

Unemployment Rates by State, March 1983



1983 jobless rate higher

Oregon is one of 41 states and the District of Columbia reporting higher jobless rates between March, 1982 and March, 1983. Most of the changes, however, were relatively small, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 11.6% jobless rate in Oregon, for instance, is virtually unchanged from last year. Six states recorded increases exceeding 3 percentage points — Louisiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

The national unemployment rates for all civilian workers increased 1.3 percentage points over this period from 9.5 to 10.7 percent. Unemployment was at or above the national rate in 23 states in March, 1983. West Virginia (20.1 percent),

Michigan (17.0 percent), and Alabama (15.0 percent) continued to experience the highest jobless rates.

Four states reported job losses of more than 100,000 over the year — Pennsylvania (180,000), Texas (170,000), Illinois (140,000), and California (130,000). Declines in manufacturing employment accounted for nearly three-fourths of these reductions. Job losses are also concentrated in three other industries: mining, construction and transportation and public utilities. Of the ten states showing increases, employment rose by more than 25,000 in only two — Florida and Georgia.

Rose Parade features S.A. band

The Salvation Army's Rose Festival Band will present a special public concert Saturday, June 11, 1983 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The concert takes place at The Salvation Army's Portland Tabernacle Corps, 1785 N.E. Sandy Blvd. Cost for the annual event is \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12.

The band is composed of one hundred musicians from Salvation Army Corps and Citadels throughout the West Coast, including

members of the Portland Tabernacle Band.

Special featured artists for the evening are the 12-piece drum corps from Santa Ana, California — one of the outstanding percussion sections in the United States.

Marches, spiritual music and hymns are on the program.

Portland Tabernacle Bandmaster Stephen Smith will conduct.

For more information, please call 234-0696.

Reunion for all St. Philip Neri School alumni. Sunday, June 5, 1983, at St. Philip Neri Church for Mass at 11:00 a.m. and Carlyn Hall for a reception at 12:00 noon. For more info. call 231-4955.

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BUSINESS NOTES

Retail firms will be showing strong second- and third-quarter earnings as consumers engage in a temporary spending spree according to leading economists. Ironically, however, the current lower inflation rate may actually hurt retail spending some by eliminating the "buy-in-advance" psychology that dominated spending habits in the late 1970's. Continuing job uncertainty will also limit the extent of the spending spree.

Carol Kenney, chief economist at Shearson/American Express, recently told the *Wall Street Journal*, "I expect to see a lot of consumer self-gratification during these quarters. Consumers seem to be deciding to live a little after spending three years paying off debts and saving money."

Hiring plans for 2,716 companies with less than 500 employees surged in April. A National Federation of Independent Business survey of its membership found 21 percent plan to add new workers during the second quarter, the highest proportion since the second quarter of 1979. Firms planning to reduce employment in the same quarter account for only six percent of those surveyed.

For the first year since 1976, federal loans to minority-operated small businesses dropped in absolute dollar value, although the percentage of total funds allocated to those companies remained at 12 percent, the same level as in 1980.

The number of minority-operated small businesses receiving loans also fell to 5200 (18 percent of all businesses), the lowest number since 1970. Minority firms, however, were affected to a smaller degree by 1981's decrease in loan volume than business generally. Minority loan volume fell 3.4 percent, as opposed to 4.9 percent for all businesses. Thus, the average loan to a minority small business rose to \$87,000 from the average loan of \$78,000 in 1980.

The National Minority Business Council, Inc. (NMBC) is an ambitious eleven-year-old nonprofit organization that is rapidly making a name for itself. NMBC is an umbrella organization that encompasses 200 small businesses. It helps them develop their sales, marketing and managerial skills, and shows them how to expand their operations.

Members of NMBC have small businesses that range from selling and servicing computer software to refinishing furniture. To find out more about NMBC, write to NMBC, 235 East 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017, or call (212) 573-2385.

Clinic seeks cataract patients

The Department of Ophthalmology at the Oregon Health Sciences University and the Devers Eye Clinic of Good Samaritan Hospital are conducting a research study on the long-term effects of light on eyes that have had cataracts removed. Seniors who participate in this program will be paid \$15, and will receive a free comprehensive eye examination.

To be eligible, you need to have had a cataract removed from one eye at least one year ago. Your other eye must not ever have had cataract surgery.

If you feel you may qualify for this study, please contact Ms. Mallory Otis at the Devers Eye Clinic, 229-7023, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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