

and transportation is then normally at a minimum. Unemployment from all other industries is only fractionally higher in October than in some other month (May is the low point in agriculture, August in services); the seasonal unemployment contributed by these industries amounts to about 5 percent of total unemployment in October.

June is, as has been previously noted, the month of highest seasonal unemployment, but there are also large numbers of workers seasonally unemployed in January, February, and March. (See table IV-3.) Seasonal unemployment in these winter months generally reflects slack-season layoffs of workers who previously held full-time jobs. On the other hand, the heavy seasonal unemployment in June and July is accounted for by new workers.

TABLE IV-3.—*Comparative seasonal unemployment by sex and major age group between months of peak and low point*¹

Age and sex	Lowest unemployment		Highest unemployment		Percent change
	Month	Percent of annual average	Month	Percent of annual average	
Under 25:					
Male.....	October.....	68.9	June.....	159.6	132
Female.....	do.....	79.2	do.....	166.3	110
25 and over:					
Male.....	do.....	75.9	February...	131.0	73
Female.....	do.....	90.1	January.....	110.1	22

¹ Based on seasonal adjustment factors derived from recent years' experience.

October is the month of least seasonal unemployment for both men and women, as well as for young persons (under 25) and adults (over 25). The peak periods differ. June is the peak for youngsters of both sexes, with their seasonal unemployment in this month more than double the October level. February, the peak month of seasonal unemployment for men 25 and over, is higher by two-thirds than October. January is the peak for women over 25, but the range between peak and low point is relatively narrow—one-fifth higher in January than in October.

Although seasonal unemployment can usually (by definition) be anticipated, and although it is usually (but not invariably) of short duration, it may nevertheless work hardship on individuals. Also, to the extent that seasonal unemployment results from industry practices which may be changed rather than from unavoidable variations in weather, it may represent one of the most promising areas for reduction of frictional unemployment.