

and, separately, the study of job mobility (Current Population Reports, Series P-50, 68, and 70). The present report differs from those earlier ones in that it specifically relates the information on job shifts to that on the incidence and duration of unemployment during 1955.

Some limitations of the present study should be made clear at the outset. Although it provides statistics on how much unemployment occurred among different kinds of job changers in the aggregate, it cannot provide information as to how many cases of unemployment occurred as a direct result of a job change, or how many cases of job changing were the ultimate result of a layoff. Future surveys might be oriented more specifically toward the answering of such questions. Future research should also refine the information on reasons for job leaving. It would be important to know, for example, whether an instance of job leaving was voluntary or involuntary. In the present study it was impossible to determine whether the termination of a temporary job involved a quit or a separation.

Another major problem with the present data is the absence of any information about the reasons for unemployment among persons who did not change jobs. It would be desirable to know, for example, how many cases were new entrants or reentrants to the labor market, how many were seasonal workers on layoff, how many were laid off for economic reasons, etc. It might then be possible to develop some indexes of proclivity to change jobs as a result of unemployment of different types, among various groups in the labor force.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Despite their obvious limitations, a number of significant findings have emerged from these data. In the calendar year 1955, of the 10 million different persons who had any unemployment or layoff, some 3.7 million were persons who changed jobs at least once. Persons who had a job change ⁴ (for any reason) accounted for 11 percent of the entire work force of 75 million, but they represented 37 percent of those with unemployment (table III-1). The rate of unemployment on a calendar year basis (percent of those with work experience who had any unemployment) for job changers of all kinds was five times as large as that for workers who did not change jobs during the year (45 percent versus 9 percent). This rate was even higher for those workers involved in more than one shift during the year (about 60 percent, as compared with 40 percent for those who had only one change).

⁴ Each change in employer, or a change from wage and salary work to self-employment, or vice versa, was classified as a job shift. Persons with more than one job, all held concurrently, were defined as nonchangers.