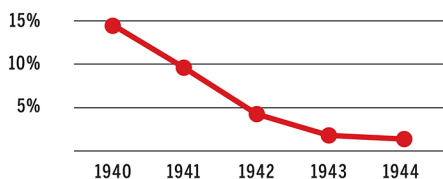


SNAPSHOTS OF A NATION

America experienced profound economic and social changes during the war.

Between 1940 and 1944, the country's economy doubled in size. Unemployment dropped to 1.2 percent and wages and savings increased.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 1940–1944

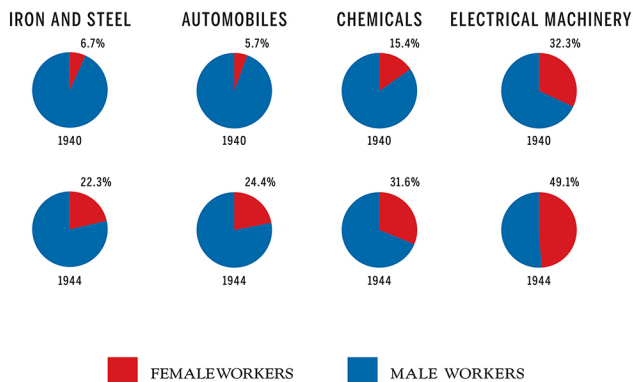


Union membership rose to a record 33.8 percent of non-agricultural workers.

Labor shortages created unprecedented employment opportunities for women. Many took jobs in high paying industrial work previously barred to them. Though these gains were reversed after the war, the wartime experiences of many women helped inspire the postwar women's rights movement.

WOMEN WORKERS

SELECT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES | PERCENTAGE OF ALL WORKERS



African Americans also benefited from wartime labor shortages. FDR's Executive Order 8802, issued in June 1941, barred racial discrimination in war factories. The opportunities it opened to African Americans contributed to the emergence of the postwar civil rights movement.