

Census  
R  
16  
455  
1870-  
1920

Reference Copy

288  
Census  
1870  
HA  
1920  
43  
1920  
C. 7

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

R. P. LAMONT, SECRETARY

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

W. M. STEUART, Director

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
LIBRARY

# WOMEN IN GAINFUL OCCUPATIONS 1870 TO 1920

A STUDY OF THE TREND OF RECENT CHANGES IN  
THE NUMBERS, OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION,  
AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP OF WOMEN  
REPORTED IN THE CENSUS AS  
FOLLOWING A GAINFUL  
OCCUPATION

BY

JOSEPH A. HILL



CENSUS MONOGRAPHS

IX

*Bureau of the Census  
Library*

UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1929

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. - - - - - Price ~~\$2.40~~<sup>1.50</sup> per copy

## CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword.....	xv
CHAPTER I.—Introduction.....	1
CHAPTER II.—The extent to which women have taken up gainful occupations.....	7
Geographic divisions.....	7
In cities.....	8
Race and nativity.....	11
CHAPTER III.—Why the percentage of women reported as gainfully occupied was smaller in 1920 than in 1910.....	16
Change in the date of the census.....	16
Changes in instructions to enumerators.....	16
Fluctuations in the reported number of farm laborers.....	18
Percentage in nonagricultural pursuits.....	19
Analysis by age, race, and nativity.....	22
Conclusions.....	27
CHAPTER IV.—Comparison by States and cities as regards changes in the percentage gainfully occupied.....	29
CHAPTER V.—The occupations which women are entering.....	32
Occupations showing increases.....	32
Occupations showing decreases.....	35
The decreasing servant class.....	36
The increasing store and office class.....	39
Factory workers.....	40
Women in the professions.....	41
Women in agriculture.....	43
CHAPTER VI.—Range of women's occupations.....	46
CHAPTER VII.—Proportion of women among the gainfully occupied.....	52
Classification by race and nativity.....	53
In individual occupations.....	55
CHAPTER VIII.—Age and marital condition in relation to occupation.....	67
CHAPTER IX.—Married women in gainful occupations.....	75
Number and percentage.....	75
Increase, 1890-1920.....	75
Proportion married in the total number of women employed.....	77
Race and nativity.....	77
Age.....	78
Occupations.....	80
CHAPTER X.—Native white women of native parentage in gainful occupations.....	85
CHAPTER XI.—Native white women of foreign or mixed parentage in gainful occupations.....	93
CHAPTER XII.—Foreign-born white women in gainful occupations.....	99
Principal occupations of foreign-born white women.....	104
CHAPTER XIII.—Negro women in gainful occupations.....	109
Decrease in the number of laundresses.....	112
Slight increase in the number of servants.....	113
Increase in other nonagricultural pursuits.....	115
Proportion of Negroes in the total number of women workers.....	120

	Page
CHAPTER XIV.—Family relationship.....	122
Comparison by occupations.....	124
Comparison by cities.....	125
Marital condition.....	128
Race and nativity.....	129
Comparison with 1900.....	132
Servants and waitresses "living out".....	138
Comparison with 1900 by individual cities.....	140
CHAPTER XV.—Other wage earners; boarders and lodgers.....	148
Number of other wage earners in the family.....	148
Boarders or lodgers.....	154
APPENDIX.—Effect of changes in distribution by age and by marital condition upon number of women gainfully employed.....	157
Effect of the change in age distribution.....	157
Effect of the change in distribution by marital condition.....	158
Combined effect of changes in age distribution and marital condition.....	160

## TEXT TABLES

CHAPTER I	
Table	Page
1.—Persons 10 years of age and over engaged in gainful occupations, by age and sex: 1920.....	2
2.—Women 16 years of age and over: 1920.....	6
CHAPTER II	
3.—Number and percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, by geographic sections and divisions: 1920.....	8
4.—Number and percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations for cities of 25,000 inhabitants or more, classified by size, and for smaller cities and rural areas, by geographic divisions: 1920.....	9
5.—Percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920.....	11
6.—Number and percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, by race and nativity: 1920.....	12
7.—Percentage of single women 16 years of age and over, by race and nativity: 1920.....	13
8.—Number and percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, by race and nativity, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for smaller cities and rural areas: 1920.....	13
9.—Percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age, race, and nativity, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920.....	14
10.—Percentage of native white women of native parentage and of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age and parent nativity, for cities of 500,000 inhabitants or more: 1920.....	15
CHAPTER III	
11.—Number of women in all occupations, in the principal agricultural pursuits, and in nonagricultural pursuits, as reported in the censuses of 1920, 1910, and 1900, with number and per cent of increase.....	18
12.—Number and percentage of women engaged in all occupations, in agricultural pursuits, and in nonagricultural pursuits: 1870-1920.....	19

