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OF THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC REPORT

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

JULY 8, 1949.

The Honorable JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY,
Chairman, Joint Committee on the Economic Report,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR O'MAHONEY: Transmitted herewith is a brief analysis of the current employment and unemployment situation. The report has been prepared by the subcommittee as a first step in an intensive investigation of the unemployment problem.

The purpose of this initial report is twofold—first, to summarize the available factual information and, second, to indicate the sources of information and the nature of the data on various aspects of employment and unemployment trends. In preparing this report, the subcommittee and the committee's staff have had the assistance of technicians from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Employment Security, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The subcommittee plans to evaluate the economic effect of present unemployment on the Nation, areas, industries, and individuals, with a view to determining as rapidly as possible those policies of Government, business, labor, and the farmer, which will contribute to obtaining maximum employment, production, and purchasing power.

Acting within limits of time and funds, the subcommittee will seek first-hand knowledge through hearings and field investigations, the plans for which will be announced soon.

EDWARD J. HART,
Chairman of the Subcommittee on Unemployment.

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SUMMARY

As background information for its current study of unemployment the Subcommittee on Unemployment of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report has undertaken an investigation into the basic facts regarding present employment conditions and the trend in unemployment which has been rising in recent months. In its preliminary analysis, based in large part on data submitted by various Federal agencies, the following major facts emerge:

1. Although unemployment in terms of 1948 records has risen, the best estimates show that it is not now at unreasonably high levels for the country as a whole. Employment is higher than in any previous year in history except 1948, and the most recent data show an increase in employment of nearly 1,000,000 in June over May, principally in agriculture.

2. About a million and a half more persons are jobless now, after allowing for seasonal influences, than last fall, when unemployment was at a postwar low.

3. Practically all of the recent down-turn has occurred in one field manufacturing. Some declines in employment have also occurred in transportation, certain services, and mining. On the other hand, employment in trade, in construction, and in Federal, State, and local governmental services has been holding up.

4. The number of persons who have only part-time work but want to work full time has increased by about a million since last year. Most of the overtime prevalent in recent years has been eliminated.

5. Another factor contributing to the rise in unemployment as reported by executive agencies has been a substantial increase in the labor force due to natural population growth plus the return of many veterans from school without corresponding expansion in economic activity during the past year.

THE TREND OF UNEMPLOYMENT

The first signs of the rise in unemployment became noticeable in the final quarter of 1948, but the figures did not assume significant proportions until after the turn of the year. Throughout 1947 and 1948, unemployment had fluctuated around the 2,000,000 level, a relatively low figure in a peacetime economy. Most of the unemployed either were out of work for such temporary reasons as material shortages or seasonal slow downs or else were between jobs. Most of the unemployment was of relatively short duration, as jobs were generally abundant and employment was gradually increasing.

The recent rise in unemployment—to 3.8 million this past June as against 2.2 million in June of 1948 and 2.6 million in June of 1947—has been at an average rate of about 150,000 a month, after allowing for seasonal fluctuations.

At first, the rise was largely due to lay-offs in the soft-goods industries, particularly in textiles and to a sharp seasonal decline in construction.

More recently, the lay-offs have been most pronounced in the hard-goods groups and in the basic metal industries, with recent expansion in construction activity tending to keep the volume of unemployment down.

The extent of unemployment is perhaps best demonstrated by the unemployment rate, that is, the proportion of those in the civilian labor force who are unemployed. For the first 6 months of 1949, the unemployment rate averaged 52 per 1,000, which was considerably above the 37 per 1,000 recorded in the first half of 1948. As late as 1941, however, during the so-called defense boom, the rate had been as high as 100 per 1,000.

The male unemployment rate has shown the largest increase over the past year, rising from 36 per 1,000 in the first half of 1948 to 53 in the first half of 1949; for women, the comparable figures were 38 per 1,000 in 1948 and 49 per 1,000 in 1949.

The increase in the unemployment rates has been larger for those 25 years old and over than for younger persons.

Accompanying the rise in unemployment has been an increase in the number who have been jobless for relatively long periods of time. In June of this year, 750,000 had been looking for work for as long as 4 months, as against about half that number a year ago.

It is important to note, however, that even during this period of gradually rising unemployment between one-third and two-fifths of the unemployed in one month have either returned to work or found new jobs before the next month.

THE GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Every industrial State in the country has felt the rise in unemployment, with the New England States the hardest hit.

In Rhode Island, 20 percent of the workers who are covered by the State unemployment insurance laws are now drawing unemployment benefits, as against about 8 percent this time last year.

The current ratio of unemployment is between 10 and 12 percent in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, representing in most cases a doubling of last year's volume.

Other States in which unemployment is particularly heavy at present are New York, New Jersey, Maryland, the Carolinas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Illinois, and California.

In some States in the industrial Midwest, the volume of unemployment is still relatively low although it has risen in recent months.

THE SLACKENING OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

The major factor contributing to the rise in unemployment over the past year has been the drop in employment in nonagricultural industries. The rise in unemployment last fall coincided with the

decline in job opportunities in industrial employment, following the postwar peak reached in the manufacturing field in September.

During the whole period of postwar expansion, sizable employment gains had been recorded each month over the level of the same month in the year before. In sharp contrast to this, in the first 6 months of this year, nonagricultural employment dropped by about three-fourths of a million from last year's comparable levels, to an average of slightly over 50,000,000. By June the difference had widened to about 2,000,000, largely because, in addition to lay offs, last year's rush to hire students was notably absent.

The decline reflects primarily the changes which have been taking place in the manufacturing industries. The widespread nature of the readjustment is indicated by the fact that, with the exception of food processing, automobiles, and printing and publishing, each of the major industrial groups was employing fewer workers in May 1949 (June data for major industrial groups are not yet available) than in May a year ago.

By far the heaviest drops have been felt in the textile industries and in the metals groups exclusive of automobiles. Employment in textiles is down 200,000, or 15 percent, from the peak reached in the spring of last year, with all fields of activity—cotton, rayon, and woolens and worsteds—affected. The nonelectrical machinery industry is also off about 200,000, or 12 percent, from last spring's peak, as a result of declines in the output of both household appliances and producers' equipment.

Recently, the heaviest drops have shown up in the iron and steel industry, which is down some 200,000, or 11 percent, from peak, which occurred last fall. Most of the drop has been in the past few months.

Other fields of activity which have experienced sizable declines since early 1948 have been electrical machinery (down 120,000), nonferrous metals (down 70,000), furniture (down 80,000), and leather (down 70,000).

However, leather and textiles are the only two major groups which have dropped to near their 1939–40 level. On the other hand, employment in the iron and steel industries is about 50 percent above the 1939–40 level and in the machinery group it is nearly double.

The change in the labor market is also demonstrated by data on labor turn-over in manufacturing. Out of every 1,000 persons on factory pay rolls in April of this year, 29 were laid off, 16 quit voluntarily, and 29 were hired. The lay-off rate was more than double last year's comparable level and was slightly higher than at any time in the past 10 years. The hiring rate was nearly the same as in the corresponding months of 1939 and 1940. The quit rate was half as great as a year ago, reflecting chiefly the relative scarcity of new jobs; quits were still double the prewar average, however.

The only other nonfarm segments of the economy to show a drop over the year have been transportation, which is down about 100,000 or 3 percent, and the service industries which are also off some 100,000 or 2 percent.

Construction and trade are at about the same level as a year ago. Federal Government employment increased about 100,000, the same as the total gain in State and local governments.

At the same time that nonfarm employment has been dropping, employment on farm work has been showing, at most, only a slight tendency to increase. While year to year comparisons are difficult to make because of the effect of different weather conditions, there is some slight evidence of a shift to farm work by persons who have been laid off or who have been unable to find industrial employment. So far only a small number appear to be involved, and most of these are apparently members of farm operating families.

THE REDUCTION IN HOURS OF WORK

The drop in employment has been accompanied by a curtailment of hours of work in both manufacturing and mining, resulting from a reduction or elimination of overtime and from shortening of the work week to spread the available work. In May the factory workweek averaged 38.6 hours, about as low as at any time since 1940, and 1.3 hours below the May 1948 level. Most of the durable goods groups are still scheduling close to 40 hours a week, but extensive part time work has been resorted to in some of the soft goods industries. Thus, the May workweek in cotton textile mills averaged about 34 hours, or 6 hours less than a year ago. Shoe workers were employed only 33.4 hours per week in May, and hosiery mill workers averaged 35.2 hours.

Altogether, mainly in the whole nonfarm sector of the economy, about 1½ million persons with full time jobs were working short hours in May because of slack work or other economic factors. In addition, another 900,000 who were working on jobs which are regularly part time would have accepted full time work if they could have found it. These totals are about double those found in May and September of 1948, when similar surveys were made.

THE CHANGES IN THE LABOR FORCE

In addition to the decline in the number of nonfarm jobs, unemployment has risen because, in the first half of this year, the total labor force was 1,000,000 greater than a year ago, with no corresponding expansion in the economy.

The economy must provide additional jobs each year because the number of new entrants into the labor force—mostly youngsters completing their schooling, but also many housewives—is normally 600,000 to 700,000 greater than the number of withdrawals due to deaths and retirement. In addition to this normal increase, and adding to the problem at the present time, has been the fact that large numbers of veterans have been completing their training and reentering the labor market. Since June 1948 veterans in the labor force have increased by about 400,000.

Indicative of the record flow of trained young people into the labor force this spring is the fact that between 350,000 and 400,000 persons were graduated from colleges this June, an increase of 50 percent over last year's record figure. High-school graduations this year total 500,000 greater than last year.

I. UNEMPLOYMENT

SOURCES OF DATA

The only source of current information on the total volume of unemployment in the United States is the Census Bureau's Monthly Report on the Labor Force. This report presents an estimate of total unemployment as part of a comprehensive monthly survey of the population in which the civilian population 14 years of age and over are classified in two primary classifications: (1) In or out of the labor force, and (2) Employed or unemployed.

Current weekly information for a major part of the unemployed is available separately from the operating reports of the State unemployment compensation agencies, published by the Bureau of Employment Security, Federal Security Administration. This is supplemented by current data on unemployment compensation claimants under the Veterans' Administration program, and under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. These two sets of data covering the insured unemployed supplement the Census Bureau data in two important respects: by providing weekly data and by providing the only available information on unemployment by States. The insured unemployment data differ from the Census data in coverage, in that not all unemployed persons are eligible for compensation.

WHO ARE COUNTED AS UNEMPLOYED?

In the Census Bureau's monthly estimate of total unemployment, all persons 14 years of age and over who report themselves without a job and seeking work are counted as unemployed. A person with a job but not at work during the week of enumeration is counted as employed—not unemployed. Hence persons with a job but not at work because they are temporarily ill, or on temporary lay-off for less than 30 days, or because of bad weather, are reported as employed. However, those persons without a job but who report that they would have been looking for work except for temporary illness, or because they are awaiting recall to a job from which they were on temporary lay-off, or because they believe no work is available in their line of work or in their community, are counted as unemployed, as if they were seeking work.

In the unemployment compensation data on insured unemployment, persons are counted as unemployed if they qualify as claimants under the State or veterans' unemployment compensation programs. Thus the concept of unemployment, underlying the data, differs as between the Census and the unemployment compensation figures: in one case persons are counted as unemployed depending upon their activity in the labor market (whether employed or seeking work); in the other case, persons are counted as unemployed depending upon their eligibility for unemployment compensation.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA ON UNEMPLOYMENT

A brief technical summary of both types of unemployment data available currently in the United States is attached in appendix B.

UNEMPLOYMENT 1945–48

From the end of the war through 1948, unemployment in the United States was at a low level—as was to be expected in an economy which was expanding to peak levels of output, employment, and purchasing power. In no single month was the volume of unemployment in excess of 2,700,000, as reported by the Bureau of the Census.

From an average of 1,040,000 in 1945, unemployment rose but moderately in the postwar period to an average of 2,159,000 for the 3-year period 1946–48. The national average in recent years, together with the data on total employment, is shown in the accompanying tabulation:

Total employment and unemployment

	Unemployment	Employment		Unemployment	Employment
1945	1,040,000	52,820,000	1947	2,142,000	58,027,000
1946	2,270,000	55,250,000	1948	2,064,000	59,378,000

THE RECENT RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

The recent upswing in unemployment started last November as manufacturing employment began declining from the all-time peak in factory operations in September, as shown in the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports on employment by industry. The rise in unemployment gained its greatest momentum following the Christmas season when employment fell off sharply both in trade and in industrial fields. Changes in the volume of unemployment nationally are summarized in the following tabulation:

Changes in total unemployment

1948	October	1,642,000	1947	October	1,687,000
	November	1,831,000		November	1,621,000
	December	1,941,000		December	1,613,000
1949	January	2,664,000	1948	January	2,065,000
	February	3,221,000		February	2,639,000
	March	3,167,000		March	2,440,000
	April	3,016,000		April	2,193,000
	May	3,289,000		May	1,761,000
	June	3,778,000		June	2,184,000

While in part seasonal, the increase that has occurred in unemployment reflects largely a weakening in the general employment situation in industrial activities. The increases in unemployment in May and June reflect particularly the entry of students into the labor force for vacation employment. Approximately one-quarter of the over-all increase of over 2,000,000 in unemployment since last October can be attributed to seasonal factors in employment or labor-force entries.

For the first half of 1949 unemployment averaged 3,189,000 as against 2,214,000 in the corresponding period in 1948. This represents an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent in the first 6 months of

1949 as against 3.7 percent in the same period a year ago (appendix, table 5).

Both men and women in nearly all age groups have been experiencing greater unemployment in 1949 than in 1948. (Appendix table 5.) Most of the increase, however, is recorded in unemployment of men. About 800,000 of the increase of nearly 1,000,000 in unemployment in the first half of 1949 over the first half of 1948 was among men 200,000 veterans and 600,000 nonveterans.

The male unemployment rate has shown the largest increase over the year, rising from 3.6 to 5.3 percent. For women, the comparable figures were 3.8 percent in the first half of 1948 and 4.9 percent for the comparable period this year (appendix table 5).

The increase in the rates has been relatively larger for those 25 years and over than for younger persons.

