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EMPLOYED WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary
WOMEN'
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EMPLOYED WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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.

EMPLOYED WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Part I.—INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The great majority of the employed women in this country are at work to support themselves and in many cases others as well, or at least to contribute heavily to the family needs. During the years of depression the Women's Bureau has had abundant evidence that more and more women have had to seek employment so as to take up their share of the burden of family support, either because of unemployment of male wage earners or because of greatly reduced circumstances.

The responsibility women have for family support has been studied by the Women's Bureau from schedules of the regular 1930 Census of Occupations, generously made available to the Women's Bureau for this purpose by the Bureau of the Census, as was done in the preceding decade. Because of unavoidable differences in method, the data for 1930 are not comparable with those for 1920.

The information secured by the Women's Bureau includes more detail on the types of employment and of family relationships of employed women than the Bureau of the Census had facilities for preparing. While it was not possible to take off the records for more than a few industrial cities, the picture that can be shown for three cities, widely scattered geographically and of diversified industrial character, gives a good indication of the general situation likely to be found throughout urban areas of the entire country, and affords a background for analysis of the changes in woman employment that the Census of Occupations of 1940 may find.

The occupations, ages, and marital status of the working women have been made known, and the original census data have afforded the Women's Bureau a basis for discovering, for both the single and the married, whether they were living at home or with relatives outside the immediate family, the size of these families and the number of small children they included, how many of the women were entirely responsible for support of the family, and how many shared such responsibility with other women alone or with men and women.

The data tend to underestimate the responsibilities of women, since they show nothing of the contribution women made to dependents outside the family group, and they show nothing of the unemployment of members of the household who normally were wage earners. Even with these omissions the data are evidence that employed women were sharing heavily in the support of their families.

NOTE.—The term "gainfully employed" means "normally a gainful worker." It does not take into account temporary unemployment.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Numbers of women reported.

The material prepared by the Women's Bureau from the 1920 census schedules showed the family status of nearly 40,000 gainfully-employed women in the four selected cities of Passaic, N. J., Butte, Mont., Jacksonville, Fla., and Wilkes-Barre and Hanover Township, Pa. That from the 1930 schedules covers the more than 58,000 gainfully-employed women 16 years of age and over in Fort Wayne, Ind., Bridgeport, Conn., and Richmond, Va. These cities were selected as representative industrial communities in various sections of the country, all having considerable proportions of their women in gainful employment. The proportions of women 16 years of age or more in gainful occupations in the United States and in these cities were as follows:

	Percent
United States	25.3
Fort Wayne, Ind	29.6
Bridgeport, Conn	32.7
Richmond, Va	38.8

Occupations of women reported.

In each city the occupations of women were quite diversified. They were distributed in the characteristic occupational groups of women likely to be found in most cities. Of the nearly 85,000 persons 16 years of age and over in Fort Wayne in 1930, about 13,000 were gainfully-employed women, chiefly in electrical-supply factories, knitting mills, clothing factories, clerical work, domestic and personal service, such professions as teaching and nursing, and the selling trades.

The 17,000 working women of Bridgeport found employment to a greater extent in clothing factories, in the manufacture of electrical machinery and supplies, of iron and steel and their products, and of chemicals, but large numbers were in clerical occupations, in domestic and personal service, in the professions of teaching and nursing, and in the selling trades.

The typical working woman in each of these two northern cities was employed in manufacturing; in Richmond she was working as a domestic in a private home. Though the greatest proportion of Richmond's more than 28,000 employed women were in some branch of domestic and personal service, considerable numbers were in other occupations usually employing many women. This city had a large group of factory-employed women highly concentrated in cigar and tobacco factories.

Age of women reported.

In each city these working women, though mature, were likely to be younger than the rest of the woman population of the city. From one-half to three-fifths of them were 25 and under 55 years of age. The median age of the working women—half older and half younger—is shown by city in the following:

Fort Wayne	28 years
Bridgeport	28 years
Richmond	30 years

Marital status of women reported.

Of every 10 employed women in the two northern cities, 6 were single, 2 were married and living with their husbands, and 2 were

separated, widowed, or divorced; in Richmond only 5 were single, 3 were married, and 2 were widowed, separated, or divorced.

Clerical work or manufacturing was the largest employer of single women, while manufacturing or domestic service was the largest employer of married and widowed and divorced women. The proportion of single women in professional fields far exceeded the proportion of married or widowed and divorced women in professional work.

Nativity and race of women reported.

As the summary following indicates, the employed women in the two northern cities were predominantly native white, though in Bridgeport over a fifth were foreign-born. In Richmond two of every five were Negro.

	Percent native white
United States	71. 6
Fort Wayne	95. 1
Bridgeport	75. 5
Richmond	58. 7

Size of family of women reported.

The families of wage-earning women in the three cities ranged in size from 2 to more than 10 persons. Though small families predominated, a very large number had 4 or more members. The proportion of families that had a woman worker increased directly with size of family. Of all families reported, 1 in every 3 or 4 had an employed woman member; but 2 in 5 of the families of 5 persons, and approximately 3 in 5 of the families of 9 or more persons, included a working woman.

Women reporting support of dependents.

A surprising number of these households were supported entirely by women; in Bridgeport and Fort Wayne about a sixth, and in Richmond something over a fifth, of the families of the wage-earning women had no male wage earners. In Richmond an even larger proportion of Negro families were supported by women.

In many cases the families of working women were dependent on the earnings of one woman, as is indicated by the following statement as to the proportion of women who were the sole support of families.

	Percent responsible for sole support of family
Fort Wayne	10. 5
Bridgeport	10. 3
Richmond	13. 9

The burden of support for dependents was heaviest, of course, on the widowed and divorced women. About 3 in 10 of these women in Richmond and Bridgeport, and 1 in 4 in Fort Wayne, were the sole support of the family in which they lived. Married women were least likely to be solely responsible for family support, but there were many cases, especially among the Negro women, where they were supporting families of considerable size, and these families very often included small children.

Well over half the single women in the study were living with one or both of their parents, but this did not mean that their wages could be used solely for personal adornment or pin money. The parents of 1 in 14 of these single women had no other means of support than the

daughter's earnings. Frequently the household included not only dependent parents but small children also dependent on her earnings.

Employed women homemakers.

One-third of the 58,000 women whose records were studied combined with a job of breadwinner the many tasks and responsibilities of a homemaker. This is approximately the same as the proportion in the United States as a whole. The percentage was somewhat less in Fort Wayne and Bridgeport and somewhat larger in Richmond.

Well over nine-tenths of these homemakers were at work on jobs that took them away from home, in the northern cities most frequently to work in factories, in Richmond to domestic jobs in private homes. They were more highly concentrated in these occupations than other gainfully-occupied women, and much smaller proportions of them were in clerical or professional fields.

Homemakers in the three cities were an older group than the other employed women. Only about a tenth of the homemakers, as compared to approximately two-fifths of all gainfully-occupied women, were under 25. A correspondingly large proportion of the homemakers were women at least 45 years of age. These older women were more likely than the younger groups to work at paid jobs in their own homes—to take in washing or to make a business of lodging and boarding.

Homemakers came from smaller families than the other employed women. As a class, homemakers are not likely to leave young children to take jobs unless the economic situation demands it. The family units in Bridgeport ranged in size from 2 to 10 or more persons. A fifth of the homemakers' families had no men gainful workers and about an eighth were supported entirely by the homemaker. Approximately half the families supported by the homemaker and half those whose support was entirely from women comprised 3 or more persons. In the other cities these proportions differed only slightly. In Richmond 1 in 5 of the homemakers who were the sole support of a family supported 4 or more persons; 1 in 20 were in families with 3 or more small children.

The percentage of homemakers who were the sole support of a family and the percentage whose household included young children are shown in the following:

	Percent of employed homemakers—	
	Who were sole support of family	*Whose household included children under 10 years*
United States	13.7	20.6
Fort Wayne	10.2	20.5
Bridgeport	12.7	24.4
Richmond	14.1	27.7

Part II.—EMPLOYED WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

INTRODUCTION

Of the nearly 85,000 persons 16 years of age and over in the city of Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1930, not far from 44,000 were women. Almost 13,000 of these women were in gainful occupations—practically 30 percent of the total.[1]

Many studies have indicated the large extent to which employed women bear their share in the family support. An analysis of the 1930 census records for Fort Wayne was undertaken to show what manner of women these were who were making a living in that city, and to gain some idea as to what economic responsibilities they were carrying.

Their occupations, ages, and marital status have been made known, and the original census data afford a basis for discovering, both for the single women and those married, whether they were living at home or with relatives outside the immediate family, how many of them were entirely responsible for support of the family and how many shared this responsibility with other women alone or with men and women, and the size of these families and the number of small children they included.

The data show that more than a fifth of the single women who lived in families of 2 or more persons were making or helping to make the living for families having no men wage earners. About 400 of these were the only wage earners in their families, even though many of them lived with one or both parents. In almost 100 instances, too, a married woman constituted the sole support of the family.

Nearly a third of the employed women of Fort Wayne had the work of homemaking as well as a paid job, and the census has now for the first time supplied separate information on homemakers, so that it is possible to discover the kind of work that women did, the number of small children they had, the size of their families, and the extent of the wage-earning burden they bore.

Occupations of gainfully-employed women.

The working women in Fort Wayne in 1930 were distributed throughout the characteristic occupational groups of women that are likely to be found in most cities. Not far from three-tenths of them were in manufacturing and over one-fourth were in clerical pursuits, somewhat less than one-fifth were in domestic and personal service, slightly more than one-eighth in managerial or professional occupations, just over one-tenth in selling trades, and small proportions (less than 3 percent in each case) were at work in their own homes and in telephone and telegraph exchanges. The most important manufacturing industries employing women in this city were

[1] U. S. Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census, 1930: Population, vol. V., pp. 240-245. Only women 16 years of age and over are included in the figures used by the Women's Bureau.

electrical supplies, knit goods, and clothing. The following summary shows the distribution of Fort Wayne women in the chief occupational groups.

Occupation	Women 16 years of age and over	
	Number [1]	Percent
Total	12,897	100.0
Manufacturing	3,614	28.0
Electrical machinery and supply factories	1,575	-----
Knitting mills	861	-----
Clothing factories	530	-----
Clerical occupations	3,308	25.6
Domestic and personal service	2,374	18.4
In private homes	1,029	-----
In hotels, restaurants, etc	563	-----
Managerial and professional service	1,672	13.0
Teachers	783	-----
Trained nurses	505	-----
Selling trades	1,395	10.8
Saleswomen and clerks in stores	1,138	-----
Working in own home	304	2.4
Telephone and telegraph operators	181	1.4
Not elsewhere classified	49	.4

[1] Totals exceed details, as not all occupations classified are shown separately.

Age of gainfully-employed women.

The median age of all the women 16 years of age and over employed in Fort Wayne was just over 28 years, which means that half of them were younger, half older, than this. Fourteen percent were very young—16 and under 20—and one-half as many (7 percent) were 55 years or older, a few of those still in gainful work being as old as 75. Table I in the appendix shows the occupational distribution of the women of various ages. The following summary, taken from table I, shows what large proportions of these employed women were under 25.

Occupation	Percent 16 and under 25 years old
All women	24.0
Women gainfully employed	39.6
Manufacturing	44.5
Clerical occupations	54.2
Domestic and personal service	25.7
Managerial and professional service	31.5
Selling trades	32.2
Working in own home	3.0
Telephone and telegraph operators	56.4
Not elsewhere classified	20.4

On the whole, the women who were employed were much younger than the woman population in general, and only a relatively small group were as old as 55. Only 24 percent of all women in the city were under 25, yet nearly 40 percent of those in gainful occupations were so young. Taking a still younger group, 14 percent of the employed women were 16 and under 20, though only slightly more than 9 percent of all those in the city were of such ages.

Well over one-half of the women in telephone and telegraph service and in clerical occupations were under 25, and very few were as old as 55. Older women were found in the largest proportions among those in domestic and personal service and those in their own homes engaged in such work as taking boarders and doing washing, in which groups

practically one-sixth and three-tenths, respectively, were 55 or older. Young women constituted well over two-fifths of those in manufacturing, roughly one-third of those in the selling trades and in managerial and professional pursuits. In all the occupational groups but the exceptions noted, women as old as 55 were found in relatively small proportions.

Of the women under 25, approximately a third were in manufacturing and a third in clerical occupations; and of the youngest group, those 16 and under 20, about a sixth were in domestic and personal service, a ninth in selling trades.

Turning to women who were considerably older—those of 55 years or more—it is found that much the largest group were in domestic and personal service, well over two-fifths of the older women being so employed, more than half of these at work in private homes. About one-sixth were in manufacturing, over half of these working in clothing factories; more than one-eighth were in managerial and professional positions, almost two-fifths of them teachers; a tenth were in selling trades and another tenth at work in their own homes, half the latter taking in boarders or lodgers and an appreciable group doing washing. Clerical pursuits occupied comparatively few of the older women. (See appendix table I.)

Marital status and occupation.

Of all women in the population about 60 percent were married, but of those gainfully employed only about 27 percent were married.[2]

Manufacturing industries employed more than a third of the married women, the largest group of them in any occupation, though only about a fourth of the single women were in the city's factories.

Single women were employed largely in clerical occupations and in manufacturing, 34 percent and 26 percent, respectively. The selling trades, manufacturing, domestic and personal service, and the home occupations engaged larger proportions of the married than of the single women, while in clerical work, managerial and professional pursuits, and telephone and telegraph occupations single women predominated. The following summary shows the occupational distribution of single women and of those who were married.

