



USDL - 10-174
Bureau of Labor Statistics
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FOR RELEASE: 11:00 A.M.
Thursday, January 9, 1969

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: DECEMBER 1968

Employment continued to rise substantially in December while unemployment remained at post-Korean lows, the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

Unemployment rates declined slightly for adult men, married men, Negroes, and full-time workers, although the overall unemployment rate, at 3.3 percent, was unchanged over the month at the 15-year low reached in November. The jobless rate for workers covered under State unemployment insurance programs moved down to 2.0 percent, setting a post-World War II record low. For 1968 as a whole, the unemployment rate for all workers averaged 3.6 percent, the lowest annual rate since the Korean war period.

Industry Employment

Nonfarm payroll employment rose 460,000 in December to a record 70.0 million. The December increase was 265,000 more than seasonally expected and represented the third consecutive month of substantial gains. In the last 3 months, nonfarm payroll employment has risen 800,000 (seasonally adjusted). About 30,000 of the December increase was due to the net return of workers who were off payrolls in November because of strikes.

Nearly all major industry divisions shared in the employment advance in December. Contract construction and State and local government had seasonally adjusted employment gains of 80,000 each, while manufacturing and services each increased 60,000. The job gains in manufacturing were fairly widespread and were led by increases in transportation equipment, fabricated metals, apparel, primary metals, and rubber. More than half of the 80,000 increase in State and local government was due to the return to payrolls of teachers in New York City who had been on strike.

Employment in transportation and public utilities and trade declined over the month on a seasonally adjusted basis. The 25,000 drop in transportation and public utilities was due mainly to increased strike activity. The

decline in trade resulted from a less-than-usual Christmas employment pickup, as retail sales were affected by the flu.

Hours and Earnings

Average weekly hours for rank and file workers on private payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in December to 37.6 hours (seasonally adjusted). The increase resulted primarily from a sharp rise in the workweek in contract construction, which reflected both increased building activity and a pickup from the large drop in November when the weather was unusually bad.

In manufacturing, the workweek in December was down one-tenth of an hour to 40.7 hours (seasonally adjusted). December was the third consecutive month in which the factory workweek had declined. Over the year, however, there has been no change in average weekly hours in manufacturing.

Average hourly earnings rose 1 cent in December to \$2.93 for rank and file workers. Average weekly earnings advanced \$1.25 over the month to \$110.75, with the largest gain--\$10--occurring in construction.

Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons was 2.4 million in December, a decrease of 150,000 over the month. Unemployment among adult men declined on a seasonally adjusted basis in December; their unemployment rate edged down 0.2 percentage point to 1.8 percent--the lowest rate since the series began in 1948.

Reflecting the strong job market situation for adult men, jobless rates for both married men and full-time workers also declined in December to 1.4 and 2.7 percent, respectively. Unemployment rates for adult women (3.5 percent) and teenagers (12.6 percent) were not significantly changed over the month.

The jobless rate for nonwhite workers showed some improvement in December. At 6.0 percent, the rate was down from 6.5 percent in November and was the lowest rate since 1953. At 2.9 percent, the white rate also reached a new post-Korean low.

Total Employment and Labor Force

Total employment, at 76.7 million in December, was 100,000 more than in November. After seasonal adjustment, the employment gain amounted to 475,000, dominated by an increase of 400,000 for adult men. Teenage employment remained virtually unchanged in December.

For the second month in succession, employment in agriculture declined much less than seasonally expected. Seasonally adjusted agricultural employment rose by 200,000 in both November and December, after declining steadily since February. Good weather throughout most of the Nation during the survey week and a late harvest of citrus fruit and nut crops were probably responsible for the less-than-usual employment drops.

The December rise in nonagricultural employment (300,000 seasonally adjusted) was the fourth straight monthly advance. The increase occurred entirely among adult men.

At 79.1 million in December, the civilian labor force declined 425,000 less than seasonally expected. Adult men accounted for the bulk of the increase on a seasonally adjusted basis.

The Year In Review

The Nation's employment situation improved in 1968. For the year as a whole, total employment advanced by 1.5 million to 75.9 million, and the number of unemployed persons fell 150,000 to 2.8 million. Jobless rates for most groups in the labor force were at or near Korean war lows. The total unemployment rate averaged 3.6 percent in 1968, compared with 3.8 percent in 1966 and 1967, and was at its lowest point since 1953.

Total employment and labor force. The 1.5 million advance in employment in 1968 was slightly more than that of a year ago but was substantially less than the sharp increases posted in 1965 and 1966. In those years, employment gains were much greater, as the civilian labor force grew rapidly and unemployment was substantially reduced. Adult women accounted for 875,000 of the 1968 employment gain, adult men 575,000 and teenagers 100,000.

Halting at least temporarily its long-term decline, agricultural employment was virtually unchanged in 1968 from a year earlier, at 3.8 million. This was the first time since 1959 that agricultural employment had not declined by at least 100,000. Nonagricultural employment averaged 72.1 million in 1968, about 1.5 million more than in 1967.