Accompanying the rise in unemployment has been a substantial increase in the number who have been jobless for relatively long periods of time. In January 1949 some 300,000 unemployed persons had been looking for work for 4 months or longer. This number has increased steadily each month until in June it reached 750,000, approximately double the total in June 1948. However, even over this period, turn-over in the unemployed group continued to be high, with from 30 to 40 percent of those unemployed one month finding jobs before the next.[1]

II. Total Employment

SOURCES OF DATA

The only source of current information on total employment in the United States is the Census Bureau's Monthly Report on the Labor Force, which provides national totals on employment and unemployment. In the Census Bureau report, total employment is classified under only two industry divisions agriculture and nonagriculture. (For sources of employment information, for specific industry groups, and by States, see the reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, discussed below, which cover employment in nonagricultural establishments but exclude domestic service and self-employments. See below, also, discussion of agricultural employment estimates, including regional data, based on farm establishment reports, published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.)

WHO ARE COUNTED AS EMPLOYED?

The Census Bureau's employment figures include all persons 14 years of age and over (self-employed as well as wage or salary workers) who did any work at all during the survey week or who had jobs or businesses from which they were absent all week for such reasons as illness, vacation, strike, bad weather, or temporary (less than 30-day) lay-off. Also included are persons who worked without pay for 15 hours or more during the reporting week on a family farm or business enterprise.

The Census Bureau data differ from the establishment data of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics

[1] Monthly Report on the Labor Force, January-June 1949, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

in a number of important respects. Most importantly, it should be noted that the Census Bureau's Monthly Report on the Labor Force is a population survey based on household enumeration, in which persons reported as employed are classified either in agriculture or nonagriculture; if they are engaged during the enumeration week in both agricultural and nonagricultural work, they are classified in one or the other on the basis of number of hours worked. Thus, they are shown as employed in only one classification, and there is no double counting.

In statistics based on establishment reports, persons are counted as employed if on the pay roll during the reporting period, and may thus be counted in more than one job, or industry, in that period. Contrariwise in the Census reports, a person may be counted as employed if he has a job, whether or not at work during the week of enumeration, but is counted only once—either in agriculture or nonagriculture.

THE SLACKENING IN TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

In June, for the first time in 1949, total civilian employment was substantially below the level of a year ago—1½ million under June 1948. For the first half of the year as a whole, however, the average number employed in industry and agriculture has been much the same as in the first half of 1948. The Census Bureau reports show total civilian employment for the first 6 months at an average of 58.1 million, only slightly below the 6-month average of 58.3 million in the first half of 1948 (appendix table 4).

This relative stability in the total volume of employment conceals some important changes in employment in various parts of the economy, and the 6-month average conceals a significant downward trend in recent months in nonagricultural employment.

The number employed in agriculture in 1949 has been somewhat larger in fact than a year ago. Many of the additions, however, were unpaid family workers on family-operated farms who were employed in larger numbers this year partly because, apparently, seasonal farm operations advanced more rapidly than in 1948. There is also some evidence that some persons living in farm areas formerly employed in nonagricultural jobs are now reported as employed in farming. (See more detailed discussion on agricultural employment trends, below.)

On the other hand, the number employed in nonagricultural industries—wage or salary workers mostly—is now considerably below 1948 levels. This reduction in nonagricultural employment, particularly in manufacturing, represents the major source of the recent increase in unemployment. This significant trend is shown in the accompanying tabulation:

Changes in total nonagricultural employment

1948—October	51, 506, 000	1947—October	50, 583, 000
November	51, 932, 000	November	50, 609, 000
December	52, 059, 000	December	50, 985, 000
1949—January	50, 651, 000	1948—January	50, 089, 000
February	50, 174, 000	February	50, 368, 000
March	50, 254, 000	March	50, 482, 000
April	49, 999, 000	April	50, 883, 000
May	49, 720, 000	May	50, 800, 000
June	49, 924, 000	June	51, 899, 000

Thus far in 1949, nonagricultural employment has been well under the record levels established in 1948 (appendix table 4). The average for the first 6 months of 1949 was 50.1 million; in 1948, it was 50.8 million. Moreover, the gap widened in the second quarter of the year. By June, the level was 2,000,000, lower than a year ago, but half of the reduction was recorded among young persons under 25 years of age. There is some evidence that fewer students this year than last had found summer jobs by June.

Nonagricultural employment rose slightly between May and June to 49.9 million, following a practically continuous decline since December 1948, which aggregated 2¼ million. Male nonagricultural employment rose by 400,000 between May and June, as construction work expanded and as summer jobs opened up in other fields for young persons. This change was counterbalanced, in part, by a reduction in the number of women employed in non-farm jobs (school teachers possibly accounting for a good part of the decline).

The drop in nonagricultural employment from a year ago has been accompanied by appreciable reductions in hours worked. As compared with the first half of 1948, the number actually working full time (35 hours or more a week) at nonfarm jobs in 1949 has declined by 1¼ million. Moreover, a special Census Bureau study conducted in May 1949 revealed that many more persons this year than last were involuntarily working part-time because of economic factors.

Preliminary results showed that about 1½ million persons with full-time jobs were working short hours (generally 3 or 4 days) in the week ending May 14 because of slack work, material shortages, job turn-over, and similar reasons. Another 900,000 with jobs which usually provided only part-time work wanted and could have accepted full-time employment. Only about half as many persons were found in these groups in similar studies conducted in March and September of 1948.

The employment data provided by the Census Bureau show separate estimates for those persons actually at work at their jobs during the survey week and those who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent all week. In the first half of 1949, on the average, about 1.9 million employed persons were absent from their jobs during any particular calendar week for various reasons; the comparable number for the first half of 1948 was slightly higher (about 2.3 million). Of those away from their jobs in any week this year, about 300,000 on the average were on temporary lay-off with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days or had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within the following 30 days. (The comparable group in 1948 numbered about the same.) Most of the decline from a year ago in the number absent from their jobs occurred among those unable to work because of bad weather or because of illness.

III. Postwar Trends and Variations in Nonagricultural Employment

SOURCE AND NATURE OF DATA

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is the major source of data on changes in the level of employment in the various nonagricultural

industries. (See references, above, to the general nature of these data. A technical description of the data is provided in appendix B.)

The Bureau's reports provide monthly figures on employment for eight broad industry groups—manufacturing, mining, contract construction, transportation and public utilities, trade, finance, service, and government—and for many component parts of these industry groups. Most industry detail is provided in manufacturing, with monthly data for 20 major manufacturing groups—such as iron and steel, automobiles, etc.—and for 150 individual industries which make up the 20 major industry groups.

POSTWAR RISE IN EMPLOYMENT

With the completion of reconversion early in 1946, nonagricultural employment as represented by the industries listed above began a general rise which continued until the end of 1948. From a postwar low of 38.6 million in February 1946, employment in nonfarm establishments increased by 7.5 million, or 19 percent, to an all-time record of 46 million in December of 1948, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Despite this over-all trend, the rapidly increasing volume of goods and services set in motion a series of gradual "readjustments" which began early in the postwar period (appendix table 6). Among the first industries to feel the impact of declining demand were those dealing in luxury items, such as entertainment, furs, jewelry, and liquors. Readjustments in these activities, which took the form of decreased employment or lowered prices, or both, were relatively small and had no visible effect on the general economic situation.

Employment in nearly all of the major industry divisions kept pace with the over-all rise between the beginning of 1946 and the end of 1948.

The manufacturing industries showed the largest gain during the period, adding nearly 3,000,000 workers.

The trade, service, and finance divisions provided jobs for an additional 2.5 million workers during the first three postwar years, while the mining industries also expanded somewhat.

Construction contractors increased the work force substantially. Wartime building restrictions had reduced employment in this division sharply during 1943–45. By mid-1946, the postwar construction boom was well under way; average employment in 1948 represented an increase to within about 100,000 of the all-time peak recorded in 1942.

Contrary to the general trend, employment in the transportation industries, chiefly railroads, declined fairly steadily throughout the postwar period. This decline was offset, however, by gains in the communication and other public-utility industries.

Over-all Government employment has shown little change during this, as the decrease in Federal employment during 1946 and 1947 was counterbalanced by substantial gains in State, city, and county governments. Most of the increase was for highways, hospitals, and schools, which were understaffed during most of the war and immediate postwar periods.

These gains throughout the nonfarm economy brought employment to a record peak in December 1948. The following month, however,

nonagricultural employment fell below the year-ago level for the first time in the postwar period. The declining trend continued through the first 5 months of 1949, and by May employment in nonfarm establishments was nearly 1,000,000 below the same month of 1948. While most of the industry divisions employed fewer workers than a year ago, the over-all decline reflected primarily the readjustments that have been taking place in the manufacturing industries.

The change in employment levels in the eight broad nonagricultural industry groups are shown in the accompanying tabulation:

Change in nonagricultural employment

[In thousands]

	May 1949	September 1948	May 1948
All establishments	45,655	45,859	44,616
Manufacturing	15,017	16,076	15,302
Mining	902	948	935
Contract construction	2,609	2,739	2,652
Transportation and public utilities	3,959	4,092	4,042
Trade	9,557	9,733	9,647
Finance	1,730	1,752	1,716
Service	4,670	4,647	4,738
Government	5,820	5,901	5,624

[1] Preliminary

READJUSTMENTS IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Employment in manufacturing rose from the immediate postwar low to a peacetime peak of 16.7 million in September 1948 (appendix table 6). In many of these industries, production at the end of the war was geared to a market in which there were accumulated shortages as well as continuing demand. As backlogs of consumer demand were filled, several types of readjustment became evident. One of these was the reappearance in 1947 of prewar seasonal patterns in production and employment in several consumer-goods industries.

Textiles, apparel, shoes, radios, furniture, and rubber tires showed declines in employment and weekly hours during the spring and early summer months, and a sharp pick-up in the fall and winter.

By the end of 1947, it was evident that the radio-manufacturing and rubber-tire industries were readjusting to somewhat lower levels of demand. The textile, apparel, shoe, and furniture industries, however, had resumed their upward trend, reaching new employment peaks in February and March 1948. These were followed by spring and summer seasonal decreases, which affected the shoe industry with particular severity. The expected upturn appeared in August, but proved to be short-lived. Reversing the usual seasonal pattern, employment in cotton, woolen, and worsted textiles turned downward in September and continued to decline through the spring of 1949. Except for a small winter rise, the shoe industry followed a similar pattern. By May 1949, both woolen and worsted mills and shoe factories employed fewer workers than in 1939.

Readjustments to lower production and employment levels, which began in a few industries fairly early in the postwar period, have spread gradually from the consumer-goods industries into most of the basic producers' goods industries as well. The cumulative effect of

these adjustments is reflected in the recent declines that have taken place in employment, weekly hours, and earnings in the manufacturing industries.

Between September of last year and May 1949, these industries have displaced nearly 1.7 million workers, with only a relatively small part of this reduction attributable to seasonal factors. The widespread nature of the readjustment is indicated by the fact that, with the exception of printing and publishing, and food processing, each of major industry groups employed fewer workers in May 1949 than a year ago.

EXTENT OF READJUSTMENTS

Both the extent and the timing of the employment readjustments have shown considerable variation from industry to industry.

The stove-type machine tool industry, for example, reached its postwar peak at the end of 1948, since then it has dropped 35 percent of its work force (appendix table 7).

During the same period, radio plants reduced employment by about 28 percent despite a marked increase in the production of television sets.

Employment on machinery and machine shop products dropped 15 percent from the early 1947 peak, while stove and heating equipment manufacturers have cut their work force by nearly 40 percent since the end of 1947.

Among the industries affected most recently by the postwar readjustment are silk and rayon mills, which have reduced employment by 20 percent since last October, paper and pulp mills, with a decline of 5 percent since December, and agricultural machinery plants, with a reduction of 4.5 percent during the same period.

The effects of declining industrial demand did not reach the basic iron and steel industry until March of this year. Since then, however, production has been dropping steadily as a result of declining orders and dwindling backlogs. In May employment was 3 percent under the February record, with every indication of further substantial cut backs.

The automobile industry, almost alone among the major manufacturing industries, continued to operate at close to peak levels. Discounting the temporary effect of the Ford work stoppage in May, employment was only slightly under the January high.

For detailed statistical information on the extent and timing of the changes in the level of employment in these and other manufacturing industries, see the appendix of tables.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT DECLINES

Postwar employment in the manufacturing division has been widespread geographically as well as by industry. In April 1949, employment was below the postwar peak in every State in the country, and below the year-ago level in all but a few Western States with little industrial activity (appendix tables 8 and 9).

Most severely affected are the New England States, with a heavy concentration of employment in the textile, leather, and machinery industries. April employment in Massachusetts was 14.5 percent under the postwar high, 16.9 percent below in Connecticut, and 21.8 percent below in Rhode Island.

Significant declines were also reported by other major industrial States, including New York, 12.3 percent, Pennsylvania, 8.8 percent, Ohio and Illinois, 9.9 percent, Michigan, 11.6 percent, North Carolina, 11.2 percent, Texas, 7.3 percent, and California, 12.7 percent.

DECLINING HIRES AND RISING LAY-OFFS

The gradually changing character of the postwar labor market is also demonstrated by trends in labor turnover in the manufacturing industries. Job opportunities, as measured by the hiring rate, have been contracting steadily since the close of the war. From a rate of 85 per 1,000 employees on the pay roll in January 1946, the hiring rate declined to 29 per 1,000 in April 1949, a return to the 1939 level. The quit rate, which also reflects to some degree the availability of jobs, dropped from 43 to 16 per 1,000 during the same period. At the same time, lay-offs rose from 18 to 29 per 1,000 in April, a post-war high and also above any month in 1939.

REDUCTIONS IN HOURS AND EARNINGS

Recent employment readjustments have been accompanied by substantial reductions in the workweek. This has been effected by the curtailment or elimination of overtime work as well as by an increase in part time.

Average weekly hours in manufacturing, high during wartime, dropped sharply immediately after V-J day. In mid-1946 they became stabilized at about 40 per week until the end of 1948. Subsequent declines reduced the average to 38.6 in May 1949. In the durable goods division, the average workweek continued above 40 hours, reflecting a substantial amount of overtime work, until the beginning of 1949. By May, however, the workweek had been reduced to 39.1 hours. Somewhat lower levels have prevailed in the nondurable goods industries. Average weekly hours remained close to the 40 hour mark until the middle of 1948; by May 1949 the workweek had been shortened to 38 hours.