Occupation	Percent distribution of— Single women	Married and separated women
All occupations	100. 0	100. 0
Manufacturing	26. 0	33. 5
Clerical occupations	34. 2	16. 1
Domestic and personal service	13. 0	19. 6
Managerial and professional service	16. 7	8. 2
Selling trades	7. 6	16. 9
Working in own home	. 5	4. 1
Telephone and telegraph operators	1. 7	1. 0
Not elsewhere classified	. 2	. 5

The most striking features of the occupational distribution of the other marital group—widowed and divorced—were the very high proportions in domestic and personal service, much higher than for the married women, and the lower proportions of widowed and divorced who were in manufacturing.

[2] Marital-status figures for all women refer to women of 15 and over, as given in the census; those for the gainfully employed are for women of 16 and over. In each case those separated are included with the married women.

Of the women in manufacturing, somewhat similar proportions of the married (including those separated) and the single were in electrical-supply factories, which employed larger groups than did any other industry. The proportion in knitting mills was largest among the single women, while in clothing factories it was largest among married women.

Of the single women in domestic and personal service, not far from three-fifths were at work in private homes (for the most part living in), and about one-sixth were in hotels and restaurants. Of the married women so employed, only about one-fourth were in private homes (as living-in jobs were not suited to them); nearly one-third were in hotels and restaurants and about two-fifths in other occupations, such as hairdressing, power laundries, and so forth. The occupations last named engaged only about a fourth of the single women in this group.

Occupations of various nativity groups of women.

Women who were native white of native parentage formed just over 70 percent of all those 16 years of age and more in the population and nearly 77 percent of those gainfully employed. Twenty-two percent of all women of these ages and about 18 percent of the employed women were native whites at least one of whose parents was foreign-born. In each case foreign-born whites formed small, and Negroes very small, proportions.

One-third of the Negro women in Fort Wayne were gainfully occupied, as were almost as large a proportion of the native white. Only 14.5 percent of the foreign-born white were gainfully employed; some explanation of this may be found in the excess of older women in the foreign-born population, age as well as language difficulties closing the door to many jobs, notably in clerical occupations. Only 18 percent of the Negro women under 20 were employed; only 11 such women had found places in clerical work or in manufacturing. The highest proportion of employed Negro women were in the 45-to-54-year group, while among both native-born and foreign-born white women the highest proportion at work were in the 20-to-24-year group, with a large proportion even in the 16-to-19-year group.

The general occupational distribution of the native white groups differed very little as between those of native parentage and those of foreign or mixed parentage. Somewhat larger proportions of the former were in clerical and managerial and professional occupations or were telephone and telegraph operators, and slightly larger proportions of the latter were in manufacturing and domestic and personal service. In domestic and personal service, larger proportions of those with American-born than of those with foreign-born parents were in hotels or restaurants. Private homes, however, employed nearly half the native white women of foreign parentage but only about two-fifths of those of native parentage.

Of the small group of foreign-born women, not shown separately in the tables in this report, nearly two-fifths were in domestic and personal service, the largest number of these being in private homes, and about one-fourth were in manufacturing. Of the small number of Negroes, also not shown separately, over four-fifths were in domestic and personal service.

RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN FOR THE SUPPORT OF FAMILIES

Responsibility of single women for family support.

The reports show that very many single women were engaged in the serious business of sharing the support of dependents, and there were many cases in which families were entirely dependent on single women for support. The table following shows the data tabulated for the 7,586 single women reported.

Over one-fifth of the single women in families of two or more persons (1,035 in all) were making or helping to make the living for families that had *no men wage earners;* more than three-fourths lived with one or both parents.

The popular idea of a girl at work for "pin money" or for luxuries for herself can no longer be credited as the usual case, not even when she lives with her parents. Almost half of all the single women reported (3,666) were living with one or both parents, but the parents of nearly 1,000 of these girls were not at work. In the families of 651 of these employed women living with parents, there were *no men wage earners.* Though they lived with one or both parents, 299 of these women were the sole wage earners in the family, 251 of them joined with one other woman, and 101 of them joined with two or more women, in the support of the parent or parents.

The responsibility for support falling on single women can be compared for those whose parents were native-born and those who were of foreign or mixed parentage in the following table.

Family status	Total [1]	Native white of—	
		Native parentage	Foreign or mixed parentage
All gainfully-occupied single women	7,586	5,867	1,485
Single women in families of 2 or more persons: [2]			
Number	4,807	3,645	1,073
Percent of all single women	63.4	62.1	72.3
With no men wage earners:			
Number	1,035	681	280
Percent of all single women in families	21.5	18.7	26.1
Woman the sole support of family:			
Number	398	272	114
Percent of all single women in families	8.3	7.5	10.6
Living with parent or parents:			
Number	3,666	2,849	753
Percent of all single women in families	76.3	78.2	70.2
With parents not gainfully occupied:			
Number	994	666	306
Percent of all living with parents	27.1	23.4	40.6
Single women not in families—living alone, boarding, or living with employer [3]	2,779	2,222	412

[1] Totals exceed details, as the small groups of foreign-born and Negro women are not shown separately.
[2] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer, except those with dependent children.
[3] Excludes 1 woman with dependent child or children, transferred to family group.

A larger proportion of the women of foreign or mixed parentage (26.1 percent) than of those of native white parentage (18.7 percent) represented families supported entirely by women. Further, if only those single women who were living with their parents are considered, a larger proportion of those of foreign or mixed (40.6 percent) than of those of native white parentage (23.4 percent) were living with parents who had no gainful employment.

Responsibility of married women for family support.

The reports illustrate the fallacy that marriage is a release from economic responsibility. Though there were considerably less than half as many employed married women as employed single women, in an appreciable number of these married women's families the only wage earners were women. The summary following shows the data for the 3,163 employed married women in families in the city; besides these were some 300 living alone, boarding, or living with employer.

All gainfully-occupied married women [1]	3,469
Married women in families of 2 or more persons: [2]	
Number	3,163
Percent of all married women	91.2
With no men wage earners:	
Number	122
Percent of all married women in families	3.9
Woman the sole support of family	95
Number with children under 10	34
Living with husband	2,989
Husband gainfully employed	2,913
Husband not gainfully employed	76
Married women not in families—living alone, boarding, or living with employer [3]	306

[1] Includes separated women.
[2] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer, except those with dependent children.
[3] Excludes 19 women with dependent children, transferred to family group.

In 122 of these married women's families the only wage earners were women, and in 95 of these the married woman was the only wage earner, 34 of them having children under 10. These facts, in conjunction with the statement that over half the married women reported were employed in manufacturing or in domestic and personal service (see p. 7), give a vivid picture of the serious economic necessity under which these married women were at work.

The husbands of nearly one-tenth of these employed married women (174 in all) were not living with them, and 76 of these had children under 10 years of age.

Of the 2,913 employed married women whose husbands were gainfully employed, 2,032 (practically 70 percent) were working to maintain their homes, the husband and wife being the only wage earners in the family. In 423 of these cases there were children under 10.

Responsibility of widowed and divorced women for family support.

It is not surprising that more than two-fifths (42.5 percent) of the 1,111 employed women who were widowed or divorced and in families of two or more persons were in families having no male earner. Data for these individual women are shown in the following summary.

All gainfully-occupied widowed and divorced women	1,828
Widowed and divorced women in families of 2 or more persons: [1]	
Number	1,111
Percent of all widowed and divorced women	60.8
Women with no men wage earners	472
Percent of all widowed and divorced women in families	42.5
Woman the sole support of a family	285
Number with children under 10	108
Widowed and divorced women not in families—living alone, boarding, or living with employer [2]	717

[1] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer, except those with dependent children.
[2] Excludes 15 women with dependent children, transferred to family group.

Of the 1,111 widowed and divorced women in families, 377 were responsible for children under 10 years of age. There were 285 women who were the only wage earners in families including other members besides themselves.

FAMILIES OF GAINFULLY-EMPLOYED WOMEN IN FORT WAYNE

The reports show many families with women in gainful occupations, many with no male wage earner, and a very considerable number with one woman as the sole wage earner.

Families having women gainfully occupied.

Of 27,565 families [3] in the city, more than a fourth had some woman member in a gainful occupation, 7,496 [3] such families in all. One-fifth of these families with employed women, 1,521 of them, also had a woman head.

Many of these families with employed women were of considerable size, over half of them (3,877) having four persons or more. This was a proportion somewhat greater than that of all families in the city that had as many as four members.

These families with an employed woman member had small children in many cases, 1,891 in all (about a fourth) having children under 10, and 260 families having at least 3 small children, 27 of them 5 or more.

Families with no men wage earners.

There were no men wage earners in practically one-sixth of the families of 2 or more persons that had women at work—in all, 1,154 families. Of these, 192 had children under 10 years of age. Nor were these families, dependent for support solely upon women, necessarily of small size, since 250 of them (over one-fifth) had 4 persons or more; in a number there were at least 3 children under 10 years of age.

In almost 800 families—more than a tenth of all those with a woman member in gainful occupation—the full wage-earning responsibility was borne by only 1 woman. Of these families, 137 had 4 persons or more, and 20 of them had at least 3 children under 10.

In 304 families there were 2 women (and no men) wage earners, and 68 of these (more than one-fifth) had 4 members or more.

Nearly three-tenths of the 1,881 families of 2 persons with a woman gainfully occupied (561 women in all) and nearly one-fifth of the 1,738 such families of 3 persons (343 women in all) were entirely dependent on the woman for support.

If the nativity of the chief wage-earning woman in the Fort Wayne families be considered, 5,704 of them are found to have been families of native white women of native parentage, while in 1,449 the parentage was foreign or mixed. The proportions of families supported

[3] Excludes 1-person families.

only by women were the larger among those of foreign or mixed parentage, as appears in the following:

Family status	Total[1]		Families of native white women of—			
			Native parentage		Foreign or mixed parentage	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All families of wage-earning women	7,496	100.0	5,704	100.0	1,449	100.0
Families supported entirely by women	1,154	15.4	798	14.0	293	20.2
One wage earner	788	10.5	546	9.6	192	13.3
Families of 4 or more persons	137		102		25	
Two wage earners	304	4.1	211	3.7	80	5.5
Families of 4 or more persons	68		51		14	
Three or more wage earners	62	.8	41	.7	21	1.4
Families of 4 or more persons	45		29		16	

[1] Totals exceed details, as the small groups of foreign-born and Negro women are not shown separately.

A larger proportion of the families of foreign or mixed than of those of native parentage were supported by a woman, and in respectively 37 and 46 percent of the cases the woman was homemaker as well as sole wage earner.

The families supported entirely by women tended to run larger among those of women of native than among those of foreign or mixed parentage, 23 percent of the former and 19 percent of the latter consisting of four persons or more.

In the families of four persons or more, slightly larger proportions among those of foreign or mixed parentage than among those of native parentage were entirely supported by women.

Summary as to family support.

Not far from a sixth of the families reported had no man wage earner. Of all the employed women living in families of two or more persons, almost 9 percent were the sole wage earners in such families. Naturally, the differences according to marital status were great, very many more of the widowed and divorced than of the other women being the sole wage earners, as the following shows:

Marital status	*Percent solely responsible for family support*
All women living in families	8.6
Single	8.3
Married and separated	3.0
Widowed and divorced	25.7

It is of interest to compare these figures with data taken 30 years before in the census of 1900, which showed a somewhat larger proportion—13.9 percent—of the employed women living at home in 27 selected cities to be the sole family wage earners. The cities reported in 1900 that were geographically nearest Fort Wayne were Chicago and Detroit, in which respectively 14.3 percent and 11.7 percent of the women were the sole wage earners in their families.[4]

[4] U. S. Bureau of the Census. Statistics of Women at Work. Based on unpublished information derived from schedules of the Twelfth Census: 1900. pp. 208, 310, 328.

GAINFULLY-EMPLOYED HOMEMAKERS IN FORT WAYNE

Up to the present point, the discussion in regard to Fort Wayne has included all gainfully-occupied women. Of the 12,897 women so reported in this city, nearly a third bore the homemaking responsibility for their families besides being wage earners; in all, just over 4,000 women had this double job.[5]

Occupations of homemakers and of other employed women.

Table II in the appendix shows the chief occupations engaged in by homemakers and by other employed women in Fort Wayne, and the following summary makes this comparison possible and also a comparison of homemakers' occupations in Fort Wayne with those in urban United States as a whole.

Occupational group	Percent distribution of—		
	Homemakers in—		All other gainfully-occupied women in Fort Wayne
	Urban United States [1]	Fort Wayne	
All occupations [2]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Manufacturing	22.4	30.8	26.7
Selling trades	8.1	15.6	8.6
Clerical occupations	16.0	15.3	30.4
Managerial and professional service	10.3	10.0	14.3
Domestic and personal service	27.6	20.1	17.6
Working in own home	9.7	6.7	[3]

[1] U. S. Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census, 1930: vol. VI, p. 31. The classifications used by the Census differ somewhat from those used by the Women's Bureau, and are as follows: Industrial workers; saleswomen; office workers; professional workers; and servants, waitresses, and so forth.
[2] Totals exceed details, as not all minor groups are shown separately.
[3] Less than 0.05 percent.

The occupational distribution differed considerably as between the employed homemakers and other women who had jobs. Among the homemakers, the largest group (including not far from a third of these women) were in manufacturing, with domestic and personal service next, engaged in by one-fifth. Women who were not homemakers were employed in largest numbers in clerical work (not far from a third of them), with manufacturing a fairly close second. The proportions in clerical and in managerial and professional work were smaller among homemakers than among other employed women, while all other occupations were engaged in more largely by homemakers.

In manufacturing, the largest groups were in electrical machinery and supply factories, nearly two-thirds of these women being nonhomemakers. Knitting mills engaged the next largest group of nonhomemakers, and the third largest number were in clothing factories.

