

Some of the problems of older workers are also indicated by these data. The worker over 45 is less likely to be a job changer—either of the voluntary or involuntary type—than is the younger worker among both men and women. Those that do become engaged in a job change, however, are more likely to have some unemployment associated with that change than are workers under 45.

Table III-5 also shows the age-sex distribution of workers with unemployment who had a job change, by reason for change. There is some tendency for women to be relatively more numerous among voluntary job changers than among involuntary job changers (about a third versus a fifth). This reflects their concentration in white-collar jobs and in trade and service activities rather than in heavy industry or in outdoor work subject to wide seasonal fluctuations. Men 20 and over, on the other hand, were most prominent in the group which reported job changes due to economic factors (75 percent) and least likely to appear in the group whose job leaving was related to family and school responsibilities, illness or disability (50 percent).

OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY

As in the case of age, the mobility data also sharpen our previous knowledge about unemployment by occupation and industry. For example, nonfarm laborers—the group historically subject to the highest unemployment rates under any economic conditions—are far more likely to have a job change at some time during the year and are also more likely to have some unemployment associated with that change (table III-6). At the same time, they are more subject to unemployment even if all their work experience was with one employer during the year. At the other extreme, professional, technical, and managerial workers and proprietors are least likely among the nonfarm groups to be involved in a job shift. Those who do so are less frequently subject to unemployment than are other groups of workers. For those who remain at a single job, the rate of unemployment is only one-tenth that of nonfarm laborers and lower than that of any other group. Among the remaining nonfarm occupations, other white-collar workers tend to fare better than service workers among both changers and nonchangers, while service workers make a better showing than the skilled or semiskilled blue-collar workers.