

for the performance of highly simplified tasks. In the case of sewing machine operators, for example, the work is subdivided to such a degree that most operators may do no more than sew single, short-run seams on garment parts. Once the elementary instruction in the handling of a sewing machine is given to an inexperienced worker --- and it requires very little time --- the rest of the learning process consists of a progressive and relatively rapid acquisition of maximum operating speed. It is not surprising, therefore, that the performance of most of the tasks in the industry do not call for high educational attainment. Data derived from the 1960 Census of Population for the apparel (knit and woven) industry's labor force demonstrate that one out of every four persons failed to complete primary schooling and that virtually three out of every four persons did not complete high school education.^{5/}

A few other figures bearing on the profile of the industry's personnel can be cited. Approximately 40 percent of them are 45 years of age or over.^{6/} Around 30 percent of them live in rural communities.^{7/} About eight out of ten persons on the payrolls of the industry are female.^{8/} About one-third of them are either single, widowed, divorced or separated.^{9/} Most of the women in the industry are not casual workers.

^{5/}The above information is for labor force engaged in work on apparel and other fabricated textile products and knitting mills (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population 1960, Industrial Characteristics, PC(2)7F, Table 21).

^{6/}Data are for the employed wage and salary earners (Ibid., Table 5).

^{7/}Data are for the employed labor force (Ibid., Table 1).

^{8/}U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States, 1909-1967, Bulletin No. 1312-5 (data for SIC 23 and 225).

^{9/}Data are for employed women (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population 1960, Industrial Characteristics, PC(2)7F, Table 20).