[5] Eliminating 1-person families (women living alone), 3,593 women. In the discussion, 1-person families will be eliminated where the question of support or family responsibility arises, in cases in which the material has been so tabulated that it is possible to omit them. Where comparison is made with data for the United States, however, the 1-person families have been left in, since they cannot always be eliminated from census data for the United States. The slight differences throughout the report are due to differences in methods of tabulation by the census and by the Women's Bureau, and do not seriously affect the picture. When it was possible to get unpublished information from the census—as, for example, occupation of homemaker correlated with age—such information was used. Data not correlated by the census were tabulated in the Women's Bureau.

In domestic and personal work, nearly a third of the homemakers were in hotels and restaurants, cooks forming the largest group, many also being waitresses. One-fourth of all the homemakers were employed in private homes. An appreciable number were beauty-shop operators.

In contrast to this, well over half the nonhomemakers in domestic and personal service were in private homes, the great majority of them living in; a slightly larger proportion were waitresses than was the case with homemakers.

In the selling trades, of course, the large groups were saleswomen and clerks in retail stores, and not far from 60 percent of these were nonhomemakers. On the other hand, homemakers predominated among the owners of the shops.

In professional work teachers and trained nurses predominated, and in each of these occupations the great majority were not responsible for homemaking in addition to the other job.

Nine-tenths of the 304 women who were at work in their own homes also were the homemakers. The largest group of these (129) had boarders or lodgers, 63 did washing, and 62 were doing sewing, knitting, or millinery, chiefly on their own account. In only 1 case was it obvious that this home work was obtained from a factory.

If the occupational distribution of Fort Wayne homemakers be compared with that of all employed homemakers in urban United States, it is found that Fort Wayne had larger proportions than had all urban United States in manufacturing industries and selling trades, but smaller proportions in work at home and in domestic and personal service. Fort Wayne approximated urban United States conditions more nearly in the managerial and professional work and the clerical work among its employed homemakers than in the other types of work just mentioned.

Age of gainfully-employed homemakers.

It is not surprising that the younger women—those under 25—ordinarily were found in considerably larger proportions among all employed women in Fort Wayne than among the employed homemakers, and that larger proportions of homemakers than of all women were 45 or more.

Employed homemakers tended to be younger in Fort Wayne than in urban United States as a whole in manufacturing and clerical occupations, larger proportions of them being under 25 years of age than was the case for all cities. Generally, smaller proportions of the homemakers in Fort Wayne were 45 and over. In the service group, in the selling trades, and in the professions, however, the proportions of women under 25 were somewhat less for Fort Wayne than for urban United States. Moreover, in the service group a considerably larger proportion of Fort Wayne homemakers than of those in all United States cities were 45 or older.

The table following shows the proportions of women in the various occupations at the ages discussed.

Occupational group	Percent of women in occupation specified who were—					
	Under 25 years of age			45 years of age and over		
	Employed homemakers in—		All gainfully-employed women in Fort Wayne	Employed homemakers in—		All gainfully-employed women in Fort Wayne
	Urban United States [1]	Fort Wayne [1]		Urban United States [1]	Fort Wayne [1]	
All classes [2]	11.6	14.0	39.6	30.5	29.7	17.7
Employed at home	3.6	1.3	3.0	52.4	60.6	57.9
Employed away from home:						
Industrial workers	14.0	18.8	44.5	26.0	23.0	13.4
Servants, waitresses, etc	9.4	6.5	25.7	33.1	44.1	34.0
Office workers	22.1	27.4	54.2	14.0	11.0	4.8
Saleswomen	11.5	11.3	32.2	26.7	25.8	21.4
Professional workers	8.0	6.9	31.5	33.3	31.4	20.2

[1] From unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census.
[2] Totals exceed details, as some occupations are not shown separately.

Employed homemakers' families dependent for support entirely on women.

In families having no men wage earners, it is obvious that the employed women, whether homemakers or not, have great economic responsibility. Almost one-sixth of the 3,593 families of employed homemakers in Fort Wayne had no men wage earners, 586 families in all depending entirely on women. The proportions of all families and of homemakers' families in Fort Wayne that had no men wage earners were practically the same.[6]

When it is remembered that only about 13 percent of all homemakers in Fort Wayne were employed, it is of interest to note that the homemaker was gainfully occupied in 48 percent of the families that had women gainful workers and in 51 percent of the families having no men wage earners.

Nor were these families that had no men wage earners always small. Just over 100 of them were of 4 persons or more, and 16 of them had at least 3 children under 10 years of age. The following summary shows the size of the homemakers' families compared with those of all employed women (whether or not homemakers) who represented households with no men at work.

Type of family	Families of employed homemakers				
	Total	With no men wage earners		With homemaker sole wage earner	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All families of 2 or more persons	3,593	586	100.0	352	100.0
Families of 4 or more persons	1,052	101	17.2	62	17.6
Having 3 or more children under 10	91	16	2.7	15	4.3

The employed homemaker herself was the only wage earner in practically a tenth of the employed homemakers' families, 352 of them in all. Whether for all gainfully-occupied women or for employed

[6] Exclusive of 1-person families in each case.

homemakers in Fort Wayne, or for all employed homemakers in the United States, fairly similar proportions of families of two or more persons had a woman as their sole wage earner; the following shows the proportions of these families that had a woman as the only wage-earning member:

	With a woman sole wage earner
Percent of families of all employed women in Fort Wayne	10. 5
Percent of families of employed homemakers—	
In Fort Wayne	9. 8
In United States	13. 7

In many cases the gainfully-employed homemaker who also was the sole wage earner was catering to a family of considerable size. Sixty-two of these families had four or more persons, and 15 of them had at least three small children. It is not easy to realize the heavy responsibility borne by a woman who is the homemaker and the only wage-earning member of a family having three children under 10 years of age.

Occupations of homemakers who were the sole wage earners in their families.

The various occupations in which homemakers who were the sole wage earners in their families were engaged are shown in the following summary:

Occupation of homemaker	All homemakers in Fort Wayne in families of 2 or more persons	Homemakers sole gainful workers in families of 2 or more persons			
		Fort Wayne		United States	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All occupations	[1] 3,571	[1] 364	10. 2	[1] 452,106	13. 7
Employed at home:					
Agricultural workers	3			51,332	14. 2
Other	227	39	17. 2	52,905	18. 5
Employed away from home:					
Professional workers	247	32	13. 0	30,578	13. 2
Office workers	571	46	8. 1	44,424	10. 4
Industrial workers	1,261	120	9. 5	71,300	10. 9
Servants, waitresses, etc	599	79	13. 2	124,570	15. 0
Saleswomen	484	31	6. 4	25,314	10. 5
Other	179	17	9. 5	42,674	10. 7

[1] See footnote 5, p. 13. Limited to homemakers in white and Negro households.

In three occupation groups well over a tenth of the Fort Wayne homemakers employed were the sole wage earners in their families—those employed at home in nonagricultural pursuits, those who were servants, waitresses, or in allied jobs, and professional workers. In several of the occupation groups the proportions of homemakers who were the sole family wage earners were fairly similar in Fort Wayne and the United States as a whole.

Size of family of the gainfully-employed homemakers in various occupations.

The families of employed homemakers showed some tendency to be small rather than large, more than three-fifths of them consisting of two or three persons (counting the employed homemaker herself).

However, nearly one-fourth of the families had from four to seven persons, and almost 2 percent had eight or more, as may be seen from the following summary.

Occupation of homemaker	Total families with gainfully-occupied homemakers	Number of families of—				Percent of total families of—			
		1 person	2 or 3 persons	4 to 7 persons	8 or more persons	1 person	2 or 3 persons	4 to 7 persons	8 or more persons
All occupations	[1] 4,060	480	2,533	979	59	12.0	62.4	24.1	1.5
Employed at home:									
Agricultural workers	3	------	3	------	------	------	100.0	------	------
Other	307	80	139	79	9	26.1	45.3	25.7	2.9
Employed away from home:									
Professional workers	318	71	198	46	3	22.3	62.3	14.5	.9
Office workers	643	72	473	96	2	11.2	73.6	14.9	.3
Industrial workers	1,369	108	904	342	15	7.9	66.0	25.0	1.1
Servants, waitresses, etc	696	97	376	207	16	13.9	54.0	29.7	2.3
Saleswomen	512	28	326	148	10	5.5	63.7	28.9	2.0
Other	212	33	114	61	4	15.6	53.8	28.8	1.9

[1] Limited to white and Negro households.

Small families of homemakers were found in the largest proportions among office workers, with industrial workers, saleswomen, and professional workers following in the order named. Large families were found in the largest proportions among the servants, waitresses, and so forth, and the saleswomen.

Where the homemaker was gainfully occupied, a much larger proportion of the families were small—of only two or three persons—than was the case with the families of all employed women in Fort Wayne, half of which had four or more members. This comparison for small families is as follows:

	All families [1]	Families of 2 or 3 persons	
		Number	Percent
Total, all classes	27,565	14,839	53.8
Families with an employed woman	7,490	3,619	48.3
Families with an employed homemaker	3,593	2,541	70.7

[1] Excludes 1-person families.

If size of family of homemakers in the various occupations in Fort Wayne be compared with that of homemakers in the entire United States, the proportions with small families will be found quite similar.

Families of employed homemakers that had small children.

In all, there were 11,135 families in Fort Wayne that had children under 10 years of age, and in less than 7 percent of these families was the homemaker gainfully occupied.

However, there were more than 700 women with small children who had the double job of wage earner and homemaker. This means that practically a fifth of the employed homemakers had children under 10. This is smaller than the proportions with young children among families of all women at work in Fort Wayne and among families of all gainfully-employed homemakers in the United States.

Of the employed homemakers in Fort Wayne, 94 were working to help support 3 or more small children, and 7 of them had as many as

5 such children. In 23 cases the homemaker was the sole support of herself and 1 small child, and all but 1 of these women were working away from home to earn such support. The following table shows the occupations of these employed homemakers.

Families of employed homemakers with children under 10 years of age, by occupation of the homemaker [1]

Occupation of homemaker	Number of homemakers' families of 2 or more persons	Number of homemakers' families with—			Percent of homemakers' families in—			Percent distribution of homemakers' families with children under 10	
		Children under 10 (total)	2 persons, 1 a child under 10	3 or more children under 10	Fort Wayne		United States		
					With children under 10	With 3 or more children under 10	With children under 10	Fort Wayne	United States
All occupations	3,571	732	23	94	20.5	2.6	29.6	100.0	100.0
Employed at home:									
Agricultural workers	3	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	47.3	-------	17.4
Other	227	72	1	14	31.7	6.2	35.1	9.8	10.3
Employed away from home:									
Professional workers	247	41	1	1	16.6	(2)	20.2	5.6	6.2
Office workers	571	66	3	2	11.6	(2)	15.0	9.0	6.6
Industrial workers	1,261	256	10	28	20.3	2.2	30.7	35.0	20.6
Servants, waitresses, etc	599	156	4	30	26.0	5.0	30.7	21.3	24.6
Saleswomen	484	99	4	12	20.5	2.5	22.6	13.5	5.6
Other	179	42	-------	7	23.5	3.9	33.7	5.7	8.8

[1] See footnote 5, p. 13. Table limited to white and Negro households.
[2] Less than 0.05 percent.

The responsibility for children under 10 was borne by large proportions of the homemakers working at home (nearly a third), of those who were servants, waitresses, and in allied occupations (more than a fourth), and of those in manufacturing and sales occupations (practically a fifth in each case). The occupation in which the smallest proportion of women had children under 10 was the office group, but even in this case well over a tenth had young children.

If occupations of homemakers be compared for those with and those without small children, the greatest difference is found in the proportion in office work, only 9 percent of the homemakers with young children, but 18 percent of those without, being so engaged. On the other hand, higher proportions of homemakers with young children were engaged in work at home other than agricultural and as servants, waitresses, or in allied work.

A comparison of homemakers in Fort Wayne and those in the United States as a whole shows for the occupations specified that the proportions of women who had little children differed by only 2 to 5 points except for industrial workers, of whom 30.7 percent in the entire United States but only 20.3 percent in Fort Wayne had children under 10.

Nativity of employed homemakers.

Over 90 percent of the employed homemakers in Fort Wayne, as compared to about 60 percent in the United States as a whole, were from native white households. There were only 201 foreign-born and

136 Negro homemakers employed in Fort Wayne. In general this was due to the situation in the population as a whole, Fort Wayne being predominantly native white.

Nativity	Employed homemakers		Percent distribution of all employed women
	Number	Percent distribution	
Total	4,060	100.0	100.0
Native white	3,723	91.7	95.1
Foreign-born white	201	5.0	2.8
Negro	136	3.3	2.1

This summary shows that the families of the employed homemakers in Fort Wayne were native white in a smaller proportion, and were foreign-born and Negro in somewhat larger proportions, than was the case with all gainfully-employed women in the city.

The groups of servants and waitresses and of women at work at home in nonagricultural occupations had the largest proportions of foreign-born homemakers, but even these were only about 7 percent. The servants and waitresses also had the largest proportion of employed Negro homemakers, nearly 14 percent, but even this group numbered less than 100.

Women heads of employed homemakers' families.

Of the families of gainfully-employed homemakers in Fort Wayne, more than 1,200 had women at the head. This is very significant when it is realized that the tendency of most enumerators probably would be to report as the head any man connected with the family who lived under the same roof, such as a son-in-law, unemployed husband, or young brother, though this rule did not hold invariably. However, though 40 percent of the employed homemakers' families in the entire United States were headed by women, only 31 percent of such families in Fort Wayne had women heads.[7]

Families of employed homemakers that had lodgers.

Of the families with gainfully-occupied homemakers, practically a fifth had lodgers, and the proportion ran considerably higher among those whose homemaker was employed at home than among those in which she had a job away from home.

Where lodgers were taken by a homemaker with a gainful occupation at home, it was also much more usual to have a considerable number of lodgers than where the homemaker went out to work, though 126 of the latter group had 3 or more lodgers. Lodgers numbered 6 or more in 38 families where the homemaker had a job at home and in 24 where her employment took her outside.