Extensive part time work in some of the more seriously affected industries has resulted in greater reductions in average weekly hours. The May workweek in cotton textile mills averaged 33.9 hours, a reduction of nearly 6 hours from the year-ago level. Shoe workers were employed only 33.4 hours per week in May, while hosiery mill employees averaged 35.2 hours. Although steelworkers fared much better, averaging 38.4 hours, this represented a drop of 1.5 hours from May 1948.

IV. The Agricultural Employment Situation

SOURCE AND NATURE OF DATA

Estimates of agricultural employment are available from two independent sources. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics in making estimates of farm employment utilizes concepts and techniques which are suited to the problem of relating agricultural employment to the characteristics of the farms, their production, income and expenditures. A count is sought in the BAE estimates of farm

employment of all persons who do farm work regardless of their age and other concurrent occupation.

The Bureau of the Census also prepares monthly estimates of agricultural and nonagricultural employment designed to permit additive, unduplicated totals of employment, unemployment, and the labor force status of the population 14 years of age and over.

Because the estimates of farm employment of the BAE contain some duplication and because of other reasons (explained in the methodological note in the appendix), it is not possible to add the BAE estimates of farm employment to available estimates of nonagricultural employment to obtain a total employment figure. On the other hand, it is not satisfactory to analyze trends in agricultural labor productivity without having the statistics on farm employment compiled in a manner that counts the labor of all persons working on farms. Thus while the two series necessarily show differences in level of agricultural employment, these differences are largely due to the differences in concepts and approaches that are unique to each series and that serve the respective purposes for which the statistics are collected.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA

See materials in appendix B on both the Census Bureau's Monthly Report on the Labor Force and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics employment series.

THE STABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Agricultural employment for the country as a whole does not generally fluctuate greatly from year to year because the number of farms and land in cultivation remains fairly constant from 1 year to the next (appendix, table 10). It is only during periods of unusually drastic manpower changes such as were experienced during World War II that total agricultural employment for the country as a whole has changed by as much as 4 percent in any one year. The year-to-year stability in agricultural employment is also evident during periods of sharply changing business conditions, such as were experienced during the depression of the early thirties and during the sharp recession of 1937-38. This is due to the organization of agricultural production in units that are predominantly family farms, with nearly four-fifths of agricultural employment made up of farm operators and unpaid members of their families and only approximately a fifth of the workers being hired.

Although agricultural employment is relatively stable, a downward trend in agricultural employment has been in operation over the past three decades. Technological advances in mechanization, in the use of higher yielding varieties of plants and animals, and in the control of plant and animal losses occasioned by insects and diseases have been increasing agricultural production and decreasing farm labor requirements. This trend toward greater aggregate production in agriculture and in greater output of food and fiber per farm worker was markedly accelerated during the past decade. Thus, for example, in 1948 total farm output for human use was 40 percent greater than in 1935-39 and 8.5 percent greater than during 1945, the last year of World War

II (appendix, table 12). This year the prospects are that the volume of farm output will not be much different from the record 1948 level.

Because the use of labor-saving machinery on farms has increased markedly compared with the 1935–39 situation, labor requirements on farms have been decreasing simultaneously with the increase in volume of agricultural production. Illustrative of the trend in farm mechanization is the doubling of the number of tractors on farms between January 1940 and May 1948. By the later date it is estimated that there were three and a quarter million tractors on farms compared with one and a half million at the beginning of 1940. The use of other farm machines such as combines, corn pickers, tractor moldboard plows, milking machines, etc., have also increased substantially during this period. The number of motortrucks on farms has nearly doubled in the 1940–48 period.

The Census and the BAE agricultural employment series followed a similar downward trend from 1940, the first year for which Census estimates of agricultural employment are available, to 1945. The movement has not been entirely consistent since 1945, although the estimates for the first 5 months of 1949 are below the corresponding 1945 levels in each series. The major divergence between the two series occurred in 1946 when demobilization was reflected by an increase in the BAE series, while the Census series showed a continuation of the wartime decline. Another divergence has appeared thus far in 1949, with the BAE estimates showing a decline from 1948 and the Census estimates showing an increase. It is possible that the difference in movement of the two series thus far in 1949 is partly due to difference in timing of the monthly surveys of the two agencies and partly due to sampling variation in each of the two series.

Available information with respect to the current manpower and production situation in agriculture does not indicate any widespread surpluses or shortages of agricultural labor, although exceptions are to be found in certain relatively localized areas. Compared with the situation a year or two ago, there has been some easing of the supply of farm labor available for hire. This is reflected in the weakening of farm wage rates, which failed to make the usual seasonal rise from January to April this year and, for the first time in a decade, were slightly lower than in the corresponding month of the preceding year.

The easing of the farm labor supply was partly the result of progress in mechanization and partly the result of curtailment of nonagricultural employment opportunities to farm and rural residents as a consequence of the rise in unemployment.

REGIONAL FARM EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

In most regions of the country the number of persons working on farms has followed the same general pattern. During the tight manpower situation in World War II, farm employment declined consistently from year to year and reached its lowest level in 1945. In 1946 and 1947 as veterans and war workers returned to their previous homes, farm employment generally moved upward in most parts of the country. However, by 1948 the rise was halted and, in general, the number of persons working on farms declined slightly in 1948 and again in 1949 (appendix, tables 10 and 11).

Although in most regions farm employment during the war years followed the general pattern, the degree of change differed from region to region. The largest decreases occurred in the South, especially in the two South Central regions. The decline was relatively small in the New England and Mountain regions, while in the Pacific region the trend of farm employment was consistently upward. In the post-war period, increases in farm employment in 1946 and 1947 were small and fairly uniform from region to region as were the decreases in 1948. In 1948 farm employment was still higher than the level reached in 1945 for most regions.

The employment of farm operators and unpaid members of their families on farms has closely followed the trend of total farm employment, since in most regions family employment accounts for 75 percent or more of the total. The trend in 1948 and for the first 5 months of 1949 compared with corresponding periods of the previous year has been consistently downward for most regions. In the Pacific region and in New England, family employment has remained fairly steady since 1945 except for 1949 in the Pacific region. Decreases in 1948 were generally not large and the somewhat larger declines in 1949 may not be maintained when the harvest season is reached. With only a part of a year available, which does not include months of peak employment, changes in the first 5 months of this year may be due in part to differences in weather.

The number of hired workers employed on farms has, in general, increased steadily since 1945 for most regions as labor supplies increased. The decreases shown in 1948 for New England, the Middle Atlantic and the West North Central regions are minor and could easily be accounted for by sample fluctuations, weather, or changes in crop and livestock production. The decreases in the North Central regions for the first 5 months in 1949 may be the result of increased mechanization. However, the decline in the West South Central region is largely due to bad weather during two survey weeks in 1949 and the decline in the Pacific region to a difference in the seasonal pattern because of a late season in 1948.

The level of hired employment in 1948 was still 20 to 30 percent under 1940 levels in the North Central regions and the three regions in the South. In the Pacific region, where hired farm employment increased since 1940, the 1948 level was well above that for 1940. In the Mountain region, hired farm employment had about regained its wartime losses by 1948.

CHANGES IN THE FARM POPULATION

The population living on farms constitutes the main source of the farm labor supply. During World War II the number of persons living on farms decreased from January 1940 to January 1945 by 16.8 percent (appendix, table 13). About half of this loss was regained in the 2 years following the end of the war. After demobilization of the armed forces was largely completed, farm population changes were slight during the next 2 years. In 1947–48 gains through natural increases were almost offset by a resumption of net migration from farms. At the beginning of 1949 there were 27,776,000 people living on farms—10.3 percent more than in January 1945, but still 8.2 percent fewer than in January 1940.

Although the majority of employed persons living on farms are engaged in agriculture, there has been a pronounced increase in the last 15 or 20 years in the number who work at nonagricultural jobs (appendix, table 14). In 1930 one out of every seven farm resident workers was employed in a nonagricultural occupation; by 1940 the proportion had risen to one in five. The proportion increased during the war and early postwar years and in 1947 and 1948, one out of every three workers living on farms was employed in nonagricultural occupations. Many of these also did substantial amounts of farm work, and such persons account in part for the excess of the BAE farm employment level over that of the Census series. There is some evidence of a slight decrease in the number of farm residents employed in nonagricultural industries in the spring of 1949 compared with a year earlier.

V. Area Impact of Recent Changes in Employment and Unemployment

SOURCES OF DATA

Data on developments in the Nation's important labor-market areas are contained in bimonthly summaries prepared by the Bureau of Employment Security on the basis of analytical reports submitted by State employment security staffs. These reports contain information from various statistical sources and narrative comments dealing with the factors responsible for changes reported in the statistics.

Statistical information for each area includes estimates of past and current employment, estimates of employer requirements for the immediate future, estimates of unemployment, labor turn-over, unemployment insurance claims, and employment office registrations for work. These reports emphasize heavily the judgment of experienced local observers on local employment and unemployment trends.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA

See appendix B, covering labor market and unemployment compensation data available from the Bureau of Employment Security.

CONTINUING DECLINES IN EMPLOYMENT REPORTED IN MOST AREAS

Three out of four of major labor market areas in the country reported lower employment levels in May than in March, primarily because of continued reductions in manufacturing, according to a Bureau of Employment Security survey. The remaining one-fourth—25 areas—showed increases in employment, due largely to seasonal influences such as construction and food processing.

The changes in nonfarm employment in the various areas between March and May were generally moderate. Only 14 of the 70 declining areas showed a drop of 3 percent or more, and only 3 of the 25 areas which reported an increase rose by as much as 3 percent. Regional differences were quite marked, however. Not a single New England area reported nonfarm employment gains. Increases were reported by 8 of 11 west coast areas, 8 of 27 North Central areas, and 6 of 16 South Central regions.

As a result of the downtrend in manufacturing activity, factory employment dropped in 86 of the areas. The only areas to show increases which were not due to seasonal factors, such as food processing, were Flint, Lansing, Wichita, and Dallas. Hardest hit by manufacturing centers were the New England areas, but a large number of important North Central areas also suffered relatively heavy losses.

Seasonal factors were influencing manufacturing employment in both directions. Industries which normally decline toward mid-spring, including textiles, apparel and food processing in some areas, shoes, jewelry, and fertilizer, were generally experiencing losses of greater intensity than those which occurred in the previous postwar years. On the other hand, industries which normally rise in the period—food processing in many areas and logging and lumbering often showed losses smaller than had prevailed. The fairly nonseasonal metal and machinery industries were down almost everywhere.

Employment in food processing dropped seasonally in South Atlantic areas, where activities center around winter crops, but rose briskly in west coast areas where the processing of early spring crops was under way.

Textile employment, after dropping contraseasonally in the winter, continued what might be considered a seasonal decline in the spring. The industry was down in every important textile center and contributed to lower employment levels in many New England, Middle Atlantic, and South Atlantic areas. Apparel was approaching its seasonal lull and dropped in many areas, but held up in quite a few. However, the employment trends were somewhat obscured by sharp reductions in hours.

Employment in lumber and in wood products dropped in the South Atlantic areas, showed no significant change in the South Central region, and rose less than expected in the West; on the whole, however, the industry was up.

Widespread declines in chemicals were due to seasonal curtailment of fertilizer production in most South Atlantic and South Central areas and to declining markets for some of the more basic chemicals in New Jersey areas, Wilmington, and Charleston, W. Va. Leather products were down seasonally in almost all areas. Little change or declines prevailed in employment on stone-clay-glass products.

Losses occurred in primary metal employment in the important iron and steel areas in Pennsylvania, Youngstown, Chicago-Calumet, and Wheeling. Brass mills cut hours and laid off workers in Waterbury. Employment in fabricated metal products did not do much better, although some increases were reported for a few North Central areas. Both nonelectrical and electrical machinery suffered in virtually all areas—the few exceptions being Syracuse, Toledo, Indianapolis, Peoria, and Houston, which reported gains for one or the other industry.

Transportation equipment followed no consistent trend. Shipbuilding areas generally reported declines. Employment in automobiles held up well. Aircraft employment declined in some important centers including San Diego and Seattle, but continued to rise in Wichita, Dallas, and Los Angeles.

The effect of these developments upon the geographic distribution of unemployment is best shown by the data on the number of claimants of unemployment insurance benefits. Appendix tables 15 and 16

show the relative impact of unemployment in the various States in mid June of this year and a year ago.

The national average of unemployment claimants has increased over the year from 3.2 percent of those covered by the State insurance laws to 6.2 percent. All States now show a greater incidence of unemployment than a year ago.

In mid June of 1948, the following States had a relatively greater volume of unemployment than prevailed in the country as a whole: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, Tennessee, Washington, and California. Today, the list includes the same States except Washington, in which the claims load has increased only slightly, plus Vermont, Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Alabama. While unemployment has been growing recently in the industrial Midwest, it is still well below the national average.

SUMMARY OF LABOR MARKET DEVELOPMENTS, BY REGIONS

New England.[*] Unfavorable labor market developments continued in New England areas between March and May. Nonagricultural employment dropped in every area, with substantial declines reported for New Bedford, Providence, Bridgeport, and Waterbury.

Seasonal gains in construction and service activities were reported in virtually all areas. Trends in other nonmanufacturing activities were mixed, with employment in trade rising somewhat in a few areas but declining slightly in more, and transportation-communications-utilities down in most areas.

The down trend in manufacturing industries was so widespread, however, as to completely offset the seasonal improvements in construction and service. In six areas—Lynn-Salem, New Bedford, Worcester, Providence, Bridgeport, and Waterbury, the cuts ranged from 5 to 13 percent.

Employment was consistently down in the following activities in every single area where these industries are significant: chemicals, rubber, leather, stone-clay-glass, primary metals, fabricated metals, electrical and nonelectrical machinery.

No significant gains occurred in food processing, which reported losses in Boston and New Haven.

Partial recovery in the knitting mills improved textile employment in Boston, but in the important textile centers of Providence, Springfield, Worcester, and New Bedford, this industry continued down. Apparel gained in Worcester but dropped or held even elsewhere.

Transportation equipment reported lay-offs in Boston and Bridgeport and small gains in New Haven.

Jewelry was down sharply in Providence, ordnance in Bridgeport and New Haven, instruments and measuring and controlling devices in Bridgeport and Hartford, and clocks and watches in Waterbury.

