

EXTENT AND NATURE OF FRICTIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT 41

TABLE III-2.—Cumulative weeks of unemployment, by job mobility status: Calendar year 1955

[Numbers in thousands]

Mobility status	Total	Duration of unemployment						Percent of total	
		Less than 5 weeks	5 to 10 weeks	11 to 14 weeks	15 to 26 weeks	27 weeks or longer			
							Less than 5	15 or longer	
Total with unemployment.....	9,814	3,827	2,112	1,196	1,614	1,065	39.0	27.3	
Did not change jobs.....	6,149	2,507	1,184	747	988	723	40.8	27.8	
Did change jobs 1.....	3,665	1,320	928	449	626	342	36.0	26.4	
Changed jobs only once:									
Economic reasons.....	719	256	160	98	126	79	35.6	28.5	
Termination of temporary job.....	214	45	48	32	45	44	21.0	41.6	
Improvement in status.....	767	351	185	87	92	52	45.8	18.8	
All other reasons 2.....	341	175	77	25	47	17	51.3	18.8	
Changed jobs 2 or more times, same category of reason for each job leaving:									
Economic reasons.....	165	27	42	33	47	16	16.4	38.2	
Termination of temporary job.....	132	10	36	22	44	20	7.6	48.5	
Improvement in status.....	156	73	40	19	19	5	46.8	15.4	
All other reasons 2.....	45	30	4	2	3	6	66.7	20.0	
Changed jobs 2 or more times, combination of reasons:									
Some economic reasons.....	564	185	178	59	100	42	32.8	25.2	
No economic reasons.....	562	168	158	72	103	61	29.9	29.2	

¹ The total number of job changes shown here is slightly less than that shown in the original P-50 report because of minor differences in estimating methods.

² Includes illness or disability, family and school responsibilities, and all other reasons.

Within the job-changing group there were sizable differences in duration, depending on the reason for change. Voluntary job leavers who went through a period of unemployment were most likely to be among the short-term and least likely to be among the long-term unemployed. About 5 out of 10 were unemployed less than 5 weeks, while only 2 out of 10 were unemployed 15 weeks or longer. The proportions for those who lost their jobs for economic reasons were 36 percent among the short-term, and 29 percent in the long-term group. The highest proportion of long-term unemployed (42 percent) was recorded by persons whose job leaving was due to the termination of temporary jobs.

For voluntary job leavers, duration of unemployment was about the same for those who had only one job change as for those who had more than one. Among the other groups, however, those who had two or more changes had a much smaller proportion of short-term unemployed, and a substantially larger proportion of long-term unemployed.

EFFECT OF DIFFERENCES IN MOBILITY ON UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

There is a good deal of variation in the extent of voluntary job leaving among different groups in the labor force. However, this variation has very little effect in causing differential rates of unemployment because the numbers of workers involved are relatively few. Whereas job changing is much more common among young men 18 to 24 years of age than among men over 45, for example, and manual workers are more likely to leave their jobs than are professional, technical, or managerial workers, the occurrence of voluntary job changing is infrequent among all age and occupation groups. The