Of the 3,869 families with gainfully-occupied women other than the homemakers, only about one-tenth took lodgers and only 1 percent had as many as 3 lodgers.

[7] These figures include women living alone, since they cannot be subtracted from the United States figures. Excluding the woman-1-person families (nearly 500) in Fort Wayne still leaves about 750 with women at the head among employed homemakers' families of 2 or more persons.

Part III.—EMPLOYED WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT IN BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

INTRODUCTION

In Bridgeport, a New England industrial city of 103,000 inhabitants 16 years of age and over in 1930, some 17,000 women were wage earners. This figure represents almost one-third of the woman-population of the city.[1]

Over 6,200 of these employed women (36 percent) were in factories, principally engaged in the manufacture of clothing, of electrical machinery and supplies, and of iron and steel, machinery and vehicles. Clerical occupations employed about 4,000 women (24 percent) and domestic and personal service 2,600 (15 percent). About an eighth of the total were engaged in managerial or professional work, and an appreciable number were saleswomen and clerks in the selling trades.

The stake these women had in the economic life of the 10,869 families of which they were members[2] is indicated by the statistics in census tables. In more than one-seventh of these families there were no men wage earners, and in one-tenth of them a woman worker was the sole support of the family.

About 64 percent of all the women wage earners were single. Though a large proportion of the single girls and women lived with one or both parents, in many cases the burden of their responsibility was increased rather than decreased by that fact. Almost 1,900 of these women lived with parent or parents who were not employed. Some 336 single girls were the sole support of their mothers.

The more than 4,200 married and separated women at work comprised a fourth of the total. A tenth of their families had no men working. Almost half of the 236 married women who were the sole support of their families had small children.

Twelve hundred widowed and divorced women lived in family groups. As would be expected, they present the most striking picture of responsibility for family support. Twenty-nine percent of them were the sole support of their families, and almost a third of the groups included children under 10 years of age.

[1] U. S. Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census, 1930: Population, vol. V, p. 62. Only women 16 years of age and over are included in the figures used by the Women's Bureau.

[2] 32 percent of all the families of 2 or more persons in Bridgeport.

Occupations of gainfully-employed women.

The tabulation following shows the main occupational groups in which women were employed:

Occupation	Women 16 years of age and over	
	Number [1]	Percent
Total	17,066	100.0
Manufacturing	6,217	36.4
Clothing factories	1,964	-----
Electrical machinery and supply factories	1,236	-----
Iron and steel, machinery and vehicle factories	1,027	-----
Chemicals and allied products factories	539	-----
Clerical occupations	4,040	23.7
Domestic and personal service	2,601	15.2
In private homes	1,538	-----
In hotels, restaurants, etc	305	-----
Managerial and professional service	2,109	12.4
Teachers	1,114	-----
Trained nurses	677	-----
Selling trades	1,384	8.1
Saleswomen and clerks in stores	1,171	-----
Working in own home	256	1.5
Telephone and telegraph operators	359	2.1
Not elsewhere classified	100	.6

[1] Totals exceed details, as not all occupations classified are shown separately.

Bridgeport is essentially a manufacturing city with a large foreign-born labor supply to man its factories. More than one-third of the 17,000 employed women were listed as operatives or laborers in factories. The largest group of factory-employed women—more than 1,900—worked in the manufacture of some kind of clothing. The making of corsets accounted for the employment of practically half the women in clothing factories.

Electrical machinery and supplies employed the second largest group of women, 1,236, and iron and steel, machinery and vehicles, ranked third with over 1,000. Chemicals and allied products, the textile industries, and metal industries other than iron and steel together employed only about 1,200 women.

Clerical occupations ranked next to manufacturing, employing almost a fourth of all working women. Domestic and personal service employed 15 percent, a much smaller proportion than that for the United States as a whole. Almost three-fifths of those in domestic and personal service worked in private homes; less than one-eighth were in hotels and restaurants.

One-eighth of all women were in managerial or professional work. As in the total United States, over half these women were teachers and the next largest group were trained nurses.

The selling trades employed one-twelfth of all gainfully-occupied women in the city, 85 percent of them being saleswomen or clerks in stores. About 6 percent were the owners of retail stores.

About 2 percent of all employed women were telephone or telegraph operators.

A small number of women, 256, were carrying on some gainful occupation within their homes. Only 11 of these women were doing work given out by a factory. Most of them were taking boarders or lodgers and a considerable number were doing sewing, knitting, or millinery at home as independent workers.

Age of gainfully-employed women.

Less than one-fourth of all women in Bridgeport were under 25 years of age, but more than two-fifths of the women who had a gainful occupation were under 25; in fact, more than one-fifth of the employed women were under 20, though girls below 20 constituted only one-ninth of the woman-population. Conversely, the proportion of working women who were 45 and over was only about half the proportion in the general population who were at least 45.

Of the gainfully-occupied women in the United States as a whole, a considerably smaller proportion than in Bridgeport were under 25. The percent distribution by age of the women 16 years old or more in Bridgeport and in the United States as a whole may be compared in the following:

Age	Bridgeport		United States
	All women	Employed women	Employed women
16, under 25 years	23.4	42.8	36.1
25, under 45 years	44.3	40.5	43.1
45 years and over	32.3	16.7	20.7

Among the various occupations of employed women, in every age group but the oldest women were found in largest proportions in manufacturing. The older women, 55 years and over, were employed in somewhat larger numbers in domestic and personal service occupations, though this class of employment claimed fewer than did clerical in the 25-and-under-55-year group, and fewer than either clerical or managerial and professional in the under-25-year group. (See appendix table III.)

The selling trades drew principally from the women who were 25 and under 55, over half of all women in the industry being in that age group. Less than one-twelfth of the saleswomen had reached the age of 55. More striking is the predominance of youth among clerical workers and telephone and telegraph operators. Well over half the employees in these types of work were under 25 years old, and less than 2 percent were as much as 55.

It is not surprising that two-fifths of the women who were taking boarders and doing washing in their own homes were 55 or older.

The following summary is taken from appendix table III, which shows the occupational distribution of younger and older groups of employed women.

	Percent 16 and under 25 years old
All women	23.4
Women gainfully employed	42.8
Manufacturing	46.6
Clerical occupations	54.4
Domestic and personal service	26.6
Managerial and professional service	34.7
Selling trades	38.4
Working in own home	3.1
Telephone and telegraph operators	57.1
Not elsewhere classified	46.0

Marital status and occupation.

From the following summary it may be seen that in Bridgeport the proportion of employed women who were single was considerably higher, the proportion widowed or divorced much lower, than among employed women in the United States as a whole.

Marital status	Bridgeport		United States—Percent
	Number	Percent	
Total reported [1]	17,038	100.0	100.0
Single	10,996	64.6	53.9
Married and separated	4,231	24.8	28.9
Widowed and divorced	1,811	10.6	17.2

[1] In Bridgeport women of 16 years and over; in the United States, women of 15 and over, as given by the census.

Of all women in the population of Bridgeport about three-fifths were married, but only a fourth of the women in gainful employment were married.

A relatively small proportion of the employed married women in Bridgeport lived in families with no male wage earner, but examination of the occupations they entered is evidence of the need of married women for employment. Compared with single women, the married women entered the less attractive occupations. Almost one-third of the single women reported clerical occupations and one-sixth were employed in managerial and professional work—occupations affording some creative opportunity—but the proportions of married women so employed were one-eighth and one-twentieth, respectively. Nearly half the married and less than a third of the single women were in manufacturing. A larger proportion of married than of single women were engaged in domestic and personal service and in selling trades.

Occupational group	Percent distribution of—		
	Single women	Married and separated women	Widowed and divorced women
All occupations	100.0	100.0	100.0
Manufacturing	32.0	48.5	35.0
Clerical occupations	30.7	12.2	7.8
Domestic and personal service	10.7	19.0	33.7
Managerial and professional service	16.1	5.0	6.7
Selling trades	7.1	10.3	9.2
Working in own home	.4	2.5	5.8
Telephone and telegraph operators	2.4	1.7	1.0
Not elsewhere classified	.5	.7	.7

The foregoing shows also the relatively high proportions of widows who were in domestic service and working in their own homes.

The 85 married women whose husbands were not gainfully employed had a much higher proportion in domestic service and a lower proportion in clerical work than married women whose husbands were employed. Divorced women were engaged in clerical work to a greater extent than were widows, a variation probably due chiefly to age.

Occupations of various nativity groups of women.

Three-fourths of the gainfully-employed women were native white, but the great majority of these native white women were of foreign or mixed parentage. About a fifth of the total were foreign-born, and some 450—less than 3 percent—were Negro.

Factory workers were much the largest group among the foreign-born (over 50 percent) and the native white women of foreign or mixed parentage (nearly 40 percent), but those of native parentage had their largest proportion in clerical work.

There is little difference between women with native parents and those with foreign parents in the proportion employed in clerical occupations, each with about 30 percent. Few of the foreign-born and less than 1 percent of the Negro women were doing clerical work. The list following summarizes these variations, and those in manufacturing and in managerial and professional work.

General nativity and race	Percent of each nativity group in—		
	Manufacturing occupations	Clerical occupations	Managerial and professional service
Native white	32.7	29.3	15.0
Native parentage	19.8	29.0	21.0
Foreign or mixed parentage	39.2	29.0	11.0
Foreign-born white	52.3	7.0	4.5
Negro	11.5	.9	2.2

In managerial and professional work the limitations of language and race operate to reduce the employment of the foreign-born. More than one-fifth of the women of native parentage, but less than one-eighth of the native-born of foreign parentage and less than one-twentieth of the foreign-born, were engaged in these types of work. Among the native-born women, the greatest number were teachers; among the foreign-born, trained nurses outnumbered teachers considerably.

More than three-fourths of the Negro women worked in domestic or personal service, most of them servants in private homes. Only a tenth of the native white women, but something over a fourth of the foreign-born, were in domestic service.

The selling trades and telephone or telegraph occupations drew largely from native white women, though 7 percent of all the foreign-born were in sales work.

RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN FOR THE SUPPORT OF FAMILIES

Responsibility of single women for family support.

Of the 11,000 single women at work in Bridgeport, over 8,900 were in family groups of two or more persons, the very great majority living with one or both parents. The following discussion considers chiefly these women, who were an integral part of a family group.

A sixth of all these single women in families were in groups with no men gainful workers. Of those families where a single woman was living with her mother, almost half had no men gainfully employed.

Where the father or both parents were in the family group, this proportion was, of course, much smaller.

Though 7,663, seven-tenths of all single working women in the city, lived with one or both parents, many of these women had heavy responsibilities. Almost a fifth (336) of those living with their mothers were the sole support of the family.

More than 6 percent of the 8,900 women living in families were the sole support of the home. Though the families with young children were likely to include an employed man, the sole gainful worker was a single woman in 21 families having children under 10 years of age.

As the following shows, women of native parentage were less likely than those of foreign or mixed parentage to be living with their parents, but they were more likely to be in families with no men employed and to be the sole support of the family. The family status of foreign-born women, not shown here, approximates that of women of foreign or mixed parentage.

Family status	Total [1]	Native white of—	
		Native parentage	Foreign or mixed parentage
All gainfully-occupied single women	10,996	2,810	6,697
Single women in families of 2 or more persons:[2]			
Number	8,920	2,124	5,857
Percent of all single women	81.1	75.6	87.5
With no men wage earners:			
Number	1,461	474	837
Percent of all single women in families	16.4	22.3	14.3
Woman the sole support of family:			
Number	556	206	299
Percent of all single women in families	6.2	9.7	5.1
Living with parent or parents:			
Number	7,663	1,765	5,170
Percent of all single women in families	86.0	83.1	88.3
With parents not gainfully occupied:			
Number	1,887	494	1,241
Percent of all living with parents	24.6	28.0	24.0
Single women not in families—living alone, boarding, or living with employer	2,076	686	840

[1] Totals exceed details, as the small groups of foreign-born and Negro women are not shown separately.
[2] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer; none of these had dependent children.

Responsibility of married women for family support.

Something over a fifth of all employed married women in Bridgeport lived in families in which the husband either was not living at home or was not a gainful worker. Some 230 of these women were the sole support of families, and nearly one-half of these families included children less than 10 years old. More than 300 women were in families having no men at work.

That about 1 in every 4 of the 3,335 working women whose husbands also were employed had children under 10 indicates that economic necessity was the reason for their employment.[3] Almost nine-tenths of these women whose husbands were employed were maintaining a home, while well over two-thirds of those whose husbands were not at home were living with or maintaining a home with relatives.

[3] See p. 23 for the occupational distribution of married women.

The following summarizes the status of married women who were the whole or partial support of a family.

All gainfully-occupied married women [1]	4,231
Married women in families of 2 or more persons: [2]	
Number	3,890
Percent of all married women	91.9
Women with no men wage earners:	
Number	319
Percent of all married women in families	8.2
Woman the sole support of family	236
Number with children under 10	110
Living with husband	3,420
Husband gainfully employed	3,335
Husband not gainfully employed	85
Married women not in families—living alone, boarding, or living with employer [3]	341

[1] Includes separated women.
[2] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer, except those with dependent children.
[3] Excludes 21 women with dependent children, transferred to family group.

Responsibility of widowed and divorced women for family support.

It is not surprising that a large proportion, 29 percent, of the 1,186 employed widows and divorced women who were living in family groups were the sole support of a family. As the following shows, almost a third of these families included young children. Practically half the gainfully-occupied widows were in families that had no men assisting in the support of the family.

All gainfully-occupied widowed and divorced women	1,811
Widowed and divorced women in families of 2 or more persons: [1]	
Number	1,186
Percent of all widowed and divorced women	65.5
Women with no men wage earners	567
Percent of all widowed and divorced women in families	47.8
Woman the sole support of family	338
Number with children under 10	107
Widowed and divorced women not in families—living alone, boarding, or living with employer [2]	625

[1] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer, except those with dependent children.
[2] Excludes 7 women with dependent children, transferred to family group.

