

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. CAPT, Director (Appointed May 22, 1941)

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, Director (Retired January 31, 1941)

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION

THE LABOR FORCE

(Sample Statistics)

**Employment and Family
Characteristics of Women**

Prepared under the supervision of
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UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1943

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

REPORTS ON POPULATION

Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants, by States.
- II Characteristics of the Population, by States.
- III The Labor Force—Occupation, Industry, Employment, and Income, by States.
- IV Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, by States.

Statistics for Census Tracts (Including Housing Data).

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REPORTS ON HOUSING

- I Data for Small Areas, by States.
Supplement: Block Statistics for Cities.
- II General Characteristics of Housing, by States.
- III Characteristics by Monthly Rent or Value, by States.
- IV Mortgages on Owner-Occupied Nonfarm Homes, by States.

Special Reports.

FOREWORD

Sampling techniques were utilized in the Sixteenth Decennial Census for the first time in the history of the Population Census. The use of sampling methods permitted the collection of statistics on a larger number of inquiries than had heretofore been possible, the release of preliminary population statistics at an early date, and the tabulation of a great many social and economic characteristics of the population at a relatively low cost.

This report is based on tabulations of a sample of the population returns and presents data on the labor force status of women in the United States according to employment and family characteristics. These statistics were designed for use in analyzing the demographic factors affecting the female labor supply, with special reference to the potential supply of labor during the war emergency. The data describing the family characteristics of women not in the labor force in each metropolitan district of 100,000 or more provide materials for estimating potential labor supply in many areas where war production is concentrated. This report was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief Statistician for Population, and Dr. A. Ross Eckler, Assistant Chief Statistician, by William H. Mautz, Chief of Economic Statistics, Dr. John D. Durand, Edwin D. Goldfield, and Louis Schwalb. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.

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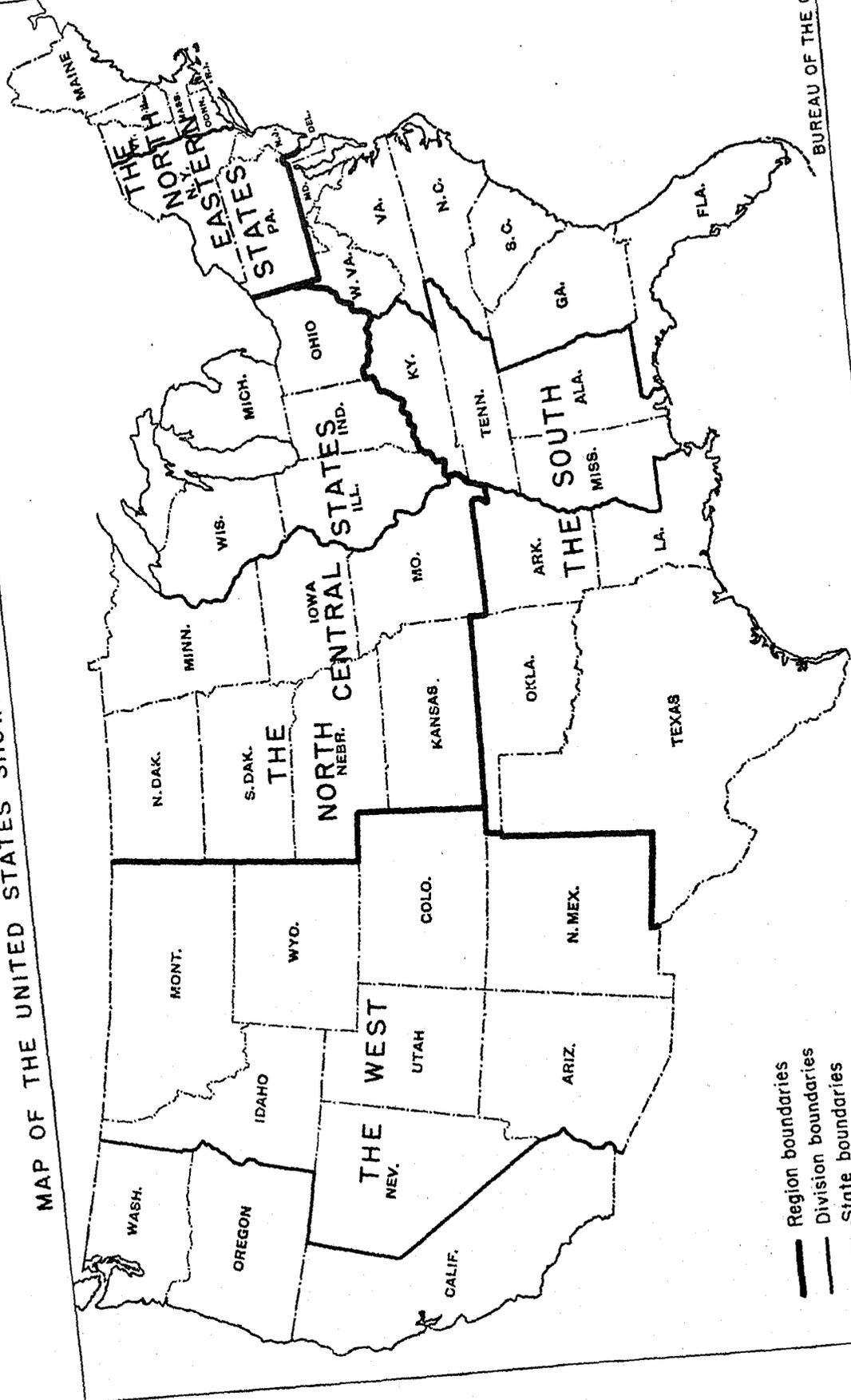
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MAP OF THE UNITED STATES SHOWING REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES



— Region boundaries
- - - Division boundaries
— State boundaries

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

EMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This report presents data on the labor force status of women in the United States, according to family characteristics, based on tabulations of a sample of the returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken in April 1940.¹ Statistics on marital status and number of children are presented for women in the labor force and for those not in the labor force during the census week of March 24 to 30, 1940, classified by age, color, education, and other characteristics, and by economic characteristics of their husbands. Data are given for the United States and four broad regions, and for metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more.

The statistics presented here are designed for use in the analysis of the factors determining the female labor supply, with special reference to the potential supply of labor during the war. Variations in the proportions of women in the labor force according to age, other personal characteristics, family characteristics, and economic status indicate the conditions under which women are most likely to enter the labor market. Distributions of women not in the labor force according to these characteristics show the composition of the potential female labor supply. Statistics for individual metropolitan districts, showing the personal and family characteristics of women not in the labor force, provide materials for analyzing labor supply problems in areas where war production is concentrated.

