

# Revised Data on Employment, Hours, Earnings, and Turnover

This supplement presents revised detailed industry statistics on the Nation's nonagricultural workers based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system and adjusted to March 1978 benchmarks. These data supersede those published in *Employment and Earnings, United States, 1909-78*, Bulletin 1312-11 (1979).

Included are monthly and annual averages from January 1977 through June 1979 for all employees and women employees; for production workers in manufacturing and mining; construction workers in construction; and nonsupervisory workers in the remaining private nonagricultural industries. Also shown for private nonagricultural industries are average weekly and hourly earnings and average weekly hours. Average weekly overtime hours and labor turnover rates are given for selected manufacturing industries. Labor turnover rates are available for some mining and communication industries. Tables on spendable average weekly earnings and average hourly earnings excluding overtime are also provided. Seasonally adjusted data are presented for a number of these series as well as indexes of aggregate weekly hours and payrolls for the period January 1974 through June 1979.

Data for earlier time periods can be found in *Employment and Earnings, United States, 1909-78*, Bulletin 1312-11.

The major technical characteristics of the payroll employment statistics program, such as scope, concepts, survey methods, estimating techniques, and limitations, highlighted in the next few paragraphs, are described fully in the technical note following the tables.

## Benchmark adjustments

Periodically, the BLS adjusts its industry employment series to more recent benchmarks (comprehensive counts of employment) to correct for sampling variability and for changes in industrial activity of establishments. In this supplement, data adjusted to March 1978 levels are shown for the first time and are not necessarily comparable to those published in *Employment and Earnings* before the October 1979 issue, and the *Monthly Labor Review* before the November 1979 issue. All data are now adjusted to the latest benchmark available—March 1978—and are subject to revi-

sion from that point forward with the advent of the next benchmark scheduled for publication in late 1980.

Seasonally adjusted data have been revised back to January 1974 for each series. For a detailed account of the benchmark adjustment, see the October 1979 issue of *Employment and Earnings*. Reprints are available upon request (as long as the supply lasts) from the BLS in Washington or any of its regional offices, which are listed on the inside back cover of this supplement.

## Collection of data

Each month, a representative panel of industrial, commercial, and government establishments, employing collectively about 30 million workers, voluntarily submits information from payroll records to the State agencies participating in the Current Employment Statistics Program. After extracting data necessary for the preparation of State and area estimates on employment, hours, and earnings, these agencies forward the reports to the BLS (Washington Office) for use in the development of national estimates. This program is conducted jointly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Employment and Training Administration, and State employment security agencies in the District of Columbia and most States; in a few States, the cooperating State agency is the State Department of Labor.

Labor turnover statistics, by industry, are also based on data voluntarily supplied by employers. The State agency in the Labor Turnover Statistics Program has the same responsibilities as in the Current Employment Statistics Program. In most States and the District of Columbia, the program is operated by State employment security agencies in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration.

## Industrial classification

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system is used to achieve uniformity and comparability in the presentation of industry data as well

as to describe structural changes that occur in a dynamic economy. The industry statistics in this supplement are based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual published by the Office of Management and Budget.

**Related State and area statistics**

Only national data are presented in this supplement. The bulletin,

*Employment and Earnings, States and Areas, 1939-78* (BLS Bulletin 1370-13), provides similar information for all States, the District of Columbia, and 246 areas. The bulletin contains annual averages for total employment, weekly earnings, weekly hours, and hourly earnings on the same basis as the national data from the beginning date of each series through 1978. Data for all the industries currently published by each cooperating State agency also are presented in the bulletin.

**Caution**

All industry statistics for periods after March 1978, the present benchmark date, are subject to revision. Future revisions will be issued when the series are adjusted to new benchmark levels.

# **Employment, Hours and Earnings, and Labor Turnover by Industry**