# CONTENTS

V

Table	Page
13.—Percentage of women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits, by race and nativity: 1890-1920.....	22
14.—Per cent distribution, by age, of women 16 years of age and over: 1870-1920.....	23
15.—Number of foreign-born white women, with number and per cent of increase, and with per cent distribution, by age periods: 1920 and 1910.....	25
16.—Per cent distribution, by age, of women classified by race and nativity: 1920 and 1910.....	25
17.—Number and percentage of women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits in 1920, classified by race and nativity, compared with the number and percentage that would have been so occupied had the age distribution of the total number of women remained as it was in 1910..	26
18.—Percentage of women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits in 1920 and in 1910, classified by race and nativity, with the increase or decrease on the 1910 age basis.....	26
19.—Number and per cent distribution of women employed in all nonagricultural pursuits and in 5 decreasing occupations: 1920 and 1910....	28

## CHAPTER IV

20.—Percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, by divisions and States: 1880-1920.....	30
21.—Percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, for specified cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	31
22.—Number and percentage of women gainfully occupied in 1920, with percentage for 1910 and 1900, for the combined cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more in each geographic division.....	31

## CHAPTER V

23.—Number of women employed in the principal nonagricultural pursuits in 1920 and 1910, with increase.....	33
24.—Number and percentage of women and girls employed as servants, etc.: 1870-1920.....	36
25.—Decrease in the number of women employed as servants: 1910-1920..	37
26.—Total persons 10 years of age and over employed as servants, 1920 and 1910, by sex and age, with number and per cent of increase or decrease.....	37
27.—Number of women employed as servants, by race and nativity, with increase or decrease and per cent distribution: 1920 and 1910.....	38
28.—Number of servants, waiters, and housekeepers and stewards per 1,000 of population: 1870-1920.....	39
29.—Number and percentage of women and girls employed in clerical and similar occupations: 1870-1920.....	40
30.—Number and percentage of women and girls employed in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits: 1870-1920.....	40
31.—Number of women and girls in the principal professional pursuits for women: 1870-1920.....	41
32.—Number of females 10 years of age and over engaged in the principal professional pursuits for women: 1870-1920.....	42
33.—Summary occupational classification of women and girls employed in nonagricultural pursuits: 1870-1920.....	45

## CHAPTER VI

Table	Page
34.—Men and women engaged in gainful occupations, distributed by occupational groups as determined by the percentage of women in the total number of adult workers: 1920.....	47
35.—Men and women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits, 1920 and 1910, distributed by occupational groups as determined by the percentage of women in the total number of adult workers in 1920.....	49
36.—Men and women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits, 1920 and 1910, distributed by occupational groups as determined by the percentage of women in the total number of adult workers in 1920, excluding servants, dressmakers, laundresses, milliners, and boarding house keepers.....	50
37.—Percentage of women in the total number of adult workers in each specified group of occupations, 1920 and 1910, not including agricultural pursuits, or the occupations of servants, dressmakers, laundresses, milliners, and boarding house keepers.....	51

## CHAPTER VII

38.—Number and percentage of women in the total number of adult workers: 1870-1920.....	52
39.—Number and percentage of women in the total number of adult workers in nonagricultural pursuits: 1870-1920.....	54
40.—Number and percentage of women, classified by race and nativity, in the total number of adult workers in all occupations and in non-agricultural pursuits: 1920 and 1910.....	54
41.—Number and percentage of women in the total number of adult workers in each occupation in which, in 1920, 5,000 or more women were employed, with percentage for 1910.....	56
42.—Proportion of women in the total number of gainful workers 16 years of age and over in each specified group of nonagricultural occupations: 1920 and 1910.....	62
43.—Specified occupations in which women in 1920 formed 5 per cent or more of total number of workers 16 years of age and over, 1920 and 1910, with increase or decrease.....	63

## CHAPTER VIII

44.—Proportion of women and of men in each specified age period gainfully occupied in 1920, with a per cent distribution of those gainfully occupied, by age periods.....	67
45.—Per cent distribution, by marital condition, of the total number of women in each year of age from 20 to 29, inclusive: 1920.....	69
46.—Number and percentage of married women and of women not married, engaged in gainful occupations, by age periods: 1920.....	72