FAMILIES OF GAINFULLY-EMPLOYED WOMEN IN BRIDGEPORT

The census data show many thousands of families with employed women and many hundreds supported entirely by women.

Families having women gainfully occupied.

The employed women in Bridgeport came from 10,869 families, almost a third of all the families in the city. The family of a gainfully-occupied woman was most likely to consist of three persons, though the most common size among all families was two persons. The summary following shows that the larger the family the more likely it was to have its women members employed.

Thus it is that only about a fourth of all two- or three-person families in the city had a gainfully-employed woman, but from two-fifths of the families of six, seven, or eight persons to well over one-half of those of nine or more persons included women who were gainfully occupied.

Size of family	Families with gainfully employed women: Number	Families with gainfully employed women: Percent of all families of size specified
Total	10,869	32.4
2 and 3 persons	4,362	27.7
4 and 5 persons	3,698	32.4
6, 7, and 8 persons	2,256	41.8
9 or more persons	553	55.9

Almost three-fourths of the families of 2 or more persons with women working had no children under 10 years of age. About one-fourth of these families (2,966) had small children under 10, 445 families having at least three small children, 47, five or more.

There was a woman at the head in the case of 5,100 families, one-seventh of all the families in Bridgeport in 1930, and not far from two-thirds of these families with a woman head included an employed woman.

Families with no men wage earners.

One in every 7 of the families of 2 or more persons that had employed women members were without the assistance of a gainfully-employed man. These 1,677 families supported solely by women included 299 with small children. One in every 10 of all families were supported solely by one woman. The families supported by one woman included 239 with children less than 10 years old.

About half the families having an employed woman included at least two persons who were not gainful workers. Over two-fifths of the families supported solely by a woman included at least two other persons.

Family status	Total[1]		Families of women of—					
			Native white parentage		Foreign or mixed white parentage		Foreign birth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All families of wage-earning women	10,869	100.0	2,588	100.0	5,340	100.0	2,664	100.0
Families supported entirely by women	1,677	15.4	475	18.4	726	13.6	422	15.8
1 wage earner	1,124	10.3	349	13.5	462	8.6	274	10.3
Families of 4 or more persons	191	-------	47	-------	66	-------	65	-------
2 wage earners	443	4.1	103	4.0	214	4.0	111	4.2
Families of 4 or more persons	129	-------	26	-------	64	-------	32	-------
3 or more wage earners	110	1.0	23	.9	50	.9	37	1.4
Families of 4 or more persons	85	-------	20	-------	36	-------	29	-------

[1] Totals exceed details, as the small groups of Negro women are not shown separately.

Considered by nativity groups, the families of foreign-born women with no men working or with one woman as sole support of the family were much larger, and in more cases included young children, than was the case in native families. While less than 18 percent of all families with no men at work included children under 10, 27 percent

of such families of foreign-born women were so reported. The summary following shows that one-third of the families supported by one woman of foreign birth included small children, while less than a sixth of the families supported by a native white woman had such children.

Family status	Total[1]		Families of women of—			
			Native birth		Foreign birth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All families with one woman sole support	1,124	100.0	811	100.0	274	100.0
Families with children under 10	239	21.3	129	15.9	91	33.2
Families with 2 or more children under 10	83	7.4	38	4.7	33	12.0
Families of 4 or more persons	191	17.0	113	13.9	65	23.7

[1] Totals exceed details, as the small groups of Negro women are not shown separately.

Almost a fourth of the families having one foreign-born woman as sole support consisted of four or more persons, but only one in every seven of the families supported by a native woman were so large.

Summary as to family support.

The status of women in Bridgeport with regard to their family responsibilities differed somewhat from such status as found in the other cities in this report. Based in part on differences in nationality, such variations do not alter the fact—a matter of common knowledge—that in all cities and at all times large numbers of women are engaged in the business of sharing the support of dependents and in many cases families depend entirely on women for support. In Bridgeport a tenth of all the employed women living in groups were the entire support of their families. This proportion, which was only 6 percent for the single and the married or separated women, was 28½ percent in the case of women who were widowed or divorced.

Marital status	*Percent solely responsible for family support*
Total	10.3
Single	6.2
Married and separated	6.1
Widowed and divorced	28.5

GAINFULLY-EMPLOYED HOMEMAKERS IN BRIDGEPORT

Turning to a consideration of the women workers who not only were breadwinners for their families but bore the homemaking responsibility,[4] it is found that this group represented one in every seven families in Bridgeport.

[4] Eliminating 1-person families (women living alone), 4,588 women. See footnote 5, p. 13.

Occupations of homemakers and of other employed women.

Table IV in the appendix compares the principal occupations of homemakers with those of other employed women. As the following summary shows, the occupational distributions of the two groups differ considerably.

Occupational group	Percent distribution of—		
	Homemakers in—		All other gainfully-occupied women in Bridgeport
	Urban United States [1]	Bridgeport	
All occupations [2]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Manufacturing	22.4	45.3	32.4
Selling trades	8.1	9.3	7.6
Clerical occupations	16.0	12.8	28.6
Managerial and professional service	10.3	7.7	14.5
Domestic and personal service	27.0	18.8	13.7
Working in own home	9.7	4.1	.3

[1] See footnote 1, p. 13.
[2] Totals exceed details, as not all minor groups are shown separately.

The occupational distribution of homemakers approximated that of employed married women.[6] Not far from half the homemakers found employment in Bridgeport's factories, though less than a third of other employed women were in this type of work. The proportion of homemakers who were in clerical or in managerial and professional work was only half as great as the proportion of other working women in these occupations.

One in 25 of the homemakers carried on their gainful work at home, usually taking in boarders or lodgers, while only 1 in 300 of other women were at work in their own homes.

In manufacturing, the largest group of homemakers were in electrical machinery and supply shops. Almost as great a number were in the corset factories, the industry that ranked fourth with other employed women. A tenth of other employed women were in the chemical and allied industries, but only one-sixteenth of the homemakers were in such work.

In domestic and personal service, which employed nearly one-fifth of all the homemakers, half these homemakers, as compared to two-thirds of the other women, worked in private homes.

These variations in occupation of homemakers and other employed women are explained in part at least by differences in nativity and age. A larger proportion of homemakers than of all employed working women were foreign-born, and homemakers were, on the average, older than other employed women.

Age of gainfully-employed homemakers.

Only one-tenth of the homemakers, as compared to over two-fifths of all employed women, were under 25. Three-tenths of the

[6] See p. 23.

homemakers were 45 years old or more. The presence of such numbers of older women goes to prove that they are not transients in industry, who remain only in the years from completing school to marriage, but are a mature group looking for a degree of security and permanence in the job.

The ages of the women in the various occupations are quite different for the homemakers and all employed women, as is clear from the following table:

Occupational group	Percent of women in occupation specified who were—					
	Under 25 years of age			45 years of age and over		
	Employed homemakers in—		All gainfully-employed women in Bridgeport	Employed homemakers in—		All gainfully-employed women in Bridgeport
	Urban United States [1]	Bridgeport [1]		Urban United States [1]	Bridgeport [1]	
All classes [2]	11.6	10.8	42.8	30.5	30.1	16.5
Employed at home	3.0	2.6	3.1	52.4	67.4	63.3
Employed away from home:						
Industrial workers	14.0	12.3	40.7	26.0	24.7	14.4
Servants, waitresses, etc.	9.4	4.4	26.6	33.1	40.3	32.8
Office workers	22.1	22.3	54.4	14.0	15.6	5.4
Saleswomen	11.5	7.6	38.4	26.7	30.2	18.9
Professional workers	8.0	5.4	34.7	33.3	41.5	19.4

[1] From unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census.
[2] Totals exceed details, as some occupations are not shown separately.

Homemakers at work in Bridgeport closely approximated those in urban United States in the proportions of the main occupational groups in specified age classes. Notable, however, is the very small percentage of homemakers employed as servants in Bridgeport who were under 25 years, as compared to homemakers employed as servants in urban United States who were under 25.

There were striking occupational differences in Bridgeport between homemakers and all working women. Except for the women employed in their homes, there was no similarity in their age groupings. More than half of all women office workers in the city were less than 25, but not much over a fifth of the homemakers in that occupation were so young. Differences were great also for saleswomen, professional workers, and industrial workers.

Another interesting comparison is that of the occupations of the young and of the older women, among the homemakers and all working women in Bridgeport. Of the 565 homemakers under 25, more than half were in industrial work, but only two-fifths of all working women under 25 were so employed. Less than 4 percent of these young homemakers, but 10 percent of all employed women under 25, were in managerial or professional work. Of the homemakers 45 years old or more, a tenth were working in their own homes, but only about half that proportion of all working women were working at home. A greater percentage of all women than of homemakers who were at least 45 years old were in professional work. Two-fifths of the older homemakers, as compared to less than a third of all older employed women, were industrial workers.

Employed homemakers' families dependent for support entirely on women.

There were 4,588 homemakers in the 2-or-more-person families reporting on the sex of gainful workers in the family in 1930. A fifth of all these families had no men gainful workers; an eighth were supported entirely by the one woman who was also the homemaker for the family. About half the families supported entirely by the homemaker and half the families without male support included 3 or more persons.

The following tabulation shows by size of family the number of families having no male support and the number of homemakers who carried the entire responsibility of their families.

Type of family	Families of employed homemakers				
	Total	With no men wage earners		With homemaker sole wage earner	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All families of 2 or more persons	4,588	898	19.6	553	12.1
Families of 4 or more persons	1,645	185	11.2	100	6.1
Having 3 or more children under 10	115	21	18.3	19	16.5

Where homemakers were sharing family support with one other person, about a tenth of them shared such responsibility with another woman. The families having two or more persons employed were likely to be large families, and their size is evidence of the need for the earnings of more than one person. One-fifth of the employed homemakers sharing support with one or more persons were in families of at least five people. In a twelfth of all cases where a homemaker was the entire support of a family, she lived in a family of five or more persons.

Occupations of homemakers who were the sole wage earners in their families.

A very considerable number of women not only bore the responsibility for the comfort of a family in the home, but were actually the sole gainful workers in their households. This responsibility was carried by almost 600 women in Bridgeport, one-eighth of all the employed homemakers in families of two or more persons.

In the various occupation groups, from one-tenth to almost three-tenths of the employed homemakers were the sole wage earners in the family. The proportion was lowest for saleswomen, highest for women working at home.

As would be expected, very small proportions of the young homemakers were the sole support of families. About a tenth of all employed homemakers in Bridgeport were under 25, but not quite a twentieth of those who were the sole support of a family were so young.

Occupation of homemaker	All homemakers in Bridgeport in families of 2 or more persons	Homemakers sole gainful workers in families of 2 or more persons			
		Bridgeport		United States	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All occupations	[1] 4,535	[1] 577	12.7	[1] 452,106	13.7
Employed at home:					
Agricultural workers	5	3	(2)	51,332	14.2
Other	153	43	28.1	52,905	18.5
Employed away from home:					
Professional workers	265	53	20.0	39,578	13.2
Office workers	648	68	10.5	44,424	10.4
Industrial workers	2,301	236	10.3	71,300	10.9
Servants, waitresses, etc	693	123	17.7	124,570	15.9
Saleswomen	326	32	9.8	25,314	10.5
Other	144	19	13.2	42,674	16.7

[1] Limited to homemakers in white and Negro households. [2] Not computed; base too small.

Size of family of the gainfully-employed homemakers in various occupations.

Considering as families only those groups including at least 2 persons, there were 4,535 white or Negro family units ranging in size from 2 to 10 or more. Well over a third of these included four or more persons, and there were almost 100 families with 8 or more members whose homemaker was employed away from home. More than half of the homemakers in the very large family groups represented were industrial workers, while considerably less than half of the homemakers in 2-person families were so employed. As the size of family increases, a definite difference may be noted in the proportions of homemakers occupied in the several types of work. None of the 102 homemakers in families of 8 or more persons was a professional worker, while in 2-person and 3-person families over 7 percent of all the homemakers were in such occupations. Homemakers of large families were more likely to be in the servant and waitress group.

Occupation of homemaker	Total families with gainfully-occupied homemakers	Number of families of—				Percent of total families of—			
		1 person	2 or 3 persons	4 to 7 persons	8 or more persons	1 person	2 or 3 persons	4 to 7 persons	8 or more persons
All occupations	[1] 5,226	691	2,905	1,528	102	13.2	55.6	29.2	2.0
Employed at home:									
Agricultural workers	6	1	-------	4	1	(2)	-------	(2)	(2)
Other	227	74	104	45	4	32.6	45.8	19.8	1.8
Employed away from home:									
Professional workers	369	104	208	57	-------	28.2	56.4	15.4	-------
Office workers	732	84	522	119	7	11.5	71.3	16.3	1.0
Industrial workers	2,496	195	1,374	871	56	7.8	55.0	34.9	2.2
Servants, waitresses, etc	856	103	423	249	21	10.0	49.4	29.1	2.5
Saleswomen	367	41	209	112	5	11.2	56.9	30.5	1.4
Other	173	29	65	71	8	16.8	37.6	41.0	4.6

[1] Limited to white and Negro households. [2] Not computed; base too small.

A third of the women gainfully employed at home were classed as 1-person families, but only about an eighth of all employed homemakers were living alone. A disproportionately large number of

professional workers also were not members of a family group. Homemakers in the small families of two or three persons constituted seven-tenths of all who were office workers. Though 29 percent of all employed homemakers were from families of four to seven persons, only 15 percent of the professional workers and 16 percent of the office workers were from families of that size.

