

age. In a group of unemployed older workers, one-third aged 45 to 54 had held their jobs on an average for four or more years during the past 15-year work period, as had three-fourths of those 65 and over. Almost half of the older group had had an average job duration of 12 years or more during the 15-year period. About two out of three had held jobs in only one locality during the previous fifteen years.

Most of the older job seekers showed attachment to the industry in which they had held their longest job in the preceding fifteen years. The workers in this study showed no strong pattern of job changes by industry, when they did change.

Older women made fewer job changes than younger ones. Although women move in and out of the labor force more frequently than men, there were relatively fewer job shifts among the women in the BES study. Older women had more trouble finding a job, when they became unemployed, than did the older men, and were typically employed for shorter periods and unemployed for longer periods, though not unemployed as often.

Three out of four job seekers aged 45 and over in the seven-area study had most recently worked in an occupation similar to their longest job in the past fifteen years. Four out of five applicants in the 45 and over group whose most recent job was professional, managerial, or skilled, had worked longest at a similar type of job.

However, only half those formerly in professional and managerial work had their last jobs in similar occupations. According to the BLS, "These figures suggest that workers over age 45 have considerable difficulty in holding to professional or managerial functions if once separated from them. They move into all other occupational fields but most noticeably into clerical and service jobs - over one in five had their last jobs in these areas of work. One in ten moved over into a skilled manual trade, and as many moved down to semiskilled and unskilled jobs." ^{3/}

^{3/} Ibid.