TREND OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment in April 1935

EMPLOYMENT data for April present a mixed picture of gains and losses. In some industries employment rose sharply, but these gains were partly nullified in other directions where seasonal influences caused a curtailment. For industry as a whole, however, the movement was definitely upward and a net gain of more than 118,000 over March is indicated by reports received from establishments canvassed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Overshadowing all other factors contributing to the increase in industrial employment in April was the sharp rise in the number of workers employed in the retail trade. It is estimated that nearly 131,000 additional workers found employment in this branch of industry during the month. This expansion partly reflects the increased activity in general merchandising due to the spring and Easter trade. A substantial gain was also reported in employment in the private building-construction industry. On the other hand, employment in bituminous-coal mining declined abruptly largely as a result of the sluggishness that usually attends the industry at this season of the year. Smaller declines were reported in wholesale trade, hotels, brokerage establishments, and the communication industry. Factory employment in April remained at the same level as in the previous month.

In addition to the rise of industrial employment, a substantial increase likewise occurred in virtually all branches of public employment in April. Increased activity on construction projects financed by the Public Works Administration gave jobs to almost 52,000 more workers in April than in March and nearly 74,000 workers were added to the rolls of Civilian Conservation Camps. Small gains are also shown in the number of workers employed by the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the Federal Government and the number of workers employed on construction projects financed by regular governmental appropriations in April was 51.9 percent higher than in March.

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