The families of gainfully-employed homemakers were more likely than the families of all employed women to be small—of two or three persons. The comparison for small families follows:

	All families [1]	Families of 2 or 3 persons	
		Number	Percent
Total, all classes	33,544	15,734	46.9
Families with an employed woman	10,869	4,362	40.1
Families with an employed homemaker	4,588	2,943	64.1

[1] Excludes 1-person families.

The families of all employed women and of employed homemakers in Bridgeport were likely to be larger than those in Fort Wayne.

Families of employed homemakers that had small children.

There were over 1,100 employed homemakers in Bridgeport who had children less than 10 years old in their families. These comprised 8 percent of all families in the city with children of that age. In some instances they were not the mothers of these children, but whether they were or not, as homemakers they bore the chief responsibility for the home life of the children.

In a fourth of the employed homemakers' families in the city there were children less than 10. This is a somewhat smaller proportion than in homemakers' families throughout the United States, and a much smaller proportion than in families of all types, either in Bridgeport or in the United States. The proportions for these four classes follow:

	Percent of employed homemakers' families		Percent of all families	
	Bridgeport	United States	Bridgeport	United States
With children under 10	24.4	29.6	35.2	36.2
With 3 or more children under 10	2.6	5.7	8.5	11.1

In families supported entirely by the homemaker, a considerably greater proportion than of all homemakers' families had small children. Almost a third of these families included children under 10 and over a tenth had at least two such children.

Though there is little difference between the percentage of families of all employed women that had children and the percentage of employed homemakers' families that had children, the type of work done by these homemakers with children is an indication of their need for employment.

Size of family does not depend entirely on the number of small children, but they are an important factor, and it is not surprising

that the occupational distribution of homemakers with no children differed from that of homemakers with one or several children.

More than a fifth of the 394 homemakers who had two or more little children were in the servant or waitress group; very few (only 7 percent) were professional or office workers. On the other hand, more than a fifth of the homemakers whose families did not include little children were office or professional workers, and more were employed in offices than as servants.

The table following shows that about three in every five working homemakers in Bridgeport with small children in the family were industrial workers; one in every six were servants or waitresses. A comparison with employed homemakers of the total United States who had little children shows the greatest difference in the proportion who were industrial workers, only one in five of those in the entire United States being in that occupational class. A fifth of those who were in the professional group in the total United States had children under 10, but only a tenth of the professional group in Bridgeport had children so young.

Families of employed homemakers with children under 10 years of age, by occupation of the homemaker [1]

Occupation of homemaker	Number of homemakers' families of 2 or more persons	Number of homemakers' families with—			Percent of homemakers' families in—			Percent distribution of homemakers' families with children under 10	
					Bridgeport		United States		
		Children under 10 (total)	2 persons, 1 a child under 10	3 or more children under 10	With children under 10	With 3 or more children under 10	With children under 10	Bridgeport	United States
All occupations	4,535	1,107	35	116	24.4	2.6	20.6	100.0	100.0
Employed at home:									
Agricultural workers	5	3	------	------	(2)	------	47.3	.3	17.4
Other	153	48	4	8	31.4	5.2	35.1	4.3	10.3
Employed away from home:									
Professional workers	265	29	2	------	10.9	------	20.2	2.6	6.2
Office workers	648	82	4	8	12.7	1.2	15.0	7.4	6.6
Industrial workers	2,301	653	12	62	28.4	2.7	30.7	59.0	20.6
Servants, waitresses, etc	693	183	12	27	26.4	3.9	30.7	16.5	24.6
Saleswomen	326	71	------	6	21.8	1.8	22.6	6.4	5.6
Other	144	38	1	5	26.4	3.5	33.7	3.4	8.8

[1] Table limited to white and Negro households.
[2] Not computed; base too small.

In the small group of families that included only the homemaker and one child under 10, the concentration as servants or industrial workers was marked; 24 of the 35 homemakers in such families were in one or the other of these types of work. Women in this group of homemakers were, on the average, much younger than homemakers in other types of families; almost a fourth of them were under 25.

Nativity of employed homemakers.

The nativity distribution of gainfully-employed homemakers in Bridgeport differed strikingly from that of all employed women in the city. Three-fourths of all working women, in contrast to little over one-half of the homemakers, were native white. Two-fifths of the employed homemakers, compared to about one-fifth of all employed women, were foreign-born. Together, women of foreign birth or foreign parentage comprised seven-tenths of all working homemakers.

Nativity	Employed homemakers		Percent distribution of all employed women
	Number	Percent distribution	
Total	5,226	100.0	100.0
Native white	2,656	50.8	75.5
Foreign-born white	2,315	44.3	21.9
Negro	255	4.9	2.7

The striking differences in occupational distribution due to nativity are shown in the table following:

Nativity of homemaker	Percent of homemakers in—						
	Manufacturing	Selling trades	Clerical	Managerial and professional	Domestic and personal	Telephone and telegraph	Employment at home
Native white:							
Native parentage	26.3	13.0	22.7	15.4	14.0	3.0	4.9
Foreign or mixed parentage	44.1	9.1	19.7	9.5	11.4	1.5	3.8
Foreign-born white	62.6	8.1	2.7	2.1	20.2	.3	3.5
Negro	8.2	1.2	---	2.3	79.4	---	7.8

The contrast in factory employment between the foreign-born and the native white women is more striking for homemakers than for all employed women. Over three-fifths of the foreign-born homemakers, as compared to about half of all the foreign-born working women, were in manufacturing.

Striking occupational differences between the homemakers of various nativity groups are not confined to manufacturing. About a fifth of the native white homemakers, as compared to less than 3 percent of the foreign-born, were in clerical occupations. Considerable differences also are evident in the managerial and professional occupations.

Women heads of employed homemakers' families.

There were 5,100 families in Bridgeport with a woman at the head. This is one-seventh of all the families in the city. Two-thirds of these 5,100 families had one or more women gainfully occupied, and in almost two-fifths the homemaker herself was employed. Over 1,900

of the 5,280 families in which the homemaker was employed had a woman head, a proportion fairly similar to that for the total United States. Comparison is made in the following summary.

	Number of families in Bridgeport	*Families with a woman head*
Total	35, 807	5, 104
Families with employed woman	11, 561	3, 312
Families with employed homemaker	5, 280	1, 930

There was a striking difference in the age distribution of employed homemakers between families with a man head and families with a woman head. Where the family had a man head only a fifth of the homemakers employed were 45 years old or more, but in families with a woman head about half the homemakers were at least 45. It is probable that in many cases where the family head was listed as a woman the homemaker and the head were the same. In the case of homemakers employed at home they were likely to be of the older generation whether the head was man or woman, but the proportion at 45 and above was larger in families with a woman head.

Next to families with the homemaker working at home, the largest percentage of families with a woman head were those in which the homemaker was in professional work. Half the homemakers in professional work were in families with a woman head. This proportion was almost equaled by the percentage of families with a woman head in which the homemaker was a servant, waitress, or in allied work. In actual numbers industrial workers far exceeded all other groups whether the family head was man or woman.

Well over half of the women heads of families were widowed or divorced, but a very considerable number, one-fourth of the total, were single. In families with a man head, nine-tenths were married and the wife was at home.

	Percent distribution of employed homemakers' families having—	
Marital status of head of family	*Man head*	*Woman head*
Married, spouse absent	1. 2	18. 4
Married, spouse present	89. 3	----
Widowed and divorced	7. 2	56. 7
Single	2. 3	24. 9

Families of employed homemakers that had lodgers.

A very considerable number of employed homemakers were adding to the family income not only by working outside the home but by taking lodgers. There were 679 families of employed homemakers that had lodgers, and in 531 of these families the homemaker also worked outside the home. Almost a fifth of the homemakers in the servant or waitress group, about a tenth of those who were in industry or sales, and a seventh of the professional women had lodgers.

About two-thirds of the homemakers who were gainfully occupied at home took in boarders or lodgers as a means of earning a living, and most of these had three or more lodgers.

Part IV.—EMPLOYED WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT IN RICHMOND, VA.

INTRODUCTION

Richmond, a city comparable in size, gives a very different occupational picture from those of Fort Wayne and Bridgeport. Though Richmond is important as a manufacturing center, by far the largest number of employed women reported by the 1930 census were in the domestic and personal service industries; there were approximately 8,500 women, 30 percent of all women in gainful employment, in the various occupations of this group. Nearly three-fourths of them were working in private homes, over 6,000 women being so reported.

The responsibilities of Richmond's working women are indicated in the analysis of census data that follows. Two-fifths of all the families of Richmond, and an even larger proportion of the Negro families, had a woman gainfully occupied. More than a fifth of these families with women at work had no male members assisting in their support, and one-seventh—2,187 families—depended entirely on the earnings of one woman. The weight of family responsibility was greatest in the case of Negro women, but it was not limited to them.

As in the other cities reported, many single women were the sole support of a mother, or of both parents, and frequently the family group included young children who depended on women's earnings. In Richmond there were 703 married women at work who were not assisted in the support of their families by any male member. The great majority of married women workers were living with their husbands, but in some cases the husband was not a gainful worker. Over 5,000 of the working women of Richmond were widowed or divorced, a group whose burden of family responsibility was especially heavy. Thirty percent of the 3,226 widowed or divorced women living in families were the sole support of the family, and 44 percent of these families supported by one woman included children younger than 10 years.

Occupations of gainfully-employed women.

The following list groups the main occupational divisions of the women employed.

Occupation	Women 16 years of age and over	
	Number [1]	Percent
Total	28, 143	100. 0
Manufacturing	6, 128	21. 8
Cigar and tobacco factories	3, 946	-------
Paper, printing, etc	501	-------
Clerical occupations	5, 790	20. 6
Domestic and personal service	8, 474	30. 1
In private homes	6, 055	-------
In hotels, restaurants, etc	853	-------
Managerial and professional service	3, 359	11. 9
Teachers	1, 497	-------
Trained nurses	1, 111	-------
Selling trades	1, 981	7. 0
Saleswomen and clerks in stores	1, 598	-------
Working in own home	1, 625	5. 8
Telephone and telegraph operators	684	2. 4
Not elsewhere classified	102	. 4

[1] Totals exceed details, as not all occupations classified are shown separately.

For the most part women working in private homes were living out, but about 1,200 of them lived with their employers.

Of the women engaged in manufacturing, two-thirds worked in cigar and tobacco factories. Second to the 3,900 tobacco workers were the 500 women in the paper, printing, and publishing group.

There were over 3,300 women engaged in managerial and professional work, more than three-fourths of them teachers or trained nurses.

Clerical occupations employed 5,800 women, the selling trades about 2,000. Some 1,600 women were working in their own homes, two-thirds of them taking in washing and one-tenth doing sewing. Almost 6 percent of all employed women in Richmond, as compared to less than 2 percent in Bridgeport and Fort Wayne, worked in their homes.

Age of gainfully-employed women.

The age distribution of the working women of Richmond is very similar to that of the working women in the total United States. Employed women were, on the average, somewhat older than the employed women of Bridgeport and Fort Wayne, though the age level of the woman population in Richmond was somewhat below that of these other cities. Slightly over a third of the working women of Richmond were 16 and under 25, as compared to about a fourth of all women in the city. Almost 60 percent of the working women were 25 and under 55, a percentage little different from that of all women in the city. A very considerable number of employed women, almost a fifth of the total, were 45 years old or more, and about 7 percent were at least 55. (See appendix table V.)

	Percent 16 and under 25 years old
All women	24. 9
Women gainfully employed	34. 0
Manufacturing	43. 5
Clerical occupations	42. 2
Domestic and personal service	25. 8
Managerial and professional service	32. 2
Selling trades	31. 2
Working in own home	4. 5
Telephone and telegraph operators	68. 6
Not elsewhere classified	16. 7

Among the young women, factory work employed the largest group, with clerical occupations engaging an almost equal number. In each of the older groups domestic service was by far the predominant occupation. Domestic and personal service employed principally women in the group 25 and under 55 years; in hotel and restaurant occupations this age group was especially large. Work in private homes was the principal occupation of women in domestic service, regardless of age.

Over a fifth of the women who were working in their own homes were 55 years old or more, and less than 5 percent of them were under 25. In no other occupation were more than 8 percent of the employed women as old as 55.

Over two-thirds of the women operators in telephone or telegraph establishments were girls of less than 25. Three-fifths of the women in selling trades and in managerial or professional work were in the middle group, 25 and under 55, though a third were younger.

Of the girls under 20 who were working, manufacturing employed over a third, domestic and personal service a fourth, and clerical work a fifth. Manufacturing was decreasingly important to the older women, and above the age of 25 domestic and personal service employed more than a third of each age group. Almost a fifth of the women of 55 or over were working at home, a much larger part of this group than in Fort Wayne or Bridgeport.

Marital status and occupation.

The distribution of employed women by marital status differs considerably in this southern city from that of working women in Bridgeport and Fort Wayne. Approximately 1 in every 5 employed women in Richmond, in contrast to 1 in every 10 in Bridgeport, were widowed or divorced. The proportion of women in Richmond who were single was less than in the total United States and much less than in Bridgeport; just under half the employed women of Richmond were single. The following compares the marital status of women at work in Richmond with that of all employed women in the United States.

Marital status	Richmond		United States—Percent
	Number	Percent	
Total reported [1]	28,129	100.0	100.0
Single	13,776	49.0	53.9
Married and separated	9,079	32.3	28.9
Widowed and divorced	5,274	18.7	17.2

[1] In Richmond, women of 16 years and over; in the United States, women of 15 and over, as given by the census.

The large number of women in Richmond who were widowed or divorced is particularly important because an occupational distribution has shown in every locality that this group enters the less desirable occupations. As the following tabulation shows, more than twice as large a proportion of this marital group as of single women were in domestic and personal service. Three in every ten single women, but only 1 in ever 12 of the widowed and divorced, were doing clerical work. One in every five single women were in managerial or professional occupations, in contrast to 1 in every 17 married or widowed women.

