

The foregoing profile of the apparel (knit and woven) industry showed its special characteristics --- small firms competing vigorously with each other, ease of entry into business and high rate of business mortality, industrial over-capacity, excess competition operating as a discipline against price increases, low profitability, easy-to-train labor force, under-employment, relatively low rates of worker compensation, a work force composed largely of women for whom little or no alternative employment opportunities exist in the economy, and yet, an industry that does provide employment for some 1,400,000 persons, the largest single employer of women workers in manufacturing and the major customer of the domestic textile industry.

In the years following the Second World War, until very recently, the industry's total employment remained relatively stagnant, fluctuating up and down along a relatively level axis in the wake of changes in the general economic conditions. Employment in 1963, when it approximated 1,345,800 (see Annex Q), was not much different from 1953 when it approximated 1,344,100. In the last 11 years, however, largely after the inauguration of President Kennedy when the national economy began to grow at a more vigorous pace, the industry added about 130,000 persons to its payrolls. Patterns of employment have not, of course, been uniform in all branches of the industry. Some branches gained employment and others lost, partly as a result of shifts in demand due to style and other