

TABLE 8.—*Rejections of registrants to CRS job offers by wage rates and locality, Aug. 31, 1966*

	Rejections					
	Inside area		Outside area		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Higher grade.....	39	5	107	4	146	4
Same grade.....	496	59	2,182	74	2,678	71
Lower grade.....	310	37	638	22	948	25
Total.....	845	¹ 100	2,927	100	2,772	100

¹ May not add to 100 due to rounding of figures.

Source: U.S. Department of Defense, CRS Monthly Computer Report.

THE SPRINGFIELD WORKERS

The major effort to relocate the workers at the Springfield Armory will take place this fall. As of August 31 only 762 of the 2,400 workers had left the armory. However, the same strong preference for continued government service appears evident. Sixty percent of those who have left have taken other government jobs. Less than half have had to relocate. The majority have found government jobs at a nearby Air Force base or are commuting 25 miles to Hartford, Conn. Only 6 percent have entered private industry directly although many of the 187 early retirees will undoubtedly also do so.

CONCLUSION

In this period of nearly full employment, workers displaced by the closing of Defense installations have many attractive work alternatives. Although the prospect of changing jobs and communities is psychologically disturbing, most will fortunately be spared such problems as were faced by displaced textile workers when the mills shut down.

A majority of these workers are willing to be moved to continue their employment in the government. Clearly, the desire to preserve their fringe benefits is strong enough to overcome their well-documented immobility. This conclusion may have significant implications for private employers who, with the increasing scarcity of skilled labor, may find it economic to underwrite the moving costs of blue collar workers displaced by the closing of inefficient units. Thus, the Defense Department's transfer program may well serve as a prototype to increase mobility and reduce the problems of workers displaced by changing economic conditions.

Some of the analysis in the preceding article was developed into a research report, "Estimation of Differential Employment Multipliers in a Small Regional Economy," by Steven J. Weiss and Edwin C. Gooding.