Occupational group	Percent distribution of—		
	Single women	Married and separated women	Widowed and divorced women
All occupations	100.0	100.0	100.0
Manufacturing	20.2	24.1	21.8
Clerical occupations	29.9	13.5	8.5
Domestic and personal service	20.2	37.6	43.2
Managerial and professional service	18.3	5.9	5.7
Selling trades	6.5	7.9	7.0
Working in own home	1.3	8.7	12.6
Telephone and telegraph operators	3.5	1.9	.6
Not elsewhere classified	.2	.4	.5

Occupations of various nativity groups of women.

Much of the difference between Richmond and the two other cities in the occupations and marital status of working women is explained by the race and nativity of the women.

In Richmond two of every five employed women were Negroes, while in Bridgeport and Fort Wayne the proportions were so small as to be negligible. Only about three-fifths of the employed women in Richmond were native white, as compared to three-fourths of all employed women in Bridgeport and more than nine-tenths of those in Fort Wayne.

Almost half of all the Negro women in Richmond were gainfully occupied, as compared to three-tenths of the native white women and a fifth of the foreign-born.

More native white women were in clerical occupations than in any other industry, over a third of the employed native whites being in such work. These occupations employed only one-seventh of the foreign-born women, and 1 percent of the Negro women. There was little opportunity for Negro women in managerial and professional work, but a sixth to a fifth of the other groups were in these occupations.

More than a fourth of the native white women worked in factory occupations, about half of them in cigar and tobacco factories. A very considerable number of Negro women also worked in factories, and nine-tenths of them were in cigar and tobacco factories.

Domestic and personal service was a minor source of employment for native white women in Richmond. Only about 6 percent of this nativity group were classed in such occupations and two-thirds of these women were in work other than household employment. They were principally practical nurses, hotel and restaurant workers, or

hairdressers and manicurists. On the other hand, about 7,500 Negro women, two-thirds of all employed, were in domestic service and 5,700 of them worked in private homes. Over a tenth of the Negro women worked in their own homes, almost all of them taking in washing.

The following shows the occupational distribution of native white and of Negro women:

Occupation	Percent distribution of— Native white women	Negro women
All occupations	100. 0	100. 0
Manufacturing	26. 1	15. 7
Clerical occupations	33. 8	1. 3
Domestic and personal service	5. 7	66. 4
Managerial and professional service	16. 8	4. 6
Selling trades	10. 6	1. 1
Working in own home	2. 6	10. 6
Telephone and telegraph operators	4. 1	-----
Not elsewhere classified	. 4	. 3

RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN FOR THE SUPPORT OF FAMILIES

Responsibility of single women for family support.

The census data are evidence that very considerable numbers of the employed single women of Richmond carry some responsibility for family support. No fewer than 738 of the 8,850 single women living in families of two or more persons were the sole support of the family. Over half of these women lived with and were the only support of their mothers. In some cases these families included not only the mother and her employed daughter but children under 10 years. More than a fourth of all the single women who were working lived with both parents, and many of these supported the family without assistance. Even where they were living with other relatives there were a number of cases in which they were the only gainful workers in the family.

More than one-third (36 percent) of the single women were not living in family groups but were alone, boarding and lodging, or living with their employer.

The table following shows the differences in family responsibility of the native white and the Negro women. Of special significance are the much greater proportions of Negro women in the group with no men wage earners and in the group living alone, boarding, or living with employers. The second of these follows, of course, from the larger proportion who were in household employment, and the large number of such Negro employees who lived in the homes of their employers. A slightly greater percent of the Negro women than of the native white women were the sole support of the family.

Family status	Total [1]	Native white	Negro
All gainfully-occupied single women	13,776	10,248	3,353
Single women in families of 2 or more persons: [2]			
Number	8,859	6,916	1,852
Percent of all single women	64.2	67.5	55.2
With no men wage earners:			
Number	2,289	1,629	645
Percent of all single women in families	25.9	23.6	34.8
Woman the sole support of family:			
Number	738	556	170
Percent of all single women in families	8.3	8.0	9.2
Living with parent or parents:			
Number	6,166	4,954	1,175
Percent of all single women in families	69.9	71.6	63.4
With parents not gainfully occupied:			
Number	1,840	1,601	218
Percent of all living with parents	29.7	32.3	18.6
Single women not in families—living alone, boarding, or living with employer [3]	4,926	3,332	1,801

[1] Totals exceed details, as the foreign-born are not shown separately.
[2] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer, except those with dependent children.
[3] Excludes 5 women with dependent children, transferred to family group.

Responsibility of married women for family support.

More than half the 9,079 employed married women were Negroes, and these Negro women carried heavy burdens of family support. There were 465 married women who were the only gainful workers in their families, and 313 of these women were Negroes. Of these Negro women, 165 had children younger than 10 years.

Though the great majority of married women were living with their husbands, it did not follow that they were free of economic responsibilities. In over 200 cases the census records show that the husband was not a gainful worker. The majority of these cases were Negro.

The husbands of 1,099 women of all races in family groups were not living at home and 198 of these women had little children to support. In 140 cases the Negro women, and in 58 cases the native white women, were the sole support of small children in families from which the father was absent.

Family status	Total [1]	Native white	Negro
All gainfully-occupied married women [2]	9,079	4,057	4,904
Married women in families of 2 or more persons: [3]			
Number	7,822	3,607	4,104
Percent of all married women	86.2	88.9	83.7
With no men wage earners:			
Number	703	209	487
Percent of all married women in families	9.0	5.8	11.9
Woman the sole support of family	465	150	313
Number with children under 10	233	67	165
Living with husband	7,325	3,497	3,718
Husband gainfully employed	7,101	3,405	3,589
Husband not gainfully employed	224	92	129
Married women not in families—living alone, boarding, or living with employer [4]	1,257	450	800

[1] Totals exceed details, as the foreign born are not shown separately.
[2] Includes separated women.
[3] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer, except those with dependent children.
[4] Excludes 116 women with dependent children, transferred to family group. Many not so transferred had husbands, some of them, no doubt, unemployed.

Responsibility of widowed and divorced women for family support.

As in the other cities studied, widowed and divorced women carried the heaviest total burden of responsibility for the family; of the 5,274 such women, 983 were the sole support of a family of two or more persons. Of these 983 women, well over two-fifths had children less than 10 years old. Where family support was shared with other persons, those other persons were women in 688 cases. In 1,671 cases of the 3,226 widowed and divorced women in family groups there were no male wage earners. Well over a third of the 3,226 women were responsible for children under 10.

All gainfully-occupied widowed and divorced women	5,274
Widowed and divorced women in families of 2 or more persons: [1]	
Number	3,226
Percent of all widowed and divorced women	61.2
Women with no men wage earners	1,671
Percent of all widowed and divorced women in families	51.8
Woman the sole support of family	983
Number with children under 10	428
Widowed and divorced women not in families—women living alone, boarding, or living with employer [2]	2,048

[1] Excludes women living alone, boarding, or living with employer, except those with dependent children.
[2] Excludes 97 women with dependent children, transferred to family group.

FAMILIES OF GAINFULLY-EMPLOYED WOMEN IN RICHMOND

The census data show many families in Richmond depending on women for their entire support, many large families including young children dependent on the earnings of one gainfully-employed woman.

Families having women gainfully occupied.

Of the 40,758 families of two or more persons in Richmond, about two-fifths included a gainfully-occupied woman. Not far from a third of these families with a gainfully-occupied woman member also had a woman head, 4,847 families being so reported.

Very many of these families with employed women were of considerable size—7,959 had four or more members—and the proportion of families having a gainfully-employed woman increased directly with size of family. Of all the families of 3 persons, 33 percent included an employed woman; this proportion ranged up to 38 percent for families of 5, and to over 58 percent for families of 9 or more.

Women were less likely to be gainfully employed if the family group included children under 10 years. About 59 percent of the 2-or-more-person families in Richmond had no children under 10, and 69 percent of the 2-or-more-person families with gainfully-employed women had no children. Nevertheless, there were 4,817 families with an employed woman who had small children. Twelve hundred had 2 children under 10, and 868 had 3 or more children under 10.

Families with no men wage earners.

The 15,706 families of two or more persons that had women at work included 3,307 families, more than a fifth of the total, that had no men gainful workers. Over a fourth of these families supported

entirely by women had 4 persons or more; close to a thousand of them included children under 10, and 123 had 3 or more children under 10.

In 2,187 families, practically one-seventh of all with gainfully-occupied women, the family was supported entirely by one woman. These families included 753 with children less than 10 years old.

On every point the weight of responsibility for family support was accentuated in the case of Negro women. Excluding the 1-person families, there were 6,243 Negro families with a gainfully-employed woman. One in every four of these, 1,535, had no men gainful workers, and one in every six, 1,026, were supported entirely by one woman. The families without gainfully-employed male members included 643 families with children under 10. There were 99 Negro families with 3 or more children supported by women.

In many cases the 1,026 Negro families supported by the gainful employment of 1 woman were large families; 258 comprised 4 persons or more. There were 77 families with 3 or more children under 10 supported by the earnings of one Negro woman.

The proportions of families supported by native white women and by Negro women are compared in the following summary.

Family status	Total[1]		Families of—			
			Native white women		Negro women	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All families of wage-earning women	15,706	100.0	9,252	100.0	6,243	100.0
Families supported entirely by women	3,307	21.1	1,730	18.7	1,535	24.6
1 wage earner	2,187	13.9	1,131	12.2	1,026	16.4
Families of 4 or more persons	441		178		258	
2 wage earners	902	5.7	457	4.9	435	7.0
Families of 4 or more persons	254		118		136	
3 or more wage earners	218	1.4	142	1.5	74	1.2
Families of 4 or more persons	153		104		48	

[1] Totals exceed details, as the foreign-born are not shown separately.

Summary as to family support.

Over a fifth of all the families reported, and an even greater proportion of the Negro families, were supported entirely by women. Of all employed women living in family groups of two or more, 11 percent were the sole wage earners. The great variation according to marital status is shown below.

Marital status	*Percent solely responsible for family support*
Total	11.0
Single	8.3
Married and separated	5.9
Widowed and divorced	30.5

Three in ten of the widowed and divorced women, as compared to 3 in 50 of the married and separated women, were the sole support of a family.

GAINFULLY-EMPLOYED HOMEMAKERS IN RICHMOND

The employed women who were homemakers, combining the duties and responsibilities of that position with the job of breadwinner, made up almost two-fifths of the wage-earning women in Richmond. One-fourth of all the homemakers in the city were gainful workers.

The discussion following turns to a detailed analysis of these 10,573 [1] women who had the double responsibility of homemaker and breadwinner.

Occupations of homemakers and of other employed women.

Table VI in the appendix shows the principal occupations of these homemakers and the occupations of other employed women. The following is a summary of that table.

Occupational group	Percent distribution of—		
	Homemakers in—		All other gainfully-occupied women in Richmond
	Urban United States [1]	Richmond	
All occupations [2]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Manufacturing	22.4	20.8	22.4
Selling trades	8.1	7.0	7.0
Clerical occupations	16.0	11.4	26.1
Managerial and professional service	10.3	8.2	14.2
Domestic and personal service	27.6	37.7	25.5
Working in own home	9.7	13.3	1.2

[1] See footnote 1, p. 13.
[2] Totals exceed details, as not all minor groups are shown separately.

The occupational distribution in Richmond furnishes a greater contrast between homemakers and other employed women than appears for other cities studied. The largest group of the homemakers in Richmond, almost three-fifths, were in domestic and personal service, the industry group that employed three-tenths of all working women in the city. In contrast to this, only one-fourth of the women who were not homemakers were in such employment. Over seven-tenths of the homemakers in domestic and personal service worked in private homes.

Clerical occupations employed the greatest number of women who were not homemakers. One in every four such women, as compared to 1 in every 10 of the homemakers, earned their living in clerical work. Manufacturing ranked second in importance to the homemakers, third to other employed women. The largest group of factory-employed homemakers, as of the other employed women, worked in cigar and tobacco factories.

The most striking contrast exists among women at work in their own homes, but it is not surprising that homemakers comprise the great majority of such women. Thirteen percent of the homemakers, but only a little over 1 percent of the other women, were carrying on gainful occupations at home, the employment reported for 10 percent of the gainfully-occupied homemakers in urban United States. Two-thirds of these homemakers in Richmond were taking in washing;

[1] Eliminating the 1,692 1-person families (women living alone), 8,881 women. See footnote 5, p. 13.

a fifth earned the principal income of the family by taking in boarders or lodgers.

Of the homemakers in managerial and professional occupations, 45 percent were teachers. Only 21 percent, as compared with 37 percent among other working women, were trained nurses.

Comparing the occupational distribution of homemakers in Richmond with all employed homemakers in urban United States, the most striking difference is in the domestic and personal service occupations. Richmond homemakers were more concentrated in these services. They also were more likely to be working in their own homes. A much smaller proportion of the Richmond homemakers were in clerical occupations and somewhat smaller proportions were in managerial or professional work, in selling, and in manufacturing.

Age of gainfully-employed homemakers.

Women under 25 years of age constituted about a third of all gainfully-occupied women in Richmond; those of 45 or more comprised less than a fifth. In contrast, slightly over a tenth of the gainfully-occupied homemakers were under 25, and almost three-tenths were 45 or older. The homemakers who were less than 25 were most likely to be in office work; 1 in every 5 of the homemakers in office occupations were in that age group. This is the only type of work in which fewer of the homemakers were 45 or over than were under 25. Two in every five of all women office workers were under 25, and less than 1 in 10 had reached 45 years.

Less than 7 percent of the professional workers who were homemakers were under 25, though a third of all women professional workers were in that age group. Differences in the other occupational groups, though on the whole less striking, were very considerable. In every group but office workers, homemakers who were working were predominantly in the older class.