RELATED REPORTS

This is one of a series of reports giving information on persons in the labor force and not in the labor force, under the general title, "The Labor Force--Sample Statistics." The detailed statistics shown in this report are based on tabulations of a sample of the population, designated as Sample C, whereas the data shown in the other reports of this series are based on tabulations of another sample, designated as Sample B. The specific titles of the other reports in this series and a brief summary of the subjects covered are given below:²

Employment and Personal Characteristics: Detailed figures on characteristics of males and females in the labor force according to age, employment status, months worked in 1939, marital status, household relationship, and other characteristics, for the United States and regions.

Occupational Characteristics: Statistics on the occupational characteristics of the labor force, according to age, months worked in 1939, and other characteristics, for the United States and regions.

Industrial Characteristics: Industrial characteristics of the labor force, by personal and economic characteristics, for the United States and regions.

Usual Occupation: Usual occupation of persons in the labor force and of those not in the labor force, including data for the United States, regions, States, and large cities.

Wage or Salary Income in 1939: Statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 for wage or salary workers by months worked in 1939, age, and other characteristics, for other persons in the labor force, and for persons not in the labor force, for the United States, geographic divisions, States, and large cities.

¹ The 1940 Population Census schedule is reproduced in Part 1 of Volume III and Part 1 of Volume IV of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population. The instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in these volumes.

² At the time this report goes to press, in June of 1943, these reports are in various stages of completion, and the titles and contents may be somewhat altered before publication.

Another report, based on tabulations of Sample B, presents 1940 data pertinent to the problems of potential labor supply, and appears under the title indicated below:

Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force: Sex, age, color, marital status, household relationship, and data on previous employment, for persons not in the labor force, with an analysis of potential labor supply, for the United States and regions.

Labor force data for families will be presented in a series of publications under the general title, "Families." A report in this series entitled, "Employment Status" will present data for families by number and employment status of persons in the labor force, by characteristics of the family and of the family head, for the United States, regions, and cities of 1,000,000 inhabitants or more. This report will include data on the labor force status of wives of family heads by number and age of children under 18 years old and other family characteristics.

Statistics for males and females in the labor force and not in the labor force by States and subdivisions of States are given in the publications based on the complete tabulations of the 1940 census returns. Volume II of the Sixteenth Decennial Census Reports on Population, entitled "Characteristics of the Population," presents data on employment status, class of worker, major occupation groups, and industry groups, by sex, for States by urban-rural residence, for cities and other urban places, for metropolitan districts, and for counties. Volume III of the Reports on Population, entitled "The Labor Force," presents for each State and for cities of 100,000 or more detailed statistics for the labor force by occupation, industry, class of worker, employment status, hours worked during the census week, duration of unemployment, months worked in 1939, and wage or salary income received in 1939. Volume IV of the Reports on Population, entitled "Population Characteristics by Age," includes sex and age distributions of persons in the labor force and of those not in the labor force, for each State and for cities of 100,000 or more, together with detailed data on marital status, relationship to head of household, and education of the population by age and sex.

AREAS

Most of the statistics in this report are presented for the United States, for four broad regions, and for the 11 metropolitan districts having 1,000,000 inhabitants or more. In addition, condensed classifications of women in the labor force and not in the labor force by age, marital status, and number of children are presented for metropolitan districts of 100,000 to 1,000,000. The four regions are: (a) The Northeastern States, comprising the New England and Middle Atlantic Divisions; (b) the North Central States, comprising the East North Central and West North Central Divisions; (c) the South, comprising the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central Divisions; and (d) the West, comprising the Mountain and Pacific Divisions. In some cases, the figures for regions and metropolitan districts are omitted or presented in condensed form.

Statistics for the United States and regions in this report are given separately for four area groups: (a) Metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more, (b) urban areas outside metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more; (c) rural-nonfarm areas outside such metropolitan districts, and (d) rural-farm areas outside such metropolitan districts. In some of the tables the urban areas outside metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more are divided into two classes: Urban places of 25,000 to 100,000 and urban places of 2,500 to 25,000. The classification by urban and rural residence differs from that given in most of the publications of the 1940 census in that totals for the urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm areas are not shown. The

THE LABOR FORCE—SAMPLE STATISTICS

metropolitan district grouping is used because the economic and family characteristics of women, and the employment opportunities available to them, are much the same in the towns and unincorporated suburbs surrounding large cities as in the urban centers themselves and differ greatly from those in isolated urban and rural communities. The data for individual metropolitan districts were prepared particularly to meet the needs of the War Manpower Commission and other agencies interested in the problems of reserve labor supply; many of these figures were made available to these agencies considerably in advance of the publication of this report.

A metropolitan district includes, in addition to the central city or cities, all adjacent and contiguous minor civil divisions or incorporated places having a population of 150 or more per square mile. In some metropolitan districts a few less densely populated contiguous divisions are included on the basis of special qualifications. A metropolitan district is thus not a political unit but rather an area including all the thickly settled territory in and around a city or group of cities. It tends to be a more or less integrated area with common economic, social, and, often, administrative interests.

Urban population not in metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places (outside such metropolitan districts), having 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remainder of the population not in such metropolitan districts is classified as rural, and is subdivided into the rural-farm population (not in metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more), which comprises those living on farms, without regard to occupation, and the rural-nonfarm population (not in metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more), comprising the remaining rural population outside such metropolitan districts.

AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED DATA

Some of the data on the characteristics of women 18 to 64 years old that were tabulated have been omitted from the tables in this report, partly because of limited funds for publication and partly because of the comparatively large sampling errors that are to be expected in the more detailed cross-classifications for categories containing only a small number of persons. For these reasons, some of the detailed statistics are not presented for relatively small areas, and statistics for nonwhites are not shown for the Northeastern States, the North Central States, and the West, which have only a small number of nonwhites.

The data presented in tables 1 to 4 were tabulated for each of 31 States or State groups, for each metropolitan district of 100,000 or more, and for the remainder of each State or State group, urban and rural. All information shown in tables 17 to 32 for women with one or more children under 10 years old was tabulated for those with one child under 10 and those with two or more children under 10. In addition, those data presented for married women with husband present in tables 17 to 19 and 29 to 32 were tabulated separately for the category "married, husband absent, widowed, and divorced," without a classification by age of the woman.

Such of the unpublished figures as are considered reliable can be obtained upon request for the nominal cost of transcribing or reproducing them. Requests for such unpublished statistics, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C., will receive a prompt reply including an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

LABOR FORCE CLASSIFICATION

In the 1940 Census of Population, persons 14 years old and over were classified on the basis of their activity during the census week of March 24 to 30, 1940, into two large groups: (a) Persons in the labor force, including those at work for pay or profit or at unpaid family work during the census week; those with a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or lay-off not exceeding four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date; those on public emergency work; and those not at work but actively seeking work during the census week; and (b) persons not in the labor force. The latter group includes persons reported as engaged in own home housework, in school, or unable to work, and others not employed, nor on public emergency work, nor seeking work; all inmates of penal and mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy, regardless of their activity during

the census week; and persons for whom employment status was not reported.

