# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol. VI, No.1
January 1951

COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, December 1949 and 1950

Houston-Baytown Area

| MAJOR INDUSTRY | DEC.'49 | DEC.'50 |
|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 323050 | 334700 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 68900 | 75000 |
| Food & kind. prods. | 10325 | 10300 |
| Textile mill prods. | 625 | 675 |
| Apparel & kindred | 2125 | 2100 |
| Lumber & wood prods. | 2200 | 2275 |
| Furniture & fixtures | 1900 | 2025 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 1850 | 2175 |
| Printing, pub. & allied | 3950 | 4000 |
| Chemicals & allied | 6850 | 7675 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 11450 | 10775 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 2000 | 2050 |
| Primary metal inds. | 3975 | 5425 |
| Fabricated metal prods. | 5725 | 7050 |
| Machinery (ex. elect.) | 11000 | 13150 |
| Electric machinery | 425 | 475 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 650 | 1000 |
| All other manufacturing | 3850 | 3850 |
| Non-manufacturing - Total | 254150 | 259700 |
| Mining | 12800 | 13900 |
| Contract construction | 20750 | 21350 |
| Transportation & allied | 31700 | 32750 |
| Communications, utilities | 11175 | 11475 |
| Wholesale trade | 20000 | 20350 |
| Retail trade | 63150 | 64175 |
| Finance, ins., rl. est | 12800 | 13000 |
| Service industries | 28675 | 28500 |
| Professional services | 19500 | 19950 |
| Private households | 20000 | 20000 |
| Government estabs. | 13600 | 14250 |

Of the current increase of 11,650 shown in estimated total employment over December 1949, some 5,750 - almost 50% - was netted by four of the area's five major heavy manufacturing groups: chemicals, non-electric machinery, primary metals and fabricated metal products. Except for two negligible seasonal variations in minor groups, petroleum refining is the only manufacturing group to stand below the 1949 figure. Although machinery is still almost 2,000 below its peak of December 1948, the remaining three of the four above-mentioned industries are long since past all previous highs. Gains in non-manufacturing were a clean sweep across the board except for an inconsequential loss in service industries. Retail trade, transportation services and crude oil production topped the list with an aggregate gain estimated at 3,125. Employment of women is estimated at 1,375 above a year ago - about one-third in manufacturing and the remainder elsewhere.

UNEMPLOYMENT
IS 43% LESS

Unemployment, currently estimated at 8,500, is 43% less than last December's 15,000. A year ago there were 7,806 active claimants for unemployment benefits in the Houston office; this year's-end figure was 2,440. The file of active job-seekers in the Houston and Baytown offices totaled 6,834 at the last count as against 11,414 for December 1949.

Net demand of slightly more than 600 is expected in manufacturing to February, while reductions of about 4,500 are due in non-manufacturing following the holidays.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (War peak) | DECEMBER '49 | JULY '50 | DECEMBER '50 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 345,050 | 345,775 | 349,200 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 15,000 | 13,500 | 8,500 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 330,050 | 332,275 | 341,700 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 323,050* | 324,775 | 334,700 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 |

* Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, December 25, 1950

| | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN | NON-WHITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6834 | 4912 | 1922 | 1191 | 1671 |
| Professional & Managerial | 353 | 307 | 46 | 99 | 4 |
| Clerical & Sales | 1062 | 442 | 620 | 152 | 8 |
| Service | 1319 | 596 | 723 | 110 | 746 |
| Agricultural | 52 | 51 | 1 | 10 | 6 |
| Skilled | 1423 | 1368 | 55 | 272 | 42 |
| Semi-skilled | 1339 | 1070 | 269 | 292 | 238 |
| Unskilled | 1286 | 1078 | 208 | 256 | 627 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
December 1950

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 4461 | 1633* | 956* |
| Agricultural | 40 | INA | INA |
| Contract Construction | 492 | 6 | 148 |
| Manufacturing | 604 | 47 | 199 |
| Public Utilities | 148 | 6 | 45 |
| Wholesale & Retail Trade | 1713 | 790 | 297 |
| Service Industries | 406 | 188 | 66 |
| Private Households | 753 | 581 | 49 |
| All Other | 305 | 15 | 152 |

* Excluding agricultural placements

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VI, No. 2<br>February 1951 |

JANUARY UP
OVER NOVEMBER

January has seen a net gain of 2500 (0.8%) in estimated total non-agricultural employment over November in spite of a drop of 4450 (1.3%) under December. Employment of women is currently at the same total figure as for November and 3175 (3.1%) below December. The current total is 12,125, or 3.8% above January 1950.

A revised estimate of the December figure for retail trade made the net increase for this group add up to 4200 from November. A drop of an estimated 3850 netted a gain in total of 350 for the two-month period.

Manufacturing employment, up 200 from November to December, added another estimated 650 to January. Non-electric machinery topped with a gain of 400 and fabricated metal products was next with 200, followed by lumber and timber products with an estimated 100. Primary metals and chemicals each picked up an additional 50 workers.

To date, there are still only a few contracts for defense production being worked on in the area. Such contracts so far have called for little employment expansion and some are being handled with no additional staffing. However, the more or less immediate future is a different situation. Several major establishments are negotiating for contracts which, if finally settled, are of rather large proportions and will undoubtedly bring somewhat sharp increases in several industries.

DEMAND IS STILL
PROBLEMATICAL

Net demand is currently estimated at 750 to March, entirely contingent on the status of defense production contracts. Stated demand presently comes from ordnance, chemicals, primary metals, fabricated metals, machinery and retail trade. All, except in retail trade, is for male workers. The only currently anticipated force reduction is in some seasonal food processing, although it is possible that reductions may occur among fabricators, due to shortage of metals - an ever-present threat even to those whose output is considered most essentials.

UNEMPLOYMENT
FIGURE IS 9300

Unemployment is currently estimated at 9,300 against 8,500 in December. The active file of job seekers registered with the TEC rose from 6,834 in December to 8,399 in January, with the increase almost equally divided between male and female applicants.

Numerically adequate, the current supply has posed no great problems as far as filling demand is concerned. In spite of potential demand of presently unknown and possibly major proportions, very little alarm has been expressed by local employers. Many express intention of hiring women workers if and when it becomes advisable, since it is reasonably certain that a large pool of such workers exists outside the regular labor force, many of them already trained, others willing to be. In-migration also continues to be a profitable source of new workers of some types.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (War peak) | JANUARY '50 | AUGUST '50 | JANUARY '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 344,600 | 345,550 | 347,525 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 18,500 | 11,500 | 9,300 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 326,100 | 334,050 | 338,225 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 319,100* | 326,300 | 331,225 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 7,750 | 7,000 |

* Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, January 25, 1951

| | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN | NON-WHITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 8399 | 5724 | 2675 | 1406 | 2046 |
| Professional & Managerial | 442 | 392 | 50 | 157 | 7 |
| Clerical & Sales | 1334 | 529 | 805 | 175 | 5 |
| Service | 1729 | 720 | 1009 | 141 | 982 |
| Agricultural | 49 | 47 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Skilled | 1651 | 1556 | 95 | 321 | 77 |
| Semi-skilled | 1626 | 1232 | 394 | 327 | 281 |
| Unskilled | 1568 | 1248 | 320 | 277 | 686 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

January 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 4990 | 1854* | 1159* |
| Agricultural | 53 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 467 | 9 | 156 |
| Manufacturing | 707 | 74 | 304 |
| Public utilities | 317 | 19 | 116 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 1732 | 644 | 370 |
| Service industries | 662 | 319 | 131 |
| Private households | 925 | 766 | 39 |
| All other | 127 | 23 | 43 |

* Excluding agricultural placements

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VI, No. 3<br>March 1951 |
|---|---|---|

WOMEN WORKERS
INCREASE IN FEBRUARY

Not only did total non-agricultural employment increase an estimated 1,175 from January to February - 332,400 as against 331,225 - but the figure for women was up from 97,975 to 99,000. Of the 1,025 net gain for women, 825 was indicated in retail trade.

In manufacturing, eleven of the 17 industrial groups showed net gains totaling 625 and ranging from an estimated 25 each in petroleum refining and printing to 100 each in non-electric machinery and transportation equipment and 125 in primary metals. Three groups indicated small losses and three no measurable change.

RETAIL TRADE
GETS A BOOST

The 550 estimated net gain in non-manufacturing comes from four groups - crude petroleum production, construction, wholesale trade and retail trade. The actual gain in these four, estimated at 950, was partially offset by a relatively small decrease indicated in services allied to transportation.

The opening of two new and large retail stores, coupled with generally improved conditions throughout the general merchandise and apparel group, brought a substantial increase in the total retail estimate. Here, of course, was the bulk of increase in women workers. Not unnaturally the latter gain was in excess of total, due to the fact that, in many cases, separations of younger men are beginning to be replaced with women.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS AGAIN

Unemployment as of mid-February was estimated at 8,300, a thousand below January and slightly below December. The active files of job applicants with the Houston and Baytown TEC offices totaled 7,446 at the end of February as compared with 8399 at the end of January. Percentage of clerical and sales applicants and those qualified for service work rose slightly over the preceding month in relation to total. There was a slight drop in the percentage of skilled workers to total and the same was true of semi-skilled. Relationship of unskilled workers to total has varied little in the past three months.

Active claimants for unemployment benefits were 238 fewer at the end of February, a total of 2,772 for that time as compared with 3,010 at the end of January.

DEMAND TO APRIL
NEAR 1,000

Net demand to April, on the basis of still tenuous information, is currently estimated at approximately 950, mostly for men. Some of this involves defense contracts, which means the figure could change overnight, with the present fluid state of affairs. Barring material shortages, there are no force reductions anticipated other than seasonal drop in transportation.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (War Peak) | FEBRUARY '50 | SEPTEMBER '50 | FEBRUARY '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 343,800 | 347,350 | 347,700 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 18,500 | 10,500 | 8,300 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 325,300 | 336,850 | 339,400 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 318,300 | 328,850 | 332,400 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Feb. 25, 1951

| | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN | NON-WHITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 7443 | 5092 | 2351 | 1361 | 1929 |
| Professional & Managerial | 432 | 381 | 51 | 146 | 4 |
| Clerical & Sales | 1232 | 508 | 724 | 178 | 7 |
| Service | 1618 | 708 | 909 | 138 | 906 |
| Agricultural | 47 | 45 | 2 | 5 | 14 |
| Skilled | 1382 | 1303 | 79 | 251 | 57 |
| Semi-skilled | 1324 | 1002 | 322 | 241 | 268 |
| Unskilled | 1408 | 1144 | 264 | 402 | 673 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

| | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 4549 | 1590* | 936* |
| Agricultural | 50 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 421 | 10 | 136 |
| Manufacturing | 745 | 90 | 227 |
| Public utilities | 190 | 21 | 57 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 1638 | 572 | 323 |
| Service industries | 652 | 269 | 118 |
| Private households | 733 | 601 | 37 |
| All other | 120 | 27 | 38 |

*Excludes agricultural

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VI, No. 4<br>April 1 9 5 1 |
|---|---|---|

COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED NON-MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT, MARCH 1950 and 1951

Houston-Baytown Area

| MAJOR INDUSTRY | 1950 | 1951 |
|---|---|---|
| T O T A L | 318975* | 334250 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 68000 | 76575 |
| Food & kind. prods. | 10075 | 10375 |
| Textile mill prods. | 650 | 650 |
| Apparel & kindred | 2150 | 2200 |
| Lumber & wood prods. | 2125 | 2350 |
| Furniture & fixtures | 1900 | 2025 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 2025 | 2250 |
| Printing, pub.& allied | 3975 | 4075 |
| Chemicals & allied | 6300* | 7325 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 10950 | 10750 |
| Stone, clay, glass | 1900 | 2000 |
| Primary metals inds. | 4250 | 5650 |
| Fabricated met. prods. | 5575 | 7200 |
| Machinery (ex.elect.) | 11450 | 13725 |
| Electric machinery | 425 | 425 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 525 | 1450 |
| All other manufacturing | 3725 | 4125 |
| Non-manufacturing-Total | 250975 | 257675 |
| Mining (oil, gas, etc) | 13100 | 13900 |
| Construction | 21000 | 21700 |
| Transportation | 31650 | 32575 |
| Communications, util. | 11375 | 11425 |
| Wholesale trade | 19900 | 20375 |
| Retail trade | 60350 | 62575 |
| Finance, ins., rl.est. | 12800 | 13000 |
| Service industries | 28675 | 28500 |
| Medical, other prof. | 19775 | 20000 |
| Private households | 20000 | 20000 |
| Government estabs. | 12350 | 13625 |

*Revised

Estimated total non-agricultural employment in the area has increased 3,525 over the past 60 days, with 2,350 having been indicated since February. Female employment has gained an estimated 750 in the past 30 days. The current total is 4.8% above March 1950, while the 99,750 figure for women workers shows a gain of 2925 or 3.0% over the past 12 months.