The civilian labor force reached 78.7 million in 1968--a pickup of 1.4 million over 1967. The 1968 rise was the second largest of the 1960's but was about 200,000 below the record gain of 1967. In 1968, there were 800,000 more women, 500,000 more men, and 100,000 more teenagers participating in the labor force. The civilian labor force participation rate continued to rise for adult women but edged down for adult men as a result of continued early retirements. The work rate for teenagers was essentially unchanged from 1967.

Unemployment. Of the 2.8 million average number of persons unemployed in 1968, there were 1 million adult men, 1 million adult women, and 825,000 teenagers. All of the 150,000 decline in unemployment in 1968 occurred among adult workers, with men and women sharing about equally in the decline. The average number of unemployed teenagers has remained about the same for the last 3 years.

Unemployment rates edged down from 2.3 to 2.2 percent for adult men and from 4.2 to 3.8 percent for adult women. The teenage jobless rate remained virtually unchanged at 12.7 percent. The jobless rate for full-time workers dropped 0.3 percentage point in 1968 to 3.1 percent, while that for part-time workers declined from 6.9 to 6.5 percent.

The nonwhite unemployment rate dropped more sharply than that for whites in 1968. The nonwhite rate fell from 7.4 percent in 1967 to 6.7 percent in 1968, while the white rate declined from 3.4 to 3.2 percent. However, the nonwhite rate continued to be more than double the white rate.

The number of workers unemployed 15 weeks or longer averaged 400,000 in 1968, down 50,000 from 1967. The number was at the lowest level since 1953.

Industry developments. Total nonfarm payroll employment averaged 68.1 million in 1968, an increase of 2.1 million from 1967. The gain was slightly above that of the previous year but well below the record increases of 1965 and 1966.

All major industry divisions showed employment growth in 1968. The service-producing industries accounted for 1.7 million or four-fifths of the total employment advance, with gains concentrated in government (575,000), trade (500,000), and services (450,000). The 140,000 growth in the finance industries was its largest since 1946. Other industries with moderate employment increases were manufacturing (300,000), contract construction (50,000), and transportation and public utilities (75,000). Mining registered a slight gain for the first time since 1957.

In manufacturing, the 300,000 employment increase brought employment to 19.7 million in 1968, a record high. Although an improvement over 1967, the advance was about 185,000 below the average annual gain for the current period of expansion (1961-68). The 1968 increase was equally divided between durable and nondurable goods industries, in contrast to earlier years when durable goods employment posted much larger shares of the total gain. Factory production worker employment, at 14.5 million in 1968, was up 175,000 to its highest level since World War II; it had remained unchanged between 1966 and 1967.

The workweek for production and nonsupervisory workers in nonagricultural industries declined 0.2 hour in 1968 to 37.8 hours. A one-tenth hour increase in manufacturing (to 40.7 hours) was offset by workweek reductions in contract construction (0.4 hour) and trade (0.5 hour). The continuing decline in the trade workweek since 1959 reflects a shift to the use of many part-time employees.

Overtime in manufacturing edged up 0.2 hour in 1968 to 3.6 hours. The 1968 figure matched the 1965 level and was the second highest level in over 10 years.

Gross weekly earnings for the Nation's rank and file workers averaged nearly \$108 in 1968, up \$5.89 from 1967, or 5.8 percent. This was the largest percentage increase since 1951. The gain was due entirely to a 17-cent rise (6.3 percent) in average hourly earnings, as the average workweek declined.

For factory workers, average weekly earnings amounted to \$122.50 in 1968, a gain of \$7.61 (6.6 percent) from 1967. The rise was due to increases in both the workweek and hourly earnings which reached the \$3.00 mark in 1968. Substantial increases in average weekly earnings also occurred in contract construction (\$8.42), finance, insurance, and real estate (\$6.29), mining (\$6.39), and trade (\$4.27).

This release presents and analyzes statistics from two major surveys. Data on labor force, total employment, and unemployment are derived from the sample surveys of households conducted and tabulated by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Statistics on industry employment, hours, and earnings are collected by State agencies from payroll records of employers and are tabulated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A description of the two surveys appears in the BLS publication Employment and Earnings and Monthly Report on the Labor Force.

Table A. Employment status of the noninstitutional population
16 years and over, annual averages, 1966-68
(In thousands)

Employment status	1968	1967	1966	Change	
				1967-68	1966-67
Total labor force.....	82,272	80,793	78,893	1,479	1,900
Armed forces.....	3,535	3,446	3,123	89	323
Civilian labor force.....	78,737	77,347	75,770	1,390	1,577
Employed.....	75,920	74,372	72,895	1,548	1,477
Agriculture.....	3,817	3,844	3,979	-27	-135
Nonagricultural industries..	72,103	70,527	68,915	1,576	1,612
Unemployed.....	2,817	2,975	2,875	-158	100
Unemployment rate (percent).....	3.6	3.8	3.8	-.2	--
Not in labor force.....	53,291	52,527	52,288	764	239

NOTE: Labor force statistics for 1967 and 1968 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years because of changes in definitions and improvements in measurement techniques, which were introduced in January 1967.

