....	4,040	23.7	675	12.8	3,365	28.6
Managerial and professional service.....	2,109	12.4	405	7.7	1,704	14.5
Teachers.....	1,114		222		892	
Trained nurses.....	677		72		605	
Owners, managers, officials (except retail).....	74		33		41	
Other.....	244		78		166	
<b>Domestic and personal service.....</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>13.7</b>
In hotels, restaurants, etc.....	305		142		163	
Waitresses.....	154		63		91	
Cooks.....	54		39		15	
Other servants.....	97		40		57	
In power laundries.....	189		109		80	
In private homes.....	1,538		487		1,051	
Living in.....	683				683	
Living out.....	855		487		368	
Hairdressers and manicurists.....	129		53		76	
Housekeepers and stewardesses (not elsewhere classified).....	44		26		18	
Nurses not trained (not elsewhere classified).....	167		54		113	
Other.....	220		121		108	
<b>Working in own home.....</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>.3</b>
Taking boarders, lodgers (not elsewhere classified).....	142		138		4	
Taking in washing.....	20		23		6	
Taking in sewing, millinery, knitting—own account.....	67		43		24	
Taking in sewing, millinery, knitting—from factory.....	2		2			
Other work at home—own account.....	7		4		3	
Other work at home—from factory.....	9		8		1	
Not elsewhere classified.....	100	.6	30	.7	61	.5

TABLE V.—Age of gainfully-employed women, by occupational group—Richmond

Occupational group	All women of 16 and over		Women who were—								
			16 and under 20		16 and under 25		25 and under 55		55 and over		
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	
Total in population—											
Number.....	72,453		7,603		18,027		43,390		11,636		
Percent distribution.....	100.0		10.5		24.9		59.9		15.2		
Total gainfully occupied with age reported—											
Number.....	28,107	100.0	3,423	100.0	9,551	100.0	16,674	100.0	1,882	100.0	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		12.2		34.0		59.3		6.7		
Manufacturing—											
Number.....	6,124	21.8	1,203	35.1	2,665	27.9	3,149	18.9	310	16.5	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		19.6		43.5		51.4		5.1		
Clerical occupations—											
Number.....	5,783	20.6	691	20.2	2,443	25.6	3,215	19.3	125	6.6	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		11.9		42.2		55.6		2.2		
Domestic and personal service—											
Number.....	8,457	30.1	827	24.2	2,184	22.9	5,583	33.5	690	30.7	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		9.8		25.8		60.0		8.2		
Managerial and professional service—											
Number.....	3,356	11.9	219	6.4	1,082	11.3	2,026	12.2	248	13.2	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		6.5		32.2		60.4		7.4		
Selling trades—											
Number.....	1,979	7.0	228	6.7	618	6.5	1,219	7.3	142	7.5	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		11.5		31.2		61.6		7.2		
Working in own home—											
Number.....	1,622	5.8	23	.7	73	.8	1,199	7.2	350	18.6	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		1.4		4.5		73.9		21.6		
Telephone and telegraph operators—											
Number.....	684	2.4	223	6.5	469	4.9	299	1.3	6	.3	
Percent distribution.....	100.0		32.6		68.6		30.6		0.9		
Not elsewhere classified—											
Number.....	102	.4	9	.3	17	.2	74	.4	11	.6	

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 36 women in this study whose age was not reported.