Occupation

White-collar workers—especially those previously employed in clerical occupations—tend to remain unemployed for shorter periods of time than do blue-collar workers (table I-10). The differences are magnified when a whole year's experience is considered, as the blue-collar workers are more likely to suffer more than one spell of unemployment. The blue-collar group includes a sizable number of construction craftsmen and laborers who are particularly subject to periodic layoffs (table I-11).

As noted in the industry discussion, farm laborers and domestic service workers have frequent spells of unemployment (60 to 70 percent have at least two during the year). Although each stretch may be relatively brief, the cumulative total of lost time exceeds 15 weeks for over two-fifths of the workers in these two occupations who had

any unemployment.