Table B. Unemployed persons 16 years and over by duration
of unemployment, annual averages, 1966-68

Duration of unemployment	1968		1967		1966	
	Thousands of persons	Percent	Thousands of persons	Percent	Thousands of persons	Percent
Total.....	2,817	100.0	2,975	100.0	2,875	100.0
Less than 5 weeks..	1,594	56.6	1,635	54.9	1,535	53.4
5 to 14 weeks.....	810	28.8	893	30.0	804	28.0
15 weeks and over..	412	14.6	449	15.1	536	18.6
15 to 26 weeks...	256	9.1	271	9.1	295	10.3
27 weeks and over.....	156	5.5	177	5.9	241	8.4

NOTE: See note, Table A.

Table C. Major unemployment indicators, annual averages, 1963-68
(Persons 16 years and over--in percents)

Selected categories	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Total (all civilian workers)..	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.5	5.2	5.7
Men, 20 years and over.....	2.2	2.3	2.5	3.2	3.9	4.5
Women, 20 years and over....	3.8	4.2	3.8	4.5	5.2	5.4
Both sexes, 16-19 years.....	12.7	12.9	12.7	14.8	16.2	17.2
White.....	3.2	3.4	3.3	4.1	4.6	5.0
Nonwhite.....	6.7	7.4	7.3	8.1	9.6	10.8
Married men.....	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.4
Full-time workers.....	3.1	3.4	3.5	4.3	4.9	5.5
Labor force time lost.....	4.0	4.2	4.2	5.0	5.8	6.4
OCCUPATION						
White-collar workers.....	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.9
Professional and managerial.	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.7
Clerical workers.....	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.7	4.0
Sales workers.....	2.8	3.2	2.8	3.4	3.5	4.3
Blue-collar workers.....	4.1	4.4	4.2	5.3	6.3	7.3
Craftsmen and foremen.....	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.6	4.1	4.8
Operatives.....	4.5	5.0	4.4	5.5	6.6	7.5
Nonfarm laborers.....	7.2	7.6	7.4	8.6	10.8	12.4
Service workers.....	4.4	4.5	4.6	5.3	6.0	6.1
Farm workers.....	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.6	3.1	3.0
INDUSTRY <u>1/</u>						
Private nonagricultural wage and salary workers.....	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.6	5.4	6.1
Construction.....	6.9	7.3	8.1	10.1	11.2	13.0
Manufacturing.....	3.3	3.7	3.2	4.0	5.0	5.7
Durable goods.....	3.0	3.4	2.8	3.5	4.7	5.5
Nondurable goods.....	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.7	5.3	6.0
Transportation and public utilities.....	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.9	3.5	4.2
Wholesale and retail trade..	4.0	4.2	4.4	5.0	5.7	6.2
Finance and service industries.....	3.4	3.6	3.5	4.0	4.5	4.9
Government workers.....	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2
Agricultural wage and salary workers.....	6.3	6.9	6.6	7.3	9.3	8.9

NOTE: See note, Table A.

1/ For 1963-65, unemployment rates by industry are for persons 14 years and over.

Table D. Employees on nonagricultural payrolls by industry,
annual averages, 1966-68
(In thousands)

Industry	1968 <u>1/</u>	1967	1966	Change	
				1967-68	1966-67
Total.....	68,134	66,030	64,034	2,104	1,996
Private sector.....	55,936	54,414	53,163	1,522	1,251
Mining.....	625	616	627	9	-11
Contract construction.....	3,256	3,203	3,275	53	-72
Manufacturing.....	19,734	19,434	19,214	300	220
Durable goods.....	11,574	11,422	11,284	152	138
Ordnance.....	342	317	261	25	56
Lumber.....	600	598	614	2	-16
Furniture.....	474	455	462	19	-7
Stone, clay, and glass.....	638	629	644	9	-15
Primary metal industries....	1,300	1,318	1,351	-18	-33
Fabricated metal products...	1,389	1,361	1,351	28	10
Machinery.....	1,959	1,967	1,910	-8	57
Electrical equipment.....	1,961	1,953	1,909	8	44
Transportation equipment....	2,026	1,947	1,918	79	29
Instruments.....	451	448	431	3	17
Miscellaneous manufacturing.	435	429	434	6	-5
Nondurable goods.....	8,160	8,012	7,930	148	82
Food.....	1,779	1,785	1,777	-6	8
Tobacco.....	85	87	84	-2	3
Textiles.....	985	957	964	28	-7
Apparel.....	1,417	1,400	1,402	17	-2
Paper.....	698	681	667	17	14
Printing and publishing....	1,063	1,048	1,017	15	31
Chemicals.....	1,031	1,002	961	29	41
Petroleum.....	187	183	184	4	-1
Rubber.....	558	516	511	42	5
Leather.....	357	351	364	6	-13
Transportation and public utilities.....	4,346	4,271	4,151	75	120
Wholesale and retail trade.....	14,115	13,613	13,245	502	368
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	3,357	3,217	3,100	140	117
Services.....	10,504	10,060	9,551	444	509
Government.....	12,198	11,616	10,871	582	745
Federal.....	2,736	2,719	2,564	17	155
State and local.....	9,462	8,897	8,307	565	590

1/ Preliminary.