In using the data for women not in the labor force for the analysis of potential labor supply, it should be borne in mind that some of them were reported as unable to work or in institutions, and were presumably not available for employment. Such women, however, constituted only 2.6 percent of the total 18 to 64 years old (table I).

Table I. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF FEMALES 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on Sample E]

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	AGE (YEARS)				PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total, 14 years and over	14 to 17	18 to 64	65 and over	14 to 17 years	18 to 64 years	65 years and over
Total.....	50,471,900	4,856,440	41,038,020	4,577,440	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force.....	13,007,480	382,280	12,346,200	279,000	7.9	30.1	6.1
Employed (exc. emerg. work).....	11,278,920	237,500	10,782,120	259,300	4.9	26.3	5.7
On public emergency work.....	448,900	25,800	417,460	5,620	0.5	1.0	0.1
Seeking work.....	1,279,660	118,980	1,146,600	14,080	2.4	2.8	0.3
Not in labor force.....	37,464,420	4,474,160	28,691,820	4,298,440	92.1	69.9	93.9
In own home housework.....	28,411,540	473,100	25,478,540	2,459,900	9.7	62.1	53.7
In school.....	4,446,420	3,558,680	888,220	2,520	73.2	2.2	0.1
Unable to work.....	2,268,100	34,960	830,060	1,403,080	0.7	2.0	30.7
In institutions.....	395,400	34,340	260,860	100,200	0.7	0.6	2.2
Other.....	777,980	65,020	485,760	227,200	1.8	1.2	4.9
Employment status not reported.....	1,164,980	311,060	747,380	106,540	6.4	1.8	2.3

Certain considerations regarding the labor force classification for women affect the interpretation of the census figures. Since most women are normally engaged at least to some extent in home housework, those with part-time jobs may sometimes have been reported as engaged in own home housework and not in the labor force. Likewise, some women who had lost their jobs and were keeping house while looking for another employment opportunity may have been classified as engaged in home housework instead of seeking work. The difficulty in classification was especially great in rural-farm areas, where it is often very hard to distinguish between work for pay or profit or unpaid family work on the one hand, and incidental farm chores and home housework on the other. A further consideration in the case of rural-farm women is that the census week fell in a season during which agricultural employment was at a comparatively low level. In the summer and early fall the rural-farm labor force includes a much larger number of women. Finally, there were 747,380 women 18 to 64 years old whose employment status was not reported. These have been included in the figures for women not in the labor force, since available evidence indicates that most of them would probably have been classified as engaged in own home housework, if additional information had been obtained. A small part of the group, however, probably would have been classified as in the labor force, if complete reports had been obtained.

The data presented in the detailed tables of this report are limited to women 18 to 64 years of age, and thus exclude females 14 to 17 years old and 65 years old and over, for whom employment status returns were also obtained. Few women under 18 or over 64 years of age are normally in the labor force; and even during a period in which the demand for labor is exceptionally great, few women in these age classes are likely to become workers, except on a part-time or seasonal basis. At the time of the census, only 7.9 percent of all girls 14 to 17 and only 6.1 percent of all women 65 and over were in the labor force (table I).

Nearly three-quarters of the girls 14 to 17 years old were reported as in school. Although there has been some tendency for young women to leave school and start work at earlier ages than usual, it is not likely that the employment of girls under 18 will be greatly increased, except for part-time work after school and during school vacations. Child labor laws, compulsory school attendance laws, and current standards of education limit the full-time employment of this group.

About one-third of the women 65 years old and over were reported as unable to work or in institutions, and it is doubtful whether many of those reported as engaged in own home housework or in other categories not in the labor force could be expected to hold full-time jobs outside the home.

The age group 18 to 64 years included 94.9 percent of the total female labor force in March 1940, and 76.6 percent of all women 14 years old and over who were not in the labor force. It included 89.7 percent of the women engaged in own home housework, who constitute the largest group of women not in the labor force and the most important group from the standpoint of the analysis of potential labor supply.

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

The family relationships and home responsibilities of women are important factors determining the normal size of the female labor force and the extent to which it can readily be increased during a period of labor shortage. The position of the woman in the household--either as a person relatively free from household duties or as a homemaker with other persons dependent upon her for care--tends to determine her availability for employment outside the home. The presence of small children especially limits the employment of young mothers. Moreover, married women with husbands able to provide for them are much less likely to be workers, even if they are relatively free from domestic burdens, than unmarried women.

In this report three classifications relating to the family status of women are presented: Marital status, number of children under 10 years old, and relationship to head of household.

Marital status.— In the classification by marital status three major groups are shown: (a) Single, (b) married, husband present, and (c) other marital status, including married, husband absent, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to marital status at the time the census was taken. Persons classified as married comprise, therefore, both those who have been

married only once and those who have remarried after having been divorced or widowed. A woman was classified as "married, husband present" if her husband was reported as a member of the household in which she was enumerated. The group "married, husband absent" (combined in the tables in this report with widowed and divorced) consists of married women whose husbands were not living in the same household at the time of the census. The latter group includes, therefore, women whose families had been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), immigrants whose husbands had been left abroad, wives of persons enumerated as inmates of institutions, wives of soldiers, sailors, men in labor camps, etc., and other married women whose usual place of residence was not the same as that of their husbands. Married women with husband absent have been combined with widowed and divorced women, since separated wives are likely to be financially more or less independent of their husbands.

Women normally tend to retire from the labor force when they marry or shortly thereafter, taking up housekeeping duties, with the husband assuming responsibility for supporting the family. Widowhood, divorce, and separation, however, force many women to return to work. Thus, the proportion in the labor force is normally much smaller for married women with husband present than for women in the other marital status groups. Although married women with husband present constituted nearly two-thirds of the total female population 18 to 64 years old, they represented less than one-third of the women 18 to 64 years old in the labor force in March 1940 (table II). Of the 26,641,820 married women with husband present, only 3,670,600, or 13.8 percent, were in the labor force, as compared with 66.3 percent of the 8,777,220 single women. The 5,423,120 women who were widowed, divorced, or married with husband absent occupied an intermediate position, with 47.0 percent in the labor force.

