

union strength is not sufficient to demonstrate that unionism is purely a passive factor.

TABLE 5.—Changes in wages, profit rates, concentration ratios, union strength, and employment in manufacturing industries, 1947-53 and 1953-58

Industry	Percent change in straight time earnings	Average profit rates, before taxes	Concentration ratios	Estimated union strength, percent	Percent change in production worker employment
1947-53					
Chemicals.....	49.2	26.0	59.4	25-50	5.2
Petroleum refining.....	47.6	19.1	99.1	50-75	1.4
Primary metals.....	47.4	22.8	81.1	75-100	5.3
Food.....	46.0	20.2	22.4	25-50	-6.0
Paper.....	45.5	26.2	5.0	50-75	8.8
Printing.....	45.0	23.3	2.3	75-100	7.2
Instruments.....	44.9	24.6	69.9	50-75	17.7
Stone, clay, and glass.....	44.3	26.6	57.9	50-75	4.1
Lumber.....	44.0	24.4	1.5	25-50	-10.6
Fabricated metals.....	43.9	26.3	19.3	50-75	13.2
Nonelectrical machinery.....	43.8	26.6	31.1	75-100	7.5
All manufacturing.....	42.7	23.9			8.1
Furniture.....	41.9	26.0	7.3	25-50	6.6
Transportation equipment.....	40.1	33.1	83.2	75-100	47.2
Tobacco.....	38.6	20.0	100.0	25-50	-13.5
Electrical machinery.....	38.2	31.2	72.2	75-100	31.0
Rubber.....	37.5	25.5	51.2	75-100	0.2
Textiles.....	31.4	20.3	11.9	0-25	-10.8
Leather.....	31.1	15.5	2.3	25-50	-6.8
Apparel.....	18.0	13.6	5.7	75-100	7.1
1953-58					
Primary metals.....	31.2	21.0	81.1	75-100	-21.2
Tobacco.....	28.7	24.0	100.0	25-50	-15.9
Chemicals.....	26.7	24.3	59.4	25-50	-7.3
Paper.....	26.3	19.9	5.0	50-75	-0.6
Food.....	25.2	17.7	22.4	25-50	-8.9
Fabricated metals.....	24.9	18.9	19.3	50-75	-14.5
Nonelectrical machinery.....	24.6	20.9	31.1	75-100	-20.2
Instruments.....	24.6	23.8	69.9	50-75	-15.8
Petroleum refining.....	24.3	14.9	99.1	50-75	-15.8
Electrical machinery.....	24.1	24.6	72.2	75-100	-18.9
Transportation equipment.....	24.1	30.7	82.3	75-100	-27.1
Rubber.....	23.0	22.7	51.2	75-100	-15.6
Stone, clay, and glass.....	22.9	24.4	57.9	50-75	-9.2
All manufacturing.....	21.6	20.3			-15.7
Printing.....	18.1	21.6	2.3	75-100	6.4
Furniture.....	16.1	18.7	7.3	25-50	-7.1
Lumber.....	15.9	14.0	1.5	25-50	-20.2
Leather.....	14.9	15.6	2.3	25-50	-8.4
Apparel.....	13.7	12.8	5.7	75-100	-6.9
Textiles.....	9.7	9.2	11.9	0-25	-22.0

Sources: See app. A.

WAGE PATTERNS IN THE POSTWAR PERIOD

The general forces underlying wage changes, as developed in the preceding section, are also given support by an analysis of the collective bargaining settlements negotiated in several manufacturing industries, or in companies generally representative of entire industries, during the postwar period. These settlements are summarized in table 6 for each year and for major subperiods. For purposes of analysis, they are separated into two broad groups according to the general degree of concentration in the industries involved. In addition, the "key" bargains are designated for each period.⁸

⁸ The term "key" bargain is used here to designate the collective agreement which is widely alleged to establish a standard, or "pattern," of wage-fringe adjustments which is accepted by other industries or companies as the basis for subsequent agreements. The steel and automobile settlements are usually given this status because of their size and the strength of the union in them, even though other settlements may, in point of time, precede them.