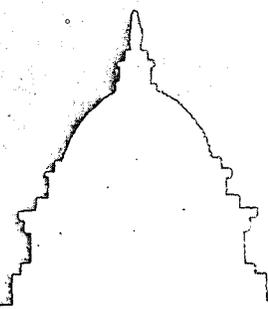


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# WOMEN in the FEDERAL SERVICE



## Part I: Trends in Employment

150-55

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## II. TRENDS IN WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, 1923 TO 1947

### CHANGES IN NUMBERS OF WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

Nearly a quarter of a century elapsed between 1923, when the Federal Classification Act created a system of job and salary classifications, and 1947. In that time, along with other groups of workers in the country, Federal Government employees passed through a period of great prosperity, a widespread depression, a war on a world scale, and a process of reconversion not yet completed.

The changing functions of government under these varying conditions have had marked effects on the fluctuations in numbers of Government workers. At the same time, the developing role of government in a highly industrialized nation with a growing population and the great extension of services to the public have been important influences in expanding the number of employees. The successive extensions of services between 1923 and 1947 were accompanied by an over-all increase of 320,000 in the number of women, from about 80,000 to over 400,000. (See table 1.)

The Government activities still remaining as an aftermath of war considerably affect the difference in the level of women's employment at the two dates. Women civilian workers in the War and Navy Departments together with the Veterans Administration increased 9-fold in those 24 years, while Government employment other than in these three agencies increased about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times.

Of outstanding significance to those interested in women's opportunities is the fact that women, who were about 16 percent of the civilian employees in the Federal Government in 1923, were nearly 24 percent of such workers a quarter century later, in 1947.

In tracing long-time trends, the prewar figures for employment in the entire service, which include some off-continent employees, have been compared with the only figures available for 1943-1947—those for continental United States alone, excluding Alaska and Panama Canal Zone. (See table 8, footnote 1.) In any case this is a desirable procedure, because of the more or less temporary character of much of the off-continent employment in this later period. Before the war, off-continent employment was not especially significant, and that for women was negligible. During and after the war considerable numbers of persons were employed off-continent, chiefly civilian workers of the War Department, and consisting to a large extent of natives of foreign countries taken on in local areas.

Table 3.—Total employment in the Federal Government, number and percent distribution of women, and percent women of all employees, by agency, June 30, 1947<sup>1</sup>

Agency	Total employees	Women employees		
		Number	Percent distribution	Percent of all employees
All agencies.....	1,849,781	440,597	100.0	23.8
Executive departments.....	1,430,726	282,636	64.1	19.8
War.....	353,216	88,331	20.0	25.0
Navy.....	306,340	56,226	12.8	18.4
Treasury.....	94,642	43,568	9.9	46.0
Post Office.....	470,280	42,941	9.7	9.1
Agriculture.....	86,159	18,103	4.1	21.0
Commerce.....	35,352	10,617	2.4	30.0
Interior.....	47,974	9,020	2.1	18.8
Justice.....	24,064	7,622	1.7	31.7
State.....	7,795	3,860	.9	49.5
Labor.....	4,904	2,348	.5	47.9
Independent establishments.....	376,451	139,891	31.8	37.2
American Battle Monuments Commission.....	3	2	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Atomic Energy Commission.....	4,210	1,491	.3	35.4
Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System.....	500	247	.1	49.4
Civil Aeronautics Board.....	533	248	.1	46.5
Civil Service Commission.....	3,403	2,085	.5	61.3
Export-Import Bank.....	116	63	( <sup>2</sup> )	54.3
Federal Communications Commission.....	1,292	483	.1	37.4
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.....	1,153	427	.1	37.0
Federal Power Commission.....	763	269	.1	35.3
Federal Security Agency.....	32,508	16,405	3.7	50.5
Federal Trade Commission.....	591	233	.1	39.4
Federal Works Agency.....	24,306	7,748	1.8	31.9
General Accounting Office.....	10,629	4,971	1.1	46.8
Government Printing Office.....	7,786	2,040	.5	26.2
Indian Claims Commission.....	11	4	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Interstate Commerce Commission.....	2,281	795	.2	34.0
Maritime Commission.....	12,215	2,403	.5	19.7
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.....	5,908	1,215	.3	20.6
National Archives.....	384	170	( <sup>2</sup> )	44.3
National Capital Housing Authority.....	277	68	( <sup>2</sup> )	24.6
National Capital Park and Planning Commission.....	6	3	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
National Housing Agency.....	14,597	5,786	1.3	39.6
National Labor Relations Board.....	690	324	.1	47.0
National Mediation Board.....	110	49	( <sup>2</sup> )	44.5
Office of the Housing Expediter.....	8,538	4,339	1.0	50.8
Office of Selective Service Records.....	1,084	683	.2	63.0
Panama Canal.....	171	60	( <sup>2</sup> )	35.1
Panama Railroad Company.....	487	32	( <sup>2</sup> )	6.6
Philippine War Damage Commission.....	7	3	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Price Decontrol Board.....	4	1	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Railroad Retirement Board.....	2,645	1,475	.3	55.8
Reconstruction Finance Corporation.....	7,592	3,187	.7	42.0
Securities and Exchange Commission.....	1,159	461	.1	39.8
Smithsonian Institution.....	831	215	( <sup>2</sup> )	25.9
Tariff Commission.....	230	99	( <sup>2</sup> )	43.0
Tax Court of the United States.....	123	66	( <sup>2</sup> )	53.7
Tennessee Valley Authority.....	14,258	1,631	.4	11.4
Veterans' Administration.....	215,050	80,110	18.2	37.3
Emergency war agencies.....	41,480	17,542	4.0	42.3
Office for Emergency Management:				
Office of Defense Transportation.....	57	30	( <sup>2</sup> )	52.6
Office of Scientific Research and Development.....	27	15	( <sup>2</sup> )	55.6
Philippine Alien Property Administration.....	2	1	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
War Assets Administration.....	41,394	17,496	4.0	42.3
Executive Office of the President.....	1,124	523	.1	47.0
White House Office.....	293	150	( <sup>2</sup> )	51.2
Bureau of the Budget.....	562	247	.1	44.0
Council of Economic Advisers.....	34	14	( <sup>2</sup> )	41.2
Executive Mansion and Grounds.....	100	25	( <sup>2</sup> )	25.0
Office of Government Reports.....	135	92	( <sup>2</sup> )	68.1

<sup>1</sup> Data are for continental United States, excluding Alaska and Panama Canal Zone.<sup>2</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.<sup>3</sup> Percents not computed for fewer than 20 employees.