## CHAPTER IX

47.—Number and percentage of married women and of women not married engaged in gainful occupations: 1920.....	75
48.—Number and percentage of married women engaged in all occupations and in nonagricultural pursuits: 1890-1920.....	76
49.—Percentage of increase in number of women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits: 1890-1920.....	76
50.—Number and percentage of married women in the total number of women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits: 1890-1920.....	77

# CONTENTS

VII

Table	Page
51.—Number and percentage of married women engaged in gainful occupations, by race and nativity: 1920.....	78
52.—Number and percentage of married women engaged in gainful occupations, by age periods: 1920.....	79
53.—Number and percentage of married women engaged in gainful occupations, by age, race, and nativity: 1920.....	79
54.—Principal occupations of married women, with per cent distribution: 1920.....	80
55.—Number of married women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits, by specified occupation, with number and per cent increase, and per cent distribution: 1920 and 1910.....	81
56.—Number of married women and women not married employed as servants: 1920 and 1910.....	82
57.—Number and percentage of married women gainfully employed, in specified occupations: 1920 and 1910.....	83

## CHAPTER X

58.—Number and percentage of native white women of native parentage in the total number of women engaged in gainful occupations: 1890-1920.....	85
59.—Number and percentage of native white women of native parentage engaged in gainful occupations, as compared with their proportion in the total population, by geographic sections and divisions: 1920....	86
60.—Number and percentage of native white women of native parentage engaged in gainful occupations in cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more, by geographic sections and divisions: 1920.....	87
61.—Principal occupations of native white women of native parentage, with per cent distribution and rank: 1920.....	88
62.—Number and percentage of native white women of native parentage, as compared with other race and nativity classes, in the total number of women employed as servants, for geographic sections and divisions: 1920.....	89
63.—Nonagricultural pursuits showing a large increase or decrease, from 1910 to 1920, in the number of native white women of native parentage gainfully employed.....	90
64.—Number and percentage of native white women of native parentage in the total number of women employed in each of the principal occupations pursued by women in 1920, with increase or decrease in the percentage: 1910-1920.....	92

## CHAPTER XI

65.—Number and percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage in the total number of women engaged in gainful occupations: 1890-1920.....	94
66.—Number and percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in gainful occupations, as compared with their proportion in the total population, by geographic sections and divisions: 1920.....	94
67.—Principal occupations of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage, with per cent distribution and rank: 1920.....	95

## VIII

## CONTENTS

Table	Page
68.—Nonagricultural pursuits showing a large increase or decrease, from 1910 to 1920, in the number of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage gainfully employed.....	96
69.—Number and percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage in the total number of women employed, in each of the principal occupations pursued by women in 1920, with increase or decrease in the percentage: 1910-1920.....	98

## CHAPTER XII

70.—Country of birth of foreign-born white females, in the United States: 1920.....	100
71.—Number and percentage of foreign-born white women engaged in gainful occupations, as compared with their proportion in the total population, by geographic sections and divisions: 1920.....	100
72.—Number and percentage of foreign-born white women in the total number of women engaged in gainful occupations, as compared with their proportion in the total population: 1890-1920.....	101
73.—Number and percentage of foreign-born white women engaged in gainful occupations: 1890-1920.....	102
74.—Total foreign-born white women classified by marital condition for 1920 and 1910, with increase or decrease, and with per cent distribution.....	103
75.—Principal occupations of foreign-born white women, with per cent distribution and rank, for the United States: 1920.....	104
76.—Nonagricultural pursuits showing a large increase or decrease from 1910 to 1920 in the number of foreign-born white women employed.....	105
77.—Number and percentage of foreign-born white women in the total number of women employed in each of the principal occupations pursued by women in 1920, with increase or decrease in the percentage: 1910-1920.....	106

## CHAPTER XIII

78.—Principal occupations of Negro women, with per cent distribution and rank: 1920.....	109
79.—Number and percentage of Negro women engaged in gainful occupations, as compared with their proportion in the total population, by geographic sections and divisions: 1920.....	110
80.—Number and percentage of Negro women in the total number of women engaged in gainful occupations: 1890-1920.....	110
81.—Number and percentage of Negro women engaged in all gainful occupations and in agricultural and nonagricultural pursuits: 1890-1920.....	111
82.—Number and percentage of Negro women engaged in nonagricultural pursuits, by geographic sections and divisions: 1920 and 1910.....	111
83.—Number and percentage of Negro women in the total number of women employed as servants, by geographic sections and divisions: 1920 and 1910.....	114
84.—Increase in number of Negro female servants in 10 northern cities: 1910-1920.....	115
85.—Number of Negro women employed as servants, as laundresses, and in all other nonagricultural pursuits: 1920, 1910, and 1900, with increase.....	116