Table A-1: Employment status of the noninstitutional population by age and sex

(In thousands)

Employment status, age, and sex	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Seasonally adjusted				
				Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Sept. 1968	Aug. 1968
Total								
Total labor force	82,618	82,702	81,527	82,956	82,549	82,607	82,422	82,279
Civilian labor force	79,118	79,185	78,057	79,456	79,032	78,804	78,831	78,690
Employed	76,700	76,609	75,338	76,867	76,389	75,952	75,957	75,929
Agriculture	3,279	3,607	3,545	3,874	3,676	3,481	3,602	3,733
Nonagricultural industries	73,421	73,001	71,793	72,993	72,713	72,471	72,355	72,196
On part time for economic reasons	1,558	1,567	1,685	1,671	1,681	1,682	1,733	1,853
Usually work full time	835	814	911	865	837	902	991	1,006
Usually work part time	723	753	774	806	844	780	742	847
Unemployed	2,419	2,577	2,719	2,589	2,643	2,852	2,874	2,761
Men, 20 years and over								
Civilian labor force	45,881	45,832	45,528	46,137	45,816	45,785	45,845	45,896
Employed	45,008	44,987	44,459	45,313	44,881	44,753	44,835	44,907
Agriculture	2,559	2,717	2,718	2,779	2,736	2,636	2,688	2,770
Nonagricultural industries	42,449	42,271	41,740	42,534	42,145	42,117	42,147	42,137
Unemployed	873	844	1,069	824	935	1,032	1,010	989
Women, 20 years and over								
Civilian labor force	27,024	27,139	26,497	26,814	26,714	26,496	26,446	26,162
Employed	26,205	26,183	25,568	25,867	25,797	25,502	25,403	25,185
Agriculture	498	624	557	738	617	523	528	576
Nonagricultural industries	25,707	25,558	25,010	25,129	25,180	24,979	24,875	24,609
Unemployed	818	956	929	947	917	994	1,043	977
Both sexes, 16-19 years								
Civilian labor force	6,214	6,214	6,033	6,505	6,502	6,523	6,540	6,632
Employed	5,486	5,438	5,312	5,687	5,711	5,697	5,719	5,837
Agriculture	221	266	269	357	323	322	386	387
Nonagricultural industries	5,265	5,172	5,043	5,330	5,388	5,375	5,333	5,450
Unemployed	728	776	721	818	791	826	821	795

Table A-2: Unemployed persons 16 years and over by duration of unemployment

(In thousands)

Duration of unemployment	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Seasonally adjusted				
				Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Sept. 1968	Aug. 1968
Less than 5 weeks	1,303	1,567	1,367	1,352	1,527	1,557	1,647	1,629
5 to 14 weeks	814	718	937	841	791	915	819	767
15 weeks and over	301	292	415	323	354	388	369	398
15 to 26 weeks	164	179	247	171	226	260	235	237
27 weeks and over	137	112	168	152	128	128	134	161

Table A-3: Major unemployment indicators

(Persons 16 years and over)

Selected categories	Thousands of persons unemployed		Seasonally adjusted rates of unemployment					
	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Sept. 1968	Aug. 1968	Dec. 1967
Total (all civilian workers)	2,419	2,719	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7
Men, 20 years and over	873	1,069	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
Women, 20 years and over	818	927	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.1
Both sexes, 16-19 years	728	721	12.6	12.2	12.7	12.6	12.0	12.8
White	1,917	2,146	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3
Nonwhite	501	573	6.0	6.5	7.4	6.7	6.2	6.9
Married men	562	693	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7
Full-time workers	1,667	2,013	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3
Unemployed 15 weeks and over ¹	301	415	.4	.4	.5	.5	.5	.6
State insured ²	1,033	1,127	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2
Labor force time lost ³	--	--	3.6	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1
Occupation								
White-collar workers	577	642	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1
Professional and managerial	146	164	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1
Clerical workers	319	365	2.7	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.0	3.2
Sales workers	112	113	2.7	2.6	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.8
Blue-collar workers	1,065	1,258	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.3
Craftsmen and foremen	226	252	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.1
Operatives	585	702	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	5.0
Nonfarm laborers	254	304	6.1	6.6	7.8	7.1	7.5	7.4
Service workers	369	416	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.0	4.8
Industry								
Nonagricultural private wage and salary workers ⁴	1,775	2,039	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7
Construction	232	268	5.1	6.6	6.1	5.5	6.9	6.1
Manufacturing	571	722	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5
Durable goods	306	407	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.5
Nondurable goods	266	315	3.1	3.2	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6
Transportation and public utilities	70	96	1.5	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.2	2.2
Wholesale and retail trade	443	445	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.2
Finance and service industries	442	486	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.6
Government wage and salary workers	169	193	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.6	2.0
Agricultural wage and salary workers	82	85	5.3	4.8	6.0	7.8	8.4	5.0

¹Unemployment rate calculated as a percent of civilian labor force.

²Insured unemployment under State programs—unemployment rate calculated as a percent of average covered employment.

³Man-hours lost by the unemployed and persons on part time for economic reasons as a percent of potentially available labor force man-hours.

⁴Includes mining, not shown separately.

