

Industry of Last Job. Unemployment rates in durable and nondurable goods manufacturing, mining, and construction were below their year-ago level this April, and in durable goods manufacturing they were also below the level in April 1960 before the recession began. In transportation, trade, and finance and service, unemployment rates while down over the year, were above those of April 1960. In every major industry group, unemployment rates were still well above those registered under the high employment conditions of April 1957.

New Workers. Among the unemployed in April were 450,000 persons looking for their first jobs, about the same number as a year ago. Virtually all of these inexperienced unemployed were under 25 years of age and four-fifths of them were between 14 and 19 years of age. Over the past 4 years, the total number of 14-24 year-olds in the population has increased by 17 percent. Partly because of the tendency for young people to remain in school longer, the number of 14-24 year-olds in the labor force has increased by only 12 percent. In contrast, the number of unemployed young people seeking their first job has increased by 30 percent, two and one-half times greater than the rate of their labor force increase. All of this increase in the inexperienced unemployed has been among teenagers; there has even been a slight decline in the number of unemployed new workers 20 years of age and over.

In April 1958, the trough of the 1958 recession, new workers accounted for 7 percent of the total unemployed. This April, they accounted for 12 percent. The increase in the number of unemployed new workers has been greatest at the two extremes in terms of duration of unemployment. Both the very short-term unemployed (1 to 4 weeks) and the very long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more) have increased by 50 percent over the past 4 years. In April 1962, nearly half of the inexperienced unemployed had been looking for work for less than a month, but 1 out of every 6 had been searching for his first job for over half a year.

Insured Unemployment

The number of insured jobless under State programs dropped by nearly one-fifth (400,000) to 1.9 million between March and April. Preliminary data indicate that the number of persons exhausting their regular State benefits edged down from 170,000 in March to an estimated 165,000 in April.

In addition to the insured unemployed under the regular State programs, some 234,000 persons who had exhausted their State benefit rights were insured under the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program (TEC) in April. In March the total was 310,000. The sharp over-the-month decline was due to the "phase-out" provision of the TEC Act. Under this provision, eligibility for TEC benefits after March 31 is limited to qualified claimants who had been in compensable status under the TEC program on or before that date.

All but three States reported a decline in insured unemployment under the regular State programs over the month. The reductions amounted to 25,000 or more in five States--California (51,000), New York (43,000), Pennsylvania (34,000), Michigan (26,000), and Illinois (25,000). A large part of these declines reflected continuing seasonal expansions in outdoor work, and a pre-Easter pickup in trade. California also noted recalls in food processing and in fabricated metals plants, while Michigan reported increased activity in the auto industry.