

Unemployment report detailed

Employment and unemployment rose less than seasonally expected in June, as the number of young people entering the job market was smaller than in recent years, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the overall unemployment rate dropped from 6.2 percent in May to 5.6 percent in June, returning to the level of last fall. Total employment fell one-half million to 78.4 million, the same level as in March.

These declines may be somewhat overstated because of the seasonal adjustment procedures and because more young workers than usual were still in school during the survey week.

The jobless rate for teenagers and 20-24 year-olds declined sharply over the month. There was also a reduction in joblessness among workers 25 years and older.

Nonagricultural payroll employment declined by 310,000 in June on a seasonally adjusted basis, returning to the February level. Declines were widespread among the major industry divisions, particularly in manufacturing

and trade. The average workweek for all rank-and-file workers in manufacturing inched up over the month, while factory overtime rose to the highest level since last summer.

Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons totaled 5.5 million in June, 1.1 million more than in May. Unemployment usually increases sharply between May and June, but this year the rise was much less than seasonally expected, as a smaller-than-usual number of youth entered the labor force at the conclusion of the school year. After seasonal adjustment, the level of unemployment was down by 530,000.

Most of the decline occurred among workers who were either new entrants or reentrants to the labor force, largely teenagers and young adults. Unemployment stemming from job loss was virtually unchanged in June for the second straight month.

The overall unemployment rate dropped from 6.2 percent in May to 5.6 percent in June, the lowest level since the 5.3 percent of October. Especially sharp reductions in

the unemployment rate occurred among teenagers and young adults. For teenagers, the jobless rate fell from 17.3 to 15.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, returning to the level of last summer. The jobless rate for 20-24 year-olds declined from 11.1 percent in May to 9.9 percent in June, reflecting reduced joblessness among both young men and women.

The jobless rate for men 25 years and over fell from 3.6 percent in May to 3.3 percent in June. For women 25 years and over, the rate moved down from 4.8 percent to 4.5 percent. Both June rates were at their lowest levels since the fall of last year.

Unemployment rates were reduced for both Negro and white workers in June. The Negro unemployment rate dropped from 10.5 percent in May to 9.4 percent in June, a return to the March level. The decline took place exclusively among women 20 years and over, whose rate fell from 10.6 to 7.9 percent; this represented a return to the levels of early 1971. The rate for white workers fell from 5.7 to 5.2 percent, returning to its October 1970 level.

For workers covered by State unemployment insurance programs, the jobless rate edged up from 4.3 percent in May to 4.4 percent in June. The State insured rate had declined to 3.7 percent in February but has increased steadily since then. (State insured jobless figures exclude unemployed new workers and those with no recent work history.)

The number of persons unemployed less than 5 weeks fell by 235,000 over the month to 2.0 million, seasonally adjusted, a return to the June 1970 level. This primarily reflected the relatively small inflow of 16-24 year-old job-seekers. Unemployment of long-term duration (15 weeks or more) was essentially unchanged over the month. The average (mean) duration of joblessness increased from 11.5 weeks in May to 12.7 weeks in June.

civilian labor force and total employment

The number of persons in the civilian labor force rose by 1.9 million in June to 85.0 million. The rise was less than usual for the month, however, as the early summer influx of youth into the job market was smaller than in the past few years. As a result, after seasonal adjustment, the civilian labor force was down by over 1.0 million, with nearly all of the change occurring among 16-24 year-olds. The June reduction brought the civilian labor force to its lowest level since the summer of 1970.

The number of employed persons rose 770,000 in June to 79.5 million, but this increase was also less than seasonally expected. Consequently, after seasonal adjustment, total employment was down by 520,000, with nearly all of the drop occurring among teenagers. Employment of both men and women 20 years of age and over was unchanged in June, although employment of adult men has risen 400,000 since the recent low reached last December.

Over the year, the civilian labor force has grown by 920,000, with three-fifths of the rise occurring among young adult men, many of whom were returning veterans. In contrast, total employment was about unchanged since last June, as a moderate employment gain among men 20-24 years of age was offset by a decline in employment among teenagers and men 25 years and over. Unemployment was up by 820,000 over the year.

Industry Payroll Employment

The number of wage and salary workers on nonagricultural payrolls was 71.3 million in June, 490,000 more than in May. The rise was less than the usual May-June pickup, however, and, after seasonal adjustment, payroll employment was down 310,000. The drop returned employment to the February level, 660,000 below the all-time peak reached in March 1970.

Seasonally adjusted payroll employment declines were widespread among the major industry divisions. Employment in manufacturing dropped 115,000 in June, following small gains in the previous

2 months. More than half of the drop was registered in the durable goods industries, particularly in the five major metals and metal-using industries. In nondurable goods, the largest seasonally adjusted employment decrease occurred in the apparel industry. Since reaching an all-time peak in September 1969, total manufacturing employment has declined by 1.6 million, or 8.1 percent.

Contract construction fell 55,000 in June on a seasonally adjusted basis, the second straight monthly reduction. Employment in the industry was below its year-ago level and 280,000 (or 8.0 percent) below the all-time peak reached in December 1969.

