

Indicator 19. Mothers' Employment

Employment status of married, separated, and divorced women with children under 18 years old, by age of children: 1950 to 1993

Year	With children under 6			With children 6 to 17 only		
	Married ¹	Separated	Divorced	Married ¹	Separated	Divorced
Civilian labor force, in millions²						
1950	1.4	—	—	2.2	—	—
1960	2.5	—	—	4.1	—	—
1970	3.9	0.3	0.3	6.3	0.4	0.6
1975	4.4	0.4	0.5	7.0	0.5	1.0
1980	5.2	0.4	0.5	8.4	0.6	1.6
1985	6.4	0.4	0.6	8.5	0.7	2.0
1986	6.6	0.5	0.7	8.8	0.6	2.0
1987	7.0	0.4	0.7	9.0	0.7	2.0
1988	7.0	0.4	0.6	9.3	0.7	1.9
1990	7.2	0.5	0.6	9.3	0.7	2.0
1991	7.4	0.5	0.6	9.1	0.7	2.0
1992	7.3	0.5	0.6	9.5	0.7	2.1
1993	7.3	0.5	0.7	9.7	0.8	2.1
Labor force participation rate³						
1950	11.9	—	—	28.3	—	—
1960	18.6	—	—	39.0	—	—
1970	30.3	45.0	65.4	49.2	60.5	82.7
1975	36.6	49.4	65.8	52.3	59.1	80.1
1980	45.1	52.2	68.3	61.7	66.3	82.3
1985	53.4	53.2	67.5	67.8	70.9	83.4
1986	53.8	57.4	73.8	68.4	70.6	84.7
1987	56.8	55.1	70.5	70.6	72.6	84.5
1988	57.1	53.0	70.1	72.5	69.3	83.9
1990	58.9	59.3	69.8	73.6	75.0	85.9
1991	59.9	52.2	68.5	73.6	74.7	84.6
1992	59.9	55.7	65.9	75.4	71.6	85.9
1993	59.6	52.1	68.1	74.9	71.6	83.6
Unemployment rate⁴						
1960	7.8	—	—	4.9	—	—
1970	7.9	12.9	5.0	4.8	5.9	6.5
1975	13.8	22.7	10.9	7.1	13.0	9.3
1980	8.3	12.3	13.6	4.4	10.6	6.7
1985	8.0	22.9	12.1	5.5	14.6	9.0
1986	7.6	16.5	12.9	4.8	11.7	8.2
1987	5.9	15.7	13.8	4.9	14.8	6.1
1988	6.1	15.0	9.4	3.8	8.7	5.3
1990	4.8	13.0	9.0	3.8	10.4	7.0
1991	6.7	16.2	9.9	4.2	10.7	6.5
1992	7.0	19.4	14.3	4.6	13.5	7.0
1993	6.2	17.4	8.8	3.8	9.6	6.0

—Data not available.

¹Husband present.

²The civilian labor force includes all employed persons, plus those seeking employment; it excludes persons in the military.

³The labor force participation rate is the percentage of persons either employed or seeking employment.

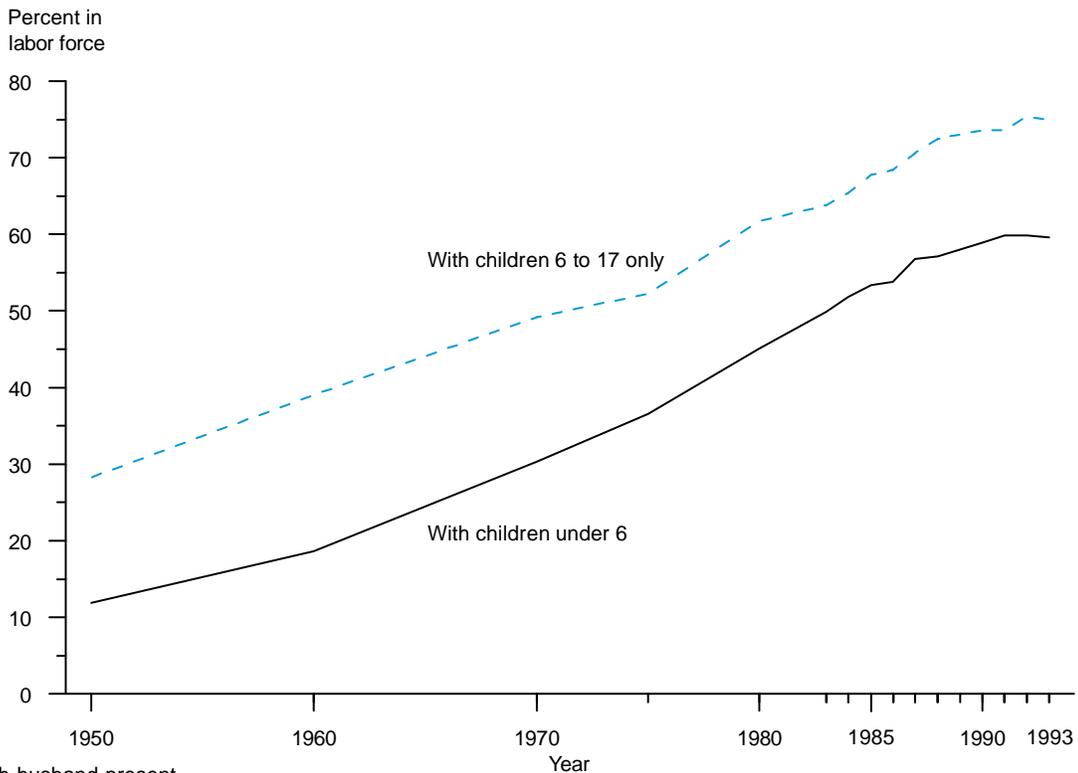
⁴The unemployment rate is the proportion of those in the labor force who are not working and are seeking employment.

NOTE: Data are for both full-time and part-time workers. Data for 1989 are not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Special Labor Force Reports*, nos. 13, 183, and 2163; and unpublished data.

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Labor force participation rate of married women¹ with children under 18 years old, by age of children: 1950 to 1993



¹ With husband present

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, various years. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Special Labor Force Reports*, nos. 13, 183, and 2163; and unpublished data.

The labor force participation rate of married women with children under 6 years old has been rising since 1950. Between 1970 and 1993, the participation rate for these women rose from 30 percent to 60 percent. A higher proportion of married women with older children are in the labor force than of those with children under 6. About three-quarters of married women with children between 6 and 17 were either employed or looking for work in 1993.