

10 EXTENT AND NATURE OF FRICTIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Longer term unemployment also shows a pattern of seasonality—although less pronounced. It is related, of course, to a seasonal rise in unemployment some months previous. For example, the construction layoffs that come in the fall with bad weather are the genesis of a seasonal increase in the number out of work 15 weeks or longer in the early spring.

The range of seasonal variation in the number unemployed 15 weeks or longer was from 450,000 to 700,000 in 1957. The high point is reached in spring, reflecting the accumulation of winter layoffs in outdoor work such as agriculture and construction (table I-2). On the whole, however, seasonality accounted for only a small proportion of the annual average level of long-term unemployment in 1957.