particularly the impacts on reemployment and subsequent earnings of the aided individuals. These programs are administered under the Economic Opportunity Act by the Welfare Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and State welfare agencies. The law specifies that the Director of Economic Opportunity, in expanding opportunities of these individuals for constructive work experience and other needed training, shall make maximum use of programs available under the Manpower Development and Training Act and the Vocational Education Act.

The role of labor training programs of all kinds invites intensive appraisal in the light of projected manpower needs, employment prospects, and the experience of recent years. Labor force and employment projections appear in various interrelated reports, including the report early in 1966 of the National Commission on Technology, Automation, and Economic Progress, "Technology and the American Economy"; and the manpower report of the President, transmitted to the Congress in March 1966, with the Department of Labor Report on Manpower Requirements, Resources, Utilization, and Training. In responding to the inquiry on human resources programs, the Office of Manpower Policy, Evaluation, and Research included references to the President's manpower report of 1965. The estimate of a 1970 work force numbering 86 million is unchanged in the manpower report of 1966. (The 1965 report includes projections for 1975 and 1980.)

Despite a projected doubling by 1970 of the number of persons to be trained annually under the Manpower Development and Training Act, these programs will provide for considerably less than 1 percent of the labor force. Projections for Government programs are based on assumptions that employment will continue high and that the private sector will produce more training.

Recent experience has demonstrated that dynamic growth of the economy can make significant reductions in unemployment. Long-term unemployment has been substantially reduced. Despite growth in the size of the labor force, the average number of long-term unemployed appears to be the lowest in a decade—whether "long term" is measured by joblessness lasting 15 weeks or more or by joblessness lasting 27 weeks or more. On either basis, in 1966 the long-term unemployed have comprised the lowest percentage since 1953 of the total number of unemployed. They have also comprised the lowest percentage since 1953 of the civilian labor force.

In the 12 months from November 1965 to November 1966, the number who had been unemployed 15 weeks or more declined from 644,000 to 483,000 or, as a percentage of the civilian labor force, from 0.8 percent to 0.6 percent. From June through November (except for a slight rise in the seasonally adjusted estimates for October), this ratio was steady at 0.6 percent. The number of unemployed who had been out of work 27 weeks or more dropped even more sharply, from 310,000 in November 1965, to 197,000 in November 1966.[28]

Such gains are important. Since World War II there had been a sharp upward movement in long-term unemployment; this movement

[28] Monthly Labor Review, December 1966, p. 1414; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings and Monthly Report on the Labor Force, December 1966, pp. 10, 27; and Manpower Report of the President and a Report on Manpower Requirements, Resources, Utilization, and Training, March 1966, pp. 153, 171. Data for 1966 in the text are based on reports for the first 11 months.