

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

May 15, 1962

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The factory workweek continued to improve in April, and at 40.4 hours was at a level which has not been exceeded for this month since 1953.

Overtime hours in manufacturing edged up to 2.7 hours, the highest level for April since data became available in 1956.

As announced on May 9, unemployment declined seasonally by 400,000 in April, and at 3.9 million was 1.0 million lower than a year earlier. The seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment of 5.5 percent was virtually unchanged from the preceding 2 months but was well below the 6.9 percent of a year earlier. State insured unemployment declined by 400,000 in mid-April to 1.9 million.

Total employment moved seasonally higher by 700,000 to 66.8 million in April. Nonagricultural employment (including the self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics) rose by 450,000 to a record for April of 61.9 million, an increase over the year of 1.2 million.

Agricultural employment increased by 250,000 from March and was virtually the same as a year earlier in April at 5.0 million.

The number of workers on part time for economic reasons declined by 100,000, somewhat more than seasonal, to 2.2 million in April, some 800,000 less than at the same time in 1961.

The total labor force, including the Armed Forces, rose about seasonally again in April to 73.7 million, and was 650,000 higher than a year earlier.

Characteristics of the Unemployed

Age and Sex. Nearly all of the April decline in unemployment was among adult men, reflecting the spring pickup in outdoor activity. While the unemployment rate for this group has shown mainly seasonal improvement since January, both their number and rate of unemployment were substantially under April 1961 levels. Joblessness among women and teenagers was unchanged over the month.