

Full- and Part-time Employment. The number of nonfarm workers on full-time schedules rose seasonally in April by 550,000 to 50.8 million, with virtually all of the increase occurring among men. The 35.2 million men with full-time jobs this April also accounted for nearly all the 1.3 million increase in full-time work since April a year ago; however, relatively few women had been cut back from full- to part-time work during the recession.

The number of nonfarm workers on part time for economic reasons dropped by 100,000 after increasing in both February and March. At 2.2 million in April, the number of such part-time workers was at about its January level and about 800,000 below its year ago level. The over-the-year decline was almost evenly divided between persons who had been cut back from full-time to part-time work and persons usually working part time because full-time work was not available. (See Table B.)

Characteristics of the Unemployed

Age and Sex. Mainly because of the spring pickup in outdoor activities, the number of unemployed adult men fell seasonally in April by 350,000, accounting for four-fifths of the decline in total unemployment. After seasonal adjustment, however, their unemployment rate remained virtually unchanged over the month at 4.6 percent. Following a substantial decline between August 1961 and January 1962, the unemployment rate for adult men has shown no further improvement. Nevertheless, at 2.1 million this April, the number of unemployed adult men was 650,000 less than in April 1961 and their unemployment rate was well below the 6.0 percent of a year ago.

No significant changes have occurred recently in unemployment among women and teenagers. However, in both number and rate, unemployment among adult women was considerably below the high levels of a year ago. At 750,000, the number of unemployed 14 to 19 year-olds accounted for less than one-fifth of total unemployment, but their rate of unemployment was two and one-half times greater than the overall rate. There was no change in the number of unemployed teenagers over the year.

Duration of Unemployment. Virtually all of the reduction in unemployment was among persons who had been jobless for less than 15 weeks. Their number fell seasonally in April by 400,000 to 2.5 million with persons out of work for more than 4 weeks accounting for most of the decline. The number of persons unemployed for more than 15 weeks was unchanged at 1.5 million, but no seasonal change was expected.

Among those looking for work for 15 weeks or longer were 700,000 persons who had been looking for work for over 26 weeks, about the same number as in March. The number of very long-term unemployed was 200,000 below its year-ago level. While there has been virtually no change in the number of very long-term unemployed since the beginning of the year, this group was increasing steadily throughout the first half of 1961, reaching a recession high of about 1 million in July, several months after the trough in economic activity. After 14 months of recovery the number of very long-term jobless is 300,000 higher than its pre-recession levels. Although this pattern of lagging recovery also followed the 1958 trough in business activity, very long-term unemployment is currently some 450,000 higher than in the months prior to the 1957-58 recession.