Table A-4: Full- and part-time status of the civilian labor force

Full- and part-time employment status	Total		Men, 20 and over		Women, 20 and over		Both sexes, 16-19 years	
	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1967
Full Time								
Civilian labor force	67,610	67,135	43,735	43,509	21,182	20,853	2,693	2,773
Employed:								
Full-time schedules	64,073	63,122	42,057	41,585	19,773	19,287	2,243	2,250
Part time for economic reasons	1,871	2,000	913	965	764	835	193	200
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	1,667	2,013	765	959	645	731	257	323
Unemployment rate	2.5	3.0	1.7	2.2	3.0	3.5	9.5	11.7
Part Time								
Civilian labor force	11,508	10,923	2,146	2,019	5,842	5,644	3,521	3,260
Employed (voluntary part time)	10,757	10,216	2,038	1,909	5,668	5,446	3,050	2,862
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	752	707	108	110	173	198	471	398
Unemployment rate	6.5	6.5	5.0	5.5	3.0	3.5	13.4	12.2

Table A-5: Employed persons by age and sex

(In thousands)

Age and sex	Seasonally adjusted							
	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Sept. 1968	Aug. 1968
Total, 16 years and over	76,700	76,609	75,338	76,867	76,389	75,952	75,957	75,929
16 to 19 years	5,486	5,438	5,312	5,687	5,711	5,697	5,719	5,837
16 and 17 years	2,235	2,191	2,176	2,407	2,359	2,355	2,342	2,403
18 and 19 years	3,251	3,248	3,136	3,357	3,359	3,321	3,348	3,410
20 to 24 years	9,000	8,890	8,739	8,972	8,896	8,807	8,822	8,791
25 years and over	62,213	62,280	61,287	62,212	61,800	61,433	61,465	61,285
25 to 54 years	48,312	48,291	47,623	48,230	47,807	47,472	47,489	47,418
55 years and over	13,902	13,990	13,665	14,043	13,955	13,854	13,828	13,839
Males, 16 years and over	48,000	47,969	47,250	48,622	48,145	48,002	48,079	48,216
16 to 19 years	2,992	2,982	2,791	3,309	3,264	3,249	3,244	3,309
16 and 17 years	1,270	1,274	1,253	1,477	1,441	1,430	1,431	1,459
18 and 19 years	1,722	1,707	1,538	1,882	1,834	1,813	1,807	1,833
20 to 24 years	4,826	4,759	4,738	4,904	4,818	4,780	4,815	4,809
25 years and over	40,182	40,228	39,721	40,400	40,093	39,966	40,018	40,123
25 to 54 years	31,233	31,186	30,880	31,371	31,072	30,942	31,002	31,044
55 years and over	8,949	9,042	8,841	9,054	9,019	8,980	8,998	9,064
Females, 16 years and over	28,699	28,639	28,088	28,245	28,244	27,950	27,878	27,713
16 to 19 years	2,494	2,457	2,521	2,378	2,447	2,448	2,475	2,528
16 and 17 years	965	916	923	930	918	925	911	944
18 and 19 years	1,530	1,540	1,598	1,475	1,525	1,508	1,541	1,577
20 to 24 years	4,174	4,130	4,002	4,068	4,078	4,027	4,007	3,982
25 years and over	22,031	22,052	21,566	21,812	21,707	21,467	21,447	21,162
25 to 54 years	17,078	17,105	16,742	16,859	16,735	16,530	16,487	16,374
55 years and over	4,953	4,947	4,824	4,989	4,936	4,874	4,830	4,775

NOTE: Due to the independent seasonal adjustment of several of the series, detail will not necessarily add to totals.

Table A-6: Unemployed persons by age and sex

Age and sex	Thousands		Percent looking for full-time work Dec. 1968	Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates					
	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968		Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Sept. 1968	Aug. 1968	Dec. 1967
Total, 16 years and over	2,419	2,577	68.9	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7
16 to 19 years	728	776	35.3	12.6	12.2	12.7	12.6	12.0	12.8
16 and 17 years	377	378	17.0	14.9	14.1	14.6	14.5	13.3	14.7
18 and 19 years	351	398	55.0	10.6	10.5	11.4	11.4	11.0	11.3
20 to 24 years	435	495	82.8	5.3	5.5	6.3	6.1	6.1	5.8
25 years and over	1,256	1,306	83.6	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.5
25 to 54 years	966	1,006	87.4	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.5
55 years and over	290	300	71.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.5
Males, 16 years and over	1,283	1,229	70.5	2.5	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.9
16 to 19 years	410	385	34.1	11.5	11.5	12.3	10.7	10.5	12.0
16 and 17 years	221	212	17.6	14.2	14.1	14.5	12.8	12.2	14.2
18 and 19 years	189	173	53.4	9.3	8.8	10.6	9.0	9.2	10.0
20 to 24 years	211	220	84.8	4.1	4.9	5.9	5.1	5.3	4.8
25 years and over	661	624	88.7	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9
25 to 54 years	480	453	94.8	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
55 years and over	180	171	72.2	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.7
Females, 16 years and over	1,136	1,347	67.1	4.5	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.8	5.0
16 to 19 years	317	391	36.9	14.0	13.0	13.2	14.8	13.9	13.7
16 and 17 years	156	166	15.4	15.8	14.2	14.9	17.0	15.0	15.5
18 and 19 years	161	225	57.1	12.3	12.5	12.4	14.1	13.1	12.6
20 to 24 years	223	275	80.7	6.6	6.3	6.8	7.2	7.0	6.9
25 years and over	595	682	78.2	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.5
25 to 54 years	486	552	80.0	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.4	4.0
55 years and over	109	129	68.8	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.2

