

was significantly lower—by 175,000. Employment of painters, paperhangers, and plasterers was also lower. On the other hand, employment of excavating, grading, and road machinery operators was more than twice as high in 1965 as in 1950. Other significant employment increases were experienced by cement and concrete finishers, electricians, and plumbers.

TABLE 3.—*Employed persons, by major occupation group, in the construction industry, 1958-65*<sup>1</sup>

[Percent distribution]

|                                                        | Year  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                                        | 1965  | 1964  | 1963  | 1962  | 1961  | 1960  | 1959  | 1958  |
| All occupations.....                                   | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....      | 5.1   | 4.5   | 4.5   | 4.4   | 4.9   | 4.7   | 4.4   | 4.5   |
| Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm..... | 11.1  | 12.4  | 12.9  | 13.2  | 12.3  | 12.2  | 11.9  | 12.1  |
| Clerical and kindred.....                              | 5.3   | 4.9   | 4.9   | 5.3   | 4.7   | 4.6   | 4.5   | 4.3   |
| Salesworkers.....                                      | .2    | .2    | .2    | .2    | .2    | .3    | .4    | .3    |
| Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred.....                   | 50.4  | 50.0  | 50.8  | 49.7  | 51.0  | 50.4  | 50.3  | 49.8  |
| Operatives and kindred.....                            | 9.9   | 9.9   | 9.3   | 9.2   | 8.5   | 8.7   | 8.7   | 8.9   |
| Service workers.....                                   | .5    | .5    | .5    | .5    | .4    | .5    | .4    | .5    |
| Laborers.....                                          | 17.5  | 17.6  | 16.9  | 17.4  | 17.9  | 18.7  | 19.4  | 19.4  |

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table are based on household surveys. A distribution of employment by occupation based on establishment surveys indicates a somewhat smaller proportion of employed persons in the white-collar occupations and a somewhat larger proportion in blue-collar occupations, especially construction laborers.

NOTE.—Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Source: Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT BY TYPE OF CONTRACTOR

In viewing employment trends in the construction industry, valuable insight can be gained from examining employment shifts by broad type of construction activity. The Bureau of Labor Statistics collects data for private wage and salary employees on the payrolls of general building, heavy construction, and special trades contractors. However, these data are not directly comparable with the construction employment data (from the Monthly Report on the Labor Force) discussed earlier, which are for all employees (wage and salary, self-employed, government, and unpaid family workers). Also, unlike the labor force data an employee may be counted more than once if he appears on more than one payroll.

In 1965, almost half of the workers in the contract construction division were employed by special trades contractors; about 30 percent were employed by building construction general contractors; and the remainder worked for heavy construction general contractors. (See table 4.)

Employment increased by about 80 percent in the special trades contractors major industry group between 1947 and 1965, mainly because of the increasing importance of electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, and other work usually performed by special trades contractors. Employment grew by about three-fourths in the heavy construction contractors major industry group—spurred by a fourfold increase in highway construction (in constant dollar terms), as well as increases in the construction of sewer and water systems, airports,