# CONTENTS

IX

Table	Page
86.—Increase or decrease from 1910 to 1920 in the number of Negro women employed in specified nonagricultural pursuits.....	117
87.—Increase or decrease, 1910-1920, in the number of Negro women employed as servants, as laundresses, and in all other nonagricultural pursuits, by geographic sections.....	118
88.—Number and percentage of Negro women in the total number of women employed in the principal nonagricultural occupations pursued by Negro women in 1920, with increase or decrease in the percentage: 1910-1920.....	120
89.—Total number of women employed as servants, as laundresses, and in other important occupations for Negro women, and in all other nonagricultural pursuits, with increase: 1910-1920.....	121

## CHAPTER XIV

90.—Number and per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920.....	123
91.—Per cent distribution, by family relationship, of women employed in each specified occupation common to the 11 selected cities: 1920.....	124
92.—Number and per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women, for each of 11 selected cities: 1920.....	126
93.—Percentage living at home of the total number of women employed in each specified occupation, for each of 11 selected cities: 1920.....	127
94.—Number and per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women of each specified marital class, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920.....	128
95.—Number and per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women classified by race and nativity, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920.....	130
96.—Gainfully occupied women classified by race and nativity and by marital condition, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920.....	131
97.—Number and per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920 and 1900.....	132
98.—Number and per cent of gainfully occupied women in each marital class, 1920 and 1910, with increase, for the 11 selected cities combined.....	133
99.—Number of gainfully occupied women in each marital class, 1920 and 1910, with increase, for each of 11 selected cities.....	133
100.—Per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women of each marital class, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920 and 1900.....	135
101.—Per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women, exclusive of servants and waitresses, of each marital class, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920 and 1900.....	136
102.—Number and per cent distribution, by family relationship, of women employed as servants and waitresses, 1920 and 1910, with increase or decrease, for the 11 selected cities combined.....	138
103.—Number of women in each marital class employed as servants and waitresses, 1920 and 1910, with increase, for the 11 selected cities combined.....	139
104.—Number and percentage living at home in the total number of women employed as servants and waitresses, for each of 11 selected cities: 1920 and 1910.....	139



Table	Page
105.—Number and per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women, for each of 11 selected cities: 1920 and 1900.....	141
106.—Number and per cent distribution, by family relationship, of gainfully occupied women, exclusive of servants and waitresses, for each of 11 selected cities: 1920 and 1900.....	143
107.—Number and per cent of servants and waitresses in the total number of gainfully occupied women, for each of 11 selected cities: 1920 and 1900.....	145
108.—Number and percentage living at home of the total number of gainfully occupied women, classified by race and marital condition, for Atlanta, Ga.: 1920 and 1900.....	146

## CHAPTER XV

109.—Gainfully employed women living at home, classified according to the number of other employed members, and number of unemployed members in the family, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920 ..	149
110. Gainfully employed women living at home, classified by marital condition and by number of other employed members, and of unemployed members in the family, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920 ..	152
111.—Married women gainfully employed and living at home, classified according to number of other wage earners and number of dependents in the family: 1920.....	153
112.—Women gainfully employed classified according to marital condition, family relationship, and number of other wage earners in the family, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920 ..	154
113.—Gainfully employed women living at home, classified according to the number of other employed members in the family, with the number and per cent in each class living in families having boarders or lodgers, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920.....	155
114.—Gainfully employed women living at home classified by marital condition and with respect to the number of other employed members in the family, with the number and per cent in each class living in families having boarders or lodgers, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920.....	156

## DETAILED TABLES

115.—Women employed in each specified occupation, with distribution by race and nativity, marital condition, and age: 1920.....	164
116.—Women employed in certain selected occupations, by divisions and States: 1920.....	188
117.—Women employed in certain selected occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920.....	200
118.—Women employed in certain selected occupations, for cities having from 25,000 to 100,000 inhabitants: 1920.....	216
119.—Women 16 years of age and over engaged in gainful occupations in 1920 and 1910, with distribution for 1920 by race and nativity, marital condition, and age, for divisions and States.....	230
120.—Percentage of women engaged in all occupations and in nonagricultural pursuits, for divisions and States; 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	232

