

72 PRICES AND WAGES IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

TABLE 10.—Persons participating in production—Percentage distribution by industry, 1947–58

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Agriculture.....	14.0	13.9	13.8	12.9	11.6	11.2	10.8	11.1	10.6	10.1	9.8	9.9
Mining.....	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4
Contract construction.....	6.0	6.4	6.3	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4
Manufacturing.....	30.6	30.2	29.0	29.9	30.9	31.2	32.1	30.7	30.9	30.7	30.4	29.0
Wholesale, retail trade.....	21.8	22.1	22.8	22.5	22.5	22.7	22.6	23.0	22.9	23.0	23.2	23.8
Finance and insurance.....	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.8
Railroads.....	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.8
Other transportation.....	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1
Communication.....	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
Public utilities.....	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Services ¹	14.7	14.6	15.1	15.2	14.9	14.8	14.7	15.1	15.5	15.8	16.2	17.0
Total private domestic economy ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Addenda:												
Goods sector.....	52.5	52.5	51.0	51.4	51.4	51.3	51.5	50.6	50.4	49.8	49.1	47.7
Less agriculture.....	(38.5)	(38.6)	(37.2)	(38.5)	(39.8)	(40.1)	(40.7)	(39.5)	(39.8)	(39.7)	(39.3)	(37.8)
Service sector.....	25.7	25.4	26.2	26.1	26.0	25.9	25.9	26.4	26.7	27.1	27.6	28.4
Service industries ¹	(14.7)	(14.6)	(15.1)	(15.2)	(14.9)	(14.8)	(14.7)	(15.1)	(15.5)	(15.8)	(16.2)	(17.0)
Other services ³	(11.0)	(9.8)	(11.1)	(10.9)	(11.1)	(11.1)	(11.2)	(11.3)	(11.2)	(11.3)	(11.4)	(11.4)
Commercial sector.....	21.8	22.1	22.8	22.5	22.5	22.7	22.6	23.0	22.9	23.0	23.2	23.8

¹ See definition in appendix.

² Detail may not add because of rounding. The real estate industry has been omitted.

³ Finance and insurance, railroads and other transportation, communication, public utilities.

Source: "U.S. Income and Output," table VI-16.

The share of persons participating in production accounted for by the service sector is rather constant at about 26 percent prior to 1954. But beginning with the recession year, 1954, when the share accounted for by the service sector typically increases, an increase year by year in the importance of service employment is shown.

The service sector was 11.0 percent more important as a user of labor in 1958 than it was in 1947. The service industries alone were 15.6 percent more important while the utilities and communications industries gained smaller amounts, or, in the case of railways, declined in relative importance.

III. PRICES

The service component of the Consumer Price Index has shown a progressive slowing of the rate of increase during the postwar years, although the rate of advance still exceeded 3 percent per year in the period of least increase, 1955–58. This compares with an annual increase of about 2.2 percent for the total CPI during the same period. Table 11 presents the record on rates of increase in the Consumer Price Index for several subperiods 1947–58. After a rapid rise from wartime levels, commodity prices showed a slight decline between 1951 and 1955, but then increased again in the period following 1956. The service price index continued up without pause. There has not been a single quarter-to-quarter change in which the service price index did not rise.