

# Women in Industry

## Women in Wartime Labor Force in Illinois, July 1944

WHEN the March 1940 census was taken in Illinois, 746,933 women were reported as employed and 107,343 as seeking work. At that period women constituted a fourth of the labor force of the State. Tentative estimates by the Illinois Department of Labor indicate that in July 1944 approximately 1,246,000 women were employed, over 10,000 were in military service, and only 20,000 to 30,000 were looking for work.<sup>1</sup>

In July 1944 women constituted about 36 percent of the employed workers in Illinois, while in nonagricultural occupations the proportion was nearly 40 percent.

The increase of women in the labor force in that State as compared with the United States is shown in the accompanying table. The number of women engaged in nonagricultural employment in July 1944 was 64 percent above the number in March 1940; the corresponding expansion for the United States in the same period was 53 percent.

*Women in the Labor Force in Illinois and the United States, 1940 and 1944*

Item	Illinois <sup>1</sup>			United States <sup>2</sup>		
	Number of women		Per- cent of in- crease	Number of women		Per- cent of in- crease
	March 1940	July 1944		March 1940	July 1944	
Women in total civilian labor force.....	854, 000	1, 271, 000	49	13, 010, 000	19, 110, 000	47
Women employed.....	747, 000	1, 246, 000	67	11, 240, 000	18, 590, 000	65
Women in nonagricultural employ- ment.....	741, 000	1, 214, 000	64	10, 730, 000	16, 440, 000	53

<sup>1</sup> Estimates by Division of Statistics and Research, Illinois Department of Labor.

<sup>2</sup> Monthly Report on the Labor Force, No. 26 (U. S. Department of Commerce).

## Women's Expanding Employment in Iowa, 1940-44

IN May 1944, the number of females employed by 395 firms in Iowa in various industries reached 28,394, as compared to 15,288 in that month of 1940—a rise of 85.7 percent. Among the most striking increases within the period under review was that in the iron-and-steel-products group in which the number of women in May 1944 was 5,268—over 7½ times the May 1940 figure, as indicated in the accompanying table from the Iowa Employment Survey of May 1944, published by the Bureau of Labor of that State.

<sup>1</sup> Data are from the Illinois Labor Bulletin, Illinois Department of Labor, Chicago, August 31, 1944.

In the "various industries" group, the record was 1,820 females employed in 1940 and 3,823 in May 1944—an upward swing of 110.1 percent. While the number of women in railway-car shops has been small in the war period, the 153 employed in May 1944 was 9½ times the number in such shops in May 1940.

*Increase in Female Employment in Various Industry Groups in Iowa, in May of Years 1940 to 1944*

Industry	Number of firms reporting	Number employed in May—									
		1944		1943		1942		1941		1940	
		Total	Females	Total	Females	Total	Females	Total	Females	Total	Females
All industries.....	395	84,037	28,394	81,289	24,703	76,645	18,828	73,013	16,695	66,219	15,288
Food and kindred products.....	78	24,586	6,876	23,568	5,763	23,488	4,693	20,259	3,942	19,868	3,829
Textiles.....	24	3,137	2,509	3,469	2,765	3,526	2,685	3,292	2,389	3,024	2,234
Iron and steel products.....	82	24,221	5,268	22,662	4,013	18,526	1,381	17,989	780	14,482	688
Lumber products.....	25	3,682	668	4,239	729	4,420	255	4,813	260	4,348	244
Leather products.....	10	865	631	941	676	979	657	975	631	818	528
Paper products, printing and publishing.....	30	3,265	1,059	3,211	979	3,279	830	3,423	848	3,301	832
Patent medicines, chemicals, and compounds.....	7	668	437	680	428	558	330	510	300	453	253
Stone and clay products.....	22	1,920	70	2,303	59	2,566	15	2,575	13	2,463	12
Railway-car shops.....	11	3,402	153	3,358	61	2,984	12	2,698	14	2,504	16
Various industries.....	51	6,787	3,823	5,801	2,964	5,436	2,562	5,318	2,243	4,362	1,820
Public utilities.....	15	7,027	4,143	6,730	3,673	6,702	3,150	6,891	3,095	6,606	2,844
Wholesale and retail trade.....	40	4,477	2,757	4,327	2,503	4,181	2,258	4,270	2,180	3,990	1,988



## Occupations of Women Workers Injured in Michigan Industries

THE occupational distribution of 2,538 cases involving compensable injuries to Michigan women workers which were closed in the first half of 1944 is given below:<sup>1</sup>

	Number of closed cases
All occupations.....	2,538
Manufacturing industries.....	1,731
Metalworking trades.....	924
Transportation equipment.....	195
Other.....	612
Nonmanufacturing industries.....	807
Waitresses, cooks, and kitchen workers.....	215
Other service workers.....	181
Clerical workers.....	131
Saleswomen.....	94
Professional, semiprofessional, and managerial workers, and officials.....	61
Other.....	125

Of the closed cases, 68 percent are reported in manufacturing occupations, over half of the latter group being in the metalworking trades. Of the 924 compensable injuries to women in such trades, 100 are reported for filers, grinders, buffers, and polishers of metals and 223 for those engaged in the mechanical treatment of metals. Of the

<sup>1</sup> Michigan Labor and Industry (Michigan department of Labor and Industry, Lansing), October 1944. The cases analyzed were reported to the department since 1942.

612 injuries reported in "other manufacturing occupations," 461 were distributed as follows: In the manufacture of food products, 92; in the manufacture of lumber and lumber products, 80; among inspectors, 136; in automobile manufacture, 68; and in the manufacture of aircraft, 85.

These statistics, the report points out, should not be interpreted as showing that a disproportionate number of industrial accidents have occurred among women workers. In the 6 months under review 14,795 cases of compensable injuries to men were closed. The 2,538 cases of injury to women constituted less than 15 percent of all cases closed. In manufacturing, however, women comprised 23 to 24 percent of the total wage earners.

