

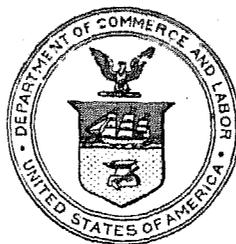
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

S. N. D. NORTH, DIRECTOR

STATISTICS OF WOMEN
AT WORK

BASED ON UNPUBLISHED INFORMATION DERIVED FROM
THE SCHEDULES OF THE TWELFTH CENSUS: 1900



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., May 20, 1907.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on Women at Work, presenting statistics of the women 16 years of age and over reported at the Twelfth Census as having a gainful occupation. This report was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Joseph A. Hill, chief of the division of revision and results. It is based mainly upon unpublished data compiled from the Census schedules, and its preparation was undertaken in the belief that these data, already in the possession of the Census Office and only partially exploited in the previous Census reports, contained information of great importance, which could be secured in equal completeness only through another census covering the entire population of the United States.

The importance of the subject with which the report deals has been emphasized in the annual messages of the President of the United States and also by the passage at the recent session of Congress of an act providing for a special investigation of the industrial, social, moral, educational, and physical condition of women and child workers in the United States. It was evident, however, that the scope of this proposed investigation would be quite distinct from that of the statistical inquiries conducted by the Census. Among the topics to be covered by that investigation the act referred to specifies the hours of labor, term of employment, health, sanitary and other conditions surrounding the occupations in which the women and child workers are engaged, and the means employed for the protection of their health, person, and morals. These are topics on which the Census possesses no data. But on the other hand the Census ascertains the age, marital condition, race, nativity, parent nativity, illiteracy, and occupation not only of each woman at work but likewise of each member of the family or household in which she lives. While the two classes of data are entirely distinct, the one supplements the other. Indeed, a primary object in preparing the report herewith submitted was that the data obtained by the Census might contribute to the special investigation authorized by Congress.

It might be said that the information supplied by the Census is in answer to the question of who and how many are the women engaged in gainful occupations rather than the question of the influence and conditions of their employment. This distinction was more clearly perceived as the work approached completion. When projected it was referred to as a report on the "occupations of women;" but when the work was completed it was felt that this would hardly be an appropriate title, since the data related not so much to the occupations of women as to the women employed in occupations. Accordingly the title "statistics of women at work" was finally selected as being more descriptive of the character of the report.

In this report women at work are classified by age, race and nativity, nativity of parents, marital condition, and occupation. Statistics of this general character have been presented in more or less detail in the reports of each Census since and including that of 1870. But the present report, making a fuller use of the information found on the Census schedules, presents also statistics in regard to the family relationship of the women at work, classifying them with respect to their relationship to the head of the family and with respect to the number of other breadwinners in the family.

It was my intention at one time to present in this report statistics of the wages paid to women employed in the manufacturing establishments included in the scope of the Census of Manufactures taken in the year 1905, but as another report is in preparation which will present the wage statistics compiled by that census for women as well as for men and children, it was thought inadvisable to repeat the figures in the present publication.

Very respectfully,


Director.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.