Of the total net gain of 2,350 since February, 800 was in manufacturing and 1,550 in non-manufacturing - 800 of the latter in retail trade. Largest gainers among the manufacturing groups were ordnance (included in "all other") and ship repair, with seven other groups showing small increases. In addition to retail trade, among the non-manufacturing activities 300 workers have been added in the government group, largely municipal employees. Some increase has been noted in construction, service institutions, transportation services and others.

Unemployment is estimated at 7,500 for March, a drop of almost 20% since January. The active files of job applicants at the Houston and Baytown TEC offices numbered 8,399 in January, 7,446 in February, 5,673 at the end of March. Except for October 1950, percentage of women to total is the highest in over three years. Active claimants for unemployment benefits at the end of March totaled 2,215 as against 3010 in January.

Demand to May - still qualified - is estimated at 1,275, chiefly from ordnance, apparel, foods, furniture and fixtures, fabricated metals, machinery, construction and retail trade.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (War Peak) | MARCH '50 | OCTOBER '50 | MARCH '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 342,475 | 347,250 | 348,750 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 16,000 | 9,500 | 7,500 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 326.475 | 337,750 | 341,250 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 319,475 | 330,250 | 334,250 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, March 25, 1951

| | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN | NON-WHITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5673 | 3872 | 1891 | 890 | 1612 |
| Professional & Managerial | 317 | 269 | 48 | 115 | 3 |
| Clerical & Sales | 886 | 367 | 519 | 124 | 8 |
| Service | 1319 | 538 | 781 | 97 | 783 |
| Agricultural | 37 | 34 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| Skilled | 924 | 854 | 70 | 158 | 35 |
| Semi-skilled | 1025 | 733 | 292 | 181 | 200 |
| Unskilled | 1165 | 987 | 178 | 211 | 574 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
March 1951

| | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5561 | 1638* | 1312* |
| Agricultural | 43 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 667 | 12 | 182 |
| Manufacturing | 1172 | 81 | 418 |
| Public utilities | 323 | 16 | 82 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 1555 | 557 | 329 |
| Service industries | 851 | 317 | 184 |
| Private households | 910 | 634 | 70 |
| All other | 131 | 21 | 47 |

*Excludes agriculture

HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol. VI, No. 5
May 1951

## CURRENT TOTAL TOPS DECEMBER

The current total of 335,450 for non-agricultural employment is slightly above the past December's holiday peak, although the 99,825 for women is somewhat below the December figure. April shows a gain in total over March estimated at 1,200 - 500 in manufacturing and 700 in non-manufacturing - while the number of women workers showed little change.

## HEAVY INDUSTRY NOT ADDING WOMEN

To date, women workers have accounted for only 1,850 of the estimated 4,275 increase in total since January, with 1,675 of that number indicated in non-manufacturing activities. Apparently, there has been no need to utilize women workers in heavy industry, although many employers have indicated their willingness to do so if and when it becomes advisable. All signs point to at least an equal willingness on the part of the women to take such jobs when they become available.

## DEFENSE CONTRACTS AFFECT DEMAND

Some 50 firms in the area are engaged in various phases of defense activity. Until the past 60 days, most of the local contracts were small and have made no significant impression on the employment situation. However, new contracts have been awarded recently which will increase the demand for so-called defense workers. The uncertain state of these larger contracts has made the forecast of future demand erratic at best. Current figures, prepared for mid-April, show total net demand of 350 to June, with 1,000 to August. It is now highly probable that the June figure will be somewhat in excess of this estimate. At the present time, all known demand is for male workers.

## UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE 7500

The estimate of unemployed - 7,500 - for April remains unchanged from March. The active files of job-seekers in the Houston and Baytown TEC offices totaled 6,194, of which 2,216 were women, at the end of the current month, a slight increase over last month. Relationships, percentage-wise, of the broad occupational groups to total are as follows: 5.1% professional and technical, 16.8% clerical and sales, 23.4% service, 0.7% agricultural, 15.6% skilled, 18.3% semi-skilled and 20.1% unskilled. Since January, the files have shown an increase in percentage of service and unskilled workers and a decrease in percentage of skilled.

Claimants for unemployment benefits totaled 2,041 at the end of April, the lowest figure since October 1948 and approximately 1,000 below the January total. During April, 789 initial claims were filed, compared with 958 in February and 1,510 during January.

Graduates and other students will be joining the labor force later in May.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | APRIL '50 | NOVEMBER '50 | APRIL '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 343,225 | 345,225 | 349,950 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 15,500 | 10,000 | 7,500 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 327,725 | 335,225 | 342,450 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 320,475 | 328,225 | 335,450 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,250 | 7,000 | 7,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, April 25, 1951

| | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN | NON-WHITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6194 | 3978 | 2216 | 922 | 1801 |
| Professional & Managerial | 315 | 278 | 37 | 96 | 3 |
| Clerical & Sales | 1039 | 401 | 638 | 127 | 7 |
| Service | 1457 | 521 | 936 | 98 | 948 |
| Agricultural | 41 | 38 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| Skilled | 967 | 880 | 87 | 182 | 45 |
| Semi-skilled | 1131 | 827 | 304 | 203 | 197 |
| Unskilled | 1244 | 1033 | 211 | 212 | 592 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
April 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6176 | 1969* | 1332* |
| Agricultural | 125 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 681 | 23 | 209 |
| Manufacturing | 1099 | 102 | 404 |
| Public utilities | 228 | 22 | 83 |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 1959 | 725 | 354 |
| Service industries | 842 | 296 | 142 |
| Private households | 1087 | 786 | 93 |
| All other | 155 | 15 | 47 |

* Excludes agriculture

HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol. VI, No. 6
June 1951

EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
UP ANOTHER 3,270

Total employment is estimated to have increased 3,270 since April, of which 1,770 was in non-agricultural and 1,500 in farm activities. Estimates for women are up about 400 over April.

In netting a gain of 470 in manufacturing, eight industrial groups showed gains aggregating almost 800, four indicated losses of around 300, while six remained the same.

Largest gain was in ordnance, followed by non-electric machinery and transportation equipment. Pick-up in chemicals, primary metals and miscellaneous was small and of no particular significance. But petroleum refining showed its first net gain since December 1949.

The four declining industries were fabricated metals, food processing, apparel, and stone, clay and glass. Food and apparel were due to seasonal factors.

The non-manufacturing increase of 1300 is divided between transportation and allied services, construction and business services, with very small gains in oil production and government. Four groups had insignificant losses.

DEMAND TO JULY
ESTIMATED AT 2790

Demand to July, estimated at a total of 2,790, contains a figure of 1,640 for expansion. This expansion demand, based on current information, comes from ordnance, food processing, chemicals, fabricated metals, non-electric machinery, electrical machinery, transportation services, service industries and government.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP SLIGHTLY

Unemployment is currently set at 7,900, an increase of 400 over March and April. This was due largely to students seeking work prior to the closing of school on June 1. More students have entered the labor market temporarily since that time, but most of those who do not find jobs immediately will probably withdraw by July.

Active job applications on file in the TEC offices totaled 6,099 on May 25 as compared with 6,194 on April 25. Percentage of women to total dropped from 35.8% in April to 32.1% in May. Along broad occupational lines, the professional and technical group has remained between 5.1% and 5.8% of total for the past 12 months. Currently, the clerical and sales applicants are 17.1% of total as compared with March's 15.6%, while service workers are 20.4% as against 23.3% in March. The skilled group has shown no noticeable variation, while semi-skilled and unskilled workers have each increased approximately 1.0% in relation to total in the past 60 days.

There appears to be every likelihood of achieving presently anticipated demand, both known and potential, from the available supply of workers.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | MAY '50 | DECEMBER '50 | MAY '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 341,975 | 350,675 | 353,620 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 13,500 | 8,500 | 7,900 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 328,475 | 342,175 | 345,720 |
| Non-Agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 320,975 | 335,175 | 337,220 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 | 8,500 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, May 25, 1951

| | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN | NON-WHITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6099 | 4145 | 1954 | 942 | 1723 |
| Professional & Managerial | 324 | 293 | 41 | 100 | 4 |
| Clerical & Sales | 1041 | 420 | 621 | 119 | 6 |
| Service | 1245 | 557 | 688 | 100 | 799 |
| Agricultural | 28 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Skilled | 964 | 889 | 75 | 173 | 52 |
| Semi-skilled | 1177 | 883 | 294 | 219 | 245 |
| Unskilled | 1310 | 1075 | 235 | 231 | 610 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
May 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 9433 | 1977* | 1398* |
| Agricultural | 3076 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 740 | 25 | 204 |
| Manufacturing | 1171 | 94 | 359 |
| Public utilities | 257 | 25 | 90 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1938 | 653 | 382 |
| Service industries | 936 | 234 | 213 |
| Private households | 1154 | 828 | 105 |
| All other | 161 | 28 | 45 |

* Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VI, No. 7<br>JULY 1951 |


COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, JUNE 1950 and 1951

Houston-Baytown Area

| MAJOR INDUSTRY | JUNE '50 | JUNE '51 |
|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 322575* | 337770 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 70175 | 78095 |
| Food & kind. prods. | 10475 | 10450 |
| Textile mill prods. | 675 | 670 |
| Apparel & kindred | 1875 | 2075 |
| Lumber & wood prods. | 2150 | 2400 |
| Furniture & fixtures | 1900 | 2100 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 2075 | 2250 |
| Printing, pub. & allied | 3975 | 4100 |
| Chemicals & allied | 6300* | 7425 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 11000 | 10835 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 1950 | 2050 |
| Primary metal inds. | 4450 | 5500 |
| Fabricated metal prods. | 6225 | 7125 |
| Machinery (ex.elect.) | 12250 | 14275 |
| Electric machinery | 450 | 570 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 675 | 1475 |
| All other mfg. | 3750 | 4795 |
| Non-manufacturing-Total | 252400 | 259675 |
| Mining | 13350 | 14300 |
| Construction | 21150 | 22200 |
| Transportation & allied | 31275 | 33000 |
| Commun. & utilities | 11625 | 11525 |
| Wholesale trade | 20050 | 20400 |
| Retail trade | 60775 | 62400 |
| Finance, ins.,rl.est. | 12850 | 12875 |
| Service industries | 28675 | 29025 |
| Professional services | 19825 | 19950 |
| Private households | 20000 | 20000 |
| Government estabs. | 12825 | 14000 |

* Revised

A nice series of gains scattered throughout the manufacturing classifications and in four non-manufacturing groups netted a gain in estimated total of 550 during the past 30 days. This was in spite of losses in three groups aggregating 650, the bulk of which was a seasonal drop in retail trade.

Manufacturing groups which indicated increases totaling 50 or more workers were ordnance, food processing, chemicals, petroleum refining, stone, clay and glass, fabricated metal products, non-electric machinery and furniture and fixtures. In addition, smaller gains were made by four other groups. Primary metals dropped approximately 100, transportation equipment 75 and miscellaneous manufacturing 60.

Gaining among non-manufacturing activities were crude oil production, transportation and allied services, utilities and government.

Expansion demand to August is currently estimated at 1,625, with 2,660 to October. Current manufacturing demand is low except in ordnance and fabricated metals, while non-manufacturing increases are expected in transportation services, retail trade and service industries.

Estimated unemployment went up to 8,500 with entrance into the labor market of a large number of students, some still trying to find jobs. The active file of job seekers increased by 1,623. Number of job placements totaled 6,348 for June, a gain over May. Active claimants for unemployment benefits totaled 1,762 at month's end.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (War peak) | JUNE '50 | JANUARY '51 | JUNE '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 345,075 | 344,600 | 354,270 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 15,000 | 18,500 | 8,500 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 330,075 | 326,100 | 345,770 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 322,575 | 319,100 | 337,770 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 | 8,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown TEC Offices, June 1951

| | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN | NON-WHITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 7722 | 4921 | 2801 | 995 | ~~2097~~ 2190 |
| Professional & Managerial | 420 | 360 | 60 | 155 | 7 |
| Clerical & Sales | 1558 | 613 | 945 | 132 | 9 |
| Service | 1790 | 692 | 1098 | 106 | 1214 |
| Agricultural | 44 | 44 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| Skilled | 1084 | 994 | 90 | 164 | 46 |
| Semi-skilled | 1418 | 1056 | 362 | 198 | 291 |
| Unskilled | 1408 | 1162 | 246 | 237 | 613 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - Houston-Baytown
June 1951

| | TOTAL ~~MALE~~ | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 8033 | 2197* | 1315* |
| Agricultural | 1584 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 675 | 22 | 176 |
| Manufacturing | 1198 | 103 | 343 |
| Public utilities | 281 | 18 | 91 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1852 | 651 | 343 |
| Service industries | 903 | 356 | 212 |
| Private households | 1365 | 994 | 112 |
| All other | 175 | 53 | 38 |

* Excludes agricultural

HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA-- 9331 | Vol. VI, No. 8<br>August 1951 |
|---|---|---|


### TOTAL IS UP FOR NICE GAIN

Total non-agricultural employment in the area has increased an estimated 1820 over the past 60 days, more than 1,000 of this pick-up taking place in the past month. A total of 338,840 was estimated for July. Employment of women shows a gain also, estimated at a little more than 750 for the 60-day period.