Table II. MARITAL STATUS, AND NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD, FOR WOMEN 18 TO 64 YEARS OLD, BY LABOR FORCE STATUS AND AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940
[Statistics based on Sample C]

MARITAL STATUS, AND NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD	TOTAL WOMEN			IN LABOR FORCE			NOT IN LABOR FORCE			PERCENT IN LABOR FORCE		
	Total, 18 to 64 years old	18 to 44 years old	45 to 64 years old	Total, 18 to 64 years old	18 to 44 years old	45 to 64 years old	Total, 18 to 64 years old	18 to 44 years old	45 to 64 years old	Total, 18 to 64 years old	18 to 44 years old	45 to 64 years old
Total.....	40,842,160	28,237,600	12,604,360	12,049,640	9,566,940	2,476,700	28,793,520	18,670,860	10,127,660	29.5	33.9	19.6
Single.....	8,777,220	7,670,000	1,107,220	5,822,900	5,196,100	626,800	2,954,320	2,473,900	480,420	66.3	67.7	56.6
Married, husband present.....	26,641,820	18,197,040	8,444,780	3,670,600	2,914,160	756,440	22,971,220	15,222,880	7,688,340	13.8	16.0	9.0
Without children under 10.....	16,002,740	8,277,940	7,724,800	2,897,760	2,124,000	773,760	18,164,980	6,153,940	7,011,040	17.7	25.7	9.2
With 1 child under 10.....	5,620,260	5,101,290	518,980	535,420	503,840	31,580	5,084,840	4,597,440	487,400	9.5	9.9	6.1
Under 5.....	2,905,360	2,847,640	57,720	218,140	214,620	3,520	2,687,220	2,633,020	54,200	7.5	7.5	6.1
5 to 9.....	2,714,900	2,259,640	455,260	317,280	289,220	28,060	2,397,620	1,964,420	433,200	11.7	12.8	6.1
With 2 or more children under 10.....	5,018,820	4,817,820	201,000	297,420	286,320	11,100	4,721,400	4,581,500	139,900	5.9	5.9	5.5
All under 5.....	1,078,600	1,073,400	5,200	43,980	43,460	520	1,034,620	1,029,940	4,680	4.1	4.0	10.0
5 to 9.....	3,037,200	2,944,500	92,700	166,240	161,660	4,580	2,870,960	2,782,840	88,120	5.5	5.5	4.9
Some under 5 and some 5 to 9.....	903,020	799,920	103,100	87,200	81,200	6,000	815,820	718,720	97,100	9.7	10.2	5.8
Other marital status.....	5,423,120	2,370,760	3,052,360	2,550,140	1,456,680	1,093,460	2,872,980	914,080	1,958,900	47.0	61.4	85.8
Without children under 10.....	4,680,220	1,712,500	2,967,720	2,211,560	1,145,600	1,066,060	2,468,560	566,900	1,901,660	47.3	66.9	85.9
With 1 child under 10.....	470,920	408,080	64,840	233,600	212,540	21,060	237,320	193,540	43,780	49.8	52.3	32.5
With 2 or more children under 10.....	271,980	250,180	19,800	104,880	98,540	6,340	167,100	153,640	13,460	38.6	39.1	32.0

Because of the high birth rate for the farm population, the heavier housework duties and farm chores, and the lack of mechanical housekeeping aids and other home conveniences, home-making duties tend to be a greater obstacle to employment for married women in rural-farm areas than for those in cities and towns. Moreover, in normal times, opportunities for the employment of women in rural-farm localities are comparatively limited; most farms are remote from industrial and commercial centers, so that often women in rural-farm areas have opportunity to work only on the home farm. The proportion in the labor force for married women 18 to 64 years old with husband present was only 5.4 percent in rural-farm areas outside metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more, as compared with 16.2 percent in metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more, and 18.4 percent in urban places outside such metropolitan districts (table 2). The proportions in the labor force for rural-farm women who were single or of other marital status were also comparatively low.

Children under 10 years old.— All married, widowed, and divorced women are classified according to the number of their children under 10 years old, including stepchildren and adopted children, who had their usual place of residence in the same

household. Tables 1 to 16 show various groupings of married, widowed, and divorced women by number and age of their children (under 5 years old and 5 to 9 years old). Tables 4, 5, 6, and 10 show the number (none, one, or two or more) of children under 5 years old. Tables 17 to 32 present for married women with husband present various characteristics in relation to the presence or absence of children under 10 years old. Children over 10 years old, and nephews, nieces, grandchildren, etc. of any age, are not taken into account, although they often add to the dependency burden of the woman.

Almost all married women with husband present have house-keeping responsibilities that interfere at least to some extent with their employment outside the home. Those who have young children, however, are particularly unlikely to be in the labor force. Only 9.5 percent of the married women 18 to 64 years old, living with their husbands, who had one child under 10 years old, and only 5.9 percent of those who had two or more children under 10, were in the labor force, as compared with 17.7 percent of those who had no children under 10 (table II). Most of the working married women with one or more children under 10 were probably women who could hire servants or arrange for someone to take care of the children, or women who were forced to work to support themselves and their families.

THE LABOR FORCE—SAMPLE STATISTICS

Children under 5 years old hindered the employment of their mothers more than older children. For married women 18 to 44 years old with husband present and with one child under 5 but no children 5 to 9 years old, the proportion in the labor force was only 7.5 percent, whereas it was 12.8 percent for those with one child 5 to 9 but none under 5.

Relationship to head of household.— Each married, widowed, or divorced woman living in a private household is classified according to her relationship to the head of the household. The term "private household," as used in the 1940 census, includes the related family members and the unrelated lodgers, servants, or hired hands who live in the same dwelling unit and share common housekeeping arrangements. A person living alone, or a small group of unrelated persons sharing the same living accommodations as "partners" is also counted as a private household. A family residing permanently or for an indefinite period in an apartment hotel is counted as a private household. The following relationship categories are shown in this report:

Head of private household.— One person in each private household was designated as the household head, that is, the person regarded as the head by the members of the household. This person is usually the chief breadwinner or "economic head" of the family. In some cases, however, the head is a parent of the chief earner or is the only adult member of the household. If both husband and wife were present in the household, the husband rather than the wife was to be designated as the head. Therefore, no women who were married with husband present are classified as heads. Some female heads were women living alone, who may have had no dependents, and some were unattached women sharing living accommodations with "partners."

Wife of head.— This category comprises married women with husband present who were the wives of heads of private households. Not all married women with husband present are included in this category, since some were wives of members of the household other than the head, or were not in private households.

Other relative of head.— This group includes mothers, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, and all other persons (except wives) related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the head of the household in which they lived.

Not relative of head.— This category comprises lodgers, servants, and other persons living in private households but not related to the household head.

Not in private household.— This category comprises women living in quasi households, including inmates of penal and mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy; residents, other than inmates, of such institutions; and other women not in private households, such as residents of boarding or lodging houses, transients in hotels, and women living in schools, hospitals, and convents.

The statistics on household relationship given here differ from family statistics in that the data shown here are classifications of individuals, rather than of entire families as units.

