

64 EXTENT AND NATURE OF FRICTIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE V-4.—*Changes in civilian labor force and unemployed, 1948-56, by age and sex*

Age and sex	Change in percent of civilian labor force	Implied change in 1—	
		Civilian labor force	Total 2 unemployed
		<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Thousands</i>
Both sexes, total.....			-89
Male, total.....	-3.5	-2,393	-155
14 to 17.....	(2)	-16	-2
18 to 24.....	-2.9	-1,977	-142
25 and over.....	-.6	-400	-11
Female, total.....	+3.5	+2,393	+66
14 to 17.....	+1.1	+36	+4
18 to 24.....	-1.0	-672	-44
25 and over.....	+4.4	+3,029	+106

¹ Obtained for labor force by standardizing 1956 on the 1948 age-sex distribution and taking the difference between 1956 and 1956 standardized. Unemployment changes were derived by applying the appropriate 1956 unemployment rates to the implied labor force changes.

² Less than 0.05 percent.

NOTE.—Figures are based on old definition of unemployment.

Two other relevant demographic changes should be considered: the increasing population of both older and younger persons. The effect of the first on the structure of the labor force was tempered during this period by a persistent decline in the rate of labor force participation among men past 65. The bulge in the youthful population resulting from the wartime and postwar "baby boom," on the other hand, had not yet pushed much past the age of 14 by 1956. The ordinarily high rate of unemployment among youngsters and the typical difficulties of the older worker in finding work, once losing a job, mean that these two groups present special unemployment problems. Larger numbers of workers in these ages in future years may change the scope of the unemployment problem somewhat. Given usual postwar unemployment rates for these ages and the labor force composition projected from known trends, the overall rate of unemployment may be expected to increase by at least 0.5 of a percent by 1975 as a result of these factors alone, in the absence of any counteracting tendencies.

OTHER INDUSTRY-OCCUPATION CHANGES AND THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Unlike the labor force patterns so far discussed, other industry-occupation trends between 1948 and 1956 would have led to a somewhat lower overall rate of unemployment, everything else considered unchanged. The considerably greater increases in service-rendering activities and related occupations as compared with the goods-producing industries placed a greater proportion of the labor force in lines with customarily lower rates of unemployment. However, there is some evidence that these changes did not occur without some disequilibrium in labor resource allocation, possibly figuring prominently in the trend in total unemployment observed between these years.

The changing industry distribution of the unemployed between 1948 and 1956 is examined in table V-5 by breaking the change for each