Unemployment increases accompanied the employment cuts as the number of job seekers increased in every area except New Haven, where a small decline occurred partly due to job opportunities which developed in agricultural activities. Labor surpluses, already moderate to substantial in most areas, increased still further as a result of recent labor market developments. Unemployment was especially

heavy in Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Bedford, Worcester, and Providence.

North Central.—Manufacturing employment continued to decline appreciably between March and May and, as a result, total nonagricultural employment decreased as well in most areas. Only 8 of 28 major areas showed increases. Wichita had the only substantial gain with marked pick-ups in aircraft and construction. Moderate increases were reported in Flint and Omaha, while smaller rises were noted in Fort Wayne, Des Moines, Kansas City, Lansing, and Pontiac.

Except where over-all employment increases were reported, unemployment continued to grow in most of the major areas. Muskegon, in particular, was hard hit by further curtailment of factory production and, as a result, unemployment reached a level higher than that of any major area in the country. The rise in the number of jobless persons was lessened to some extent in a number of areas by outmigration and increased employment in agricultural activities.

All but five areas reported moderate to substantial losses in manufacturing employment. Included in these declining areas were many centers of durable-goods production—Chicago, Youngstown, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, Indianapolis, Detroit, St. Louis, and Milwaukee. Industries in which losses were sustained included rubber, primary and fabricated metals, electrical and nonelectrical machinery, and, in many instances, transportation equipment.

Ohio and Indiana sustained the most serious losses in employment among the North Central States. In Chicago, no manufacturing activity increased significantly. In Detroit, the labor-management dispute in the auto industry was chiefly responsible for the drop in area employment. Cleveland experienced widespread lay-offs in the metals, machinery, apparel, and textile industries.

Employment trends varied between areas in nonmanufacturing activities. Most communities reported seasonal rises in construction, especially Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, St. Louis, and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Limited changes in employment were reported in trade and service activities with small gains more frequent than losses.

In transportation, communications, and public utilities, few areas reported any significant drop in employment.

Modest increases were fairly common in this industry as in government.

Middle Atlantic.—Labor market developments between March and May in the important Middle Atlantic labor-market areas failed to reverse the general downtrend which characterized employment changes in the previous 2 months. Nonagricultural employment continued to decline in all areas for which information was available. Favorable seasonal developments in some nonmanufacturing industries, most notably construction, kept the employment losses down to slight proportions (less than 1 percent) in most areas. Paterson was the only area to report a substantial loss in total nonagricultural employment.

Declines in manufacturing ranged between 1 and 3 percent in all areas except Binghamton, Paterson, and Erie where the cuts were more severe.

Among the changes in manufacturing industries, the consistent decline in primary metals in all areas was of special significance, since this is one of the latest industries to weaken. Lay-offs in fabricated metal products and both electrical and nonelectrical machinery occurred in virtually every area.

Employment cuts due to seasonality and/or lack of orders were also widespread in textiles, chemicals, rubber, and leather.

Apparel centers, however, reported mixed trends with employment in this industry rising in Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Johnstown, Lancaster, and Reading.

Transportation equipment was down in all areas except Newark and Trenton, as shipbuilding employment fell off and automobile plants were in a few instances affected by the Ford strike in Detroit.

The rise in construction everywhere except Harrisburg, where labor disputes prevented expansion, exerted the only significant upward pressure on employment in this region.

Trade and service activities, and transportation, communications, and utilities remained relatively unchanged in many areas, increasing or declining in a few.

Increases in unemployment developed concurrently with employment declines. The number of job seekers was estimated to have risen in every area except Albany-Schenectady-Troy, where it dropped, and Buffalo where no change occurred. Although the increases were generally of modest proportions, Binghamton, Paterson, and Reading reported substantial rises amounting to a third or more.

Unfavorable changes in employment and unemployment would have been more severe but for the reduction in scheduled hours in virtually all areas where such industries as textiles, apparel, shoes, foundries, machinery, and coal mining are significant.

South Atlantic.—Little improvement in nonagricultural employment trends between March and May occurred among the 13 major labor-market areas in the South Atlantic region. Only two areas—Washington, D. C., and Wheeling—achieved gains and in the latter the increase was very small. Declines were moderate except in Miami and Tampa where they were quite substantial.

Manufacturing employment fared even less well and failed to rise anywhere. In more than half the areas, the cut-backs were substantial, amounting to at least 3 percent and going as high as 8 percent in Miami.

Food processing dropped everywhere except in Charleston, S. C. Most of the losses were seasonal, but declining demand was also a factor.

Seasonal influences were also responsible for the decline in chemicals (mostly fertilizer production) in most areas, although a large cut in basic chemicals in Charleston, W. Va., and a smaller one in Wilmington were due to uncertain markets for some products.

The approach of seasonal lulls accounted for losses in textiles and apparel, but in Richmond the latter industry reported some gains.

Logging and lumbering, wood products, furniture, and paper continued to reflect weak markets in lowered employment levels.

Tobacco lay-offs occurred in both Richmond and Tampa.

The metal and machinery industries dropped everywhere in this region as in the rest of the country. Basic steel held even in Baltimore, but scattered lay-offs occurred in Wheeling.

One notable development among nonmanufacturing industries was the mixed trends in construction. Labor disputes played a part in declines in Richmond, Washington, and Charleston, W. Va. This activity also declined in Tampa.

Trade, service, and transportation-communications-utilities dropped markedly in the Florida areas—a usual seasonal pattern. Elsewhere the trends were mixed. Lay-offs occurred in coal mines around Charleston and Wheeling, W. Va.

Increases in unemployment, generally small to moderate, occurred in every area except Washington, D. C. The general rise in the number of job seekers, nevertheless, increased labor surplus in most areas.

South Central.—Continuing the declining trend evident since last fall, nonagricultural employment dropped in 9 of 16 major areas between March and May.

General increases in construction and scattered rises in other nonmanufacturing activities cushioned or offset decreases in manufacturing industries.

Four areas—Louisville, Shreveport, Oklahoma City and Fort Worth—reported slight gains in nonagricultural employment. Two areas—Nashville and Dallas—had moderate increases, while no change occurred in Tulsa.

In manufacturing activities, only Little Rock and Dallas indicated slight pick-ups in employment aided by gains in food processing. Substantial reductions in factory payrolls were evident in Louisville, Memphis, Mobile, Tulsa and San Antonio with losses generally reported in food, lumber, chemicals, primary metals, nonelectrical machinery and transportation equipment. Nine other areas experienced slight or moderate losses in manufacturing employment.

Industries showing the most consistent declines were textiles, apparel, chemicals, primary and fabricated metals, nonelectrical machinery and transportation equipment. Mixed trends were evident in food and lumber.

In nonmanufacturing activities, seasonal increases in construction were widespread.

Little change was evident in trade and service activities.

Nine areas reported some declines in unemployment, usually under the influence of gains in nonagricultural employment or agricultural activities. Five areas indicated some increase in their labor surplus, while only San Antonio showed no change.

West.—Labor market developments between March and May were more favorable in the western areas than in any other section of the country.

Under the impetus of strong seasonal influences, nonagricultural employment rose in 8 of the 11 major areas and held level in one—Salt Lake City. Only in Los Angeles and San Diego were declines reported and these were very slight in the former, moderate in the latter. The increases, on the other hand, were generally moderate to substantial. These employment developments, however, fell far short of recouping seasonal and nonseasonal losses of the last 6 months and more.

Trends in manufacturing employment were not so consistently favorable, with 5 of the areas reporting increases and 6 reporting declines. Changes in both directions ranged from slight to substantial depending largely on the relative importance of such seasonal industries

as food processing and logging and lumbering and the intensity of declines in nonseasonal activities. Sacramento experienced the most notable increase, a rise of almost a third, in accordance with the area's usual pick-up in food processing at this time of year.

Of all the manufacturing industries, food processing most consistently showed gains, rising in all areas except Denver, where no change occurred.

Employment was up in lumber and wood products in the three Washington areas and Portland-Vancouver, but dropped in San Francisco and San Jose, where the industry is of less importance.

Textiles and apparel were down everywhere except Seattle.

Consistent declines occurred in furniture, primary and fabricated metals, and electrical and nonelectrical machinery. There were a few exceptions; the metal industries were up in Denver and San Jose and unchanged in Portland-Vancouver, and electrical machinery rose in Los Angeles. The last two areas also showed increases in transportation equipment with declines in shipbuilding in Los Angeles outweighed by gains in aircraft and automobiles. Substantial lay-offs occurred in aircraft and shipbuilding in Seattle. Aircraft continued to decline sharply in San Diego, and shipbuilding losses in San Francisco outweighed automobile gains.

Among nonmanufacturing activities, the most notable development was the seasonal rise in construction which occurred everywhere but the extent of the increase was disappointing in a number of areas.

Seasonal influences also boosted employment in transportation, communications, and utilities.

Trade and service activities either gained workers or remained relatively stable.

The sizable declines in metal mining had a strong influence on over-all employment trends in Salt Lake City.

Unemployment declined in every area except San Diego in these two months. However, labor surpluses, although considerably reduced except in San Diego, continued to be substantial and to far exceed any foreseeable labor demand in all areas except Denver and Salt Lake City.

APPENDIX A

Selected Statistical Data on Employment and Unemployment Trends

Table 1.—*Summary of labor force estimates, May and June 1949 and June 1948*

[Persons 14 years of age and over]

	June 5-11, 1949	May 8-14, 1949	June 6-12, 1948	Net change	
				May-June 1949	June 1948-49
Total noninstitutional population	109,547,000	109,458,000	108,346,000	+89,000	+1,201,000
Total labor force, including armed forces	64,866,000	63,452,000	64,740,000	+1,414,000	+126,000
Civilian labor force	63,398,000	61,983,000	63,479,000	+1,415,000	−81,000
Employed	59,619,000	59,194,000	61,296,000	+425,000	−1,677,000
At work	57,452,000	57,010,000	58,793,000	+442,000	−1,341,000
35 hours or more	48,324,000	48,474,000	50,630,000	−150,000	−2,306,000
15-34 hours	7,377,000	6,547,000	6,579,000	+830,000	+798,000
1-14 hours	1,753,000	1,989,000	1,585,000	−236,000	+168,000
With a job but not at work	2,167,000	1,684,000	2,502,000	+483,000	−335,000
Unemployed	3,778,000	3,289,000	2,184,000	+489,000	+1,594,000
Not in the labor force	44,683,000	46,006,000	43,605,000	−1,323,000	+1,078,000

Source: Current population survey, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

Table 2.—*Persons employed in agriculture and in nonagricultural industries, by sex, May and June 1949 and June 1948 (persons 14 years of age and over)*

Type of employment and sex	June 5-11, 1949	May 8-14, 1949	June 6-12, 1948	Net change	
				May-June 1949	June 1948-49
Agriculture	9,696,000	8,974,000	9,396,000	+722,000	+300,000
Male	7,438,000	7,109,000	7,257,000	+329,000	+181,000
Female	2,258,000	1,865,000	2,139,000	+393,000	+119,000
Nonagricultural industries	49,924,000	49,720,000	51,899,000	+204,000	−1,975,000
Male	34,796,000	34,411,000	36,162,000	+385,000	−1,366,000
Female	15,128,000	15,309,000	15,737,000	−181,000	−609,000

Source: Current population survey, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

TABLE 3.—*Employment status of the noninstitutional population, by sex, for the United States: Average of monthly figures, January to June 1941–49*

[Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over]

Sex and year	Total noninstitutional population 14 years and over	Total labor force	Civilian labor force					Total not in labor force
			Total civilian labor force	Employed			Unemployed	
				Total	Nonagricultural industries	Agriculture		
Both sexes:								
1941	101,080	56,218	55,018	48,587	39,753	8,835	6,432	44,862
1942	102,233	58,647	55,900	52,488	43,515	8,973	3,411	43,597
1943	103,228	62,410	55,353	54,140	45,292	8,848	1,213	39,883
1944	101,278	65,110	54,287	53,748	45,017	8,732	538	39,148
1945	105,123	65,905	53,960	53,325	44,912	8,413	635	39,128
1946	106,068	60,187	55,818	52,342	45,300	8,042	2,477	45,972
1947	107,203	60,920	59,368	57,009	49,033	7,976	2,359	46,283
1948	108,156	61,771	60,531	58,317	50,774	7,561	2,214	46,387
1949	109,331	62,732	61,250	58,060	50,121	7,940	3,189	46,598
Male:								
1941	50,292	42,260	41,113	36,360	28,540	7,820	4,753	8,032
1942	50,807	43,362	40,652	38,353	30,812	7,542	2,298	7,445
1943	51,245	45,045	37,140	36,185	29,137	7,048	955	6,200
1944	51,740	46,265	35,625	35,233	28,267	6,967	392	5,475
1945	52,017	46,342	34,598	34,263	27,665	6,598	335	5,675
1946	52,423	43,090	39,320	37,342	30,718	6,623	1,978	8,823
1947	52,842	44,337	42,805	40,999	34,160	6,839	1,806	8,505
1948	53,201	44,614	43,390	41,822	35,338	6,484	1,568	8,587
1949	53,746	45,183	43,717	41,379	34,738	6,641	2,338	8,564
Female:								
1941	50,788	13,958	13,985	12,227	11,213	1,013	1,758	36,830
1942	51,407	15,255	15,248	14,135	12,723	1,412	1,113	36,152
1943	51,978	18,295	18,213	17,955	15,855	1,800	258	33,683
1944	52,518	18,845	18,662	18,315	16,750	1,565	347	33,673
1945	53,107	19,653	19,392	19,092	17,247	1,845	300	33,453
1946	53,675	16,587	16,498	16,000	14,582	1,418	498	37,088
1947	54,361	16,583	16,563	16,010	14,873	1,137	553	37,778
1948	54,955	17,157	17,141	16,495	15,436	1,059	646	37,798
1949	55,582	17,549	17,533	16,682	15,383	1,299	851	38,035

NOTE.—These estimates are derived from a sample survey and are, therefore, subject to sampling variation which may be relatively large in those cases where the quantities shown are small.