The proportion in the labor force was considerably higher for married women with husband present who were "other relatives" of household heads than for those who were wives of heads (table 14). The former group presumably was comparatively free from housekeeping duties, and included a relatively large proportion of women under 30 years old, among whom the proportion of workers was greater than among older women.

Women who were in private households but were not relatives of heads showed a high proportion in the labor force. This group included servants living in the household, all of whom were in the labor force. Only a minority of the women in the group were married with husband present, and few had children under 10 years old.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Age.— Because of the considerable part which age plays in determining the participation of any group of women in the labor force, most of the tables in this report present statistics by age. The age classification is based on the age of the woman at her last birthday before the date of the census, that is, the age of the woman in completed years.

Women usually remain in the labor force for only a short period of their lives. Most women leave their jobs when they marry; some married women without children continue to work, but very few remain in the labor force after they begin to raise a family. Although the assumption of household duties

and the shifting of breadwinning responsibilities to the husband are the primary factors causing the retirement of women from the labor force, the physical disabilities associated with the older ages and the preference of employers for younger workers are also important considerations.

The proportions of single women in the labor force were comparatively high at all ages, decreasing gradually from a peak of 79.1 percent for the group 25 to 29 years old to 56.6 percent for those 45 to 64 (table III).

Table III. PERCENT IN THE LABOR FORCE, FOR WOMEN 18 TO 64 YEARS OLD, BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE, AND PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on Sample C]

MARITAL STATUS AND CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD	Total women, 18 to 64 yrs. old	18 TO 44 YEARS OLD						45 to 64 yrs. old
		Total, 18 to 44	18 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	
Total.....	29.5	33.9	43.2	34.9	30.2	27.9	25.5	19.6
Single.....	66.3	67.7	62.0	79.1	77.4	74.9	71.2	56.6
Married, husband present....	13.8	16.0	15.6	17.9	17.0	15.6	13.5	9.0
Without children under 10....	17.7	25.7	27.3	35.9	31.2	29.2	16.8	9.2
With children under 10....	7.8	8.0	6.4	8.7	8.8	7.9	7.0	5.9
Other marital status.....	47.0	61.4	53.9	63.4	66.2	63.8	59.6	35.8
Without children under 10....	47.3	65.9	62.2	71.8	72.9	68.6	61.4	35.9
With children under 10....	45.6	47.3	42.3	51.5	51.4	46.6	41.4	32.4

For married women with husband present but without children under 10 years old, the proportions in the labor force were less than half as great as for single women at ages under 30, and declined more rapidly with increasing age. For those with children under 10, the proportion was no greater than 8.8 percent for any age period. The percentages in the labor force for this group did not decline much in the older age groups, partly because women re-entering the labor force compensated to some extent for those who withdrew in these age classes. Some of the women who re-entered the labor force were able to return to work because their children had grown older and therefore required less care. Others were forced to return by economic pressure.

Women who were married with husband absent, or widowed or divorced, and who had no children under 10 years old, showed almost as high a proportion in the labor force up to 45 years of age as did single women; these women were like single women in their lack of family responsibilities and in the necessity for earning their own living. Similarly, for married women with husband absent and widowed and divorced women who had children under 10, the necessity for providing a living for themselves and their children resulted in a comparatively large percentage of workers. Although the proportions in the labor force were not so high for these women as for women in the same marital status group without children under 10, they were much higher at every age than the proportions for married women with husband present and with children under 10.

Color.— Because of the differences between whites and nonwhites in economic status, occupations, and family characteristics, most of the detailed tables for the United States and the South include separate statistics for nonwhite women. Statistics by color are not presented for the Northeastern States, the North Central States, and the West, where the nonwhite population is small. Data for nonwhite women are shown for individual metropolitan districts having a relatively large nonwhite population.

The great majority of the nonwhites are Negroes, except in the West, where there are many Indians, Chinese, and Japanese. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite races were returned as white in 1940.

Nonwhite women tend to remain in the labor force after marriage and after having children, to a greater extent than white women (table IV). The differences in the proportions of white and nonwhite married women in the labor force were especially great in the older age groups and among those with children under 10. These differences can be attributed partly to economic factors, which force nonwhite women to work for a living even after they have married and have begun to raise a family. The differences are also due partly to the fact that nonwhite women are employed largely as domestic servants and farm laborers—occupations in which opportunities for the employment of older women are comparatively favorable.

Table IV. PERCENT IN THE LABOR FORCE, FOR MARRIED WOMEN 18 TO 64 YEARS OLD WITH HUSBAND PRESENT, BY AGE AND COLOR OF WOMAN, AND PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on Sample C]

COLOR, AND CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD	Total, 18 to 64 yrs. old	AGE OF WOMAN (YEARS)				
		18 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64
Total.....	13.8	15.6	17.9	17.0	14.6	9.0
White.....	12.5	14.5	16.6	15.6	13.2	8.1
Nonwhite.....	27.1	23.5	30.2	30.9	29.4	22.4
Without children under 10.....	17.7	27.3	35.9	31.2	19.7	9.2
White.....	16.3	26.3	34.8	29.6	18.1	8.4
Nonwhite.....	32.8	33.8	43.0	40.9	34.5	23.1
With children under 10.....	7.8	6.4	6.7	8.8	7.6	5.9
White.....	7.0	5.2	7.9	8.2	6.7	4.8
Nonwhite.....	17.7	14.8	18.9	18.1	19.4	17.9

Education.—In the tables which show the educational attainments of married women 18 to 64 years old with husband present, these women are classified according to the last full grade completed in the regular school system—public, private, or parochial school, college, or university. Women who reported no schooling are included in the group having under 5 years of grade school.

The relative educational qualifications of women in the labor force and not in the labor force are shown in table V, which presents median years of school completed by various groups of women. The median year of school completed may be defined as the year which divides each group of women into equal parts, one-half having completed more schooling and one-half having completed less schooling than the median. These medians are expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers representing years of school completed. For example, the completion of the first year of high school is indicated by 9.

Among married women with husband present but without children under 10 years old, the median number of years of school completed was greater for those in the labor force than for those not in the labor force. This difference may be explained partly in terms of more favorable employment opportunities for those with better education. On the other hand, among women with children under 10, those not in the labor force had slightly greater educational attainments, on the average, than those in the labor force. For women with children, economic pressure affecting the families of the more poorly educated apparently was the more important factor.