The total non-agricultural gain was roughly divided one-third in manufacturing and two-thirds in non-manufacturing. Agricultural employment has indicated little variation in the past 30 days.

Over the past 60 days, several manufacturing groups have shown small declines and retail trade lost a little. Nice gains were indicated in ordnance, petroleum refining, non-electric machinery, crude oil production, construction and service establishments, while several other manufacturing groups showed smaller gains. A decrease in total was indicated by fabricated metals and ship repair.

### FORECAST TREND IS UPWARD

Ten manufacturing and four non-manufacturing groups are presently stating demand to September and November. Expansion demand to September is currently estimated at 1860. Defense production plays a part in only five of these groups - ordnance, non-electric machinery, fabricated metal products, miscellaneous manufacturing and repair services. In each of these, all or most of the increase from that cause comes from a single establishment. No other defense production demand is of any consequence, and the remaining gains are expected to result from normal expansion.

### UNEMPLOYMENT SAME AS JUNE

The estimate of unemployment for July remains at 8,500, no change over June. Total of active job applications in the Houston and Baytown TEC office files totaled 7,828 at the end of July, a slight increase over June. Percentage of women applicants to total, which rose in June over May, fell again in July. Occupationally, percentage of technical and professional workers to total increased about 2% over May and that of clerical and sales applicants 1.6%. The ratio of domestic workers to total dropped 4.4%, while the remaining groups were practically unchanged.

Active claimants for unemployment benefits, numbering 1,821 at the end of June, dropped to 1,577 at the end of July.

### SUPPLY IS STILL ADEQUATE

There is still no indication of the area's supply not being equal to known demand. Of course, certain skills are short but these are nation-wide stringencies. Qualified inmigrants are a constant source of supply and the area is heavily cushioned by an untapped reservoir of women who have been either wholly or partially trained by their experience during the last war, plus many who are willing to be trained.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | JULY '50 | FEBRUARY '51 | JULY '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 345,275 | 347,200 | 355,340 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 13,500 | 8,300 | 8,500 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 331,775 | 338,900 | 346,840 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 324,275 | 331,900 | 338,840 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 | 8,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, July 25, 1951

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 7828 | 5214 | 2614 | 1123 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 575 | 526 | 49 | 182 |
| Clerical and sales | 1694 | 631 | 1063 | 158 |
| Service | 1482 | 631 | 851 | 97 |
| Agricultural | 40 | 40 | 0 | 7 |
| Skilled | 1116 | 1038 | 78 | 222 |
| Semi-skilled | 1510 | 1160 | 350 | 214 |
| Unskilled | 1411 | 1188 | 223 | 243 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
July 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6981 | 1915* | 1360* |
| Agricultural | 716 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 941 | 22 | 281 |
| Manufacturing | 1226 | 117 | 367 |
| Public utilities | 264 | 41 | 92 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1562 | 548 | 266 |
| Service industries | 991 | 301 | 229 |
| Private households | 1140 | 855 | 84 |
| All other | 141 | 31 | 41 |

*Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol. VI, No. 9
September 1951

### AUGUST SHOWS SLIGHTLY LOSS

Due to a reduction in non-manufacturing activity estimated at approximately 800, the total employment figure of 338,225 in August represents a net loss of slightly more than 300 over the past 30 days.

Largest single factor in this situation, not unexpected, was a drop of 600 workers in estimated total for construction. Reductions in force over the past 30 and 60 days were reported to the TEC by contractors of every type. Gains reported were also throughout the industry but all were small.

Both transportation services and retail trade declined slightly - approximately 250 each, and both seasonal. Many retail stores report that even though business is far from good - or even very bad, they prefer to keep their regular staffs rather than risk not getting laid-off personnel back when wanted. Other outlets have added extras for August sales.

Five non-manufacturing groups indicated very small gains.

### MANUFACTURING GAINS ALMOST 500

Manufacturing, sparked by the nonelectric machinery group, has gained an estimated 480 net over the past 30 days, with no declines indicated. More than 60% of the total gain came from oil tool manufacturers, while the remainder was scattered among seven industrial groups.

### OCTOBER DEMAND INDICATES RISE

Based on August reporting, expansion demand to October, currently estimated at approximately 2,600, represents a rising trend only partially seasonal. In rounded numbers, manufacturing is expected to require 1200 and non-manufacturing 1400. Only food processing and transportation services demands are seasonal, representing a little less than 25% of the total. The only presently anticipated loss will probably occur in construction. Manufacturing industries in which establishments have stated demand include food processing, apparel and finished products, chemicals, petroleum refining, primary metals, fabricated metal, machinery, electrical machinery, ship repair and ordnance. Almost one-third of the 1200 total is for women, centered in food processing, apparel and ordnance.

### UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS SLIGHTLY

The August estimate of 8,300 unemployed is slightly below the July and June figure. A drop of 1529 in active job seekers in the Houston and Baytown TEC offices took place between July 25 and August 25 and nonagricultural job placements increased slightly in the same period. Farm placements skyrocketed from 716 in July to 10,248 in the current month. The latter figure, however, includes many crews of workers placed more than once during the month. Both construction and transportation workers as a rule go to the cotton fields during off-season. New claims for unemployment benefits continue at the rate of less than 700 a month.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | AUGUST '50 | MARCH '51 | AUGUST '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 345,050 | 348,750 | 355,525 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 11,500 | 7,500 | 8,300 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 333,550 | 341,250 | 347,225 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 325,800 | 334,250 | 338,225 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,750 | 7,000 | 9,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Aug. 25, 1951

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6299 | 4158 | 2141 | 1009 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 426 | 399 | 27 | 142 |
| Clerical and sales | 1046 | 448 | 598 | 140 |
| Service | 1455 | 598 | 857 | 97 |
| Agricultural | 10 | 10 | 0 | 1 |
| Skilled | 1029 | 949 | 80 | 222 |
| Semi-skilled | 1275 | 911 | 364 | 224 |
| Unskilled | 1058 | 843 | 215 | 183 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
August 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 16575 | 2224* | 1205* |
| Agricultural | 10251 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 825 | 17 | 224 |
| Manufacturing | 1263 | 123 | 376 |
| Public utilities | 275 | 20 | 83 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1823 | 689 | 303 |
| Service industries | 761 | 383 | 111 |
| Private households | 1189 | 956 | 64 |
| All other | 188 | 36 | 44 |

*Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VI, No. 10<br>October 1951 |
|---|---|---|

EMPLOYMENT UP
ALMOST 1500

September's estimate of 339,690 total non-agricultural employment is 1,465 over the August figure, an 0.4% gain for the past 30 days and 0.3% over July. Employment of women increased slightly more than 400 over July and approximately 500 over estimates for August.

Net increase in total over the past twelve months has amounted to a healthy 11,340, or 3.5%, while women workers have gained an estimated 3,220 (3.3%) during the same period.

MANUFACTURING
GAINS STEADILY

Manufacturing continues to gain steadily, with September showing an estimated pick-up of almost 600 over August. The largest increase was in the food processing group, followed by ordnance, while smaller gains were indicated in chemicals, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery and others.

Non-manufacturing activities which took a loss in August, indicated an estimated gain of 880 over the past 30 days. There has been a seasonal gain in trucking and warehousing, and the loss in retail trade sustained in August was recouped in September with a little to spare.

NOVEMBER DEMAND
ESTIMATED AT 3260

Total expansion demand to November, estimated at 3,260, provides for a little more than half of this number to be utilized as "holiday extras". In the understandable absence of any forecast on the part of employers, this estimate is made solely upon the basis of last year's experience.

Manufacturing is currently expected to add just short of a thousand to total, with almost 60% as stated demand in two industry groups - ordnance and fabricated metals. A small increase is anticipated by seven other groups.

Some further decline in the number of construction workers is expected to November.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN AGAIN

The current unemployment estimate of 8,000 is 300 below August. No students remained among the unemployed and a number of construction workers followed the usual habit of going to the cotton fields.

While TEC agricultural job placements were just a little more than half of the August figure, non-agricultural placements totaled 7,240 in the Houston and Baytown offices for September as compared with 6,324 made during August.

A total of 5,435 active job applications on hand at the end of September was 864 below the August figure. During the past month, skilled workers have risen in ratio to total while service workers have dropped. No significant change has occurred elsewhere. Active claimants dropped to 1,549.

Demand and supply continue to be well balanced, with no indication that the situation will be changed in the foreseeable future.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | SEPT. '50 | APRIL '51 | SEPT. '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 346,850 | 349,950 | 355,690 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 10,500 | 7,500 | 8,000 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 336,350 | 342,450 | 347,690 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 328,350 | 335,450 | 339,690 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Sept. 25, 1951

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5435 | 3683 | 1752 | 915 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 339 | 306 | 33 | 113 |
| Clerical and sales | 854 | 339 | 455 | 146 |
| Service | 1182 | 513 | 669 | 76 |
| Agricultural | 32 | 32 | 0 | 3 |
| Skilled | 982 | 892 | 90 | 225 |
| Semi-skilled | 1078 | 768 | 310 | 184 |
| Unskilled | 968 | 773 | 195 | 168 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
September 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 12659 | 2441* | 1422* |
| Agricultural | 5419 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 856 | 19 | 206 |
| Manufacturing | 1403 | 148 | 461 |
| Public utilities | 508 | 29 | 133 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1953 | 775 | 319 |
| Service industries | 942 | 382 | 169 |
| Private households | 1309 | 1056 | 59 |
| All other | 269 | 32 | 75 |

* Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol. VI, No. 11
November 1951

COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, OCTOBER 1950 and 1951

Houston-Baytown Area

| MAJOR INDUSTRY | OCT. '50 | OCT. '51 |
|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 329740 | 340155 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 74140 | 80580 |
| Ordnance | 0 | 2115 |
| Food & kind. prods. | 10400 | 10665 |
| Textile mill prods. | 675 | 555 |
| Apparel & kindred | 2150 | 2165 |
| Lumber & wood prods. | 2275 | 2350 |
| Furniture & fixtures | 2000 | 2090 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 2125 | 2260 |
| Printing, pub. & allied | 4000 | 4160 |
| Chemicals & allied | 7165 | 7420 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 10800 | 11000 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 2000 | 2000 |
| Primary metals | 5325 | 5655 |
| Fabricated metal prods. | 6925 | 7065 |
| Machinery (ex.elect.) | 13050 | 15000 |
| Electric machinery | 450 | 600 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 1000 | 1550 |
| All other mfg. | 3800 | 3930 |
| Non-manufacturing-Total | 255600 | 259575 |
| Mining | 13900 | 14525 |
| Construction | 21350 | 21600 |
| Transportation & allied | 32875 | 33300 |
| Commun. & utilities | 11550 | 11400 |
| Wholesale trade | 20150 | 20400 |
| Retail trade | 61600 | 62810 |
| Finance, ins., rl. est. | 12900 | 12925 |
| Service industries | 28675 | 28650 |
| Professional services | 19950 | 20200 |
| Private households | 20000 | 20000 |
| Government estabs. | 12650 | 13765 |

A 3.2% gain in estimated total employment in the area over the past 12 months is to be seen by comparison of the current estimates with those of a year ago. During the same period, employment of women rose from an estimated 98,325 to a current figure of 101,330, an increase of 31.%.

Approximately 62% of the total net pickup was in manufacturing, led by ordnance and non-electric machinery. The latter group is now within 125 of its all-time high of December 1948. Ordnance activities, dormant since the war, were resumed in the early part of this year. Nice gains have been shown in chemicals and primary metals, as well as in ship repair. The latter group varies greatly from day to day, due to workload demands.

The 1200 gain in retail trade is tops in the non-manufacturing classification and crude oil production activity has shown increase. Medical Center progress is reflected in added employment in the professional group.

UNEMPLOYMENT
REMAINS AT 8000

Current estimate of 8,000 unemployed remains unchanged from the previous month. Active job applications in the two area TEC offices totaled 558 more at the end of October than in September, with most of the gain in women applicants. Active claimants for unemployment benefits had dropped to 1,350 at the end of October.

Demand to December has been tentatively estimated at 5,660 - about 4,500 holiday extras. Supply promises to be adequate.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | OCT. '50 | MAY '51 | OCT. '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 346,750 | 353,120 | 355,655 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 9,500 | 7,900 | 8 000 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 337,240 | 345,220 | 347,655 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 329,740 | 336,720 | 340,155 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,500 | 8,500 | 7,500 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Oct. 25, 1951

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5993 | 3819 | 2174 | 902 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 398 | 345 | 53 | 123 |
| Clerical and sales | 1070 | 411 | 659 | 121 |
| Service | 1476 | 622 | 854 | 108 |
| Agricultural | 9 | 9 | 0 | 1 |
| Skilled | 980 | 908 | 72 | 193 |
| Semi-skilled | 1096 | 756 | 340 | 195 |
| Unskilled | 964 | 768 | 196 | 166 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
October 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 8337 | 2310* | 1356* |
| Agricultural | 1251 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 1117 | 8 | 282 |
| Manufacturing | 1265 | 183 | 359 |
| Public utilities | 403 | 32 | 102 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1988 | 750 | 352 |
| Service industries | 837 | 346 | 130 |
| Private households | 1253 | 948 | 81 |
| All other | 223 | 43 | 50 |

* Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol. VI, No.12
December 1951

NON-AGRICULTURAL
TOTAL UP AGAIN

Total non-agricultural employment in the area has shown a further increase over the past 30 days estimated at 1,600 (0.5%). A further drop in agricultural activity has brought farm employment back to its non-seasonal level. Total of women workers is an estimated 1,060 (1.0%) above the October figure. Against November 1950, total employment estimates are up 13,015 (4.7%), while those for women have netted a gain of 4,415 or 4.5%.