In the service-producing industries, employment reductions were recorded in trade (90,000) and services (45,000). The decline in trade followed several months of increases and returned the job total to the January level. In government, a decline in Federal employment (25,000) more than offset a small gain in State and local employment.

Hours of Work

The workweek for all rank-and-file workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose by 0.4 hour between May and June, slightly more than seasonally expected. After seasonal adjustment, weekly hours were up one-tenth of an hour to 37.1 hours. Since October 1970, the average workweek has ranged narrowly between 36.9 and 37.1 hours.

In manufacturing, seasonally adjusted weekly hours inched up 0.1 hour to 40.0 hours. This was the first time since July 1970 that the factory workweek had touched the 40-hour mark, although hours still remained considerably below the levels prevailing in 1969. The small increase in the factory workweek took place largely in the major metals industries of the durable goods sector.

Factory overtime rose 0.2 hour over the month to 3.0 hours in June, seasonally adjusted. This brought the level to the highest point since August 1970.

Earnings

Average hourly earnings of rank-and-file workers on private nonagricultural payrolls were \$3.42 in June up 1 cent from May. Compared with a year ago, hourly earnings were up by 21 cents or 6.5 percent.

As a result of the increase in the workweek and the rise in hourly earnings, average weekly earnings occurred in all major industry divisions with the exception of finance, insurance and real estate. Compared with June 1970, average weekly earnings were up by \$7.52 or 6.3 percent. During the latest 12-month period for which Consumer Price Index data are available -- May 1970 and May 1971 -- the index rose by 4.4 percent.

Quarterly Developments

On a quarterly average basis, total employment and unemployment (seasonally adjusted) have shown relatively little change since the fall of 1970. The overall jobless rate, at 6.0 percent in the second quarter, was essentially unchanged from the 5.9 percent rate which prevailed in both the last quarter of 1970 and the first quarter of 1971. Labor force and employment have risen only slightly during this period.

The average workweek has also remained rather steady since last fall, though in the manufacturing sector it rose in both the first and second quarters.

"Labor force and total employment." The civilian labor force edged up 110,000 to 83.7 million (seasonally adjusted) in the second quarter of 1971. This was the second consecutive quarter in which the civilian labor force growth was very small. Between the second quarter of 1970 and the second quarter of 1971 the civilian labor force grew by a total of 1.1 million, with roughly one-third of the gain being attributable to a reduction of the armed forces.

The total labor force, which includes persons in the Armed Forces in addition to those in the civilian labor force, averaged 86.5 million (seasonally adjusted) in the April-June period--the third consecutive quarter at that level. Since the second quarter of 1970, the total labor force has

grown by only 700,000, or at about half the pace at which it is expected to grow on the basis of long-term population growth and labor force participation trends. The recent slackening of the labor force growth has been most evident among women and teenagers, the two groups largely responsible for the very rapid labor force increases of the late 1960's.

Total civilian employment averaged 78.7 million (seasonally adjusted) in the second quarter, slightly above the first quarter level. Employment in the April-June period was 200,000 below the all-time peak of 78.9 million attained in the first quarter of 1970.

Employment among males 20 years and over, which had drifted downward for 4 consecutive quarters, posted a substantial advance of 350,000 in the second quarter of 1971. This gain, however, was largely offset by a sizeable decline in employment among adult women (250,000) and a slight drop in teenage employment (30,000). The gain in employment among adult men was about evenly divided between those in the 20-24 age group and those 25 years of age and over; the decline in female employment occurred entirely among those 25 years of age and over.

"Unemployment." The number of jobless persons averaged 5.0 million (seasonally adjusted) in the second quarter of 1971, virtually the same as in the previous 2 quarters. Joblessness among most major labor force groups has

exhibited little change over the past 2 quarters. The April-June average rates for all adult men (4.4 percent), married men (3.2 percent), and teenagers (16.8 percent) were virtually the same as in the fourth quarter of 1970. The jobless rate for adult women, however, has drifted upward slightly (from 5.5 to 5.8 percent) since the last quarter of 1970. This rise occurred largely among Negro women and caused the jobless rate for all Negro workers to advance from 9.2 to 9.9 percent between the fourth quarter of 1970 and the second quarter of 1971. The rate for white workers (5.5 percent in the second quarter) has been virtually unchanged since last fall. The rate of Negro-to-white joblessness was 1.8 to 1 in the April-June quarter, compared with 1.7 to 1 in the previous quarters.

Quarterly unemployment rates by occupation and industry have also shown few discernible trends thus far in 1971. The only significant

exceptions on an occupational basis were a decline in unemployment among craftsmen and foremen and an increase among service workers. On an industry basis, there was a moderate decline in unemployment among manufacturing workers and an increase among trade workers.

"Industry employment." Payroll employment in the nonagricultural sector averaged 70.7 million (seasonally adjusted) in the second quarter of 1971, about 100,000 above the year's first quarter but still well below the 71.1 million quarterly peak attained in 1970's January-March period.

In the goods-producing industries (manufacturing, construction, and mining), employment has shown practically no change over the last 2 quarters, after declining substantially over the previous 5 quarters. In the service-producing sector, employment continued to rise in the second quarter, but the gain (140,000) was modest

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compared with the increases of the previous 2 quarters --300,000 and 465,000, respectively

The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers in the total private economy remained unchanged

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