Table B-1: Employees on nonagricultural payrolls, by industry

Industry	(In thousands)									
	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Dec. 1967	Change from		Seasonally adjusted			Change from Nov. 1968
					Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	
TOTAL	70,012	69,551	69,292	67,903	461	2,109	69,186	68,920	68,701	266
MINING	637	637	593	602	0	35	638	635	591	3
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	3,209	3,368	3,498	3,134	-159	75	3,353	3,273	3,285	80
MANUFACTURING	19,936	19,998	19,999	19,609	-62	327	19,918	19,854	19,807	64
<i>Production workers</i>	14,657	14,720	14,718	14,425	-63	232	14,634	14,564	14,524	70
DURABLE GOODS	11,714	11,721	11,663	11,525	-7	189	11,685	11,647	11,603	38
<i>Production workers</i>	8,536	8,552	8,497	8,422	-16	114	8,502	8,470	8,432	32
Ordnance and accessories	351.0	351.6	334.6	335.0	-.6	16.0	350	350	334	0
Lumber and wood products	589.1	601.4	609.8	592.6	-12.3	-3.5	601	601	603	0
Furniture and fixtures	490.6	490.8	484.8	465.7	-.2	24.9	489	485	478	4
Stone, clay, and glass products ..	646.6	656.4	657.0	629.0	-9.8	17.6	658	653	649	5
Primary metal industries	1,279.3	1,267.2	1,256.5	1,292.9	12.1	-13.6	1,292	1,285	1,272	7
Fabricated metal products	1,430.1	1,427.6	1,418.3	1,380.8	2.5	49.3	1,423	1,413	1,410	10
Machinery, except electrical	1,977.4	1,967.0	1,946.5	1,940.5	10.4	36.9	1,979	1,987	1,962	-8
Electrical equipment	1,983.8	1,981.3	1,980.7	1,981.7	2.5	2.1	1,964	1,960	1,957	4
Transportation equipment	2,070.6	2,058.3	2,056.1	2,032.3	12.3	38.3	2,030	2,018	2,046	12
Instruments and related products ..	458.1	456.5	454.1	451.4	1.6	6.7	457	455	454	2
Miscellaneous manufacturing	437.0	462.4	464.9	422.9	-25.4	14.1	442	440	438	2
NONDURABLE GOODS	8,222	8,277	8,336	8,084	-55	138	8,233	8,207	8,204	26
<i>Production workers</i>	6,121	6,168	6,221	6,003	-47	118	6,132	6,094	6,092	38
Food and kindred products	1,765.2	1,807.1	1,865.0	1,769.7	-41.9	-4.5	1,781	1,779	1,778	2
Tobacco manufactures	87.1	91.6	99.9	99.6	-4.5	-12.5	81	82	84	-1
Textile mill products	993.1	996.8	993.5	968.5	-3.7	24.6	995	992	988	3
Apparel and other textile products	1,421.5	1,432.3	1,442.9	1,402.7	-10.8	18.8	1,426	1,417	1,426	9
Paper and allied products	713.9	712.2	706.2	688.8	1.7	25.1	712	708	704	4
Printing and publishing	1,077.6	1,075.3	1,071.1	1,060.6	2.3	17.0	1,071	1,072	1,068	-1
Chemicals and allied products	1,039.4	1,038.7	1,037.3	1,013.8	.7	25.6	1,047	1,044	1,041	3
Petroleum and coal products	185.5	187.7	188.0	182.6	-2.2	2.9	188	188	187	0
Rubber and plastics products, n e c	580.0	575.6	574.1	541.4	4.4	38.6	575	568	570	7
Leather and leather products	359.0	360.0	357.9	356.6	-1.0	2.4	357	357	358	0
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	4,378	4,416	4,400	4,311	-38	67	4,369	4,394	4,374	-25
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	15,167	14,567	14,328	14,618	600	549	14,310	14,331	14,298	-21
WHOLESALE TRADE	3,759	3,756	3,738	3,620	3	139	3,718	3,722	3,708	-4
RETAIL TRADE	11,408	10,811	10,590	10,998	597	410	10,592	10,609	10,590	-17
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	3,420	3,411	3,404	3,269	9	151	3,441	3,425	3,411	16
SERVICES	10,661	10,642	10,631	10,223	19	438	10,758	10,695	10,610	63
Hotels and other lodging places ..	667.2	675.2	701.8	658.0	-8.0	9.2	723	721	723	2
Personal services	1,028.2	1,026.3	1,022.4	1,027.1	1.9	1.1	1,024	1,024	1,017	0
Medical and other health services ..	2,744.6	2,736.1	2,716.3	2,527.4	8.5	217.2	2,758	2,736	2,719	22
Educational services	1,113.9	1,117.8	1,091.9	1,073.3	-3.9	40.6	1,072	1,067	1,050	5
GOVERNMENT	12,604	12,512	12,439	12,137	92	467	12,399	12,313	12,325	86
FEDERAL	2,756	2,703	2,694	2,819	53	-63	2,697	2,696	2,705	1
STATE AND LOCAL	9,848	9,809	9,745	9,318	39	530	9,702	9,617	9,620	85

NOTE: Data for the 2 most recent months are preliminary.

