

As expected, sharp differences are clearly evident in the mobility patterns of the 2 years.³² In general, voluntary job changing was sharply reduced in the latter year while job shifts for economic reasons were substantially higher. The net effect of these two forces was a drop in overall mobility rates except for women workers 18–34 (table 6).

TABLE 6.—NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY AND INVOLUNTARY JOB SHIFTS PER 100 PERSONS WHO WORKED, 1955 AND 1961

Age and sex	Reason for leaving job			
	Improvement in status		Economic	
	1961	1955	1961	1955
Male, 14 yrs. and over.....	6.1	7.8	6.8	5.3
14 to 17 yrs.....	3.0	5.7	2.8	2.7
18 to 24 yrs.....	14.0	18.6	13.0	11.1
25 to 44 yrs.....	7.9	9.1	7.6	5.6
45 to 64 yrs.....	2.1	4.1	4.6	4.0
65 yrs. and over.....	.9	.7	2.8	1.5
Female, 14 yrs. and over.....	4.1	4.8	2.8	2.3
14 to 17 yrs.....	1.4	5.7	1.4	2.3
18 to 24 yrs.....	9.4	10.5	5.5	3.0
25 to 44 yrs.....	4.2	4.3	2.8	2.3
45 to 64 yrs.....	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.1
65 yrs. and over.....	.1	.8	.7	.3

Source: Bureau of the Census, "Current Population Reports, Labor Force Series P-50," No. 70, February 1957, and Gertrude Bancroft and Stuart Garfinkle, "Job Mobility in 1961," Special Labor Force Report, No. 35, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1963, and unpublished data on 1955 survey furnished by BLS.

In the older age groups, the 1961 data show sharper changes for men than for women. The number of voluntary job shifts in 1961 for "improvement in status" of men 45 to 64 was only about half the rate of 1955. The decline for women in these age groups was relatively slight.

Changes in the level of economic activity between 1955 and 1961 increased the proportion of job changes due to economic reasons. About 20 percent of craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers who changed jobs, did so for economic reasons during 1955 compared with 56 percent in 1961. An increase also occurred in the operative group—from 31 percent in 1955 to 38 percent in 1961 (table 7). The proportion of job changes for economic reasons among nonfarm laborers also increased from 33 to 47 percent during this period.

The lower level of economic activity in 1961 compared to 1955 prevents any conclusion regarding a trend in recent years from being more than suggestive. The decline in job changing for reasons of improvement of status and the increase in job changing for economic reasons between 1955 and 1961 is largely attributable to the relatively high level of unemployment in 1961. While the sharp drop in voluntary job changing for men 45 to 64 points up the difficulties which older workers experience in shifting to better jobs, it is impossible to indicate to what extent the increasing prevalence of pensions may have been responsible, but the reversal of the downward movement

³² Merton C. Bernstein denied the significance of the differences in the 2 years as originally published in BLS Bulletin 1359 (*The Future of Pension Plans* [Free press of Glencoe, London: 1964], note 10 to p. 58), but this is attributable to his failure to read the rest of the paragraph. He proceeds to write: "Significantly, involuntary job separation accounted for a larger portion of the changes in the 1955 sample" (p. 58).