MANUFACTURING
LEADS AGAIN

For the second successive month, manufacturing activities accounted for the greater portion of the total net gain. However, practically all of the net increase in women workers occurred in non-manufacturing, centered in retail trade. Ordnance headed the list of increasing industries, followed by machinery, ship repair, fabricated metals, chemicals and others. Seasonal losses were noted in food processing. In non-manufacturing, gains in retail trade due to early buying served to offset declines indicated in construction and in trucking and warehousing.

Unemployment is currently estimated to be about 7,800, 200 below October. Active job applications in the TEC files at the end of November totaled 6,175, including 2405 women. Active claimants for unemployment benefits, totaling 1,489 at the end of November, rose slightly over October while remaining below the two-months-ago figure.

DEMAND SLACKENS
TO FIRST OF YEAR

Expansion demand to January is currently estimated at approximately 985, with 615 to March. Cut-backs are expected in some seasonal industries, which should offset expansion to net the usual decline in total employment which is the trend at this time of year. Supply remains ample.

* * * * * * * *

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, COMPARED WITH 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (War Peak) | NOV. '50 | JUNE '51 | NOV. '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 345,215 | 353,970 | 356,555 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 10,000 | 8,500 | 7,800 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 335,215 | 345,470 | 348,755 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 328,215 | 337,470 | 341,755 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 |

## TIMELY TAX INFORMATION

$3,000 WAGE BASE FOR
UNEMPLOYMENT TAX IS UNCHANGED

Only the first $3,000 of wages paid for employment in a calendar year is taxable under the TUC Act. The Texas law (and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act - the annual .3% tax) were NOT changed when Congress increased the limit of wages to $3,600 under the social security law. In order to avoid overpayment of taxes and troublesome adjustments, employers should be careful to report to Texas no more than $3,000 for employment in 1951.

EMPLOYERS WITH MULTI-STATE
EMPLOYMENT GET A BREAK IN TEXAS

Wages in excess of $3,000 paid to an employee in a calendar year are not taxable in Texas, even though the tax on part of the $3,000 is paid to another state. Example: Employer pays employee $2,000 for service in Oklahoma and $1,500 for service in Texas in 1951. If the employer pays tax to Oklahoma on the $2,000 wages paid for Oklahoma service, tax on only the first $1,000 of the wages paid for Texas service is due the T.E.C. The remaining wages of $500 are tax free.

### NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

Additional information may be obtained from the T.E.C. office in Room 210 at 3104 Main Street. Trained auditors are available to help employers adjust reports that may have been filed incorrectly.

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, November 25, 1951

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6175 | 3770 | 2405 | 849 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 302 | 257 | 45 | 77 |
| Clerical and sales | 1336 | 418 | 918 | 107 |
| Service | 1460 | 614 | 846 | 95 |
| Agricultural | 34 | 34 | 0 | 5 |
| Skilled | 831 | 735 | 96 | 183 |
| Semi-skilled | 1097 | 779 | 318 | 180 |
| Unskilled | 1115 | 933 | 182 | 202 |

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson | 701 Bell Avenue | Vol. VII, No. 1 |
| District Director | Phone CA - 9331 | January, 1952 |



COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, NOVEMBER 1951 and DECEMBER 1951

Houston-Baytown Area

| MAJOR INDUSTRY | Nov. 51 | Dec. 51 |
|---|---|---|
| T O T A L | 341330 | 346920 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 81440 | 81290 |
| Ordnance | 2570 | 2700 |
| Food & kind. prods. | 10465 | 10365 |
| Textile mill prods. | 640 | 640 |
| Apparel & kindred | 2165 | 2190 |
| Lumber & wood prods. | 2365 | 2365 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 2125 | 2125 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 2280 | 2335 |
| Printing, pub. & allied | 4100 | 4225 |
| Chemicals & allied | 7485 | 7485 |
| Prods of petroleum | 11040 | 10885 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 2000 | 2050 |
| Primary metals | 5655 | 5655 |
| Fabricated metal prods. | 7260 | 7260 |
| Machinery (ex.elect.) | 15150 | 15110 |
| Electric machinery | 600 | 610 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 1650 | 1400 |
| All other mfg. | 3890 | 3890 |
| Non-manufacturing - Total | 259890 | 265630 |
| Mining | 14525 | 14525 |
| Construction | 21350 | 21500 |
| Transportation & allied | 32900 | 32900 |
| Commun. & Utilities | 10930 | 10910 |
| Wholesale trade | 20400 | 20600 |
| Retail trade | 64310 | 69210 |
| Finance, ins., rl.est. | 13000 | 13125 |
| Service industries | 28650 | 28650 |
| Professional services | 20250 | 20300 |
| Private households | 20000 | 20000 |
| Government estabs. | 13515 | 13910 |

December showed a decided increase in employment over November. 1.6% was the gain. Non-manufacturing industries gained 2.2% while manufacturing industries lost slightly. The biggest increase was in retail trade (7.6%) as could be expected due to the Christmas rush. The great majority of the workers was only interested in temporary work and has already returned to the homes and schools from where they were recruited. As could be expected women accounted for most of this increase. Their employment increased 4070 or 4% over November.

Of the manufacturing industries, ordnance continued its slow but steady increase, affecting to some extent small losses suffered by petroleum and food products.

### FUTURE DEMAND UP IN MANUFACTURING

Though the total peak employment in December will be expected to drop back to normalcy, manufacturing industries may show a steady increase for the next 4 months. As could be expected, over 50% of this will fall in one group - ordnance.

### UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS SHARPLY IN DECEMBER

The holiday rush covered a temporary drop in unemployment from 8000 in November to 7000 in December. The near future will see an increase in unemployment. It is estimated that the peak will be reached in February with 8500 workers seeking employment. Likewise the number of claimants for unemployment benefits is expected to increase. Claimants increased in December from 1350 (in Nov.) to 1597 due to minor lay-offs in various industries.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | DEC. '50 | JULY '51 | DEC. '51 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 350,640 | 355,340 | 360,920 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 7,000 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 342,140 | 346,840 | 353,920 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 335,140 | 338,840 | 346,920 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Dec. 25, 1951

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5234 | 3548 | 1686 | 786 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 266 | 236 | 30 | 65 |
| Clerical and sales | 826 | 317 | 509 | 98 |
| Service | 1122 | 495 | 627 | 82 |
| Agricultural | 30 | 30 | 0 | 3 |
| Skilled | 1061 | 1004 | 57 | 220 |
| Semi-skilled | 967 | 668 | 299 | 148 |
| Unskilled | 962 | 798 | 164 | 170 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
December 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5783 | 2234* | 1229* |
| Agricultural | 33 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 509 | 14 | 148 |
| Manufacturing | 1103 | 92 | 381 |
| Public utilities | 150 | 13 | 37 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2044 | 992 | 294 |
| Service industries | 503 | 196 | 102 |
| Private households | 818 | 671 | 30 |
| All other | 623 | 256 | 237 |

* Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol.VII, No. 2
February 1952

EMPLOYMENT BACK
TO NOVEMBER LEVEL

Total estimated nonagricultural employment (341,290) returned in January to a figure almost identical with that of November after the December increase that topped all previous records. Estimates added up to a net loss of 40 in total against November, while employment of women netted a gain of 385 (0.4%). Over the past 12 months, total gain is estimated 10,920 (3.9%), with women workers chalking up a gain of 4,030 or 4.1% for the year.

While total remained practically the same, there was some shifting industrially during the 60-day period. Manufacturing total picked up 955 with non-manufacturing losing 995. Since December, however, gain in manufacturing estimates totaled 1105, with non-manufacturing showing a seasonal drop of 6735, mostly in trade groups.

In the past 60 days, ordnance has added a little more than 650, while non- electric machinery, after dropping 50 from November to December, picked up 325 from December to January. The apparel group gained 135 over the 60-day period. Some small employment losses have been shown in the fabricating group due to material shortages, but the group as a whole showed a small net gain.

In non-manufacturing, net gains over November were shown in construction, wholesale trade, finance, insurance and real estate, and governmental establishments. Seasonal drop occurred in trucking and warehousing, in crude oil production and in laundries. Retail sales total showed a net gain estimated at 325 over October, before holiday hiring was begun.

1100 INCREASE IN
UNEMPLOYMENT

Current estimate of unemployed - 8100 - is 1100 above the rock-bottom low of 7000 in December but only 300 above the November figure. The increase largely consists of persons who entered the labor force for holiday employment and who have remained in it as job seekers after being laid off. Active files of job seekers in the TEC offices in Houston and Baytown at the end of January totaled 6437, with 2144 women, as compared with 5234 total and 1686 women in December. Active claimants for unemployment benefits totaled 1983 at the end of January as compared with 1598 in December and 1489 in November.

SMALL INCREASES
CURRENTLY PREDICTED

Current forecast is for a net increase of a little less than 500 in March and approximately 100 additional to May, based on an anticipated increase of 610 to March and 910 to May in manufacturing and a net loss of 150 to March and 325 to May in non-manufacturing. Chief manufacturing demand is expected from ordnance, with fabricated metal products and non-electric machinery next. Recent developments in retail trade, however, indicate that reductions in that group might pull the total down.

Of major significance in consideration of the adequacy of the area's labor supply has been the very sizeable increases in employment in the ordnance and non-electric machinery groups in the past 60 days without apparent drain on the available supply. Demand continues to be met, regardless of its type or size, though some skills are short.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | JAN. '51 | AUG. '51 | JAN. '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 346,625 | 355,525 | 356,390 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 9,300 | 8,300 | 8,100 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 337,325 | 347,225 | 348,290 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 330,325 | 338,225 | 341,290 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 9,000 | 7,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, January 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6437 | 4293 | 2144 | 1076 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 345 | 298 | 47 | 106 |
| Clerical and sales | 957 | 302 | 655 | 104 |
| Service | 1432 | 572 | 860 | 100 |
| Agricultural | 34 | 34 | 0 | 2 |
| Skilled | 1167 | 1075 | 92 | 259 |
| Semi-skilled | 1153 | 848 | 305 | 231 |
| Unskilled | 1349 | 1164 | 185 | 274 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
January 1951

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5966 | 2264* | 1169* |
| Agricultural | 140 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 500 | 6 | 150 |
| Manufacturing | 1235 | 123 | 396 |
| Public utilities | 242 | 30 | 64 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1802 | 735 | 313 |
| Service industries | 758 | 408 | 111 |
| Private households | 1069 | 923 | 36 |
| All other | 220 | 39 | 99 |

* Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VII, No.3<br>March 1952 |


COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED NON - AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, FEB. '52 and SEPT. '51

Houston-Baytown Area

| MAJOR INDUSTRY | FEB.'52 | SEPT.'51 |
|---|---|---|
| T O T A L | 340995 | 339265* |
| Manufacturing - Total | 82490 | 79655 |
| Ordnance | 3395 | 1770 |
| Food & kind. prods. | 10465 | 10525 |
| Textile mill prods. | 645 | 585 |
| Apparel & kindred | 2315 | 2180 |
| Lumber & timber prods. | 2365 | 2350 |
| Furniture & fixtures | 2160 | 2090 |
| Printing & publishing | 4150 | 4125 |
| Chemicals & allied | 7685 | 7420 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 10800 | 10950 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 2035 | 2000 |
| Primary metals | 5625 | 5620 |
| Fabricated metal prods. | 7345 | 7040 |
| Machinery (ex. elect.) | 15285 | 14900 |
| Electric machinery | 655 | 600 |
| Transportation equip. | 1290 | 1370 |
| Other manufacturing | 3950 | 3855 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 258505 | 259610* |
| Mining | 14425 | 14525 |
| Construction | 21500 | 22100 |
| Transportation & allied | 32800 | 33150 |
| Commun. & utilities | 10690 | 11060* |
| Wholesale trade | 20500 | 20500 |
| Retail trade | 63835 | 62660 |
| Finance, ins., rl. est. | 13000 | 13000 |
| Service industries | 28300 | 28650 |
| Professional services | 20525 | 20200 |
| Private households | 20000 | 20000 |
| Governmental | 13930 | 13765 |

* Revised

During the past 30 days, a very small net gain in total for manufacturing was offset by a proportionately small decline in non-manufacturing, resulting in the loss of 295 in estimated total. Employment of women in manufacturing has been showing a small gain each month since last May. At that time, the estimated total for women workers stood at 11,095, as compared with the current figure of 12,010. Approximately one third of this increase has been in the ordnance group, with the remainder of the added workers scattered pretty well across the board. Heavy industry has not yet indicated any great need to utilize women in place of men - most of the increase noted in the past few months having occurred incidental to total gain.

UNEMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATE UNCHANGED

No increase in unemployment has been indicated in the past 30 days. The number of active claimants for jobless benefits showed a small increase, while the total of active job seekers in the Houston and Baytown office files declined. Job placements through these two area offices remain near the 6,000 mark for the month.

60-DAY DEMAND
SET AT 1160

Expansion demand is currently estimated at 1,160 for the next 60 days, with 63% in manufacturing. Indications point to a small increase in construction, service industries and retail trade. Seasonal reductions are expected in transportation and allied services.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | FEB. '51 | SEPT. '51 | FEB. '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 346,800 | 355,265 | 356,095 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,300 | 8,000 | 8,100 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 338,500 | 347,265 | 347,995 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 331,500 | 339,265 | 340,995 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, February 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6329 | 4149 | 2183 | 1053 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 335 | 291 | 44 | 94 |
| Clerical and sales | 1005 | 362 | 643 | 113 |
| Service | 1465 | 535 | 930 | 105 |
| Agricultural | 24 | 24 | 0 | 3 |
| Skilled | 1086 | 1009 | 77 | 245 |
| Semi-skilled | 1147 | 864 | 283 | 216 |
| Unskilled | 1267 | 1061 | 206 | 277 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)
February 1952

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5996 | 2214* | 1159* |
| Agricultural | 60 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 520 | 12 | 144 |
| Manufacturing | 1282 | 184 | 393 |
| Public utilities | 231 | 32 | 74 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1930 | 746 | 325 |
| Service industries | 885 | 431 | 146 |
| Private households | 979 | 778 | 53 |
| All other | 109 | 31 | 24 |

* Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol.VII, No. 4
April 1952

### EMPLOYMENT PICKS UP AGAIN

After dropping slightly last month under January, estimated total employment in the area for March (350,925) rose 1410 (0.4%) over January and 1705 (0.5%) over February. The current figure netted a gain of 9275 or 3.3% over the March 1951 estimate. The March estimate of women workers was almost the same as for January, although higher than February. Over the past 12 months women workers have shown an increase of 2245 or 2.3%.

Manufacturing has shown a steady increase throughout the past 60 days, from 82,395 in January to 82,490 in February to 83,575 in March. In the past 30 days, gains were greatest in ordnance, non-electric machinery, ship repair, fabricated metals and petroleum refining. In non-manufacturing, a surprising increase in retail trade employment was indicated by reporting establishments. Minor changes took place in other groups, but nothing of consequence.

### SLIGHT INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYED

Current estimate of 8300 unemployed is 200 above January and February but the increase is of no significance since there are some new entrants into the labor force from the mid-term break in the schools. The active files of job seekers in the offices of the Houston and Baytown TEC increased 541 in total at the end of March as compared with February. Greatest numerical increase, occupationally, was in skilled male workers, although the percentage ratio of these to total remained practically unchanged. Active claimants for unemployment benefits at the end of March totaled 2289 as compared with 2246 in February and 1984 in January. Fewer initial claims for benefits were filed in March than in the previous month.

### KNOWN DEMAND TO JULY IS LIGHT

On the basis of present information, a net increase of less than 350 in total employment is expected to May and July. Naturally, with uncertainties in many phases of industry, employer forecasts are subject to many changes, both up and down. Some cannot make even 30-day forecasts, and past experience and established trends must be used almost entirely in the case of some major industry groups. Employment reports to the TEC from 873 area employers during March showed stated demand for 750 additional workers to May and 839 to July. This demand was limited to 17 out of the 29 industrial groups. Against such a known quantity is the usual seasonal drop in transportation services, which cannot be validly forecast by employers within those industries. Heaviest known demand in the current period comes from ordnance, followed by construction.

### SUPPLY IS STILL AMPLE IN AREA

Supply continues to be ample for demand and no production is known to have been impeded for lack of manpower. The established rate on in-migration has not slowed down; a sample made recently of new applicants in the Houston office showed that 51% of those registering at the Bell Street office had been resident 30 days or less. Other new entrants from the schools will be available soon.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | MARCH '51 | OCTOBER '51 | MARCH '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 349,150* | 356,455* | 359,225 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 7,500 | 8,000 | 8,300 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 341,650 | 348,455 | 350,925 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 334,650* | 340,955* | 343,925 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 7,500 | 7,000 |

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, March 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERANS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6870 | 4625 | 2245 | 1231 |
| Professional, technical, Managerial | 430 | 371 | 59 | 125 |
| Clerical and sales | 1055 | 383 | 672 | 124 |
| Service | 1510 | 593 | 917 | 140 |
| Agricultural | 38 | 38 | 0 | 8 |
| Skilled | 1275 | 1194 | 81 | 309 |
| Semi-skilled | 1234 | 931 | 303 | 253 |
| Unskilled | 1328 | 1115 | 213 | 272 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

March 1952

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6419 | 2132* | 1360* |
| Agricultural | 79 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 689 | 16 | 180 |
| Manufacturing | 1333 | 162 | 425 |
| Public utilities | 343 | 36 | 99 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1915 | 713 | 369 |
| Service industries | 915 | 431 | 169 |
| Private households | 1027 | 752 | 87 |
| All other | 118 | 22 | 31 |

* Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol. VII, No. 5
May 1952

MANUFACTURING UP
PRIOR TO LABOR DISPUTES

Since TEC employment estimates are made as of the fifteenth of each month, only one of the current labor disputes entered into consideration of April figures. This was the one involving a small group of communications workers and is reflected in the non-manufacturing total.

During the past 12 months, an almost unbroken upward trend has increased employment in manufacturing a little more than 7000 in net total, while women workers are an estimated 980 above a year ago. Almost half of the total gain was in the ordnance group. Non-electric machinery has picked up an estimated 1550, and expanded facilities in the chemicals group have absorbed an additional 1035 workers. Apparel, fabricated metals and petroleum refining have indicated gains in excess of 200. Seven other industrial groups are currently above the year-ago figures to some extent. Four groups are under but not significantly so. Net manufacturing gain over the past month is estimated at approximately 550.

TRADE GROUP PACES
NONMANUFACTURING

Although a net loss of over 600 was estimated in non-manufacturing during the past 30 days, due to a drop in construction and warehousing and a labor dispute in communications, current estimate of employment in this classification is around 900 above the April 1951 figure. Retail trade employment has climbed steadily for the past 12 months; current estimate is 1085 above one year ago, 875 above February and 425 above March. Wholesale trade has also indicated a net gain but a much smaller one. Medical and professional services, crude oil production and utilities, too, have made substantial gains over the past year.

UNEMPLOYMENT
REMAINS SAME

The current unemployment estimate of 8,300 is unchanged from March. Total number of active claimants for unemployment benefits at the end of April was 1756 as against a figure of 2289 at the end of March. Active job seekers in the Houston and Baytown TEC files totaled 6090 at the end of April as compared with 6870 in March. An increase in the ratio of clerical and sales workers to total applicants paralleled a decreased ratio of professional and technical skills. The remaining broad occupational groups remained little changed in relation to total.

DEMAND TO JUNE
TENTATIVELY 1090

Based on mid-April information, expansion demand to June was set at 1090, almost evenly divided between manufacturing and non-manufacturing. Stated demand was present in ordnance, chemicals, fabricated metals, non-electric and electrical machinery. But the labor disputes in the steel and petroleum groups, both influencing industries other than their own, have thrown the picture in confusion. It is impossible currently to foresee the probable effect of work stoppages in these industries on the labor market as a whole for the coming few weeks. Lost production will no doubt have a retarding effect even though the remaining disputes are settled shortly.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. 1943 (war peak) | APRIL '51 | NOVEMBER '51 | APRIL '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 350,350* | 357,355* | 359,360 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 7,500 | 7,800 | 8,300 |
| Employed | 211,000 | 306,000 | 342,850 | 349,555 | 351,060 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 335,850* | 342,555* | 343,810 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,250 |

* Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, April 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6090 | 4240 | 1850 | 1037 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 262 | 235 | 27 | 78 |
| Clerical and sales | 1088 | 563 | 525 | 138 |
| Service | 1351 | 547 | 804 | 104 |
| Agricultural | 30 | 30 | 0 | 6 |
| Skilled | 1057 | 994 | 63 | 231 |
| Semi-skilled | 1162 | 893 | 269 | 246 |
| Unskilled | 1140 | 978 | 162 | 234 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

April 1952

| INDUSTRY | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6613 | 2352* | 1336* |
| Agricultural | 132 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 668 | 15 | 192 |
| Manufacturing | 1262 | 185 | 378 |
| Public utilities | 340 | 30 | 124 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2013 | 788 | 371 |
| Service industries | 862 | 402 | 126 |
| Private households | 1151 | 911 | 82 |
| All other | 185 | 40 | 61 |

* Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION



Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331



Vol. VII, No. 6
June 1952


DISPUTES BRING
EMPLOYMENT DOWN

With an estimated 6410 workers involved in labor-management disputes and not counted among the unemployed, total employment in the area showed a 1.2% drop under April and 0.2% gain over a year ago. Had these workers not been out, non-agricultural employment total would have shown an estimated increase of approximately 1675 (0.6%) over April and of 7745 (2.3%) over May 1951. On the other hand, employment of women showed an actual increase over March estimated at 410 (0.4%) and of 2260 (2.3%) over the 12-month period.

The current estimate, made as of May 15, took into consideration petroleum refinery workers out in that and the chemicals industry group, one fabricating plant which was affected by the steel dispute and one small group of communications workers. The second steel walkout had not occurred and effects of the first had not been too far reaching.

NICE GAINS IN
SOME INDUSTRIES

In spite of these upsets, several industry groups showed nice gains - machinery, ship building and ordnance. Excluding consideration of those out because of labor disputes, fabricated metal products indicated a substantial increase.

In non-manufacturing, construction was estimated at 200 higher for May than for April, although 300 below the March figure. Retail trade again showed an increase over the previous month.

Only net losses indicated in groups other than those involved in labor disputes were small seasonal drops in food processing and services allied to transportation, and a slight temporary decline in the furniture group.

NO CHANGE IN
UNEMPLOYED

May unemployment estimate of 8300 remains unchanged from March and April. Total number of active job applications in the Houston and Baytown TEC offices at the end of May was only 12 higher than in April though there were 176 more women applicants. Initial claims for unemployment benefits have dropped 16.3% since March. The Houston TEC office made 6322 non-agricultural and 1280 agricultural job placements during May, as compared with 6387 non-agricultural and 130 agricultural in April.

DEMAND TO JULY
UNCERTAIN

Due to the inoperative status of several major industrial plants and the uncertain duration of current labor disputes, demand and future employment trends are extremely hard to evaluate. Based on stated demand at the time of preparing these estimates, expansion demand to July was set at a little less than 1000, chiefly in chemicals, non-electric machinery, fabricated metals, food processing and construction. However, more recent developments indicate clearly that not only demand but actual employment will depend entirely upon the duration of the labor disputes and availability of materials. Labor supply is ample for all demand.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | MAY '51 | DECEMBER '15 | MAY '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 353,920* | 362,145* | 361,315 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 7,900 | 7,000 | 8,300 |
| Wkrs. involved in Lab.-Mgmt. disputes | INA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,410 |
| Employed | 211,000 | 306,000 | 346,020 | 355,145 | 346,605 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 337,520* | 348,145* | 338,855 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 8,500 | 7,000 | 7,750 |

* Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, May 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6102 | 4075 | 2027 | 1060 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 284 | 242 | 42 | 113 |
| Clerical and sales | 1114 | 399 | 715 | 120 |
| Service | 1307 | 526 | 781 | 120 |
| Agricultural | 29 | 29 | 0 | 4 |
| Skilled | 1049 | 999 | 50 | 246 |
| Semi-skilled | 1176 | 909 | 267 | 237 |
| Unskilled | 1143 | 971 | 172 | 220 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

May 1952

| INDUSTRY | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 7715 | 2246* | 1255* |
| Agricultural | 1282 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 812 | 17 | 202 |
| Manufacturing | 1107 | 133 | 318 |
| Public utilities | 337 | 17 | 100 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2051 | 834 | 358 |
| Service industries | 807 | 363 | 148 |
| Private households | 1152 | 852 | 84 |
| All other | 167 | 30 | 45 |

*Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol. VII, No. 7
JULY 1952

COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED NON - AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT -- JUNE 1951 and 1952

Houston-Baytown Area

| MAJOR INDUSTRY | JUNE '52 | JUNE '51 |
|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 339050 | 338000** |
| Manufacturing - Total | 77920 | 78595 |
| Ordnance | 4260 | 1445 |
| Food & kind. prods. | 10375 | 10450 |
| Textile mill prods. | 520 | 670 |
| Apparel & fin. prods. | 2355 | 2075 |
| Lumber & timber prods. | 2335 | 2400 |
| Furniture & fixtures | 2155 | 2100 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 2335 | 2250 |
| Printing, publishing | 4175 | 4100 |
| Chemicals & allied | 7300* | 7425 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 8650* | 10835 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 2075 | 2050 |
| Primary metals | 2415* | 5500 |
| Fabricated metal prods. | 6565* | 7125 |
| Machinery (ex.elect.) | 15785 | 14275 |
| Elect. machinery | 675 | 570 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 1950 | 1475 |
| All other mfg. | 3995 | 3850 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 261130 | 259405 |
| Mining | 14675 | 14300 |
| Construction | 23950 | 24700 |
| Transportation & allied | 31360 | 31725 |
| Commun. & utilities | 10510 | 10530 |
| Wholesale trade | 20725 | 20400 |
| Retail trade | 63860 | 62400 |
| Finan., Ins., Rl. Est. | 13350 | 12875 |
| Service industries | 28200 | 28525 |
| Professional services | 20575 | 19950 |
| Private households | 20000 | 20000 |
| Government | 13925 | 14000 |

**Revised. *Affected by labor dispute.

Estimated total nonagricultural employment showed an extremely small increase over the past month in spite of an increase during the period of more than 1,000 in the number of workers involved in labor-management disputes. (Workers so involved are not counted amont the employed and appear only in total labor force estimates.) Only one layoff of any size is known to have occurred up to mid-June as a direct result of the labor disputes. A gain was indicated in the number of women workers, largely in non-manufacturing activities.