Table V. MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY MARRIED WOMEN 18 TO 64 YEARS OLD WITH HUSBAND PRESENT, BY LABOR FORCE STATUS AND AGE OF WOMAN, AND PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on Sample C]

LABOR FORCE STATUS, AND CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD	Total, 18 to 64 years old	AGE OF WOMAN (YEARS)		
		18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64
Total.....	8.8	10.3	9.2	8.1
In labor force.....	9.5	11.3	9.8	8.9
Not in labor force.....	8.7	10.2	9.1	8.0
Without children under 10.....	8.7	11.3	9.3	8.1
In labor force.....	9.8	12.0	10.1	8.8
Not in labor force.....	8.5	11.0	9.0	8.1
With children under 10.....	9.0	9.7	9.1	7.6
In labor force.....	8.9	9.2	8.9	7.3
Not in labor force.....	9.0	9.7	9.1	7.6

The distribution of married women with children under 10 by labor force status and years of school completed shows a tendency for little schooling to be associated with relatively high proportions in the labor force, except that college graduates had a high proportion in the labor force (table 17). For women with college training, a group who had on the average a relatively high economic status, the high proportion in the labor force probably reflects the desire of these women to retain the attractive positions open to those with higher education, and their ability to hire outside help to care for their children.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The employment of married women is affected by the economic status of their families. In this report, four types of data bearing on family economic status are shown in relation to the labor force status of married women. These are monthly rental value of the home, wage or salary income of the husband, employment status of the husband, and major occupation group of the husband.

Monthly rental value of home.—The data on monthly rental value of home, as presented in this report, are restricted to married women who were the wives of heads of private households living in metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more and in urban areas outside such metropolitan districts. Statistics on this subject are not presented for women who were other relatives or nonrelatives of the head or who were not living in private households, or for women in rural areas, because for such women the rental value of the home is not a reliable indication of economic status. For rural-farm areas in particular the data on monthly rental value are not entirely satisfactory because of the difficulty in separating the value or rent of the farm house from that of the rest of the farm property.

For women living in rented homes, the monthly rental value represents the reported monthly contract rent. For those in owner-occupied homes, it represents one percent of the reported value of the home.

For wives living in homes with relatively small monthly rental value, the percentage in the labor force was considerably greater than for wives living in more expensive homes. In metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more, the proportion in the labor force was 16.4 percent for wives of heads in homes having a rental value of less than \$10 per month, but only 7.4 percent for those with a monthly rental value of \$100 and over (table 20). This disparity was even more striking in urban areas outside metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more, and was evident both for wives without children under 10 years old and for those with one or more such children. The relationship was exaggerated somewhat by the fact that a relatively large proportion of the women in the more expensive homes were women in the upper age classes, in which the proportion of workers is comparatively small. For each age class separately, however, the proportion of workers tended to be relatively small among wives living in homes with a high monthly rental value.

Wage or salary income of husband.—Statistics on the labor force status of married women according to the wage or salary income in 1939 of their husbands are presented in this report. These statistics are shown for married women with husband present whose husbands did not receive income amounting to \$50 or more in 1939 from sources other than wages or salaries, living in metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more and in urban and rural-nonfarm areas outside such metropolitan districts. Statistics on this subject are not presented for women whose husbands received other income of \$50 or more in 1939, since for such women the amount of wage or salary income received by the husband is in many cases an incomplete measure of economic status. Data are not presented for rural-farm areas because so many of the workers in these areas are employers, own-account workers, and unpaid family workers, who usually receive little or none of their income in the form of money wages or salaries.

Money wage or salary as defined for the purposes of the 1940 census includes all money received by persons as compensation for work or services performed as employees, including commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, bonuses, etc., as well as receipts commonly referred to as wages or salaries.

A person was considered as having other income if his income from the sources specified below totaled \$50 or more. "Other income" includes all income other than money wages or salaries, such as income from roomers or boarders, business profits, professional fees, income in kind, receipts from the sale of farm products, rents, interest, dividends, unemployment compensation, direct relief, old-age assistance, pensions, annuities, royalties, and regular contributions from persons other than members of the immediate family. Other income does not include receipts in the form of lump-sum insurance settlements, occasional gifts of goods or money, inheritances, receipts or profits from the sale of properties (unless the person earned his living by buying and selling such properties), or reimbursements for travel expenses.

The income data for husbands refer to the calendar year 1939, while the labor force status of the wife is that of the

week of March 24 to 30, 1940. Changes in the weekly earnings of husbands during 1939 and early 1940 may have affected the labor force status of their wives.

There was a marked tendency for the proportion in the labor force to be greater among married women whose husbands received comparatively little income than among those whose husbands were in the higher income groups. In the total of metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more, 27.6 percent of all married women with husband present whose husbands earned only \$1 to \$199 in wages or salaries in 1939 were in the labor force (table 23). The percentage was only one-fifth as great (5.6 percent) for married women whose husbands reported wage or salary income of \$3,000 or more. Similar differences were found in urban and rural-nonfarm areas outside metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more.

The data on the labor force status of nonwhite women according to wage or salary income of their husbands show that the characteristically high proportions of nonwhite married women in the labor force cannot be explained entirely on the basis of the relatively small incomes of their husbands. For corresponding income classes, the percentages of nonwhite women in the labor force were higher than the percentages of white women.

Employment status of husband.—Data are shown in this report for married women with husband present, classified by the employment status of their husbands. Three employment status categories of the husband are shown: (a) Employed, except on public emergency work; (b) on public emergency work or seeking work, that is, the group usually regarded as unemployed; and (c) not in the labor force. These groups are defined below:

Employed (except on public emergency work).—The group classified as employed includes persons who worked for pay or profit at any time during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, in private work or nonemergency Federal, State, or local government work, or who assisted without pay on a family farm or in a family business; and persons not actually at work and not seeking work during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, but with jobs, businesses, or professional enterprises from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or lay-off not exceeding four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date. The group "Employed (except on public emergency work)" includes not only employees but also proprietors, farmers, other self-employed persons, and unpaid family workers.

On public emergency work.—This category includes persons who, during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, were at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), or State or local work relief agencies.

Seeking work.—This category represents persons without work of any sort in the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, who were actively seeking work during that week. In the tables on employment status of husband this group is combined with the group "On public emergency work."

Not in the labor force.—This group comprises persons not employed nor on public emergency work, and not seeking work during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940.

In the interpretation of the data on employment status, allowance must be made for the fact that considerable numbers of persons actually on public emergency work were returned in the census as employed on private or nonemergency government work, seeking work, or in school.

The percentages of married women in the labor force were greatest for those whose husbands were not in the labor force (table 23). Many such women had probably been forced to assume responsibility for supporting their families because their husbands had become temporarily or permanently disabled or otherwise unable to hold a job. Among married women with children under 10, the proportion in the labor force was nearly one-sixth for those whose husbands were not in the labor force, whereas it was less than one-twelfth for those whose husbands were in the labor force (that is, employed, on public emergency work, or seeking work).