Table B-2: Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers¹ on private nonagricultural payrolls, by industry

Industry	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Dec. 1967	Change from		Seasonally adjusted			
					Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Change from Nov. 1968
TOTAL PRIVATE	37.8	37.5	37.8	36.0	0.3	-0.2	37.6	37.5	37.7	0.1
MINING	42.5	42.6	41.8	42.5	-1.1	0	42.5	42.9	41.3	-4
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	37.2	35.0	38.4	36.5	2.2	.7	37.9	36.0	37.5	1.9
MANUFACTURING	41.1	40.9	41.1	41.1	.2	0	40.7	40.8	41.0	-1
<i>Overtime hours</i>	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.6	.1	.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	0
DURABLE GOODS	41.9	41.6	41.8	41.8	.3	.1	41.4	41.6	41.6	-2
<i>Overtime hours</i>	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.8	.1	.4	3.9	4.0	4.0	-1
<i>Ordinance and accessories</i>	41.5	41.6	42.2	42.2	-1	-.7	40.9	41.4	42.0	-5
<i>Lumber and wood products</i>	40.2	40.2	41.1	39.8	0	.4	40.5	40.4	40.8	-1
<i>Furniture and fixtures</i>	41.3	40.8	41.5	41.6	.5	-.3	40.4	40.4	40.8	0
<i>Stone, clay, and glass products</i> ..	41.8	41.9	42.6	41.6	-.1	.2	41.9	41.8	42.2	.1
<i>Primary metal industries</i>	41.4	41.2	40.9	41.7	.2	-.3	41.3	41.4	41.4	-1
<i>Fabricated metal products</i>	42.5	42.4	42.4	42.0	-.1	.5	42.1	42.3	42.2	-2
<i>Machinery, except electrical</i>	43.0	42.3	42.3	42.8	.7	.2	42.6	42.3	42.3	-.3
<i>Electrical equipment</i>	41.0	40.7	40.7	41.0	.3	0	40.4	40.5	40.5	-1
<i>Transportation equipment</i>	43.1	42.9	43.1	42.7	.2	.4	42.1	42.2	42.6	-1
<i> Instruments and related products</i> ..	41.1	40.9	40.8	41.5	.2	-.4	40.8	40.7	40.6	.1
<i>Miscellaneous manufacturing</i>	39.4	39.6	39.9	39.7	-.2	-.3	39.1	39.2	39.5	-1
NONDURABLE GOODS	40.1	39.9	40.1	40.1	.2	0	39.9	39.7	39.9	.2
<i>Overtime hours</i>	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	-.1	.1	3.3	3.4	3.3	-1
<i>Food and kindred products</i>	41.0	40.8	41.0	41.0	.2	0	40.8	40.6	40.8	.2
<i>Tobacco manufactures</i>	38.9	37.5	39.0	38.3	1.4	.6	37.4	37.6	37.6	-2
<i>Textile mill products</i>	41.6	41.5	41.5	41.9	.1	-.3	41.3	41.1	41.1	.2
<i>Apparel and other textile products</i> ..	35.8	36.0	36.4	36.0	-.2	-.2	36.0	35.9	36.4	.1
<i>Paper and allied products</i>	43.5	43.3	43.4	43.3	.2	.2	43.2	43.0	43.1	.2
<i>Printing and publishing</i>	39.0	38.3	38.6	38.5	-.7	.5	38.5	38.3	38.6	.2
<i>Chemicals and allied products</i> ..	41.9	42.0	41.9	41.9	-.1	0	41.8	41.9	41.9	-1
<i>Petroleum and coal products</i>	42.6	42.5	42.7	41.8	.1	.8	42.9	42.5	42.6	.4
<i>Rubber and plastics products, n e c</i> ..	41.7	41.8	42.0	41.8	-.1	-.1	41.2	41.6	41.7	-.4
<i>Leather and leather products</i>	38.8	38.0	38.3	39.1	.8	-.3	38.0	38.0	38.7	0
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	35.9	35.5	35.7	35.5	.4	-.6	35.7	35.8	35.9	-1
WHOLESALE TRADE	40.1	40.0	40.1	40.4	.1	-.3	39.8	40.0	40.1	-2
RETAIL TRADE	34.6	34.0	34.3	35.4	.6	-.8	34.3	34.4	34.5	-1
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	37.1	36.9	37.1	37.0	.2	.1	37.0	36.9	37.0	.1

¹Data relate to production workers in mining and manufacturing; to construction workers in contract construction; and to nonsupervisory workers in wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance, and real estate; transportation and public utilities; and services. These groups account for approximately four-fifths of the total employment on private nonagricultural payrolls. Transportation and public utilities, and services are included in Total Private but are not shown separately in this table.
NOTE: Data for the 2 most recent months are preliminary.