Employed homemakers in Richmond approximated the age distribution of employed homemakers in urban United States. The principal difference was among the "industrial workers," who were a younger group in Richmond than in all cities.

The following tabulation gives, by occupation, the proportions of Richmond women in selected age groups and compares the groups of homemakers with those in urban United States.

Occupational group	Percent of women in occupation specified who were—					
	Under 25 years of age			45 years of age and over		
	Employed homemakers in—		All gainfully-employed women in Richmond	Employed homemakers in—		All gainfully-employed women in Richmond
	Urban United States [1]	Richmond [1]		Urban United States [1]	Richmond [1]	
All classes [2]	11.6	11.6	34.0	30.5	28.3	18.6
Employed at home	3.6	2.7	4.5	52.4	50.3	50.6
Employed away from home:						
Industrial workers	14.0	17.2	43.5	26.0	21.3	14.2
Servants, waitresses, etc	9.4	9.3	25.8	33.1	26.5	22.2
Office workers	22.1	20.8	42.2	14.0	15.5	9.0
Saleswomen	11.5	12.2	31.2	26.7	25.1	21.6
Professional workers	8.0	6.7	32.2	33.3	37.6	19.0

[1] From unpublished data of the Bureau of the Census.
[2] Totals exceed details, as some occupations are not shown separately.

Employed homemakers' families dependent for support entirely on women.

In more than a fifth of the 2-or-more-person families of these Richmond homemakers there were no employed men. This is a markedly higher proportion that in the northern cities studied, and probably is accounted for by racial differences, over half the 2,037 women being Negro.

Well over two-fifths of the homemakers' families had only 2 members, but almost a third were of 4 persons or more. There were more than 250 families of 4 or more persons (more than 100 of five or more) in which the homemaker was the sole support of the family, and 61 of these families had at least 3 children less than 10 years old.

The following summary indicates the burden of dependency on the employed homemakers of Richmond, showing the number of families with no male support and the large group of these in which the homemaker was the sole wage earner.

Type of family	Families of employed homemakers				
	Total	With no men wage-earners		With homemaker sole wage earner	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All families of 2 or more persons	8,881	2,037	100.0	1,208	100.0
Families of 4 or more persons	2,881	482	23.7	255	21.1
Having 3 or more children under 10	431	84	4.1	61	5.0

The homemaker was the only wage earner in almost a seventh of all the cases, and one in five of these women was the sole support of a family of four or more persons. One in twenty had the entire support of three or more young children.

Occupations of homemakers who were the sole wage earners in their families.

The occupational distribution of the Richmond homemakers who were the sole wage earners in their families was fairly similar to the distribution of such homemakers in the United States as a whole. The principal differences were in the greater proportions of Richmond homemakers in professional work and in industrial work, and the smaller proportion in office work.

Occupation of homemaker	All homemakers in Richmond in families of 2 or more persons	Homemakers sole gainful workers in families of 2 or more persons			
		Richmond		United States	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All occupations	[1] 8,777	[1] 1,234	14.1	[1] 452,106	13.7
Employed at home:					
Agricultural workers	2			51,332	14.2
Other	1,142	225	19.7	52,905	18.5
Employed away from home:					
Professional workers	538	81	15.1	39,578	13.2
Office workers	1,154	96	8.3	44,424	10.4
Industrial workers	2,158	286	13.3	71,300	10.9
Servants, waitresses, etc	3,034	449	14.8	124,579	15.9
Saleswomen	494	54	10.9	25,314	10.5
Other	255	43	16.9	42,074	16.7

[1] Limited to homemakers in white and Negro households.

The largest proportion of homemakers in Richmond carrying the heavy responsibilities of sole wage earner was among the women working at home, where 1 in every 5 supported without aid a family of 2 or more persons. It should be remembered that most of the women who worked at home (2 in every 3) were supporting the home by taking in washing. Second in the proportion supporting a family group were the professional workers—about 1 in every 7. The smallest proportion was among the office workers, of whom only 1 in every 12 were the sole support of a family, probably due chiefly to their youth, as a fifth of them were less than 25 years old.

Size of family of the gainfully-employed homemakers in various occupations.

The families of employed homemakers ranged in size from 1 to 10 or more persons. Classified by the number of members each household contained, in every 100 homes there were 56 in which the homemaker was working to support 2 or 3 persons including herself, 24 where 4 to 7 persons were supported by her, 3 where 8 or more persons were members of the family, and 16 in which she worked to support herself alone. In the following summary the size of family is correlated with the occupation of the homemaker.

Occupation of homemaker	Total families with gainfully-occupied homemakers	Number of families of—				Percent of total families of—			
		1 person	2 or 3 persons	4 to 7 persons	8 or more persons	1 person	2 or 3 persons	4 to 7 persons	8 or more persons
All occupations	[1] 10,502	1,725	5,928	2,535	314	16.4	56.4	24.1	3.0
Employed at home:									
Agricultural workers	2		2				100.0		
Other	1,386	244	653	414	75	17.6	47.1	29.9	5.4
Employed away from home:									
Professional workers	745	207	397	135	6	27.8	53.3	18.1	.8
Office workers	1,315	161	902	245	7	12.2	68.6	18.6	.5
Industrial workers	2,516	358	1,446	647	65	14.2	57.5	25.7	2.6
Servants, waitresses, etc	3,701	667	2,039	855	140	18.0	55.1	23.1	3.8
Saleswomen	541	47	327	155	12	8.7	60.4	28.7	2.2
Other	296	41	162	84	9	13.9	54.7	28.4	3.0

[1] Limited to white and Negro households.

Homemakers employed in professional and clerical work lived in the smallest family groups—4 in every 5 families in each of these occupational classes were of 3 or fewer persons. The women working at home had the largest households; over a third of their families had 4 or more members and 1 in every 20 had 8 or more. Also from large families were the homemakers who worked as saleswomen, as industrial workers, or as servants, waitresses, and so forth.

Generally speaking, however, the household whose homemaker was gainfully occupied was smaller than the household of all employed women and smaller than the average Richmond household, as is clear from the following comparison.

	All families [1]	Families of 2 or 3 persons	
		Number	Percent
Total, all classes	40,758	20,886	51.2
Families with an employed woman	15,706	7,747	49.3
Families with an employed homemaker	8,881	6,000	67.6

[1] Excludes 1-person families.

Families of employed homemakers that had small children.

Of the 16,666 white and Negro families in Richmond with children less than 10 years old, 2,435 (15 percent) had homemakers at work. This proportion is very much greater than those for Bridgeport and Fort Wayne. Well over a fourth of the homemakers in Richmond combined the heavy tasks and responsibilities of homemaker for young children with a money-making job. The number of children of under 10 years in these households ranged from 1 to 7, with 431 families having 3 or more such children. There were 159 homemakers working alone to maintain a home for 1 small child with no other persons in the household.

Summarized according to occupation, the table following shows that women working at home were the most likely to have several children and to have small children.

Families of employed homemakers with children under 10 years of age, by occupation of the homemaker [1]

Occupation of homemaker	Number of homemakers' families of 2 or more persons	Number of homemakers' families with—			Percent of homemakers' families in—			Percent distribution of homemakers' families with children under 10	
					Richmond		United States		
		Children under 10 (total)	2 persons, 1 a child under 10	3 or more children under 10	With children under 10	With 3 or more children under 10	With children under 10	Richmond	United States
All occupations	8,777	2,435	159	434	27.7	4.9	29.6	100.0	100.0
Employed at home:									
Agricultural workers	2	------	------	------	------	------	47.3	------	17.4
Other	1,142	427	26	123	37.4	10.8	35.1	17.5	10.3
Employed away from home:									
Professional workers	538	88	3	6	16.4	1.1	20.2	3.6	6.2
Office workers	1,154	103	10	7	14.1	.6	15.0	6.7	6.6
Industrial workers	2,158	675	54	106	31.3	4.9	30.7	27.7	20.6
Servants, waitresses, etc	3,034	914	61	162	30.1	5.3	30.7	37.5	24.6
Saleswomen	494	109	2	24	22.1	4.9	22.6	4.5	5.6
Other	255	59	3	6	23.1	2.4	33.7	2.4	8.8

[1] Table limited to white and Negro households.

The industrial workers and the servant and waitress group bore the responsibility for children under 10 in a large proportion of cases (3 in every 10 households). In each of these classes many of the homemakers were responsible for 3 or more children. There were 162

servants and waitresses and 106 industrial workers whose households included 3 or more young children.

Only 1 in 15 of the homemakers with small children were in office work, as compared to 1 in 7 or 8 of all the homemakers. In every 100 households with young children, 38 of the homemakers were servants or waitresses, 28 were industrial workers, and 10 were in office or professional work.

Nativity of employed homemakers.

Much of the difference between Richmond and the northern cities in occupational distribution and responsibility for family support is caused by differences in racial make-up of the cities. Three in every ten homes in Richmond were Negro homes. As among all employed women, the Negro homemakers carried the heaviest economic burden, their families comprising about 6 in every 10 of the families whose homemakers were employed.

Nativity	Employed homemakers		Percent distribution of all employed women
	Number	Percent distribution	
Total	10,502	100.0	100.0
Native white	4,228	40.3	58.7
Foreign-born white	229	2.2	1.3
Negro	6,045	57.6	39.9

Well over half the Negro homemakers were in the domestic service occupations, more than a fifth were factory employees, and a sixth were working in their own homes. In contrast, the largest numbers of native white homemakers were in office and factory work in equal proportions, and only 1 in every 12 were earning money in their own homes.

Excluding the 1-person families, almost a fourth of these Negro homemakers were in families with 5 or more members. There were 333 of their families with at least 3 children under 10 years. A fourth of the Negro women in families of 2 or more persons had no male assistance in supporting the family.

The native white women were more likely to have small families, and a somewhat smaller proportion of them had no men gainful workers in the family.

Women heads of employed homemakers' families.

Four-fifths of all families in Richmond had a man at the head, but less than three-fifths of the families of employed homemakers had a male head. In all there were 4,486 homemakers' families, 42 percent of the total, whose head was a woman who was homemaker as well as breadwinner. Excluding the women living alone (one-person families), there still were 2,794 families—almost a third of the families with two or more members—with a gainfully-occupied homemaker at the head.

Families of employed homemakers that had lodgers.

Of the homemakers working at home, about a third took in lodgers. Even among the women working outside the home this was not an

uncommon method of augmenting the family income, and 1,600 homemakers (almost a fifth of all those employed away from home) had lodgers.

The homemakers earning their living at home frequently had a considerable number of lodgers. One in three of the 481 taking lodgers had 6 or more, and 71 of these women had 9 or more. There were 269 women whose occupations took them away from home who also had 3 or more lodgers.

Women who took lodgers were not listed as gainfully occupied unless the income from that source was the principal income of the family. In Richmond in 1930 there were some 4,700 homemakers not tabulated as gainfully occupied who took from 1 to 4 or more lodgers, 364 of them having 4 or more.

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	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total in population—										
Number	43,541	.....	4,105	.....	10,447	.....	25,656	.....	7,438	.....
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	9.4	.....	24.0	.....	58.9	.....	17.1	.....
Total gainfully occupied with age reported—										
Number	[1]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	.....
Manufacturing—										
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	.....
Clerical occupations—										
Number	3,306	25.7	564	31.2	1,791	35.1	1,481	21.5	34	3.9
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	17.1	.....	54.2	.....	44.8	.....	1.0	.....
Domestic and personal service—										
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	.....
Managerial and professional service—										
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	.....
Selling trades—										
Number	1,393	10.8	203	11.2	448	8.8	850	12.3	95	10.8
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	14.6	.....	32.2	.....	61.0	.....	6.8	.....
Working in own home—										
Number	304	2.4	1	.1	9	.2	203	2.9	92	10.4
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	.3	.....	3.0	.....	66.8	.....	30.3	.....
Telephone and telegraph operators—										
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	.....
Not elsewhere classified—										
Number	49	.4	3	.2	10	.2	30	.4	9	1.0

[1] 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	1,575		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	1,029		210		819	
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		129		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	49	.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 under 20		16 and under 25		25 and under 55		55 and over	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total in population—										
Number	52,158	.....	5,797	.....	12,192	.....	30,865	.....	9,101	.....
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	11.1	.....	23.4	.....	59.2	.....	17.4	.....
Total gainfully occupied with age reported—										
Number	[1]17,056	100.0	3,478	100.0	7,309	100.0	8,566	100.0	1,181	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	878	25.2	2,106	30.0	1,790	20.9	54	4.6
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	21.7	.....	54.4	.....	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	.....	38.4	.....	54.6	.....	7.0	.....
Working in own home—										
Number	256	1.5	2	.1	8	.1	152	1.8	96	8.1
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	0.8	.....	3.1	.....	59.4	.....	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

[1] 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	17,066	100.0	5,280	100.0	11,786	100.0
Percent distribution	100.0		30.9		69.1	
Manufacturing	6,217	36.4	2,393	45.3	3,824	32.4
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	1,236		444		792	
Textile industries	324		125		199	
All other	754		285		469	
Selling trades	1,384	8.1	489	9.3	895	7.6
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	
Domestic and personal service	2,601	15.2	992	18.8	1,609	13.7
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	
Working in own home	256	1.5	218	4.1	38	.3
Taking boarders, lodgers (not elsewhere classified)	142		138		4	
Taking in washing	29		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	39	.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	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total in population—										
Number	72,453	.....	7,603	.....	18,027	.....	43,390	.....	11,036	.....
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	10.5	.....	24.9	.....	59.9	.....	15.2	.....
Total gainfully occupied with age reported—										
Number	[1]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	36.7
Percent distribution	100.0	.....	9.8	.....	25.8	.....	66.0	.....	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	209	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

[1] Excludes 36 women in this study whose age was not reported.