

UNEMPLOYMENT RELATED TO INVOLUNTARY JOB CHANGING

Persons who changed their jobs involuntarily include: (1) Most of those who reported termination of a temporary, usually seasonal, job (although some of these may have quit voluntarily, their characteristics indicate that a majority lost their jobs), and (2) those laid off because of economic reasons—lack of sufficient work, business failure, business movement, and the like.

The highest rate of unemployment (for those who changed jobs only once) was among those whose job change was dictated by economic factors. About two-thirds of these job changers experienced at least one spell of unemployment.

A somewhat lower rate (4 out of every 10) was reported by workers who had one job change but whose job leaving was due to the termination of a temporary job. This group largely includes persons who were separated from, or who left, seasonal jobs or other jobs which were taken with the knowledge that they were temporary. This group is difficult to evaluate because the original reports were apparently not specific enough to distinguish voluntary from involuntary job leaving.

As might be expected, the lowest rates of unemployment among job changers were registered by those who had only one change during the year and who quit their jobs more or less voluntarily. About 3 out of 10 such workers had unemployment, fewer than other job changers but still three times as many as workers who had only one job during the year. There was no difference in the rate of unemployment between the group that quit to take another job in order to improve their status and the group that quit because of such personal considerations as illness, or family and school responsibilities.

Incidentally, the latter group which comprised about 5 to 10 percent of the unemployed, might also be regarded as largely frictional in the sense that much of their unemployment was probably due to reentry into the labor market after a period of absence.

Whatever the reason for job change, persons who changed jobs more than once had considerably higher rates of unemployment than did those with only one change. For those with two or more shifts, the rate of unemployment ranged from 40 percent of those whose reason in each case was to improve their status, to 90 percent of those whose reasons in each case were economic.

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

About 41 percent of the single-job workers and 36 percent of the changers who had any unemployment experienced less than 5 jobless weeks (table III-2). Among both groups, about one-fourth of those with any unemployment lost 15 weeks or more of working time.