

One reason for the difference is the concentration of nonwhite workers in laboring and other relatively unskilled jobs. Among all laborers, white and nonwhite, the proportion who lose an aggregate of more than 15 weeks due to unemployment runs as high as 44 percent of those with any unemployment.

Nonwhite workers account for an especially large proportion of those with unemployment cumulating to more than one-half year. They represented 27 percent of the very long-term unemployed, although they constituted only 11 percent of the total number of workers.

Industry

For any given spell of unemployment, the duration tends to be longer for factory workers than for those losing nonmanufacturing jobs. Duration is comparatively short for workers previously employed in agriculture, construction, trade, services, and for those without previous work experience (table I-7). Over the course of an entire year, however, workers from industries which are highly seasonal and/or in which job attachments are relatively unstable (agriculture, construction, domestic service) lose a comparatively large number of weeks due to unemployment (table I-8). Over 60 percent of the workers in these activities who had any unemployment experienced two or more spells of unemployment.