Sizeable gains were indicated in ordnance, chemicals, construction, services allied to transportation and in finance, insurance and real estate. No net losses of any consequence were indicated in any industrial group other than those affected by the labor disputes.

The situation in regard to demand for the coming two and four months is as uncertain as it was thirty days ago, being almost entirely dependent on settlement of the steel and petroleum disputes. Material shortage is beginning to be felt.

UNEMPLOYMENT
IS HIGHER

Current unemployment estimate of 9800 represents an increase of 1500 over May, some of which may be credited to students newly entered into the labor market. The number of active claimants for unemployment benefits was lower at the end of June than for the previous month, and the Houston office of the TEC made 439 more non-agricultural job placements in June than in May.

TREND OF LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | JUNE '51 | JANUARY '52 | JUNE '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 354,500* | 357,422* | 364,325 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,500 | 8,100 | 9,800 |
| Wkrs. involved in Lab.-Mgmt. disputes | INA | 0 | 0 | 77 | 7,475 |
| Employed | 211,000 | 306,000 | 346,000 | 349,245 | 347,050 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 338,000* | 342,245* | 339,050 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 |

* Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, June 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 8103 | 5463 | 2670 | 1487 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 474 | 425 | 49 | 137 |
| Clerical and sales | 1743 | 730 | 1013 | 130 |
| Service | 1626 | 639 | 987 | 235 |
| Agricultural | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Skilled | 1211 | 1149 | 62 | 356 |
| Semi-skilled | 1577 | 1241 | 336 | 341 |
| Unskilled | 1469 | 1246 | 223 | 288 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

June 1952

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 9031 | 2591* | 1292* |
| Agricultural | 2165 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 743 | 19 | 211 |
| Manufacturing | 1218 | 249 | 336 |
| Public utilities | 190 | 36 | 51 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2181 | 834 | 356 |
| Service industries | 998 | 474 | 156 |
| Private households | 1348 | 938 | 134 |
| All other | 188 | 41 | 48 |

* Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VIII, No.8<br>August 1952 |

EMPLOYMENT TOTAL
ALMOST BACK TO NORMAL

Up to mid-July, total employment, estimated at 345,570, was almost back to a normal level following settlement of most of the labor-management disputes which have existed in the area since May 1. All but two of the establishments involved in the disputes were back in production by then and these two had resumed shortly after August 1. Comparison of non-agricultural total for July with that of April shows a net gain of approximately 1900 even with a number of workers still counted out of manufacturing because of the steel tieup.

Nice gains over the past 30 days were indicated in machinery, textile mill products and chemicals. The fabricated metals group has felt the steel tieup deeply but many firms reduced hours rather than lay off workers.

Non-manufacturing activities have picked up an estimated net gain of 1760 over the past 30 days, in spite of a loss in retail trade. Transportation services, finance, insurance and real estate, construction and government indicated increases, largest being in insurance.

Estimated increase in total number of women workers over the past 30 days was 875, of which 215 were gained in manufacturing.

UNEMPLOYMENT
IS UP SLIGHTLY

An estimated increase of 600 has occurred since June in unemployment. Indications are that some of the workers out due to labor disputes took summer jobs that would normally have been filled by vacationing students, leaving the students still seeking employment. Some layoffs have occurred because of material scarcity, although there has been none of major proportions in the past 30 days.

The active file count of job seekers in the Houston and Baytown TEC offices at the end of July totaled 8301 (2713 women) as compared with 8103 (2670 women) at the end of June. Persons filing active claims for unemployment benefits at the end of July totaled 1871, a gain of 243 over June but only 126 above May. The TEC made 5730 non-agricultural job placements in July as compared with 6776 in June, when summer hiring was at its height. Agricultural placements dropped from 2165 in June to 267 for July; this, too, was affected by a seasonal factor.

OUTLOOK IS GOOD
FOR NEXT 60 DAYS

The over-all outlook for the next 60 days is good since settlement of the steel tieup. Fairly normal operations are being resumed and it is hoped that layoffs due to material shortages may be averted. There is a possibility that replenishment of stocks may be delayed. There is no stated demand of any appreciable size to September, with the possible exception of the chemicals industry and seasonal food processing in manufacturing and for seasonal pick-up in the transportation services group.

Supply continues to be ample for demand.

TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT, compared with 1940

| | APRIL 1940 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | JULY 1951 | FEB. 1952 | JULY 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 355,570 | 357,340 | 366,295 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,500 | 8,100 | 10,400 |
| Wkrs. involved in Lab.-Mgmt. Disputes | INA | 0 | 0 | 20 | 2,325 |
| Employed | 211,000 | 306,000 | 347,070 | 349,220 | 353,570 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 339,070* | 342,220 | 345,570 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 |

*Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, July 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 8301 | 5588 | 2713 | 1303 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 536 | 450 | 86 | 136 |
| Clerical and sales | 1729 | 681 | 1048 | 136 |
| Service | 1633 | 637 | 996 | 131 |
| Agricultural | 40 | 40 | 0 | 2 |
| Skilled | 1181 | 1138 | 43 | 285 |
| Semi-skilled | 1719 | 1413 | 306 | 334 |
| Unskilled | 1463 | 1229 | 234 | 279 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

July 1952

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5997 | 2283* | 1040* |
| Agricultural | 267 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 692 | 27 | 200 |
| Manufacturing | 913 | 214 | 244 |
| Public utilities | 171 | 31 | 51 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1912 | 759 | 307 |
| Service industries | 811 | 385 | 130 |
| Private households | 1104 | 834 | 71 |
| All Other | 127 | 33 | 37 |

*Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson | 701 Bell Avenue | Vol.VIII, No.9 |
| District Director | Phone CA - 9331 | September 1952 |


ESTIMATED NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AS OF AUGUST 1952 COMPARED WITH APRIL 1952

Houston-Baytown Area

| INDUSTRY | APR. '52 | AUG. '52 |
|---|---|---|
| T O T A L | 342040* | 347935 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 82630 | 84980 |
| Ordnance | 3750 | 4180 |
| Food & kindred | 8950* | 8925 |
| Textile mill prods. | 520 | 625 |
| Apparel & fin. prods. | 2355 | 2400 |
| Lumber & wood prods. | 2310 | 2335 |
| Furniture & fixtures | 2180 | 2155 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 2315 | 2380 |
| Printing & publishing | 4175 | 4240 |
| Chemicals & allied | 8360 | 9025 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 10950 | 11310 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 2100 | 2075 |
| Primary metals | 5600 | 5555 |
| Fabricated metal prods. | 7445 | 7105 |
| Machinery (ex. elect.) | 15535 | 16075 |
| Elect. machinery | 665 | 665 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 1400 | 1950 |
| All other mfg. | 4020 | 3980 |
| Nonmanufacturing - Total | 259410 | 262955 |
| Mining | 14575 | 14950 |
| Construction | 23500 | 24500 |
| Transportation & allied | 31225 | 31710 |
| Communications & util. | 10125* | 10555 |
| Wholesale trade | 20625 | 20725 |
| Retail trade | 63710 | 63360 |
| Finan., ins., rel.est. | 13000 | 14150 |
| Service industries | 28200 | 28200 |
| Professional services | 20525 | 20625 |
| Private households | 20000 | 20000 |
| Government | 13925 | 14180 |

*Revised

### AREA EMPLOYMENT GAIN ALMOST 5900 IN 4 MONTHS

With settlement of practically all the labor disputes in the area, a comparison of nonagricultural estimates for August with those for April, the month before the disputes began, will give a clear picture of over-all progress in area employment.

Ordnance, chemicals, petroleum refining and non-electric machinery accounted for 1,995 of the 2,350 gain indicated in manufacturing, while only fabricated metal products showed any significant loss. This was due, of course, in large measure to shortage of material resulting from the steel tie-up.

Almost a third of the total nonmanufacturing gain of 3,545 occurred in the finance, insurance and real estate group, followed closely by construction. Increases of 250 or more were indicated in oil and gas production, transportation services, communications and utilities, and government. The only declining industry was retail trade, in the usual summer slump.

### UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN; OUTLOOK GOOD

August's 8400 estimate of unemployment was 2000 below the previous month, and active job applications in the TEC files totaled 6598 at the end of August as compared with 8301 in July. Claims for unemployment benefits also declined.

A net increase of approximately 1300 within the next 60 days is currently anticipated, with supply still being adequate for all demand.

TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | AUGUST '51 | MARCH '52 | AUGUST '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 354,555 | 357,455 | 366,035 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,300 | 8,300 | 8,400 |
| Wkrs. involved in lab.-mgmt. dispts. | INA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 |
| Employed | 211,000 | 306,000 | 346,255 | 349,155 | 357,435 |
| Nonagricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 337,255* | 342,155* | 347,925 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 9,000 | 7,000 | 9,500 |

* Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, August 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6598 | 4693 | 1905 | 1114 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 350 | 321 | 29 | 109 |
| Clerical and sales | 981 | 399 | 582 | 132 |
| Service | 1424 | 622 | 802 | 119 |
| Agricultural | 26 | 26 | 0 | 3 |
| Skilled | 1048 | 1003 | 45 | 236 |
| Semi-skilled | 1413 | 1165 | 248 | 252 |
| Unskilled | 1356 | 1157 | 199 | 263 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

August 1952

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 12890 | 2234* | 1244* |
| Agricultural | 6960 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 687 | 27 | 195 |
| Manufacturing | 1013 | 160 | 323 |
| Public utilities | 307 | 42 | 115 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1765 | 685 | 338 |
| Service industries | 829 | 407 | 124 |
| Private households | 1174 | 870 | 103 |
| All other | 155 | 43 | 46 |

*Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VIII, No.10<br>October 1952 |
|---|---|---|

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
CONTINUES UPWARD

Estimated total non-agricultural employment in the Houston-Baytown labor market area in September was 1640 or 0.8% above August and some 10,880 (3.8%) above the figure for one year ago.

Employment of women, dropping slightly from July to August, indicated a net gain of 645 (0.6%) over the past 30 days and 3195(4.2%) over September 1951. Nonmanufacturing accounted for all of the current increase.

The manufacturing total remained practically unchanged since August, although several industrial groups indicated changes. Chemicals picked up an additional 110 while ordnance lost a net of 135. Slight losses were shown in stone, clay and glass, fabricated metal products, primary metals and electric machinery. Five groups were unchanged and the remainder showed small gains.

In non-manufacturing, the transportation services group took its usual upward spurt due to seasonal movement of cotton and other commodities. Retail trade, after dropping slightly from July to August, made an unprecedented September gain estimated at 1075 (685 women). A sizeable part of this increase was due to opening of a large cafeteria and a major drug outlet.

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN
25% SINCE JULY

The current unemployment estimate of 7800 is 25% below the July figure and 600 under August. Active files of job applicants in the Houston and Baytown offices, totaling 8301 on July 25, dropped to 6598 in August and 6108 in September. Active claimants for unemployment benefits were 1871 and 1855 at the end of July and August respectively but dropped to a total of 1366 at the end of September. The number of initial claims filed in the September week ending nearest the 22nd was 35% lower than in the corresponding week in July and 6.8% below August.

DEMAND TO NOVEMBER
INCLUDES "EXTRAS"

On the basis of past experience, demand to November is currently set at 3000, bulk of which is expected to arise from mid-November needs of retail merchants bracing for the holiday rush. This demand will doubtlessly be filled from the usual supply of housewives and students available at that season of the year. Transportation and allied services will also probably have some additional needs which are easily filled at all times. Only 300 of the anticipated total demand comes from manufacturing, with stated demand occurring in only four industries.

SUPPLY CONTINUES
TO BE ADEQUATE

In spite of ever-present demand, supply to date is still adequate. In August, total manufacturing placements made by the Houston TEC office were 1005, while 1423 were made this month. Similar increases in other industrial groups brought the September Houston non-agricultural placement total to 7448 as compared with 5827 in August. The Houston office also filled 13,108 farm jobs.

## TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | SEPT. '51 | APRIL '52 | SEPT. '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 354,715 | 357,340 | 366,895 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,000 | 8,300 | 7,800 |
| Employed | 211,000 | 306,000 | 346,715* | 349,040* | 359,095 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 338,715 | 342,040 | 349,595 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 | 9,500 |

* Revised

## WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Sept. 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6018 | 3848 | 2170 | 1039 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 465 | 403 | 62 | 140 |
| Clerical and sales | 1086 | 399 | 687 | 127 |
| Service | 1325 | 548 | 777 | 116 |
| Agricultural | 23 | 23 | 0 | 4 |
| Skilled | 893 | 829 | 64 | 233 |
| Semi-skilled | 1177 | 789 | 388 | 227 |
| Unskilled | 1049 | 857 | 192 | 192 |

## DISTRIBUTION OF T. E. C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

September 1952

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 20658 | 2791* | 1495* |
| Agricultural | 13108 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 898 | 19 | 278 |
| Manufacturing | 1429 | 283 | 382 |
| Public utilities | 407 | 31 | 154 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2351 | 836 | 429 |
| Service industries | 925 | 481 | 131 |
| Private households | 1354 | 1090 | 74 |
| All other | 186 | 51 | 47 |

*Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

**TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION**

Homer H. Jackson — District Director | 701 Bell Avenue — Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VIII, No. 11 — November 1952

SEASONAL FACTORS
INFLUENCING EMPLOYMENT

A relatively large part of the net gain of 1,500 in estimated total non-agricultural employment over the past 30 days has been influenced by seasonal factors. These were found in transportation services - in warehousing and trucking - and in retail trade. The seasonal upswing in transportation has occurred at its usually scheduled time, but retail merchants have, in many cases, jumped the gun according to the pattern of the past few years. While holiday hiring has not been started on a wholesale scale, enough has already been done to imply that the retailers are not going to let themselves get caught this year as they did in 1951.

These two industrial groups accounted for a combined gain over last month estimated at 1025, which, together with very small increases in two other groups and a minor decline in mining, netted a pick-up of 970 in non-manufacturing.

MANUFACTURING STILL
GAINING STEADILY

After remaining practically at a standstill in September, manufacturing once more took an upward climb, with a net increase estimated at 530 for the past 30 days. Of the 18 industrial groups, six gained an estimated total of 710 workers, six lost 180 and six remained unchanged.

Gains in excess of 100 were indicated in transportation equipment (160), non-electric machinery (180) and food processing (245). Part of the latter was seasonal. Losses indicated were negligible. To date no layoffs of any appreciable size have been necessary because of material shortage and manufacturers continue to report supplies sufficient for from 30 to 90 days on hand.

DEMAND IS LARGELY
FOR HOLIDAY TRADE

While approximately 4,200 additional workers are indicated to December for expansion demand, almost 4,000 are expected to be used for the Christmas rush. Manufacturing needs as stated during the past 30 days are small and center chiefly in ordnance, with fabricated metals, chemicals and apparel completing the list. A small reduction is indicated in food processing. Extra workers for the holidays may be expected to be drawn as usual from outside the labor force - housewives and students, a usually abundant source.

UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS
SAME AS SEPTEMBER

The unemployment estimate of 7,800 is unchanged from that of the past month. The active files of jobseekers in the Houston and Baytown offices stood at 5,782 (1750 women), down 236 below September. Active claimants for unemployment benefits stood at 1505 at the end of October, about 120 above the previous month. In August, technical and professional workers in the active files represented 5.3% of the total, while this group constituted 8.0% of total in October. Clerical and sales workers rose from 14.9% of total in August to 19.5% in October. Skilled and semi-skilled dropped in relation to total.

TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (War Peak) | OCT. '51 | MAY '52 | OCT. '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 354,685 | 359,815* | 366,645 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,000 | 8,300 | 7,800 |
| Employed | 211,000 | 306,000 | 346,685 | 345,105 | 358,845 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 339,185** | 337,355** | 351,095 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,500 | 7,750 | 7,750 |

*6410 out because of labor dispute
** Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Oct. 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5782 | 4032 | 1750 | 1146 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 460 | 419 | 41 | 151 |
| Clerical and sales | 1129 | 510 | 619 | 195 |
| Service | 1233 | 576 | 657 | 109 |
| Agricultural | 17 | 17 | 0 | 4 |
| Skilled | 887 | 845 | 42 | 215 |
| Semi-skilled | 1064 | 828 | 236 | 266 |
| Unskilled | 992 | 837 | 155 | 206 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown )

OCTOBER 1952

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 9662 | 2408* | 1306 |
| Agricultural | 2937 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 773 | 21 | 208 |
| Manufacturing | 1145 | 153 | 351 |
| Public utilities | 378 | 37 | 112 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2213 | 828 | 390 |
| Service industries | 859 | 377 | 151 |
| Private households | 1220 | 964 | 67 |
| All other | 137 | 28 | 27 |

*Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VIII, No. 12<br>December 1952 |

RETAIL TRADE BOOSTS
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

With Christmas buying in full swing ahead of its usual schedule and with merchants prepared for it, estimated total nonagricultural employment in the area took a jump of 3175 in November over the previous month, with estimated employment of women increasing almost 2000.

Manufacturing's share of the total gain was only 60 and changes among the industry groups were minor, only one being in excess of 80 workers.

Thanks to "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early", retail trade picked up an estimated increase of 2750 over the past 30 days. Employers in this group reporting to the TEC in November showed stated demand for December only of 1538 above the then-current figures. This would indicate that extra hiring for the holidays this year will at least equal the record set last year. The public schools were co-operating with merchants in making available students who wanted extra work. Housewives and others who are not normally in the open labor market are in ample supply, apparently, to meet this demand.

UNEMPLOYMENT STILL
ESTIMATED AT 7800

The current estimate of 7800 unemployed has remained the same since September, very little change having been indicated in the over-all picture. Active files of job applications in the Houston and Baytown offices totaled 6504 at the end of November as compared with 5782 in October and 6108 in September. The T. E. C. made 6666 non-agricultural placements in the area in November as against 6610 for October. The number of active claimants for unemployment benefits has varied little over the past three months, although some increase was noted at the end of November.

In October, clerical and sales workers in the active files represented 19.5% of total; in November, 17.8%. Skilled applicants dropped from 15.3% of total in October to 13.9% in November. Semi-skilled workers varied little, while percentage of unskilled applicants rose from 17.2% of total in October to 20.3% in November.

EMPLOYMENT WILL
DROP IN JANUARY

Current forecast to January, based on employer reports and past trends, is for a drop of approximately 2300 in total under the current figure, although the reduction could be greater. Considering the employment level as it is currently expected to be at mid-January, employment increase for expansion is estimated at 750. This does not, of course, take into consideration the December hiring of additional temporary workers, the most of whom will be laid off immediately after Christmas. Some increase is indicated in construction and non-electric machinery has stated demand for about 150 additional. Very small demand is scattered among a number of other industries while reductions are expected in transportation services, ordnance, fabricated metals and food processing.

Supply of qualified workers is still adequate for any known demand.

TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | NOV. '51 | JUNE '52 | NOV. '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 355,585 | 362,825* | 369,070 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 7,800 | 9,800 | 7,800 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 347,785 | 345,550 | 361,270 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 340,785** | 337,550** | 354,270 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 |

* 7475 out because of labor dispute.
** Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Nov. 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6504 | 4517 | 1987 | 1324 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 481 | 432 | 49 | 173 |
| Clerical and sales | 1156 | 548 | 608 | 230 |
| Service | 1429 | 560 | 869 | 116 |
| Agricultural | 32 | 32 | 0 | 7 |
| Skilled | 905 | 865 | 40 | 258 |
| Semi-skilled | 1179 | 929 | 250 | 269 |
| Unskilled | 1322 | 1151 | 171 | 271 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

November 1952

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6869 | 2215* | 1478* |
| Agricultural | 102 | INA | INA |
| Contract Construction | 998 | 14 | 277 |
| Manufacturing | 943 | 115 | 286 |
| Public utilities | 386 | 38 | 135 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2224 | 771 | 487 |
| Service industries | 929 | 393 | 165 |
| Private households | 1113 | 852 | 78 |
| All other | 174 | 32 | 50 |

*Excludes agriculture.

H O U S T O N

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson | 701 Bell Avenue | Vol.VIII, No.10
District Director | Phone CA - 9331 | January 1953

ESTIMATED NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AS OF DECEMBER 1952 COMPARED WITH DECEMBER '51

Houston-Baytown Area

| INDUSTRY | DEC.'52 | DEC.'51 |
|---|---|---|
| T O T A L | 361975 | 346375 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 85465 | 79790 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 45665 | 42655 |
| Ordnance | 4025 | 2700 |
| Lumber & wood prod. | 2380 | 2365 |
| Furniture & fixtures | 2045 | 2125 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 2025 | 2050 |
| Primary metals | 5500 | 5655 |
| Fabr. metal prods. | 7090 | 7260 |
| Machinery (ex. elect.) | 16470 | 15110 |
| Elect. machinery | 650 | 610 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 2000 | 1400 |
| Other durable goods | 3480 | 3380 |
| Non-durable goods - Total | 39800 | 37135 |
| Food & kindred prods. | 9100 | 8865 |
| Textile mill prods. | 615 | 640 |
| Apparel & fin. prods. | 2380 | 2190 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 2440 | 2335 |
| Printing & pub. | 4220 | 4225 |
| Chemicals & allied | 9145 | 7485 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 11375 | 10885 |
| Other non-durable goods | 525 | 510 |
| Non-manufacturing - Total | 276510 | 266585 |
| Mining | 14900 | 14525 |
| Construction | 24700 | 24000 |
| Transp. & allied serv. | 32730 | 31625 |
| Communications & util. | 10510 | 10640 |
| Wholesale trade | 21125 | 20600 |
| Retail trade | 72635 | 69210 |
| Finan.,ins., rl. est. | 14160 | 13125 |
| Service industries | 28200 | 28650 |
| Medical & other prof. | 20675 | 20300 |
| Primate homes | 20000 | 20000 |
| Government | 16875 | 13910 |

With Christmas business apparently breaking all local records, estimated total employment for December broke a few records too. Numerically, a gain of 15,600 was shown over the 1951 estimated total, a 5.3% increase. In December 1951, the increase over the previous year was 3.9%.

In retail trade, December's estimate was 14.7% above the October figure for 1952, as against a 12.6% increase in the same period the previous year. Many merchants admitted to having more help than they needed; on the other hand, early January figures indicate the possibility of post-season layoffs not yet being as drastic as usual, since business apparently has held up fairly well. The postoffice also contributed substantially to the current total increase.

Manufacturing employment estimates showed a net loss in total of 155 since November, with a layoff in ordnance and seasonal loss in food processing offsetting a nice gain in nonelectric machinery and a temporary pick-up in petroleum refining. Several very minor changes were indicated in other industries but manufacturing as a whole is marking time.

It is currently anticipated that February will see a drop in total of over 8000 in keeping with the usual trend, with a further drop to April. Seasonal cutbacks in trades, transportation services, government and food processing are expected, with further loss in ordnance and layoff of temporary workers in petroleum refining. Machinery and construction have indicated demand to February. Unemployment, down to 7500 in December, may be expected to rise, at least temporarily, in the next 60 days.

TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

| | APRIL '40 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | DEC. '51 | JULY '52 | DEC. '52 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 360,375 | 364,795* | 376,475 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 7,000 | 10,400 | 7,500 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 353,375 | 352,070 | 368,975 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 346,375** | 344,071** | 361,975 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 |

* 2325 out because of labor dispute.
**Revised.

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Dec. 25, 1952

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6620 | 5072 | 1548 | 1480 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 427 | 390 | 37 | 147 |
| Clerical & Sales | 784 | 380 | 404 | 146 |
| Service | 1293 | 606 | 687 | 133 |
| Agricultural | 40 | 40 | 0 | 10 |
| Skilled | 1219 | 1179 | 40 | 336 |
| Semi-skilled | 1350 | 1139 | 211 | 369 |
| Unskilled | 1507 | 1339 | 169 | 339 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

December 1952

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5668 | 1974* | 1181* |
| Agricultural | 39 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 702 | 6 | 198 |
| Manufacturing | 645 | 107 | 207 |
| Public utilities | 335 | 29 | 93 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2322 | 943 | 387 |
| Service industries | 491 | 209 | 88 |
| Private households | 861 | 661 | 56 |
| All other | 273 | 19 | 152 |

*Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION


| Homer H. Jackson<br>District Director | 701 Bell Avenue<br>Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. VIII, No. 11<br>February 1953 |
|---|---|---|


EMPLOYMENT DROPS
AFTER HOLIDAYS

After hitting the December holiday high of an estimated 364,975*, non-agricultural employment in the area dropped approximately 8,900 to the January estimate of 356,070. However, the current figure is only 1,200 below that of November. This is a greater drop than was shown over the same period last year, due to the fact that while retail trade held to a higher level this year than last, manufacturing took a loss as compared with last year's gain. While some of this latter loss was actual, almost 40% of the estimated drop under November and 50% of that during the past 30 days was due to a labor-management dispute in food processing.

