

16 EXTENT AND NATURE OF FRICTIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

In age groups under 25, duration of unemployment is shorter than average; in age groups over 45, it is above average. Altogether, persons under 25 accounted for 37 percent of the short-term, but only 23 percent of the long-term unemployed. These proportions were just about reversed for those 45 and over.

These age-sex patterns are the same in both the monthly survey data and in the work experience data relating to cumulative weeks of unemployment for the entire calendar year. The monthly data reflect the fact that each continuous spell of unemployment tends to be longer for men than for women, and longer for older workers than for younger workers. The work experience data reflect the additional fact that men are more likely than women to have more than one spell of unemployment in a year, and that older workers (especially those 45 and over) are more subject to repeated layoffs (more than one spell) during the year (table I-4).