Source: Current population survey, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

TABLE 4.—*Total agricultural and nonagricultural employment, by age and sex, for the United States: Average of monthly figures, January to June, 1948-49*

[Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over]

Age and sex	Average number in total civilian employment		Average number employed in nonagricultural industries		Average number employed in agriculture	
	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948
Both sexes	58,060	58,317	50,121	50,754	7,940	7,564
14-19 years	4,284	4,512	3,214	3,579	1,070	933
20-24 years	6,606	6,858	5,923	6,193	683	665
25-34 years	13,683	13,676	12,333	12,393	1,350	1,283
35-44 years	13,120	12,984	11,588	11,596	1,532	1,388
45-54 years	10,570	10,510	9,263	9,152	1,307	1,358
55-64 years	7,009	7,061	5,777	5,875	1,232	1,186
65 years and over	2,792	2,718	2,024	1,967	768	751
Male	41,379	41,822	34,738	35,338	6,641	6,484
14-19 years	2,552	2,702	1,648	1,909	904	793
20-24 years	4,177	4,245	3,598	3,670	579	575
25-34 years	9,901	10,019	8,780	8,941	1,121	1,078
35-44 years	9,345	9,326	8,131	8,168	1,214	1,158
45-54 years	7,655	7,733	6,613	6,606	1,042	1,127
55-64 years	5,468	5,564	4,387	4,503	1,081	1,061
65 years and over	2,282	2,234	1,580	1,541	702	693
Female	16,682	16,495	15,383	15,416	1,299	1,079
14-19 years	1,732	1,810	1,566	1,670	166	140
20-24 years	2,429	2,613	2,325	2,523	104	90
25-34 years	3,782	3,656	3,553	3,451	229	205
35-44 years	3,775	3,657	3,457	3,427	318	230
45-54 years	2,915	2,778	2,650	2,516	265	232
55-64 years	1,541	1,497	1,390	1,372	151	125
65 years and over	510	483	444	426	66	57

NOTE.—These figures are estimates derived from a sample survey and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability which may be relatively large in the case of the smaller figures and small differences between figures.

Source: Current population survey, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

TABLE 5.—*Unemployment and unemployment rates by age and sex, for the United States: Average of monthly figures, January to June, 1948–49*

[Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over]

Age and sex	Average number unemployed		Average unemployment rate [1]	
	1949	1948	1949	1948
Both sexes	3,189	2,214	5.2	3.7
14–19 years	568	444	11.7	9.0
20–24 years	594	471	8.3	6.4
25–34 years	655	419	4.6	3.0
35–44 years	500	324	3.7	2.4
45–54 years	402	259	3.7	2.4
55–64 years	333	215	4.5	3.0
65 years and over	139	83	4.7	2.9
Male	2,338	1,568	5.3	3.6
14–19 years	361	282	12.4	9.4
20–24 years	448	353	9.7	7.7
25–34 years	471	281	4.5	2.7
35–44 years	350	226	3.6	2.4
45–54 years	310	187	3.9	2.4
55–64 years	273	165	4.8	2.9
65 years and over	126	75	5.2	3.2
Female	851	646	4.9	3.8
14–19 years	207	163	10.7	8.2
20–24 years	146	118	5.7	4.3
25–34 years	184	138	4.6	3.6
35–44 years	150	98	3.8	2.6
45–54 years	92	72	3.1	2.5
55–64 years	60	50	3.8	3.2
65 years and over	13	8	2.5	1.6

[1] Proportion of those in the civilian labor force who were unemployed.

NOTE.—These estimates are derived from a sample survey and are, therefore, subject to sampling variation, which may be relatively large where the percentages are based on quantities which are small.

Source: Current population survey, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

TABLE 6.—*Number of wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments, 1946–49*

[In thousands]

Industry	May 1949[1]	May 1948	Percent change, May 1948 to May 1949	Postwar peak			Annual average employment		
				Month and year	Employment	Percent change, peak to May 1949	1948	1947	1946
Total nonagricultural	43,655	44,616	−2.2	December 1948	46,088	−5.3	45,131	43,970	41,494
Manufacturing	15,017	15,892	−5.5	September 1948	16,697	−10.1	16,277	15,901	14,515
Durable goods	7,444	8,114	−8.3	October 1948	8,318	−10.5	8,214	8,055	7,180
Iron and steel and their products	1,735	1,894	−8.4	do	1,955	−11.3	1,923	1,880	1,670
Electrical machinery	648	727	−10.9	February 1947	791	−18.1	736	762	678
Machinery, except electrical	1,373	1,568	−12.4	February 1948	1,591	−13.7	1,572	1,555	1,372
Transportation equipment, except automobiles	533	565	−2.1	(2)	(2)	(2)	577	580	628
Automobiles	[3] 890	964	[3]−7.7	January 1948	989	[3]−10.0	968	942	797
Nonferrous metals and their products	411	467	−12.0	February 1947	506	−18.8	471	483	445
Lumber and timber basic products	843	851	−.9	September 1948	930	−9.4	874	783	633
Furniture and finished lumber products	501	548	−8.6	February 1948	581	−13.8	560	552	484
Stone, clay, and glass products	490	530	−7.5	October 1948	545	−10.1	533	517	474
Nondurable goods	7,573	7,778	−2.6	September 1948	8,403	−9.9	8,063	7,846	7,335
Textile-mill products and other fiber manufactures	1,205	1,416	−14.9	March 1948	1,435	−16.0	1,398	1,362	1,309
Apparel and other finished textile products	1,234	1,247	−1.0	February 1949	1,366	−9.7	1,307	1,213	1,126
Leather and leather products	381	404	−5.7	do	448	−15.0	424	429	408
Food	1,752	1,610	+8.8	September 1948	2,069	−15.3	1,788	1,724	1,547
Tobacco manufactures	95	97	−2.1	December 1946	105	−9.5	100	100	99
Paper and allied products	460	476	−3.4	November 1948	493	−6.7	482	473	447
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	727	718	+1.3	December 1948	738	−1.5	725	709	659
Chemicals and allied products	734	759	−3.3	November 1948	790	−7.1	774	762	710
Products of petroleum and coal	239	242	−1.2	July 1948	247	−3.2	242	233	218
Rubber products	220	243	−9.5	December 1946	282	−22.0	248	263	266
Miscellaneous industries	526	566	−7.1	November 1947	599	−12.2	576	578	547
Mining	902	935	−3.5	August 1948	952	−5.3	925	911	852
Anthracite coal	79	81	−2.5	January 1947	84	−6.0	82	81	82
Bituminous coal	398	423	−5.9	September 1948	426	−6.6	411	408	373
Metal	99	102	−2.9	April 1949	106	−6.6	101	101	88
Quarrying and nonmetallic	92	95	−3.2	August 1947	99	−7.1	94	95	90
Crude petroleum and natural gas production	234	234		August 1948	246	−4.9	238	226	220

See footnotes at end of table, p. 30.

TABLE 6.—*Number of wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments, 1946–49*—Continued

[In thousands]

Industry	May 1949[1]	May 1948	Percent change, May 1948 to May 1949	Postwar peak			Annual average employment		
				Month and year	Employment	Percent change, peak to May 1949	1948	1947	1946
Transportation and public utilities	3,959	4,042	−2.1	....do	4,163	−4.9	4,065	4,060	4,023
Transportation	2,703	2,809	−3.8	August 1946	2,969	−9.0	2,822	2,896	2,934
Communication	731	731		August 1948	747	−2.1	735	683	644
Other public utilities	525	502	+4.6	(4)	(4)	(4)	509	481	445
Contract construction	2,010	2,052	−2.0	August 1948	2,253	−10.8	2,060	1,921	1,661
Trade	9,557	9,617	−.6	December 1948	10,381	−7.9	9,746	9,450	8,820
Finance	1,740	1,716	+1.4	August 1948	1,761	−1.2	1,719	1,656	1,586
Service	4,650	4,738	−1.9	April 1948	4,768	−2.5	4,681	4,622	4,430
Government	5,820	5,624	+3.5	December 1948	5,994	−2.9	5,658	5,449	5,607
Federal	1,898	1,788	+6.2	(5)	(5)	(5)	1,839	1,870	2,266
State and local	3,922	3,836	+2.2	September 1948	3,928	−.2	3,819	3,579	3,341

[1] Preliminary.
[2] Postwar peak employment not readily apparent for this group owing to the influence of declining employment on the part of the shipbuilding industry.
[3] Reflects strike at plant of major auto manufacturer.
[4] No peak is evident as expansion continues.
[5] Trend of Federal Government employment after readjusting from war to peace time levels shows no single peak.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 7.—*Production—worker employment and average weekly hours in selected manufacturing industries*

Industry	May 1949 [1]		May 1948		Postwar peak			Percent change in employment	
	Employment	Hours	Employment	Hours	Month and year	Employment	Hours	May 1948 to May 1949	Peak to May 1949
All manufacturing	*Thousands* 11,824	38.6	*Thousands* 12,738	39.9	September 1948	*Thousands* 13,488	39.8	−7.2	−12.3
Durable goods	5,993	39.1	6,642	40.1	October 1948	6,822	40.9	−9.8	−12.2
Nondurable goods	5,831	38.0	6,096	39.6	September 1948	6,685	39.6	−4.3	−12.8
Early postwar peak:									
Machine tools	40.4	39.2	47.5	42.0	October 1946	62.9	42.6	−14.9	−34.8
Rubber tires and inner tubes	84.5	37.5	91.4	37.4	November 1946	118.0	39.0	−7.5	−28.4
Woolen and worsted manufactures	121.5	37.3	173.2	40.1	December 1946	181.7	41.3	−29.8	−33.1
Radios and phonographs	79.8	38.8	90.0	38.8	do	111.6	40.9	−11.3	−28.5
Communication equipment	76.9	38.5	90.0	39.5	do	110.5	42.7	−14.6	−30.4
Middle postwar peak:									
Machinery and machine-shop products	444.3	39.0	507.9	41.6	April 1947	523.3	41.6	−12.5	−15.1
Stoves, oil burners, and heating equipment	58.1	36.4	83.7	39.7	November 1947	96.2	40.1	−30.6	−39.6
Washing machines, wringers, and driers, domestic	8.3	[2] 39.8	16.0	[2] 42.1	February 1948	16.5	41.8	−48.1	−49.7
Boots and shoes	215.5	33.4	225.5	34.3	do	257.8	38.8	−4.4	−16.4
Furniture	221.8	38.1	249.6	40.8	do	266.2	41.9	−11.1	−16.7
Cotton manufactures, except smallware	454.8	33.9	524.7	39.5	March 1948	529.4	40.7	−13.3	−14.1
Hosiery	130.8	35.2	147.0	39.6	do	151.9	40.7	−11.0	−13.9
Refrigerators and refrigeration equipment	60.1	39.7	82.5	40.5	June 1948	84.8	40.5	−27.2	−29.1
Recent postwar peak:									
Silk and rayon goods	97.7	37.0	120.3	41.8	October 1948	122.4	41.1	−18.8	−20.2
Paper and pulp	195.9	40.9	204.7	44.6	December 1948	207.0	43.4	−4.3	−5.4
Chemicals	192.5	40.0	204.8	41.2	do	211.2	41.1	−6.0	−8.9
Agricultural machinery, excluding tractors	73.6	38.3	75.2	40.7	do	77.1	40.1	−2.1	−4.5
Blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills	531.2	38.4	517.7	39.9	February 1949	547.6	39.9	+2.6	−3.0

[1] Preliminary.
[2] April figure; May unavailable.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 8.—*Wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments for selected States, April 1948 to April 1949*

[In thousands]

State	April 1949	April 1948	Percent change April 1948 to April 1949	State	April 1949	April 1948	Percent change April 1948 to April 1949
Arizona	154	156	−1.3	Nevada [1]	47	48	−2.1
Arkansas	287	283	+1.4	New Jersey	1,520	1,567	−3.0
California	2,987	3,024	−1.2	New Mexico	120	124	+4.0
Connecticut	721	779	−7.4	New York	5,437	5,508	−1.3
Georgia	721	738	−2.3	Oklahoma	465	450	+3.3
Idaho	117	115	+1.7	Pennsylvania	3,533	3,522	+.3
Illinois	3,091	3,110	−.6	Rhode Island	263	290	−9.3
Indiana	1,158	1,183	−2.1	Tennessee	719	733	−1 9
Kansas	438	423	+3.5	Texas	1,744	1,693	+3.0
Maine	242	251	−3.6	Utah	180	171	+5.3
Maryland	683	686	−.4	Vermont	93	98	−5.1
Massachusetts	1,636	1,712	−4.4	Washington	662	665	−.5
Minnesota	768	767	+.1	Wisconsin	959	973	−1.4
Missouri	1,106	1,125	−1.7	Wyoming	75	72	+4.2
Montana	139	136	+2.2				

[1] Does not include contract construction.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 9.—*Total employment in manufacturing industries by State*

[In thousands]

State	April 1949	April 1948	Postwar peak		Percent change from April 1948 to April 1949	Percent change from peak to April 1949
			Year and month	Employment		
NEW ENGLAND						
Maine:						
Total manufacturing	98.3	103.6	August 1948	121.5	−5.1	−19.1
Textile	23.8	28.0	February 1948	30.4	−15.0	−21.7
Lumber	15.9	16.6	January 1947	26.3	−4.2	−39.5
New Hampshire: Total manufacturing	71.2	82.6	January 1948	85.8	−13.8	−17.0
Vermont:						
Total manufacturing	32.4	38.0	December 1946	43.1	−14.7	−24.8
Lumber and furniture	6.7	8.3	February 1947	9.2	−19.3	−27.2
Massachusetts:						
Total manufacturing	655.5	729.7	December 1946	766.9	−10.2	−14.5
Textile	102.2	139.3	do	141.2	−26.6	−27.6
Electrical machinery	71.2	80.8	do	88.9	−11.9	−19.9
Leather	62.9	63.1	May 1946	73.7	−.3	−14.7
Rhode Island:						
Total manufacturing	122.4	149.9	December 1947	154.6	−18.3	−20.8
Textile	47.9	66.4	March 1948	67.6	−27.9	−29.1
Machinery, except electrical	14.5	17.0	June 1947	18.7	−14.7	−22.5
Connecticut:						
Total manufacturing	354.4	411.5	February 1917	426.5	−13.9	−16.9
Fabricated metal products	48.4	53.5	(1)	(1)	−9.5	(1)
Machinery, except electrical	61.9	76.0	June 1948	79.8	−18.6	−22.4
MIDDLE ATLANTIC						
New York:						
Total manufacturing	1,742.3	1,849.9	November 1946	1,986.1	−5.8	−12.3
Apparel	398.1	398.4	September 1946	440.5	−.1	−9.6
Machinery, except electrical	125.6	140.1	December 1946	162.4	−10.3	−22.7
Iron and steel; nonferrous metals	155.2	170.3	do	188.8	−8.9	−17.8
New Jersey:						
Total manufacturing	674.9	745.3	January 1947	770.3	−9.4	−12.4
Electrical machinery	84.8	102.7	March 1947	111.8	−17.4	−24.2
Chemicals	79.2	84.2	do	87.8	−5.9	−9.8
Pennsylvania:						
Total manufacturing	1,303.2	1,497.5	December 1947	1,527.3	−7.0	−8.8
Iron and steel	318.4	360.6	December 1948	369.2	−3.4	−5.6
Machinery, except electrical	146.3	158.7	December 1947	159.5	−7.8	−8.3

[1] Comparable data not available because of change from SSB to SIC industry definition.