Occupation of husband.—The tables on employment status of husband also show statistics on labor force status of married women according to major occupation group of husband, for women whose husbands were employed (except on public emergency work). The 11 major occupation groups shown represent principal subdivisions of the 431 specific occupation titles used in the

1940 census. The specific occupations included in each of the 11 major groups are listed in the tables on occupation presented in Volume III of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, entitled "The Labor Force."

In general, the wives of professional or semiprofessional workers, proprietors, managers, and officials, and craftsmen and kindred workers were less likely to be in the labor force than the wives of operatives, service workers, laborers (except farm), and kindred workers (table 26). These differences probably reflect in part the instability of employment and relatively low incomes prevailing among the latter groups. The very high proportion in the labor force for women whose husbands were employed as domestic service workers probably results also partly from the fact that husbands and wives are often employed together as domestic servants in the same household. The low percentages shown for the wives of farmers and farm laborers are an illustration of the characteristically small proportions of workers among married women in rural-farm areas.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND OCCUPATION OF WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE

Employment status of women in the labor force.—The data on employment status of married women (husband present) in the labor force show the number who were employed (except on public emergency work), the number on public emergency work, and the number seeking work during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. The group seeking work is subdivided into experienced workers and new workers, the latter being women who had not previously worked full time for one month or more. Women seeking work for whom a report on work experience was lacking were classified as experienced workers.

Among married women in the labor force, the highest proportions employed were found among women 25 to 34 years old (table 30). Women under 25 had greater difficulty in securing jobs, in part because many of them were relatively inexperienced. Women in the age groups 35 years and over were handicapped by the preference of employers for younger workers and in some cases were handicapped by physical disabilities.

The proportion on public emergency work was higher for married women in the labor force with one or more children under 10 years old than for those without such children. This difference is probably due partly to the dependency factor in the allocation of emergency project assignments. Many of the public emergency workers shown as without children under 10 years old probably had older children or other dependents, whose presence was a factor in determining eligibility for public emergency work.

Occupation of employed women.—A classification by occupational groups is shown for married women (with husband present) who were employed during the census week. Employed women are classified according to whether they were employed at home or employed away from home, and those employed away from home are subdivided into five occupational groups: Professional and semiprofessional workers; clerical, sales, and kindred workers; operatives and craftsmen and kindred workers; service workers (except protective service); and all other occupations.

The category "employed at home" includes all women who were employed as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business enterprise operated by other members of their families, and those who were employed for pay or profit as private laundresses, seamstresses, dressmakers, boarding house and lodginghouse keepers, and in other occupations carried on at home. In rural-farm areas nearly all of the married women in this category were farmers' wives working without pay on the family farm.

The category "professional and semiprofessional workers" includes all women employed in professional and semiprofessional occupations regardless of where they maintained their places of work. The group "operatives and craftsmen and kindred workers" is composed mainly of semiskilled industrial operatives; it includes also the few women who were employed as skilled craftsmen or foremen. The category "service workers (except protective service)" is composed principally of women employed as domestic servants, although it includes also waitresses, charwomen, cooks, beauty shop operatives, and other women engaged in miscellaneous service occupations. A large proportion of the women in these service occupations (especially of those in domestic service) were nonwhite women.

Differences between the occupational distributions of employed women without children under 10 years old and of employed

women with children under 10 years old may be explained partly in terms of differences in the types of jobs sought by women without children and with children. A relatively large proportion of the married women with children under 10 who were employed during the census week were employed at home. Among those employed away from home, a higher proportion were operatives and craftsmen and kindred workers than was the case for women without children under 10. The latter included a considerably higher proportion of clerical, sales, and kindred workers.

APPLICATIONS OF THE DATA TO THE ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY

The census statistics showing characteristics of the female population are essential materials for planning the mobilization of labor resources during the war. Most of the relatively few men above school age who were able to work but not in the labor force in March 1940 have since become workers. Women, therefore, comprise the main reserve of labor supply needed to meet the demands of war production.

The number of women who will be employed during the war cannot be predicted on the basis of census data, since the number of workers needed will depend on ultimate military requirements for men and materials, the productive capacity of the nation's industries and the extent to which they can be converted to war work, and other factors beyond the scope of these statistics. The figures in this report show, however, what groups of women are the main potential sources of additional labor supply, and thus indicate what kinds of measures may be needed to bring a given number of workers into the labor force. They also indicate the characteristics of the women who will probably take war jobs, their age, color, household relationships, marital status, number of children under 10 years old, and their geographical distribution. This information is useful for planning training programs and other steps to facilitate the absorption of the new recruits into the labor force.

The employment status and family characteristics of women, and their geographical distribution, have been altered somewhat since the time of the census by absorption into war industries, migration into the centers of war production, and increases in the marriage and birth rates. These changes should be taken into account in applying the 1940 census data to problems of labor supply.

The total number of women 14 years old and over who were not in the labor force in March 1940 was 37,464,420 (table I). Not all of these women can be considered as part of the available labor supply. The total included 4,474,160 girls 14 to 17 years old, most of whom were in school, and whose employment is limited by child labor laws, school attendance laws, and current educational standards. An additional 4,298,440 were women 65 years old and over, few of whom were physically qualified for full-time employment outside the home. Among the women 18 to 64 years old there were 1,090,920 who were reported as unable to work or in institutions.

Married women 18 to 64 years old constitute the main source of additional labor supply. There were only 2,954,320 single women 18 to 64 years old and only 2,872,980 widowed and divorced women and married women with husband absent who were not in the labor force in March 1940 (table VI). Of the latter group, 1,958,900 were 45 years old and over. Of the 914,080 under 45 years old, 347,180 had one or more children under 10. Most of the unmarried women who were physically capable and not responsible for the care of dependents in the home have probably taken jobs since the census date.

Among married women, those without children constitute the group which promises to yield the greatest number of additional workers. The total of 22,971,220 married women 18 to 64 years old with husband present who were not in the labor force included 13,164,980 women without children under 10 years old and 9,806,240 with one or more such children. The presence of small children is a serious deterrent to the employment of their mothers. In March 1940, only 7.8 percent of all married women 18 to 64 years old with husband present and with one or more children under 10 years old were in the labor force (table III). The percentage in the labor force for those who had children under 5 years old was even lower. Such women cannot be expected to enter the labor force in large numbers unless an adequate program of day care for children is provided. Even under favorable employment conditions many mothers of young children will prefer to remain housewives.

Women with children of school age are more readily available for employment than those with younger children. At the time

of the census, 11.2 percent of the married women with children 5 to 9 years old, but with no children under 5, were in the labor force (table 2). Expansion of kindergarten and elementary school facilities to offer more complete care of children 5 years old and over during working hours should make it possible for many more of these mothers to take jobs.