Table B-3: Average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers¹ on private nonagricultural payrolls, by industry

Industry	Average hourly earnings						Average weekly earnings					
	Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Dec. 1967	Change from		Dec. 1968	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Dec. 1967	Change from	
					Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967					Nov. 1968	Dec. 1967
TOTAL PRIVATE	\$2.93	\$2.92	\$2.92	\$2.73	\$0.01	\$0.20	\$110.75	\$109.50	\$110.36	\$103.74	\$1.25	\$7.01
MINING	3.48	3.45	3.32	3.24	.03	.24	147.90	146.97	138.78	137.70	.93	10.20
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	4.52	4.52	4.50	4.25	0	.27	168.14	158.20	172.80	155.13	9.94	13.01
MANUFACTURING	3.10	3.08	3.06	2.91	.02	.19	127.41	125.97	125.77	119.60	1.44	7.81
DURABLE GOODS	3.29	3.27	3.25	3.09	.02	.20	137.85	136.03	135.85	129.16	1.82	8.69
<i>Ordinance and accessories</i>	3.34	3.33	3.31	3.24	.01	.10	138.61	139.68	136.73	132.82	.08	1.88
<i>Lumber and wood products</i>	2.60	2.62	2.62	2.41	-.02	.19	104.52	105.32	107.68	95.92	-.80	8.60
<i>Furniture and fixtures</i>	2.53	2.52	2.52	2.40	.01	.13	104.49	102.82	104.58	99.84	1.67	4.65
<i>Stone, clay, and glass products</i> ..	3.08	3.07	3.06	2.88	.01	.20	128.74	128.63	130.36	119.81	.11	8.93
<i>Primary metal industries</i>	3.63	3.62	3.60	3.44	.01	.19	150.28	149.14	147.24	143.45	1.14	6.83
<i>Fabricated metal products</i>	3.26	3.25	3.23	3.06	.01	.20	138.55	137.80	136.95	128.52	.75	10.03
<i>Machinery, except electrical</i>	3.48	3.46	3.44	3.26	.02	.22	149.64	146.36	145.51	139.53	3.28	10.11
<i>Electrical equipment</i>	3.02	3.00	2.98	2.86	.02	.16	123.82	122.10	121.29	117.26	1.72	6.56
<i>Transportation equipment</i>	3.83	3.81	3.78	3.56	.02	.27	165.07	163.45	162.92	152.01	1.62	13.06
<i> Instruments and related products</i> ..	3.07	3.05	3.03	2.93	.02	.14	126.18	124.75	123.62	121.60	1.43	4.58
<i>Miscellaneous manufacturing</i>	2.55	2.52	2.51	2.43	.03	.12	100.47	99.79	100.15	96.47	.68	4.00
NONDURABLE GOODS	2.82	2.80	2.79	2.64	.02	.18	113.08	111.72	111.88	105.86	1.36	7.22
<i>Food and kindred products</i>	2.88	2.85	2.81	2.70	.03	.18	118.08	116.28	115.21	110.70	1.80	7.38
<i>Tobacco manufactures</i>	2.56	2.51	2.37	2.22	.05	.34	99.58	94.13	92.43	85.03	5.45	14.55
<i>Textile mill products</i>	2.28	2.27	2.27	2.14	.01	.14	94.85	94.21	94.21	89.67	.64	5.18
<i>Apparel and other textile products</i> ..	2.26	2.25	2.27	2.08	.01	.18	80.91	81.00	82.63	74.88	-.09	6.03
<i>Paper and allied products</i>	3.13	3.12	3.11	2.95	.01	.18	136.16	135.10	134.97	127.74	1.06	8.42
<i>Printing and publishing</i>	3.59	3.56	3.55	3.37	.03	.22	140.01	136.35	137.03	129.75	3.66	10.26
<i>Chemicals and allied products</i> ..	3.34	3.33	3.31	3.17	.01	.17	139.95	139.86	138.69	132.82	.09	7.13
<i>Petroleum and coal products</i>	3.78	3.81	3.77	3.59	-.03	.19	161.03	161.93	160.98	150.06	-.90	10.97
<i>Rubber and plastics products, n e c</i> ..	3.00	2.99	2.98	2.86	.01	.14	125.10	124.98	125.16	119.55	.12	5.55
<i>Leather and leather products</i>	2.27	2.27	2.26	2.13	0	.14	88.08	86.26	86.56	83.28	1.82	4.80
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	2.44	2.46	2.45	2.28	-.02	.16	87.60	87.33	87.47	83.22	.27	4.38
WHOLESALE TRADE	3.15	3.12	3.09	2.95	.03	.20	126.32	124.80	123.91	119.18	1.52	7.14
RETAIL TRADE	2.20	2.21	2.20	2.04	-.01	.16	76.12	75.14	75.46	72.22	.98	3.90
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	2.84	2.82	2.81	2.65	.02	.19	105.36	104.06	104.25	98.05	1.30	7.31

¹ See footnote 1, table B-2.
NOTE: Data for the 2 most recent months are preliminary.