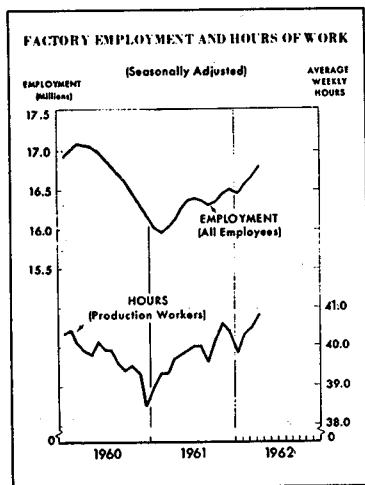


Increases in the number of nonproduction workers have contributed to the gains in manufacturing employment in recent months. The employment of these workers, who perform the clerical, administrative, sales, and professional work in manufacturing, tended to remain fairly steady at 4.2 million during the period of recession (when hundreds of thousands of production workers were being laid off) and during the early period of recovery. Since the fall of 1961, however, there has been a resumption of growth in their employment; since September nonproduction workers have contributed about one-sixth of the gain in manufacturing employment on a seasonally adjusted basis.



Hours and Earnings

The factory workweek, at 40.4 hours, has not been exceeded in any April since 1953. Better-than-seasonal workweek developments were registered by every major industry except lumber, which reported no change after reaching a very high level in March. Notable gains in the durables sector were registered in fabricated metals, electrical equipment, transportation equipment, and furniture. In the soft-goods sector, apparel and textiles shows the most significant improvement.

Overtime hours averaged 2.7 in April compared to 2.6 in March, and 2.5 in February. A year ago, factory employees worked 2.1 hours overtime.

At \$96.56, weekly earnings of manufacturing production workers increased 65 cents from March to April, regaining the all-time high level of December 1961.

Compared to a year ago, weekly earnings are \$5.78 or 6-1/2 percent higher. Hourly earnings at \$2.39 are 1 cent higher than last month and 8 cents higher than April 1961.

Total Employment

Total employment continued its regular spring expansion with a seasonal increase of 700,000 to an April record of 66.8 million. Total nonagricultural employment (including the self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics) rose seasonally by 450,000 between March and April, and at 61.9 million, was also at a record high for April.

Agricultural employment rose by 250,000 over the month to 5.0 million. This increase was less than usual for April. Agricultural employment was at the same level as a year ago, but the number of farm workers in April 1961 was held down by adverse weather.