

work, an indication of some of the possible reasons for moonlighting, and a discussion of the industries and occupations of moonlighters.¹

A QUEST FOR HIGHER EARNINGS

Why do over 3½ million persons hold two jobs or more? The primary reason seems to be economic. Many moonlighters need, or believe they need, additional income. For some, a second job is a necessity. A second job enables others to live at a higher standard.

For still others, a second job may be the means by which they are able to maintain a standard of living that would otherwise be lost because of, for example, sudden large expenses, loss of wife's income, or a decline in earnings on the primary job.

Because financial reasons are a prime factor motivating moonlighters, the Bureau of Labor Statistics collected data on the usual weekly wage and salary earnings of dual jobholders on their primary job and of single jobholders. These data show that generally the level of a worker's earnings determines his propensity to moonlight. Multiple jobholding rates for men 25 to 54 years old are highest at the lowest earnings level—under \$60 a week. As the level of earnings rises, the incidence of dual jobholding declines (see chart 1). The lowest rates were found among workers with the highest weekly earnings—\$200 or more.

The close association between multiple jobholding and earnings is most evident from the data for married men 25 to 54 years old, the group for whom family financial responsibilities are usually the greatest. Among these men, the moonlighting rate for those earning less than \$60 a week was 12.5 percent, more than twice as high as the 5.3 percent for men earning \$200 or more a week.

Data available for the first time show that among men who are heads of households, there is a close relationship between the multiple jobholding rates, the number of young children, and usual weekly earnings. The moonlighting rate tends to increase with the number of children under age 18. The rate for men with at least five children was nearly twice that for men with no young children, as shown in the following tabulation:

*Multiple jobholding rates for men who were heads of households, May 1966—
Children under age 18*

Total	7.9
None	5.4
1 child	8.3
2 children	9.1
3 or 4 children	9.8
5 children or more	10.3

Within each of these groupings, multiple jobholding rates tended to decrease as earnings increased. For example, among men who were household heads with three or four children, the rate was 16 percent for those who earned under \$60 weekly, about double that for those with earnings of \$200 or more.

¹ Data in the current report are based primarily on information from supplementary questions to the May 1966 monthly survey of the labor force, conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census through its Current Population Survey. The data relate to the week of May 8 through 14.

This is the seventh in a series of reports on this subject. The most recent was published in the *Monthly Labor Review*, February 1966, pp. 147-154, and reprinted with additional tabular data and explanatory notes as Special Labor Force Report No. 63, which also includes a complete listing of earlier reports and their coverage.

For purposes of this survey, multiple jobholders are defined as those employed persons who, during the survey, (1) had jobs as wage or salary workers with two employers or more; (2) were self-employed and also held a wage or salary job; or (3) worked as an unpaid family worker, but also had a secondary wage or salary job. The primary job is the one at which the greatest number of hours were worked. Also included as multiple jobholders are persons who had two jobs during the survey week only because they were changing from one job to another. This group was measured in the December 1960 survey and was found to be very small—only 2 percent of all multiple jobholders.

Persons employed only in private households (as a maid, laundress, gardner, babysitter, etc.) who worked for two employers or more during the survey week were not counted as multiple jobholders. Working for several employers was considered an inherent characteristic of private household work rather than an indication of multiple jobholding. Also excluded were self-employed persons with additional farms or business, and persons with second jobs as unpaid family workers.