# CONTENTS

XI

Table	Page
121.—Percentage of native white women of native parentage engaged in all occupations and in nonagricultural pursuits, for divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	233
122.—Percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in all occupations and in nonagricultural pursuits, for divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	234
123.—Percentage of foreign-born white women engaged in all occupations and in nonagricultural pursuits, for divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	235
124.—Percentage of Negro women engaged in all occupations and in nonagricultural pursuits, for divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	236
125.—Percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	237
126.—Percentage of native white women of native parentage engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	238
127.—Percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	239
128.—Percentage of foreign-born white women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	240
129.—Percentage of Negro women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	241
130.—Percentage of married women engaged in all occupations and in nonagricultural pursuits, for divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900..	242
131.—Percentage of women who were not married engaged in all occupations and in nonagricultural pursuits, for divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	243
132.—Number and percentage of native white women of native parentage engaged in gainful occupations, by marital condition, for divisions and States: 1920.....	244
133.—Number and percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in gainful occupations, by marital condition, for divisions and States: 1920.....	245
134.—Number and percentage of foreign-born white women engaged in gainful occupations, by marital condition, for divisions and States: 1920.....	246
135.—Number and percentage of Negro women engaged in gainful occupations, by marital condition, for divisions and States: 1920.....	247
136.—Age distribution of married women engaged in gainful occupations, for divisions and States: 1920.....	248
137.—Percentage distribution, by age, of gainfully occupied married women and of women who were not married, for divisions and States: 1920	249
138.—Percentage of married women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	250

Table	Page
139.—Number and percentage of native white married women of native parentage engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920.....	251
140.—Number and percentage of native white married women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920.....	252
141.—Number and percentage of foreign-born white married women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920.....	253
142.—Number and percentage of Negro married women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920.....	254
143.—Percentage distribution, by race and nativity, of women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age, for divisions and States: 1920.....	255
144.—Percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age, for divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	257
145.—Percentage of native white women of native parentage engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age, for divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	258
146.—Percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age, for divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	259
147.—Percentage of foreign-born white women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age, for divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	260
148.—Percentage of Negro women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age, for divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	261
149.—Percentage of women 16 to 24 years of age engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	262
150.—Percentage of women 25 to 44 years of age engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	263
151.—Percentage of women 45 years of age and over engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	264
152.—Percentage of native white women of native parentage 16 to 24 years of age engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	265
153.—Percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage 16 to 24 years of age engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	266
154.—Percentage of foreign-born white women 16 to 24 years of age engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	267
155.—Percentage of Negro women 16 to 24 years of age engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more and for areas outside of such cities, by divisions and States: 1920 and 1900.....	268

# CONTENTS

XIII

Table	Page
156.—Percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by marital condition, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920, 1910, and 1900.....	269
157.—Percentage of native white women of native parentage engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920, 1910, and 1900, with marital condition for 1920.....	270
158.—Percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920, 1910, and 1900, with marital condition for 1920.....	272
159.—Percentage of foreign-born white women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920, 1910, and 1900, with marital condition for 1920.....	273
160.—Percentage of Negro women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920, 1910, and 1900, with marital condition for 1920.....	275
161.—Percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age groups, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920 and 1900....	276
162.—Percentage of native white women of native parentage engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age groups, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920 and 1900.....	278
163.—Percentage of native white women of foreign or mixed parentage engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age groups, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920 and 1900.....	279
164.—Percentage of foreign-born white women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age groups, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920 and 1900.....	281
165.—Percentage of Negro women engaged in gainful occupations, classified by age groups, for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more: 1920 and 1900.....	282
166.—Number and percentage of women engaged in gainful occupations, for cities having from 25,000 to 100,000 inhabitants: 1920.....	284
167.—Family relationship of gainfully occupied women, by race, nativity, and marital condition, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920....	287
168.—Family relationship of gainfully occupied women, by race, nativity, and marital condition, for 11 selected cities: 1920.....	288
169.—Family relationship of gainfully employed women, by specified occupations, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920.....	299
170.—Family relationship of gainfully employed women, by marital condition and specified occupation, for 11 selected cities: 1920.....	300
171.—Gainfully occupied women living at home, by race, nativity, and marital condition, classified according to number of other employed members in the family and whether there are boarders or lodgers, for 11 selected cities: 1920.....	346
172.—Women living at home and employed in certain important occupations, classified according to number of other employed members in the family and whether there are boarders or lodgers, for the 11 selected cities combined: 1920.....	357
173.—Women living at home and employed in certain important occupations, classified by marital condition, according to number of other employed members in the family and whether there are boarders or lodgers, for 11 selected cities: 1920.....	358