TABLE 9.—*Total employment in manufacturing industries by State*—Continued

State	April 1949	April 1948	Postwar peak		Percent change from April 1948 to April 1949	Percent change from peak to April 1949
			Year and month	Employment		
EAST NORTH CENTRAL						
Ohio:						
Total manufacturing	1,131.4	1,230.7	March 1947	1,255.4	−8.1	−9.9
Iron and steel	256.3	275.5	August 1948	280.1	−7.0	−8.5
Machinery, except electrical	190.4	209.4	June 1948	211.1	−9.1	−9.8
Illinois:						
Total manufacturing	1,147.6	1,198.0	December 1947	1,273.6	−4.2	−9.9
Iron and steel	187.1	200.9	February 1948	205.3	−6.9	−8.9
Machinery, except electrical	185.5	186.4	March 1948	205.3	−.5	−9.6
Indiana: Total manufacturing	512.6	540.0	September 1947	580.0	−5.1	−11.6
Michigan:						
Total manufacturing	925.2	1,002.7	March 1947	1,046.7	−7.7	−11.6
Iron and steel	100.0	112.7	January 1948	117.1	−10.5	−13.8
Machinery, except electrical	124.3	144.1	December 1946	148.4	−13.7	−16.2
Automobiles	424.6	450.3	September 1946	481.1	−5.7	−11.7
Wisconsin: Total manufacturing	390.0	426.3	July 1947	461.5	−6.4	−13.5
WEST NORTH CENTRAL						
Minnesota: Total manufacturing	185.9	188.7	September 1947	210.6	−1.5	−11.7
Iowa: Total manufacturing	144.4	[2] 133.9	December 1947	156.2	[2] +7.8	−7.6
Missouri:						
Total manufacturing	330.6	340.5	December 1946	357.9	−2.9	−7.6
Apparel	38.7	39.6	December 1947	41.3	−2.3	−6.3
Leather	42.8	44.3	February 1948	48.0	−3.4	−10.8
North Dakota: Total manufacturing	6.4	6.4	June 1948	7.1	.....	−9.9
South Dakota: Total manufacturing	11.5	11.3	November 1948	12.2	+1.8	−5.7
Nebraska: Total manufacturing	39.7	34.9	December 1947	46.3	+13.8	−11.3
Kansas: Total manufacturing	86.0	75.4	October 1948	88.3	+14.1	−2.6
SOUTH ATLANTIC						
Delaware: Total manufacturing	44.5	46.6	September 1948	48.9	−4.5	−9.0
Maryland: Total manufacturing	212.1	228.2	August 1946	249.0	−7.1	−14.8
District of Columbia: Total manufacturing.	17.0	17.4	December 1947	17.5	−2.3	−2.9
Virginia:						
Total manufacturing	200.5	212.8	October 1948	218.4	−5.8	−8.2
Textile	31.8	37.5	June 1948	37.5	−15.2	−15.2
Chemicals	36.2	36.9	March 1949	37.6	−1.9	−3.7
West Virginia: Total manufacturing	123.5	131.9	October 1948	134.1	−6.4	−7.9
North Carolina:						
Total manufacturing	374.1	415.5	March 1948	421.1	−10.0	−11.2
Textile	204.1	233.1	do	234.4	−12.4	−12.9
Furniture	30.1	32.6	February 1948	33.6	−7.7	−10.4
South Carolina: Total manufacturing	184.7	199.3	March 1948	200.5	−7.3	−7.9
Georgia:						
Total manufacturing	259.3	276.5	November 1947	283.1	−6.2	−8.4
Textile	98.7	112.6	March 1948	113.4	−12.3	−13.0
Florida: Total manufacturing	92.2	96.5	January 1947	103.1	−4.5	−10.6
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL						
Kentucky: Total manufacturing	119.5	128.2	November 1947	130.7	−6.8	−8.6
Tennessee:						
Total manufacturing	231.1	257.9	August 1948	260.4	−10.4	−11.3
Textile	31.3	40.0	March 1948	40.3	−21.8	−22.3
Chemicals	37.7	39.4	October 1946	47.6	−4.3	−20.8
Alabama: Total manufacturing	212.1	226.5	January 1948	232.7	−6.4	−8.9
Mississippi: Total manufacturing	75.0	88.6	December 1947	95.7	−15.3	−21.6
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL						
Arkansas: Total manufacturing	72.6	74.9	August 1947	82.9	−3.1	−12.4
Louisiana: Total manufacturing	147.4	148.3	September 1948	155.7	−.6	−5.3
Oklahoma:						
Total manufacturing	61.7	65.5	June 1948	68.9	−5.8	−10.4
Petroleum and coal products	9.7	10.0	October 1948	11.2	−3.0	−13.4
Texas:						
Total manufacturing	331.8	338.7	November 1948	358.0	−2.0	−7.3
Petroleum and coal	33.9	38.3	August 1948	39.7	−11.5	−14.6
Machinery, except electrical	30.5	31.3	December 1948	33.7	−2.6	−9.5

[2] April 1948 figure reflects work stoppages in the food group.

TABLE 9.—*Total employment in manufacturing industries by State*—Continued

State	April 1949	April 1948	Postwar peak		Percent change from April 1948 to April 1949	Percent change from peak to April 1949
			Year and month	Employment		
MOUNTAIN						
Montana: Total manufacturing	17.2	17.1	October 1947	19.1	+.6	−9.9
Idaho: Total manufacturing	17.3	16.7	October 1948	[3] 26.0	+3.6	[3] −33.5
Wyoming: Total manufacturing	5.9	5.9	October 1947	7.4	.....	−20.3
Colorado: Total manufacturing	51.3	54.0	December 1947	61.0	−5.0	−15.9
New Mexico: Total manufacturing	9.4	9.0	August 1946	10.6	+4.4	−11.3
Arizona: Total manufacturing	15.5	14.9	July 1948	15.8	+4.0	−1.9
Utah: Total manufacturing	26.6	23.3	September 1948	32.8	+14.0	−18.9
Nevada: Total manufacturing	3.1	3.4	August 1948	3.6	−8.8	−13.9
PACIFIC						
Washington:						
Total manufacturing	171.8	174.5	do	192.9	−1.5	−10.9
Transportation	32.8	27.0	March 1949	33.6	+21.5	−2.4
Lumber	54.0	58.1	September 1948	65.0	−7.1	−16.9
Oregon: Total manufacturing	103.7	110.2	September 1946	127.4	−5.9	−18.6
California:						
Total manufacturing	700.7	695.8	September 1948	802.9	+0.7	−12.7
Iron and steel	61.8	62.0	October 1948	69.8	−.3	−11.5
Transportation	106.9	108.0	April 1946	133.9	−1.0	−20.2
Apparel	46.3	43.3	October 1948	48.9	+6.9	−5.3

[3] Significant rise in seasonal employment in lumber and food during October 1948; April 1949 in seasonal trough.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 10.—*Farm employment, United States, 1944–49*

[In thousands]

Period	Farm employment	Family workers	Hired workers
Annual averages:			
1944	10,700	8,530	2,260
1945	10,431	8,316	2,115
1946	10,703	8,530	2,173
1947	10,761	8,515	2,246
1948	10,671	8,354	2,317
Average for first 5 months:			
1948	10,054	8,305	1,749
1949	9,651	7,926	1,725

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

TABLE 11.—*Farm employment: Average number of persons employed, by geographic divisions, 1944–49*

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

[In thousands]

Geographic divisions	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Average for first 5 months	
						1948	1949
New England	228	226	228	229	226	212	212
Middle Atlantic	611	600	603	603	593	549	549
East North Central	1,594	1,562	1,599	1,597	1,593	1,515	1,440
West North Central	1,700	1,642	1,696	1,732	1,704	1,624	1,541
South Atlantic	2,120	2,049	2,098	2,139	2,116	2,015	1,975
East South Central	1,984	1,889	1,947	1,906	1,888	1,775	1,705
West South Central	1,610	1,511	1,603	1,603	1,605	1,541	1,436
Mountain	382	369	370	381	376	333	324
Pacific	555	553	559	571	570	490	469

TABLE 11.—*Farm employment: Average number of persons employed, by geographic divisions, 1944–45*—Continued

FAMILY WORKERS [1]

[In thousands]

Geographic divisions	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Average for first 5 months	
						1948	1949
New England	170	169	172	171	170	162	161
Middle Atlantic	489	476	472	470	461	442	435
East North Central	1,338	1,324	1,352	1,350	1,335	1,319	1,253
West North Central	1,444	1,412	1,450	1,473	1,448	1,454	1,388
South Atlantic	1,668	1,627	1,665	1,681	1,657	1,626	1,566
East South Central	1,624	1,572	1,624	1,587	1,551	1,508	1,429
West South Central	1,211	1,167	1,223	1,203	1,183	1,236	1,162
Mountain	273	262	265	270	261	257	245
Pacific	313	307	307	310	308	301	287

HIRED WORKERS [2]

New England	58	57	56	58	56	50	51
Middle Atlantic	122	124	131	133	132	107	114
East North Central	256	248	247	247	258	196	187
West North Central	262	230	246	259	256	170	153
South Atlantic	452	422	433	458	479	389	409
East South Central	360	317	321	319	337	267	276
West South Central	399	374	380	400	422	305	274
Mountain	109	107	105	111	115	76	79
Pacific	242	246	252	261	262	189	182

[1] Includes operators doing 1 or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.
[2] Includes all persons doing 1 or more hours of farm work during the survey week for pay.

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

TABLE 12.—*Index of farm output, United States, 1919–49*

[1935–39 = 100]

Year	Farm output [1]	Year	Farm output [1]	Year	Farm output [1]
1919	85	1930	95	1941	114
1920	92	1931	101	1942	128
1921	81	1932	101	1943	125
1922	89	1933	93	1944	130
1923	90	1934	79	1945	129
1924	90	1935	96	1946	134
1925	93	1936	85	1947	129
1926	95	1937	108	1948	140
1927	95	1938	105	1949	[2] 138
1928	99	1939	106		
1929	97	1940	110		

[1] Production of farm products for human use.
[2] Preliminary and subject to revision.

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

TABLE 13.—*Farm population, United States, January dates, 1940 to 1949*

[In thousands]

Year	Farm population	Year	Farm population	Year	Farm population
1940	30,269	1944	25,521	1948	27,440
1941	29,988	1945	25,190	1949	27,776
1942	29,018	1946	26,850		
1943	26,659	1947	27,550		

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Table 14.—*Farm residents employed in nonagricultural industries, United States, selected April dates, 1930 to 1948*

Year	Thousands	Year	Thousands
1930	1,504	1946	3,050
1940	2,180	1947	3,572
1944	2,680	1948	3,887

Source: 1930 from population census; other estimates through April 1948 from Bureau of the Census, current population reports.

TABLE 15.—*Insured unemployment, year to year changes, June 1948 to June 1949*

Geographic divisions	Under all programs			Under State unemployment program			VA unemployment program		
	Week ended—		Percent change	Week ended—		Percent change	Week ended—		Percent change
	June 11, 1949	June 12, 1948		June 11, 1949	June 12, 1948		June 11, 1949	June 12, 1948	
Continental United States	*Thous.* 2,662.5	*Thous.* 1,449.8	+83.6	*Thous.* 2,044.7	*Thous.* 1,049.3	+94.9	*Thous.* 544.4	*Thous.* 373.9	+45.6
New England	356.3	161.8	+120.2	309.9	129.0	+140.2	46.3	32.7	+41.6
Maine	25.3	13.5	+87.4	19.8	10.6	+86.8	5.5	2.9	+89.7
New Hampshire	19.5	8.3	+134.9	16.4	6.5	+152.3	3.0	1.8	+66.7
Vermont	6.7	2.9	+131.0	5.2	2.0	+160.0	1.5	.8	+87.5
Massachusetts	175.4	91.4	+91.9	154.9	71.6	+116.3	20.5	19.8	+3.5
Rhode Island	57.1	21.5	+165.6	53.0	18.7	+183.4	4.1	2.8	+46.4
Connecticut	72.3	24.2	+198.8	60.6	19.6	+209.2	11.7	4.6	+154.3
Middle Atlantic	710.5	424.8	+67.3	581.5	325.8	+78.5	126.9	98.9	+28.3
New York	386.4	260.7	+48.2	331.2	211.5	+56.6	53.1	49.2	+7.9
New Jersey	117.8	70.7	+66.6	100.2	54.5	+83.9	17.6	16.1	+9.3
Pennsylvania	206.3	93.4	+120.9	150.1	59.8	+51.0	56.2	33.6	+67.3
East North Central	524.5	220.0	+138.4	395.5	166.2	+138.0	128.8	53.7	+139.9
Ohio	134.1	41.5	+223.1	92.7	28.4	+226.4	41.3	13.1	+215.3
Indiana	53.6	20.0	+168.0	37.2	14.2	+162.0	16.3	5.8	+181.0
Illinois	193.2	98.4	+96.4	162.2	82.8	+95.9	31.1	15.5	+100.6
Michigan	110.9	52.2	+112.5	81.2	34.9	+132.7	29.7	17.2	+72.7
Wisconsin	32.7	7.9	+313.9	22.2	5.9	+276.3	10.4	2.1	+395.2
West North Central	93.0	58.6	+58.7	66.5	40.3	+65.0	26.5	18.4	+44.0
Minnesota	26.7	13.1	+103.8	17.3	8.3	+108.4	9.3	4.8	+93.8
Iowa	10.4	4.9	+112.2	7.7	3.7	+108.1	2.8	1.2	+133.3
Missouri	45.0	33.0	+36.4	33.9	23.3	+45.5	11.1	9.7	+14.4
North Dakota	.4	.2	+100.0	.3	.1	+200.0	.1	.1	0
South Dakota	.8	.5	+60.0	.4	.2	+100.0	.4	.3	+33.3
Nebraska	2.4	1.7	+41.2	1.7	1.2	+41.6	.7	.5	+40.0
Kansas	7.3	5.2	+40.4	5.2	3.5	+48.6	2.1	1.8	+16.7
SOUTH ATLANTIC	288.7	137.8	+109.5	211.1	88.0	+139.9	77.6	49.8	+55.8
Delaware	3.4	1.6	+112.5	2.3	1.2	+91.7	1.1	.4	+175.0
Maryland	42.4	17.5	+142.3	36.9	14.3	+158.0	5.5	3.2	+71.9
Dist. of Columbia	6.3	5.1	+23.5	4.0	3.3	+21.2	2.3	1.9	+21.1
Virginia	41.9	18.2	+130.2	32.2	13.5	+138.5	9.7	4.7	+106.4
West Virginia	33.3	15.0	+120.0	22.8	7.7	+196.1	10.5	7.3	+43.8
North Carolina	56.9	23.7	+140.1	42.4	16.8	+152.4	14.5	6.9	+110.1
South Carolina	27.4	10.6	+158.5	21.0	5.9	+255.9	6.4	4.7	+36.2
Georgia	40.0	19.4	+106.2	28.0	12.3	+127.6	12.0	7.1	+69.0
Florida	37.1	26.7	+39.0	21.5	13.0	+65.4	15.6	13.6	+14.7
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	152.9	77.6	+97.0	113.6	47.8	+137.7	38.3	29.8	+28.5
Kentucky	39.2	16.3	+140.5	27.8	9.8	+183.7	11.4	6.5	+75.4
Tennessee	56.7	30.3	+75.5	42.9	22.0	+95.0	13.8	10.3	+34.0
Alabama	42.2	21.6	+95.4	31.8	11.8	+169.5	9.4	9.8	−4.1
Mississippi	14.8	7.4	+100.0	11.1	4.2	+164.3	3.7	3.2	+15.6

