

34 EXTENT AND NATURE OF FRICTIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE II-3.—*Gross changes in the labor force by age and sex: Annual average, 1957*
[Numbers in thousands]

Age and sex	Civilian labor force	Gross changes	Percent of labor force	Percent distribution
Total.....	67,946	3,265	4.8	100.0
14 to 17.....	2,860	773	27.0	23.7
18 and 19.....	2,433	239	9.8	7.3
20 to 24.....	6,068	301	5.0	9.2
25 to 44.....	30,673	903	2.9	27.7
45 to 64.....	22,622	730	3.2	22.4
65 and over.....	3,290	320	9.7	9.8
Male.....	45,882	1,148	2.5	35.2
14 to 17.....	1,812	429	23.7	13.1
18 and 19.....	1,290	112	8.7	3.4
20 to 24.....	3,626	107	3.0	3.3
25 to 44.....	21,302	125	.6	3.8
45 to 64.....	15,375	173	1.1	5.3
65 and over.....	2,478	202	8.2	6.2
Female.....	22,064	2,117	9.6	64.8
14 to 17.....	1,048	344	32.8	10.5
18 and 19.....	1,144	127	11.1	3.9
20 to 24.....	2,442	194	7.9	5.9
25 to 44.....	9,371	778	8.3	23.8
45 to 64.....	7,246	557	7.7	17.1
65 and over.....	813	118	14.5	3.6

NOTE.—See table II-1.

Marginal workers do not add significantly to the unemployed since they fill jobs as seasonal demands increase or as they become aware of available job openings, to a large extent without any active search. Special studies have shown that only about 10 to 15 percent of the unemployed are actively seeking part-time jobs. Only about 5 percent of the unemployed were previously engaged in agriculture. Most of the seasonal expansion and contraction in the farm work force is accounted for by housewives, students, and older men who remain outside the labor force when their services are not required on the farm.

PATTERNS OF GROSS CHANGES BETWEEN EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

With unemployment at about 3 million, and with no significant trend during the year, about 1 million persons can be expected to leave their jobs (due to seasonal and nonseasonal causes) each month and become unemployed. An approximately equal number will become reemployed, although not necessarily in the same job they held before. Stated another way, about 1 million previously employed persons leave jobs for a variety of voluntary and involuntary reasons and become unemployed, while another 1 million previously unemployed persons find jobs. About 600,000 of the 1 million who find jobs were in the short-term duration group in the preceding months. Their total completed spell of unemployment ranged from a minimum of 1 week to 8 or 9 weeks' duration.

Most of the shifts between employment and unemployment involve full-time, nonfarm employment. Moreover, half the gross changes that do take place between unemployment and part-time employment