## DIAGRAMS

Table	Page
1.—Women engaged in gainful occupations in specified classes of cities: 1920..	10
2.—Women engaged in agricultural pursuits and in nonagricultural pursuits: 1870-1920.....	20
3.—Increase and decrease in number of women employed in the principal nonagricultural pursuits: 1910-1920.....	34
4.—Men and women engaged in gainful occupations, classified according to the proportion of women in the total number of adult workers: 1920..	48
5.—Proportion of women in total number of adult workers: 1870-1920....	53
6.—Women gainfully occupied, by age periods: 1920.....	68
7.—Married women and women not married engaged in gainful occupations, by age periods: 1920.....	70

## FOREWORD

In the Foreword of the census monograph on "The Integration of Industrial Operation" Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell points out that while the Industrial Revolution began in eighteenth-century England, it is still in progress in twentieth-century America. Beginning with the later years of the nineteenth century, industrial evolution in this country has perhaps been particularly characterized by the high degree of attention which has been directed to the reorganization and improvement of the human processes of production as well as the mechanical processes. The greater consideration accorded to the human element in industry has given rise, at least in part, to an increasing need for—and opportunity for—the participation of women in economic activities. Whatever opinions may be held as to the proper sphere of woman, the fact is that, to a considerable extent, woman's place to-day is no longer in the home. In addition to her social contributions to the preservation and welfare of mankind, the contributions of her sex to economic production in its commercial aspects are of such substantial proportions that not only is it impossible to ignore them as a factor in industrial progress, but they are worthy of serious study as an important element in this progress.

Happily, the schedule of inquiries used in connection with the decennial censuses of population has included an inquiry as to the occupation of each person enumerated. In the present monograph Doctor Hill presents a comprehensive statistical analysis of the occupational data obtained at these censuses as to that portion of the total adult female population of the United States recorded as gainfully employed. At the latest census 24 per cent of all women were engaged in gainful occupations; and women comprised 20 per cent of the total working population.

It is to be noted that, since this census was taken nearly 14 months after the conclusion of the World War, its results are not appreciably affected by the temporary employment needs and opportunities incident to that conflict; in general, the figures may properly be regarded as representative of conditions after the readjustment to peace-time habits. In view of the seasonal and cyclical fluctuations which characterize many lines of economic activity, however, even in periods of undisturbed economic life, census results relative to employment are inevitably more or less affected by the date of the enumeration. The date of the latest census was January 1, 1920.

Unfortunately for occupational statistics, the first of any year marks a season when employment in agriculture, taken as a whole, is relatively slack; and the consequent effect of an enumeration at such a time is an understatement of the number of women engaged in agriculture, as is pointed out in Chapter III. In the case of nonagricultural pursuits as a whole, the date of January 1 can not be said to distort employment figures from a seasonal standpoint; but it might be well to bear in mind the fact that the beginning of the year 1920 happens to have been a time of high production in relation to the normal trend of industrial growth. While this fact is not of sufficient moment to prejudice comparisons of statistics as to employment in industrial occupations in 1920 with similar data obtained at earlier censuses, yet it presumably should have some significance in any independent consideration of industrial employment as a whole in 1920 and its distribution by occupations.

One of the many commendable features of the monograph as a census publication lies in the fact that the textual comments are confined to explanations, interpretations, and conclusions directly associated with the data presented. Doctor Hill carefully refrains from excursions into realms of speculation and theory beyond the purview of the facts available. The volume contains no moralizations as to the presumed effect upon home life of the participation of women in gainful occupations. It does not pretend to determine whether such participation is indicative of lower or of higher "standards of living." Answers to broad sociological and economic questions such as these are undoubtedly desirable if they can be accurately given; but it is doubtful if it is within the province of a governmental statistical organization, such as the Bureau of the Census, to venture beyond the presentation and direct analysis of the recorded facts at its disposal. Accordingly, it is appropriate that this monograph should present, in an organized manner and in suitable detail, the underlying facts as to an important phase of our economic and social life, leaving to others the tasks of relating these facts to other facts outside the scope of the census inquiry and of reaching conclusions of a qualitative nature as to the broader significance of these facts.

SEYMOUR L. ANDREW.