Source: Bureau of Employment Security, Federal Security Agency.

TABLE 15.—*Insured unemployment, year to year changes, June 1948 to June 1949*—Continued

Geographic divisions	Under all programs			Under State unemployment program			VA unemployment program		
	Week ended—		Percent change	Week ended—		Percent change	Week ended—		Percent change
	June 11, 1949	June 12, 1948		June 11, 1949	June 12, 1948		June 11, 1949	June 12, 1948	
	Thous.	*Thous.*		*Thous.*	*Thous.*		*Thous.*	*Thous.*	
West South Central	100.8	64.5	+56.3	67.9	32.4	+109.6	32.9	32.2	+2.2
Arkansas	15.6	10.9	+43.1	11.2	5.2	+117.3	4.3	5.7	−24.6
Louisiana	26.6	18.9	+40.7	20.5	10.7	+91.6	6.1	8.3	−26.5
Oklahoma	19.0	11.5	+65.2	13.0	6.4	+103.1	6.0	5.1	+17.6
Texas	39.6	23.2	+70.7	23.1	10.1	+128.7	16.5	13.1	+36.0
Mountain	32.0	17.9	+78.8	20.0	10.6	+88.7	12.0	7.1	+69.0
Montana	2.9	1.8	+61.1	2.2	1.2	+83.3	.7	.5	+40.0
Idaho	1.9	1.3	+46.2	1.4	.8	+75.0	.6	.4	+50.0
Wyoming	1.0	.4	+150.0	.7	.2	+133.3	.2	.1	+100.0
Colorado	8.3	4.2	+97.6	4.8	2.5	+92.0	3.5	1.7	+105.9
New Mexico	2.6	2.3	+56.5	1.8	.9	+100.0	1.8	1.4	+28.6
Arizona	8.9	4.2	+111.9	5.2	2.4	+116.7	3.7	1.8	+105.6
Utah	3.5	2.2	+52.2	2.1	1.4	+71.4	1.1	.9	+22.2
Nevada	1.9	1.4	+35.7	1.5	1.1	+36.4	.4	.3	+33.3
Pacific	331.6	260.5	+27.3	278.5	209.3	+33.1	53.0	51.2	+3.5
Washington	28.6	25.8	+10.9	22.2	19.0	+16.8	6.4	6.8	−5.9
Oregon	15.3	11.9	+28.6	10.5	8.1	+29.6	4.8	3.8	+26.3
California	287.7	222.8	+29.1	245.8	182.2	+34.9	41.8	40.6	+3.0

[1] Total includes unemployment under Railroad Retirement system not distributed by States.

TABLE 16.—*Percent State insured unemployment in selected weeks of average monthly covered employment* [1]

Region and State	Percent during week ending—			Region and State	Percent during week ending—		
	June 11, 1949	May 14, 1949	June 12, 1948		June 11, 1949	May 14, 1949	June 12, 1948
Total	6.2	6.2	3.2	Region VI—Con.			
Region I:				Florida	5.6	4.9	3.4
Connecticut	9.5	8.6	3.0	Georgia	5.3	5.1	2.3
Maine	11.3	13.5	6.1	Mississippi	6.2	6.9	2.4
Massachusetts	10.6	10.5	4.9	South Carolina	6.7	6.4	1.9
New Hampshire	12.6	13.7	4.9	Tennessee	8.5	8.5	4.4
Rhode Island	22.1	23.8	7.8	Region VII:			
Vermont	8.2	8.8	3.2	Iowa	2.2	2.3	1.1
Region II:				Kansas	2.2	2.6	1.5
Delaware	2.5	2.6	1.3	Missouri	4.4	4.7	3.0
New Jersey	7.6	7.3	4.1	Nebraska	1.1	1.3	.8
New York	7.6	7.3	4.9	North Dakota	.7	1.1	.3
Pennsylvania	4.8	4.6	1.9	South Dakota	.7	1.1	.4
Region III:				Region VIII:			
Dist. of Columbia	1.8	2.0	1.5	Arkansas	5.2	5.9	2.5
Maryland	6.5	6.4	2.5	Louisiana	4.6	5.0	2.4
North Carolina	6.6	6.1	2.6	New Mexico	2.0	2.5	1.0
Virginia	6.5	3.8	2.8	Oklahoma	4.8	4.8	2.7
West Virginia	5.7	5.2	2.0	Texas	2.0	2.2	.9
Region IV:				Region IX:			
Kentucky	7.5	7.0	2.6	Colorado	2.5	2.9	1.3
Michigan	5.1	6.0	2.1	Idaho	1.5	2.3	.9
Ohio	4.2	4.1	1.3	Montana	2.2	3.0	1.2
Region V:				Utah	1.9	2.3	1.1
Illinois	6.8	6.3	3.6	Wyoming	1.3	1.3	.6
Indiana	4.1	4.2	1.6	Region X:			
Minnesota	3.2	4.4	1.5	Arizona	4.9	4.7	2.2
Wisconsin	3.0	3.1	.8	California	9.8	10.4	7.2
Region VI:				Nevada	3.9	4.7	2.8
Alabama	7.4	6.6	2.7	Oregon	3.3	4.3	2.6
				Washington	4.3	5.3	3.7

[1] Average monthly employment covered by State unemployment insurance systems during calendar year 1948.

Source: Bureau of Employment Security, Federal Security Agency.

APPENDIX B

Technical Description of Source Data on Employment and Unemployment

Appendix B 1. Monthly Report on the Labor Force, Current Population Survey, Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce. Monthly.

The employment, unemployment, and other labor force data published by the Census Bureau are based on the Bureau's current population survey. This survey is conducted each month by means of personal interviews with a sample of about 25,000 households throughout the country selected by scientific sampling methods. The actual enumeration is conducted in the calendar week containing the 15th of the month and the data relate to the preceding week (the week containing the 8th).

The results are usually published 3 weeks after completion of the enumeration, and appear in the Monthly Report on the Labor Force, Current Population Report Series P 57. A follow-up report, Gross Changes in the Labor Force, Report Series P 59, is also published monthly a few weeks later.

This report, based on special tabulations, provides data on the dynamics of the labor market, that is, the number employed one month who were unemployed the following month and vice versa, the number entering and leaving the labor force each month, the number transferring between farm and nonfarm work, and similar items.

Population coverage

The data presented in this report relate to the noninstitutional population of the United States 14 years of age and over. The noninstitutional population comprises (a) the civilian noninstitutional population—all civilians living within the continental limits of the United States except inmates of penal institutions, homes for the aged, infirm, and needy, and mental institutions; and (b) the armed forces of the United States, including those overseas.

Employment status concepts

Employed.—Employed persons comprise those, who, during the survey week, were either (a) "at work"—those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business; or (b) "with a job but not at work"—those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or lay-off with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of lay-off. Also included are persons who had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within 30 days.

Unemployed.—Unemployed persons include those who did not work at all during the survey week, and who were looking for work. Also included as unemployed are persons who would have been looking for work except that (a) they were temporarily ill, (b) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off for an indefinite period, or (c) they believed no work was available in their line of work or in the community.

Labor force.—The civilian labor force comprises the total of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above. Figures on the net strength of the armed forces at the first of the month are added to the civilian labor force to obtain the total labor force. During periods of rapid change in the size of the armed forces, data on net strength as of the first of the month were projected to the survey week.

Not in labor force.—All civilians 14 years of age and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." These persons are further classified as "engaged in own home housework," "in school," and "other," the latter group including for the most part retired persons, those permanently unable or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an "off" season, and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only inciden-

tal unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

Occupation, industry, and class of worker

The data on occupation, industry, and class of worker relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week.

The occupational and industrial categories shown are largely major groups in the classification systems used in the 1940 census of population. In the classification by industry, the category "service industries" includes the following 1940 major groups: Finance, insurance, and real estate; business and repair services, domestic service and other personal services; amusement, recreation, and related services; and professional and related services. The residual category "all other industries" includes the forestry, fishery, and mining industries, as well as those activities which are peculiarly governmental functions, such as legislative and judicial activities and most of the activities in the executive agencies. Government agencies engaged in educational and medical services and in activities commonly carried on by private enterprises, such as transportation service and manufacturing, are classified in the appropriate industrial category. The total number of Government workers is shown by the class-of-worker category "Government workers." The specific occupation and industry titles included in each major group are given in volume III of the 1940 Census Reports on Population and in the third series State bulletins on population.

The class-of-worker classification comprises "wage or salary workers," subdivided into private and Government workers, "self-employed workers," and "unpaid family workers." Wage or salary workers are persons working for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay in kind, or at piece rates for a private employer or for any governmental unit. Self-employed workers are persons working in their own business, profession, or trade, or operating a farm, for profit or fees. Unpaid family workers are persons working without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the household to whom they are related by blood or marriage.

Hours worked

The statistics on hours worked pertain to the number of hours worked by persons during the survey week. For persons working in more than one job, these figures relate to the number of hours worked in all jobs during the week.

Duration of unemployment

The duration of unemployment represents the length of time (up to the current survey week) during which persons reported as unemployed had been continuously looking for work or would have been looking for work except for temporary illness, indefinite lay-off, or belief that no work was available in their line of work or in the community.

Comparability with related data

The employment data shown here were obtained by interviews with households and will differ from employment data based on reports from individual business establishments and farms. The Monthly Report on the Labor Force provides information about the work status of the whole population, without duplication. Persons employed at more than one job are counted only once as employed, and are classified according to the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the survey week. Estimates based on reports from business establishments and farms, on the other hand, count more than once persons who work for more than one establishment. Differences will also arise from the fact that other estimates, unlike those presented here, generally exclude domestic service workers, unpaid family workers, and self-employed persons, and may include workers less than 14 years of age. An additional difference arises from the fact that persons with a job but not at work are included with the employed in the estimates shown here, whereas only part of this group is likely to be included in employment figures based on establishment pay-roll reports.

For a number of reasons, the unemployment estimates of the Bureau of the Census are not directly comparable with the published figures for unemployment compensation claims or claims for veterans' readjustment allowances. In the first place, certain persons such as domestic servants and Government workers are usually not eligible for unemployment compensation. Also, the qualifications for drawing unemployment compensation differ from the definition of unemployment used by the Census Bureau. For example, persons with a job but not at work and persons working only a few hours during the week are sometimes eligible for unemployment compensation, but are classified by the Census Bureau

as employed. Furthermore, some persons may be reported as not looking for work even though they might consider themselves available for jobs and be eligible for unemployment compensation.

Rounding of estimates

Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.

Note on veteran estimates

The estimating procedure used in the Monthly Report on the Labor Force involves, as a final step, the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population by sex for specified age groups. In the case of males, this adjustment is at present made separately for veterans of World War II, and for nonveterans. The sample estimates of veterans are inflated to independent totals based on data from the National Defense and Treasury Departments on separations to civilian life. These data are adjusted to include persons on terminal leave and to exclude the estimated number of veterans who have reenlisted, who have died, or who are in institutions. At the time the estimates are prepared each month, it is necessary to use a provisional estimate of the number of veterans. When revisions of these provisional estimates become available later, the current estimate is adjusted accordingly, but it is not feasible to make revisions in the earlier figures. Hence, the differences between the figures shown for two successive months cannot be taken as an estimate of the number of separations during that period.

There is evidence of underrepresentation of veterans in the sample relative to nonveterans, as well as of some misclassification of veterans as nonveterans. It is not certain, therefore, that the World War II veterans identified as such in the survey adequately represent all World War II veterans. There is at present no basis for determining the effect of these factors on the number of veterans in the various labor force categories.

Source of earlier estimates

Detailed labor force statistics for the period March 1940 to December 1946 can be found in Report Series P–50, No. 2, with additional data for the months July 1945 to February 1947 presented in Labor Force Bulletin No. 7. Labor force statistics for the years 1947 and 1948, in essentially the same detail as presented currently in this report, can be found in the Annual Report on the Labor Force: 1948 (Report Series P–50, No. 13).

Reliability of estimates

Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators.

