most of the workers it was concentrated in one industry. For a significant proportion of the weavers in two of the cities, the work experience was confined to one plant." [11]

2. "Less than a third of the weavers in the three cities had changed occupation or industry in the ten years prior to 1936. Many of the changes which occurred represented movement into or out of the textile industries, or between various textile industries, only (i.e., not involving movement to other industries)." [12]

3. "The degree of industrial mobility reported by weavers was likewise small. Almost as many weavers in the three cities reported no changes in industry as had reported no changes in occupation in the years 1926 to 1935." [13]

4. "Weavers, and other textile workers, too, for that matter, are usually members of families where other workers are customarily employed in textile mills, frequently in the same mills * * *. Studies made of the post-lay-off experience of textile workers, including weavers, from shut-down mills indicate that a high proportion of women workers drop out of the labor market after shut-down * * *. Dropping out of the labor market, in this instance, is a reflection of a very high degress of immobility among married women weavers." [14]

5. "The relative immobility of weavers may be considered representative of that of most textile workers. Although some occupations are less specialized in character than weaving, others are more highly specialized from the point of view of possible transfer of skills to other kinds of work * * *." [15]

6. "Geographic mobility for weavers is a distinct function of industrial mobility within a region. There is no evidence that weavers have moved from one region to another, as, for example, from New England to the South, when New England mills were declining and southern mills expanding." [16]

7. "The social implications of what has been rightly called the 'stickiness of the job relationship' in the textile industry are far-reaching. Mute evidence abounds in the 'ghost' towns of old New England cotton centers, the economic chaos of such centers as Paterson, and the idle mills scattered throughout the country." [17]

In study after study these findings have been confirmed. The United States Department of Labor found in 1946 that "like the coal miners of Wales, who all through the desperate 1920's and 1930's suffered, yet stayed amid the shut-down collieries, and like many miners in this country during the great depression, textile workers show a strong attachment to their trades and their communities * * * Workers' attachments have not only been solidified by family traditions, but also by the fact that community life has to a large extent centered on mill employment. In some towns the textile mill is the only source of jobs while in larger communities with greater diversification, such as Fall River, New Bedford, and Lewiston, the mills exert a dominant influence. Since people are generally hesitant and reluctant to change homes, friends, and manner of life, the high degree of economic homogeneity of the community is a force directed toward retaining the status quo." [18]

It is noteworthy that the major New England textile centers which lost their pre-eminence in the twenties as the industry expanded in the South have still not recovered from the blow to their economies. New Bedford, Fall River and Lowell, Massachusetts, are still classified as areas of substantial unemployment, having suffered from exceptionally high unemployment rates continuously over the past decade and a half. In February 1968, when the average unemployment rate for the United States was 4.2%, these old textile centers had unemployment of 7.9% (New Bedford), 6.4% (Fall River) and 6.1% (Lowell).

The impact of mill closings on New England textile workers was the subject of intensive study by several investigators during the fifties. A study sponsored by the New England Textile Committee (appointed by the Governors of the New England states) is typical.[19] Six mills were selected for study as "representative cases under varying labor market conditions." The following findings are pertinent:

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[11] *Ibid.*, p. 476.
[12] *Ibid.*, p. 476.
[13] *Ibid.*, p. 482.
[14] *Ibid.*, pp. 484–485.
[15] *Ibid.*, p. 485.
[16] *Ibid.*, p. 486.
[17] *Ibid.*, p. 487.
[18] "Work and Wage Experience of Skilled Cotton-Textile Workers," *Monthly Labor Review*, U.S. Department of Labor, July 1946, p. 13.
[19] William H. Miernyk, *Inter-Industry Labor Mobility*, Northeastern University, Boston, 1955.