

hour in the total private economy rose at an annual rate of 2 percent; between 1947 and 1967 it rose 3.2 percent per year. This jump in the rate of productivity growth by more than 50 percent means that, on the average, production during each hour of work can double in 22 years instead of in 36 years.

This stepped-up pace of technological change has resulted in the displacement of large numbers of unskilled and semiskilled jobs, difficult problems in labor-management relations concerning in-plant changes of job requirements and classifications, shifts in industry location, the economic distress of many old mining and railroad center communities, the decline of several labor intensive industries and the growth of new industries that employ relatively few unskilled workers who have little education.

In 1967, for example, manufacturing production was more than 70 percent greater than in 1953. But the number of factory production and maintenance workers was only 1.4 percent greater.

Between 1953 and 1967, the number of people employed on class I railroads declined 600,000, a drop of 50 percent. Employment in mining fell 253,000, a decline of 29 percent.

The largest employment decline was in agriculture—a drop of 2.5 million or 40 percent. Hundreds of thousands of farmers, farmworkers and their families have been leaving the rural areas in search of jobs and homes in the cities. But the types of unskilled and semiskilled jobs, in the urban areas, that helped to adjust previous generations of foreign immigrants and rural American migrants into America's cities have not been expanding.

These trends of rapid technological change and migration out of rural agricultural and mining areas are continuing.

Many of those who seek their future in the cities are Negroes. Between 1940 and 1967, probably about 4 million Negroes moved from the South—primarily rural areas—to the cities of the North and West. In 1960, according to the Department of Labor, about 40 percent to nearly 50 percent of the Negro population of 10 major northern and western cities was born in the South.

The Department of Labor estimates that almost 1.5 million Negroes left the South in 1950–60, following a similar migration of 1.6 million Negroes in the wartime decade, 1940–50. This historic migration is continuing at about that rate in the 1960's.

For the country as a whole, the proportion of Negroes in city populations rose from less than 10 percent in 1940 to over 20 percent in 1965. In most of the large northern and western cities the rise was greater.

All of the new migrants to America's cities of the past quarter of a century—white and Negroes, Puerto Ricans and Mexican-Americans—have faced the difficulties of adjusting to a new and strange environment. But these difficulties have been especially harsh for Negroes.

The Negro migrants to the cities of the past quarter of a century have brought with them a history of slavery, segregation, lack of education and frequently poor health, as well as suspicion of government authorities. On coming to the cities of the North and West, the new migrants have faced the discriminatory practices of those areas, lack of adequate housing and the impact of automation on job opportunities for uneducated, unskilled workers.