The following table presents the approximate sampling variability of monthly estimates of selected sizes for over-all totals, that is, those not classified by age, sex, or veteran status. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference between the estimate and the figure which would have been obtained from a complete census is less than the sampling variability indicated below.

Size of estimate	Sampling variability	
	All estimates except those relating to agricultural employment	Estimate relating to agricultural employment
10,000	10,000	10,000
25,000	26,000	32,000
50,000	38,000	50,000
100,000	74,000	102,000
300,000	96,000	141,000
500,000	142,000	220,000
1,000,000	210,000	420,000
2,500,000	380,000	690,000
5,000,000	540,000	1,020,000
10,000,000	840,000	.....
20,000,000	1,280,000	.....
40,000,000	1,560,000	.....
60,000,000	.....	.....

Estimates of characteristics by age, sex, and veteran status are subject to slightly less sampling variability than that shown above. For the sampling variability of estimates of major characteristics, see MRLF, No. 57–S, Sampling Variability of Estimates of the Monthly Report on the Labor Force.

The reliability of an estimated percentage depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates. In certain of the tables, absolute figures are not shown because of the relatively large sampling errors. However, percentage distributions are presented because they are useful and sufficiently reliable for many analytic purposes.

The estimates of sampling variability shown above are not to be applied to estimates of month-to-month change. The ratio of two successive published estimates of any labor force characteristic is likely to be relatively more reliable than either of the two estimates from which it is computed.

Appendix B-2. Employment and Pay Rolls—Detailed Report, Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. Monthly

This report provides detailed industry employment figures, by industry division, for nonagricultural establishments, nationally, and total manufacturing and nonagricultural figures for selected States (*see also* Hours and Earnings—Industry Report).

Comparability with other types of employment data

The Bureau of Labor Statistics employment series are based upon reports submitted by cooperating establishments and therefore differ from employment information obtained by household interviews, such as the Monthly Report of the Labor Force. The BLS series of employment in nonagricultural establishments differ from the Monthly Report of the Labor Force total nonagricultural employment figures in several important respects.

Source of data

Employment and pay-roll data are based on reports from cooperating establishments. The approximate number of establishments, and workers covered, for each industry division is as follows:

Approximate coverage of BLS employment and pay-roll sample

Industry division	Number of establishments	Employees or production workers	
		Number	Percent of total
Manufacturing	34,300	7,542,000	56
Mining	2,700	407,000	52
Contract construction	12,500	480,000	22
Public utilities	7,500	933,000	78
Trade:			
Wholesale	12,800	360,000	20
Retail	37,900	1,097,000	25
Service:			
Hotels (year-round)	1,200	131,000	35
Power laundries and cleaning and dyeing	1,600	67,000	21

Coverage of employment data

The employment series shown in tables 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 of the Employment and Pay Rolls Report cover all full- and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed persons, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. The figures and indexes shown in tables 8 and 10 refer to production and related workers.

Methodology

Changes in the level of employment are based on reports from a sample group of establishments, inasmuch as full coverage is prohibitively costly and time-consuming. In using a sample, it is essential that an accurate base be established from which the series may be carried forward. This base or "bench mark" is either a complete count or a figure with a satisfactory degree of accuracy.

Sources of bench-mark data

In preparing data for private employment prior to 1939, the various industrial censuses taken by the Bureau of the Census were used as sources of bench-mark data. Data obtained from the Federal Security Agency are the main bases for 1946 bench marks. Bench marks for State and local governments are based on reports compiled by the Bureau of the Census, while information on Federal Government employment is made available by the United States Civil Service Commission. The Interstate Commerce Commission is the source for class I railroads, and the United States Maritime Commission for water transportation.

Scope of employment adjustments

The employment data shown in Employment and Pay Rolls Report for the industry divisions (e. g., manufacturing, mining, etc.) and industry groups (e. g., iron and steel, electrical machinery, etc.) have been adjusted to levels indicated by Federal Security Agency data through 1946 and have been carried forward from 1946 bench-mark levels, thereby providing consistent series.

Adjustments of production-worker series

Data for the manufacturing major industry groups have been adjusted to levels indicated by Federal Security Agency data through 1946 and have been carried forward from 1946 bench-mark levels, thereby providing consistent series. Data for the individual manufacturing industries, with the exception of the industries in the transportation equipment except automobiles group, have been adjusted to 1946 bench-mark levels. In the nonmanufacturing industries, the entire series of mining industries have been adjusted to 1946 bench-mark levels.

Since the data shown in this report cover only the current months, a set of summary sheets for each industry presenting comparable figures from January 1939 to date, by months, will be provided upon request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such requests should specify the series desired.

Pay-roll indexes

Cooperating establishments are instructed to report pay rolls of production or nonsupervisory workers prior to deduction for old-age and unemployment insurance, withholding taxes, bonds, and union dues. Pay for sick leave, holidays, and vacations taken is included. Respondents are instructed to exclude pay for vacations not taken as well as cash estimates of any payments in kind. Bonuses, unless earned and paid regularly each pay period, are also excluded.

The methodology for obtaining pay-roll indexes is similar to that for employment. Sample changes showing monthly movements are used in projecting established bench marks to secure current pay-roll figures. These pay-roll figures are converted into indexes, using the 1939 average as a base.

State employment

State data are prepared in cooperation with various State agencies. The series for manufacturing have been adjusted to recent data made available under the Federal social-security program. Since some States have adjusted to more recent bench marks than others, and because varying methods of computation are used, the total of the State series differs from the national total (see tables 1 and 2). Because of these recent revisions the State data for manufacturing are not consistent with the unrevised data shown prior to June 1947 for total employment in nonagricultural establishments, by State. A number of States also make available more detailed industry data and information for earlier periods which may be secured directly upon request to the appropriate State agency. Nonagricultural employment, by State, for those States which are now publishing such series are shown in table 6 and are consistent with the manufacturing data in table 7. As nonagricultural data for additional States become available, they will be shown in table 6.

The following publications are available upon request from the BLS regional offices or the Bureau's Washington office:

Nonagricultural Employment, by State, 1943–47.
Employment in Manufacturing Industries, by State, 1943–46.
Total Employment in Manufacturing Industries by State, 1947.

NOTE.—The July 1949 issue of Employment and Payrolls, planned for issuance in September, will contain employment information for a new listing of manufacturing industries based on the new standard industrial classification structure. That classification system, currently being adopted by a number of governmental agencies, redefines a number of industries and sets up new industrial groupings. The new employment series will also incorporate the reclassification of individual

establishments to reflect current product or activity, in contrast to the prewar basis now in use. The revised employment data will, therefore, result in improved comparability with other economic series. At the time that the new series are published, monthly data will be made available for the period from January 1947 to date.

Owing to the extensive revisions now under way, it will be necessary to omit the June 1949 issue of this report presenting statistics in detail for 168 industries. The preliminary employment release containing summary statistics for major industry divisions and groups will continue to be issued monthly as usual.

Appendix B-3. Farm Labor, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture. Monthly

Source of data

Farm employment estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics cover persons doing farm work on all farms. Mailed questionnaires are received every month from 15,000 to 20,000 farmers who report the number of persons working on their farms. Interview surveys of farmers are used less frequently to provide bench mark data on employment. The survey week for the mailed questionnaire each month is the last complete calendar week in the month except when that week includes the last day of the month; in that case the survey week is the next to the last full calendar week.

Employment concepts

All farm operators are counted as employed if they spend 1 hour or more during the survey week at farm work, chores, or in the transaction of farm business. Members of the operator's family or household doing unpaid farm work, or chores, are counted if they put in 15 hours or more during the survey week. Operators plus unpaid members of their families or households who meet these criteria of employment are called family workers. All persons doing one or more hours of farm work or chores for pay during the survey week are counted as hired workers. Members of the operator's family doing farm work for cash wages are counted as hired workers. Croppers are considered family workers when working on their own crops, but hired workers when doing farm work for pay off their own tracts. If a person is employed both as a family worker and a hired worker during the week on the same farm he is counted as a hired worker.

Comparability with other data

The data on farm employment published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics differ from those on agricultural employment published by the Bureau of the Census in the Monthly Report on the Labor Force. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics collects information from the employer (the farmer) who reports the number of persons working on his farm during the week, regardless of the other jobs held by those workers. The Census data, on the other hand, are obtained through interviews with approximately 25,000 farm and nonfarm households with the housewife or some other member of the household reporting on the labor force status of the household members. They relate only to persons 14 years of age and over who are in the civilian population and not in institutions.

The difference between the BAE and the Census data is attributable mainly to the different treatment of three groups of workers. Children under 14 years of age who meet the criteria of employment are included in the BAE estimates, but not in the Census Bureau's. It is estimated that this number may reach a summer peak as high as 2,000,000. Persons working on more than one farm during the survey week are counted only once by the Census Bureau, but they are counted by the BAE on each farm where they work and meet the minimum-hour requirements. This group is also more numerous during the harvest season when the demand for farm labor is greatest. The additional count of workers attributable to this duplication is estimated at a minimum of a quarter of a million and may be considerably larger. The third group is composed of persons who work in both agricultural and nonagricultural employment, but work longer at the nonagricultural job; they are classified by Census as working in nonagricultural employment, but by the BAE as working on a farm. This last group may range from one-half million to a million in different seasons of the year.

Other groups counted by the BAE but not by the Census Bureau are imported foreign workers and some migratory workers not living in private households. On the other hand, the Census Bureau includes in its estimates of agricultural employment certain classes of workers which the BAE does not include. Persons with "nonfarm" occupations who are working on farms, such as bookkeepers and typists, some persons in certain agricultural processing activities, and farm operators with no other job who did no farm work are considered as employed in agriculture by the Census Bureau, but are not included by the BAE in its estimates of agricultural employment.

Because the volume of agricultural employment is affected by changes both in season and in weather, the difference in the week of the month for which the data are collected may also make some difference. The BAE data relate to the last full calendar week ending at least 1 day before the end of the month while the Census Bureau information relates to the week containing the 8th of the month.

The BAE estimates farm employment from current reports made by a selected group of farmers adjusted to enumerative survey bench-mark data. The Bureau of the Census bases its figures on a sample of dwelling units. Accordingly, the figures in both cases are subject to a sampling variation and may differ from the results of a complete census.

Wage rates

Wage rates are reported quarterly by the same sample of farm operators that reports employment. The farmer is asked to report average wage rates being paid "at this time" in his locality. The "at this time" on the average probably represents the second or third day before the end of the month.

APPENDIX B–4. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT, BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY. WEEKLY AND MONTHLY

Insured unemployment

Data on insured unemployment are based on weekly reports of continued claims, for unemployment benefits received by State employment security agencies, the Veterans' Administration and the Railroad Retirement Board. The data, therefore, cover only unemployment represented by continued claims filed under these three unemployment benefit programs. Initial claims are excluded since, in general, they merely indicate the beginning of a period of unemployment, while a continued claim certifies that a week of unemployment has been completed.

Claims for State unemployment insurance

Initial claim.—The first claim in a benefit year filed by a worker, usually after losing his job, or the first claim filed at the beginning of a second or subsequent spell of unemployment during that benefit year. A benefit year is the 12-month period within which a worker may receive benefits, if eligible, following his first initial claim. All States measure benefit rights in terms of benefit years, except Wisconsin where benefits are based on a proportion of "credit weeks" within the 52 weeks prior to the termination of an employee's most recent employment. Initial claims do not result in benefit payments but are just the first step in the process. A separate line on the accompanying weekly claim chart excludes transitional initial claims since they do not represent new unemployment.

Continued claim.—Represents the sum of waiting period and compensable claims.

Waiting-period claim.—A claim filed following the 1- or 2-week waiting period required by all States, except Maryland which does not require any such period. A waiting period is usually required just once during a benefit year, even though the worker may be out of work and entitled to benefits more than once during that time. Waiting-period claims do not result in benefit payments.

Compensable claim.—A claim filed after a worker has completed his waiting period plus an additional week of unemployment. These are the only claims that can result in benefit payments. Some compensable claims do not result in payments because the unemployed workers are not available or able to work or are disqualified.

APPENDIX B-5. THE LABOR MARKET, BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, MONTHLY

Area labor market information

A bimonthly summary of developments in important labor market areas is derived from an analytical report prepared by State employment security staffs. In some instances the report is prepared in the State central office, and in other instances it is prepared by an analyst stationed in the local employment office. The report contains statistical information and narrative comments dealing with the factors responsible for changes reported in the statistics.

Statistical information for each area includes estimates of past and current employment, estimates of employer requirements for the immediate future (2 and 4 months), estimates of unemployment, labor turn-over, unemployment-insurance claims, and employment-office registrations for work. Some other items are submitted on an optional basis and a more detailed analysis of trends and outlook is prepared once each year for each area.

These reports emphasize, heavily, the judgment of local observers on local employment and unemployment trends.

Employment trend and outlook information for the area is received from employers and special effort is made to obtain employer comments on his staffing problems. Unemployment is estimated by means of a variety of techniques, most of which lean heavily on the unemployment insurance claims being filed in the area. Turn-over data are also received from employers. Statistical coverage varies but as a generalization it can be said that the coverage of manufacturing is very good, in some areas reaching as high as 80 to 90 percent of total manufacturing employment. Coverage is naturally lower in such industries as trade and service and construction because of the number and in some cases the inaccessibility of employers.

Industry labor market information

Industry labor market analyses prepared by the Bureau of Employment Security are based on individual firm reports obtained through local employment offices. The report includes information on past and current employment and on required employment (2 and 4 months hence), on scheduled hours of work and on labor turn-over. A number of additional narrative items which call for comment by the employer and the local employment office on recruitment, turn-over, employment trend, and related items are also included. These data are tabulated in Washington and individual schedules are read by specialists who then prepare the report, utilizing in addition, material available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, other Government agencies, trade associations, labor organizations, etc.

Agricultural labor market information

The agricultural reports prepared by the Bureau of Employment Security are based on operating reports and are directed to the problems arising in connection with meeting labor requirements in agriculture. Weekly narrative reports are received from agricultural areas of importance from the point of view of their farm labor requirements. These reports deal with farm labor market conditions including employment, labor shortage, labor surplus, etc. In addition, a monthly summary is received from each State reviewing the local experience in meeting farm labor recruitment problems during the past month. Analyses prepared by the Bureau rely on the materials developed by the Department of Agriculture for general employment information.

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