

Construction and farmworkers predominate in the group whose job leaving was caused by the termination of seasonal or other temporary jobs. Factory workers, on the other hand, are more likely to appear in the economic-layoff group and among those who had unemployment but no job change. Trade and service workers are disproportionately represented in the group whose unemployment was related to voluntary job mobility.

CONCLUSION

These findings confirm that a high rate of job mobility is associated with a high rate of unemployment. Both are symptomatic of some other more basic problem within the groups subject to them. Unfortunately, there are still many unanswered questions about the specific circumstances connected with the unemployment experience of job changers. Moreover, no information was collected in this study as to the specific reasons for unemployment among those workers not involved in job changes. Nevertheless, enough data have been assembled to show that job changing is largely a secondary aspect of the problem for groups in the labor force subject to high unemployment. High rates of job changing are correlated with, but do not explain high rates of unemployment, since the very same groups (e.g., young persons, unskilled laborers, construction workers) have high unemployment among nonchangers. Except for mobility due to a desire to improve one's status, which has been shown to be a relatively minor factor in unemployment, job changing is more likely to be an effect of unemployment rather than a cause. The largest single group of job changers who had unemployment are the 1.3 million who lost their former jobs because of economic reasons (40 percent of all changers with unemployment). The table below shows the reasons for change among job changers with an unemployment rate of 20 percent or more on a calendar year basis:

TABLE III-8.—*Job changers with unemployment during 1955*

Selected labor force groups	Total		Percent distribution by reason for change				
	Number (thous- ands)	Percent	Economic	Termina- tion of tempo- job	Improve- ment in status	Other volun- tary reasons	Combina- tions of noneco- nomic reasons
Males, 18 to 24.....	631	100.0	42.0	8.7	23.5	14.9	10.9
Married men, wife absent.....	105	100.0	46.7	7.6	28.6	8.6	8.6
Nonwhite men.....	393	100.0	45.3	12.0	21.1	3.3	18.3
Operatives.....	953	100.0	47.0	6.0	26.5	11.1	9.4
Nonfarm laborers.....	524	100.0	52.1	11.3	13.5	7.4	15.6
Mineworkers.....	68	100.0	63.2	2.9	22.1	-----	11.8
Construction workers.....	541	100.0	38.4	20.9	11.8	4.3	24.6

Among all these groups, over half reported that their job leaving was due to involuntary factors. For the majority, therefore, unemployment most likely preceded their decision to take another job.