Table VI. MARITAL STATUS, AND PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD, FOR WOMEN 18 TO 64 YEARS OLD NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE, BY AGE, IN THE UNITED STATES, IN METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS OF 100,000 OR MORE, AND IN SPECIFIED URBAN AND RURAL AREAS: MARCH 1940
[Statistics based on Sample C]

MARITAL STATUS, AGE, AND CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD	United States	Metro-politan districts of 100,000 or more	Urban ¹	Rural-nonfarm ¹	Rural-farm ¹
Total, 18 to 64 years.....	28,798,520	13,311,940	4,510,700	4,540,760	6,485,120
Single					
Total, 18 to 64 years.....	2,954,320	1,225,340	456,960	449,940	622,080
18 to 44 years.....	2,473,900	993,000	374,240	373,100	733,560
45 to 64 years.....	480,420	232,340	82,720	76,840	88,520
Married, husband present					
Total, 18 to 64 years.....	22,971,220	10,559,300	3,548,520	3,649,460	5,213,940
Without children under 10.....	13,164,980	6,451,580	2,098,700	1,910,240	2,704,460
With children under 10.....	9,806,240	4,107,720	1,449,820	1,739,220	2,509,480
18 to 44 years.....	15,282,880	6,956,860	2,374,840	2,577,720	3,373,460
Without children under 10.....	6,153,940	3,091,720	1,009,780	935,720	1,116,720
With children under 10.....	9,128,940	3,865,140	1,365,060	1,642,000	2,256,740
45 to 64 years.....	7,688,340	3,602,440	1,173,680	1,071,740	1,840,480
Without children under 10.....	7,011,040	3,359,860	1,088,920	974,520	1,537,740
With children under 10.....	677,300	242,580	84,760	97,220	252,740
Other marital status					
Total, 18 to 64 years.....	2,872,980	1,527,300	505,220	441,360	399,100
Without children under 10.....	2,468,560	1,347,240	438,320	366,020	316,920
With children under 10.....	404,420	180,060	66,840	75,340	82,180
18 to 44 years.....	914,080	455,340	157,560	154,340	146,840
Without children under 10.....	566,900	299,820	100,400	90,220	76,660
With children under 10.....	347,180	155,520	57,160	64,120	70,180
45 to 64 years.....	1,958,900	1,071,960	347,660	287,020	252,260
Without children under 10.....	1,901,660	1,047,620	337,980	275,800	240,260
With children under 10.....	57,240	24,340	9,680	11,220	12,000

¹ Outside metropolitan districts of 100,000 inhabitants or more.

Women under 45 years old are more readily employable than those above that age. Of the 13,164,980 married women 18 to 64 years old not in the labor force who had no children under 10, 6,153,940 were under 45 years old (table VI). Although many of those 45 to 64 years of age may be willing to work, they are handicapped by physical limitations and by the preference of employers for younger workers.

In areas where the demand for additional workers is greatest, extensive employment of women normally not in the labor force, and even of those with children, will probably be needed during the war. Much of the nation's wartime industry is concentrated in the metropolitan districts of 100,000 inhabitants or more, but less than half of the women not in the labor force at the time of the census lived in these areas. Migration of workers from areas where the need is less will not obviate the necessity of drawing upon these women because such migration is limited by the overcrowding already existing in the large industrial centers. Furthermore, migration of married women is not easy because of their family ties.

Women in rural-farm areas will be useful in the alleviation of farm labor shortages. Those residing in rural-nonfarm localities and small towns may replace men who have left for the armed forces or who have migrated to large production centers, and may also help seasonally on nearby farms.

COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNT

The statistics for women 18 to 64 years of age shown in all detailed tables of this report, and in all text tables except table I, are based on tabulations of Sample C, which consists of females 15 years old and over. In certain portions of the

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areas shown a 2½-percent sample was used (multiplied by a uniform factor of 40), and elsewhere a 5-percent sample (multiplied by a uniform factor of 20).

Table I of this report, and the statistics of the other reports in the series, "The Labor Force--Sample Statistics," are based on tabulations of Sample B, which is a 5-percent sample of all persons. Because of sampling variation and differences in processing, exact agreement is not to be expected between the results of tabulations based on Samples B and C, or between the results of tabulations based on either sample and the complete count. Table VII shows comparable totals available from all three sources. Despite the lack of exact agreement with the complete count, the sample data presented in the reports nevertheless indicate the relationships among the various characteristics involved. With regard to the individual numbers in the tables based on Sample C, comparisons thus far made with figures obtainable also from the complete count indicate that 95 percent of the numbers above 25,000 will differ from those available from the complete count by less than 5 percent, 95 percent of those between 10,000 and 25,000 will differ by less than 10 percent, and 95 percent of those between 2,500 and 10,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may occur in the case of numbers below 2,500, but even here the majority of the differences are less than 15 percent.

Table VII. SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNT, FOR WOMEN 18 TO 64 YEARS OLD, BY LABOR FORCE STATUS AND AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH, 1940

LABOR FORCE STATUS AND AGE	Based on complete count	BASED ON SAMPLE B		BASED ON SAMPLE C	
		Number	Percent of complete count	Number	Percent of complete count
Total, 18 to 64 years old..	41,118,459	41,038,020	99.8	40,842,160	99.3
18 to 24 years.....	8,418,904	8,445,080	100.3	8,386,900	99.6
25 to 29 years.....	5,648,976	5,631,900	99.8	5,608,720	99.3
30 to 34 years.....	5,172,076	5,154,260	99.8	5,145,360	99.5
35 to 44 years.....	9,158,426	9,148,900	99.8	9,095,760	99.2
45 to 64 years.....	12,713,077	12,647,880	99.5	12,604,360	99.1
In labor force.....	12,206,218	12,346,200	101.1	12,043,640	98.7
18 to 24 years.....	3,668,588	3,711,680	101.2	3,623,900	98.8
25 to 29 years.....	1,987,458	1,998,860	100.6	1,957,920	98.5
30 to 34 years.....	1,373,787	1,594,180	101.3	1,553,500	98.7
35 to 44 years.....	2,465,420	2,467,560	100.9	2,431,620	98.6
45 to 64 years.....	2,510,975	2,558,820	101.7	2,476,700	98.6
Not in labor force.....	28,912,241	28,691,820	99.2	28,798,520	99.6
18 to 24 years.....	4,750,321	4,733,400	99.6	4,763,060	100.3
25 to 29 years.....	3,658,523	3,633,040	99.3	3,650,800	99.8
30 to 34 years.....	3,598,289	3,570,080	99.2	3,591,860	99.8
35 to 44 years.....	6,703,006	6,661,240	99.4	6,665,140	99.4
45 to 64 years.....	10,202,102	10,094,060	98.9	10,127,660	99.3