Some seasonal loss has been indicated in service industries and in transportation services. On the other hand, steady gain in construction has been indicated over the past three months. While ordnance has been declining, the non-electric machinery and chemicals groups continue to gain consistently. Variations in other groups have been small and many of them seasonal.

FURTHER EMPLOYMENT
LOSS EXPECTED

Because of further cut-backs anticipated in retail trade following the usual trend, a net loss in total employment is expected to March. Requirements for expansion demand as reflected in employer reports over the past three months have been very small, with the current demand estimate to March set at 885. Construction is expected to account for the largest part of this figure; if weather and other factors are favorable, this demand could easily go much higher. Small increases are currently indicated in furniture & fixtures, lumber & wood products, primary metals, fabricated metals, machinery, chemicals and apparel. In addition to reductions expected in retail trade, further seasonal loss in transportation services is due.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP IN JANUARY

Current estimate of unemployment is 8700 as compared with 7500 in December. Total of all active claimants for unemployment benefits was 2273 at the end of January as compared with 2124 for December. The files of active job applications in the Houston and Baytown offices totaled 6504 at the end of November, 6620 in December and 7613 in January. A breakdown of the broad occupational groups in percentage relationship to total for the past three months shows considerable variation in composition over the period:

| OCCUPATION | % OF TOTAL NOV. | DEC. | JAN. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Prof.-Tech.-Mgr. | 7.4 | 6.5 | 5.1 |
| Clerical-Sales | 18.1 | 11.8 | 18.3 |
| Service | 22.0 | 19.5 | 19.0 |
| Agricultural | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Skilled | 13.9 | 18.4 | 17.1 |
| Semi-skilled | 18.1 | 20.4 | 22.8 |
| Unskilled | 20.3 | 22.8 | 20.8 |

Women applicants were 30.6% of total in November, 23.4% in December and 27.8% in January. Indications are that, as usual, a portion of those who entered the labor market for holiday employment are now in search for regular jobs.

*Revised

TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

| | APRIL 1940 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | JANUARY 1952 | AUGUST 1952 | JANUARY 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,900 | 310,000 | 358,922 | 369,035 | 372,010 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,100 | 8,400 | 8,700 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 350,745 | 360,435 | 363,070 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 343,745* | 350,935* | 356,070 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 9,500 | 7,000 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | | 0 | 77 | 200 | 240 |

*Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, Jan. 25, 1953

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 7613 | 5494 | 2119 | 1666 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 389 | 355 | 34 | 136 |
| Clerical and sales | 1384 | 644 | 740 | 218 |
| Service | 1452 | 631 | 821 | 148 |
| Agricultural | 35 | 35 | 0 | 7 |
| Skilled | 1304 | 1253 | 51 | 386 |
| Semi-skilled | 1466 | 1195 | 271 | 407 |
| Unskilled | 1583 | 1381 | 202 | 364 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

January 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5772 | 2067* | 1167* |
| Agricultural | 67 | INA | INA |
| Contract Construction | 867 | 9 | 239 |
| Manufacturing | 749 | 133 | 233 |
| Public utilities | 307 | 21 | 104 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1956 | 723 | 358 |
| Service industries | 705 | 351 | 122 |
| Private households | 961 | 790 | 57 |
| All other | 160 | 40 | 54 |

*Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

701 Bell Avenue
Phone CA - 9331

Vol.VIII, No.12
March 1953

ESTIMATED NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AS OF FEBRUARY 1953 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY '52

Houston-Baytown Area

| INDUSTRY | FEB.'52 | FEB.'53 |
|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 343450* | 354545 |
| Manufacturing - Total | 80990 | 84500 |
| Durable Goods - Total | 43595 | 44935 |
| Ordnance | 3395 | 2950 |
| Lumber & wood prods. | 2365 | 2400 |
| Furniture & Fixtures | 2160 | 1985 |
| Stone, clay & glass | 2035 | 1985 |
| Primary metals | 5625 | 5515 |
| Fabricated metal prods. | 7345 | 7240 |
| Machinery (ex. elect.) | 15285 | 16550 |
| Electric machinery | 655 | 655 |
| Transportation eqpt. | 1290 | 2110 |
| Other durable goods | 3440 | 3535 |
| Nondurable Goods - Total | 37395 | 39565 |
| Food & kindred prods. | 8965 | 8750 |
| Textile mill prods. | 645 | 615 |
| Apparel & fin. prods. | 2315 | 2310 |
| Paper & allied prods. | 2325 | 2450 |
| Printing & publishing | 4150 | 4225 |
| Chemicals & allied | 7685 | 9225 |
| Prods. of petroleum | 10800 | 11465 |
| Other non-dur. goods | 510 | 525 |
| Non-manufacturing - Total | 262460 | 270045 |
| Mining | 14425 | 15000 |
| Construction | 30000* | 31350 |
| Transportation & allied | 31525 | 32150 |
| Commun. & utilities | 10420 | 10565 |
| Wholesale trade | 20500 | 20875 |
| Retail trade | 62835 | 66030 |
| Fin., Ins., Rl. Est. | 13000 | 14200 |
| Service industries | 28300 | 28000 |
| Med. & other prof. | 20525 | 20675 |
| Private homes | 17000* | 17000 |
| Government | 13930 | 14200 |

* Revised

Further loss in manufacturing, estimated at a net of 475 under January and due to a further cutback in ordnance, brought a total net loss in nonagricultural employment of 1525 in the past 30 days. Estimated total for women was down a little over 500, all in non-manufacturing.

Only four manufacturing groups indicated losses; outside of ordnance, the largest was only 40. On the other hand, seven indicated gains, ranging from 15 to 185, for a total of 580, and led by petroleum refining. In non-manufacturing, only retail trade and government indicated losses and these were expected.

Demand to April has been currently set at about 1250. Stated demand from manufacturing groups is small, less that 150. An increase in retail trade is expected, due to Easter buying, and additional demand is indicated in construction. A seasonal reduction is anticipated in transportation and allied services.

Unemployment in February was estimated at 9500 as compared with 8700 in January. Active job applications with TEC at the end of February totaled 8485 as compared with 7613 in January, and new applications taken increased 1008 over the previous period. The Houston and Baytown TEC offices made 6814 job placements in February as compared with 5776 in January, while the increase in active claimants for unemployment benefits was only 127.

General outlook for the area continues to be very favorable. Not even a cutback of the size just occurring in ordnance seems to have lasting effect. Supply remains at a level that continues to be comfortably adequate for all demands, continually reinforced by qualified new-comers.

TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

| | APRIL 1940 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | FEBRUARY 1952 | SEPTEMBER 1952 | FEBRUARY 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 358,570 | 370,010 | 371,285 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,100 | 7,800 | 9,500 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 350,450 | 362,095 | 361,545 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 343,450* | 352,595* | 354,545 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 9,500 | 7,000 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | INA | 0 | 20 | 115 | 240 |

*Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown Offices, February 25, 1953

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 8485 | 6289 | 2196 | 1924 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 467 | 460 | 7 | 145 |
| Clerical and sales | 1389 | 635 | 754 | 220 |
| Service | 1625 | 726 | 899 | 205 |
| Agricultural | 66 | 66 | 0 | 15 |
| Skilled | 1559 | 1510 | 49 | 491 |
| Semi-skilled | 1695 | 1427 | 268 | 522 |
| Unskilled | 1684 | 1465 | 219 | 326 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

February 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6814 | 2493* | 1333* |
| Agriculture | 73 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 882 | 13 | 229 |
| Manufacturing | 943 | 170 | 316 |
| Public utilities | 278 | 23 | 95 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2367 | 899 | 409 |
| Service industries | 971 | 432 | 174 |
| Private households | 1150 | 914 | 65 |
| All other | 150 | 42 | 45 |

*Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 701 Bell Avenue, Phone CA - 9331 | Vol. IX, No. 1, April 1953

## EMPLOYMENT RISES AT MID-MARCH

Contrary to expectations at the first of the year, estimated total non-agricultural employment in the area showed a gain at mid-March over February and was only slightly under January. The estimated increase over the past 30 days is 1330, less than 200 below January. The current figure is some 10,720 (3.1%) above 12 months ago.

As compared with one year ago, estimated employment of women has increased 5385 or 7.0%, with a gain of 0.7% over January. It should be stated, however, that a portion of this increase was due to a partial revision in figures for retail trade which was impossible to carry back beyond the current month.

## MANUFACTURING UP SLIGHTLY

Manufacturing employment, dropping from December to January and from January to February, picked up in March to top the January figure by 165 and the February by 640, while remaining 325 below the December estimate. Chief contributor to the previous losses was ordnance, and a labor dispute in food processing. Over the past 30 days, nice gains were indicated in machinery, fabricated metal products, paper and allied products, chemicals and furniture and fixtures.

## NON-MANUFACTURING SHOWS INCREASE

March estimate for non-manufacturing was 690 above February. According to employers reporting to the local T.E.C. office, cuts in retail trade employment were not nearly as drastic as had been anticipated earlier. Business has, for the most part, been good and employment has held up accordingly. Reports from construction firms continue to indicate increased employment, while transportation and allied services appear to be continuing on about the same level. Municipal government, not only in Houston but in surrounding towns, has increased because of public works activities.

## ANTICIPATED DEMAND SMALL

Demand to May is very small, with only 725 currently forecast for expansion in the next 60 days. Construction is the only industry with stated demand of any size. Demand in heavy industry continues to be spotty and uncertain and gains appear to be more haphazard than planned. Currently, total employment is expected to show a loss within the next 60 days.

## UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN 500

An estimated 9,000 unemployed for March is a drop under February's 9,500. Total number of active job applications in the TEC files on March 25 was 7,696 (2332 women) as compared with 8,485 (2196 women) at the end of February. Percentage relationship of clerical and sales applicants to total has dropped approximately 3.0% since January while that of service workers has risen by the same figure. Other broad occupational groups have changed little. Supply continues to be quite adequate for all demands.

TREND OF THE LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

| | APRIL 1940 | OCT. '43 (war peak) | MARCH 1952 | OCTOBER 1952 | MARCH 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total civilian labor force | 234,000 | 310,000 | 360,455 | 369,760 | 371,875 |
| Unemployed | 23,000 | 4,000 | 8,300 | 7,800 | 9,000 |
| Employed | 211,900 | 306,000 | 352,155 | 361,845 | 362,875 |
| Non-agricultural | 204,900 | 300,000 | 345,155* | 354,095* | 355,875 |
| Agricultural | 7,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 7,750 | 7,000 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | INA | 0 | 0 | 115 | 0 |

*Revised

WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, Houston and Baytown offices, March 25, 1953

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 7696 | 5374 | 2322 | 1718 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 432 | 370 | 62 | 131 |
| Clerical and sales | 1185 | 549 | 636 | 226 |
| Service | 1690 | 665 | 1025 | 174 |
| Agricultural | 38 | 38 | 0 | 5 |
| Skilled | 1366 | 1302 | 64 | 409 |
| Semi-skilled | 1493 | 1190 | 303 | 445 |
| Unskilled | 1492 | 1260 | 232 | 328 |

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

March 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6364 | 2115* | 1437* |
| Agricultural | 54 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 811 | 13 | 238 |
| Manufacturing | 792 | 160 | 275 |
| Public utilities | 230 | 31 | 68 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2180 | 690 | 480 |
| Service industries | 945 | 447 | 176 |
| Private households | 1192 | 726 | 152 |
| All other | 160 | 48 | 48 |

* Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 701 Bell Avenue | Vol. IX, No. 2 |
|---|---|---|
| A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone CA - 9331 | May 1953 |

HIGHLIGHTS

A slight increase in employment for the next 4 months is expected. Manufacturing industries should show a small decrease, while nonmanufacturing will account for the gain in employment. Unemployment is anticipated to increase because of students seeking summer work.

EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES
ITS SLOW RISE

Although the rise in employment is small and the decreases and increases are spotty the over-all picture of the present and the immediate future outlook is good. The ordnance industry expects to decrease by 120 employees in June, while fabricated metals and food & kindred products hope to gain 140 more workers. Apparel & finished products will cut down employment by 135 within the next 2 months.

Of the nonmanufacturing industries, construction accounts for the bulk of the gain, with 250. Transportation may lose 100 employees.

The employment of women in the past year has shown a larger increase percentagewise than total employment--6.9% against 3.7%. The reason for this increase is not entirely clear,whether caused by rising cost of living or more jobs for women, but probably both.

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES

Although no substantial lay-off took place unemployment increased 500 over last month. Nearly all skills were involved, but the numbers are small and of little significance. In the next 2 months students will swell the ranks of jobseekers, hoping to find temporary work for the summer. Most of these will have little actual work experience but their youth and enthusiasm will get many of them surprisingly good jobs. It is anticipated that unemployment will rise from 9500 to 11500 by June, with most of the increase being of a temporary nature.

A large segment of the unemployed in Houston is composed of newcomers; its relation to total unemployment fluctuates with economic conditions in the rest of the country. Nonresidents sometimes account for more than 50%, seldom less than 20%.

LABOR SUPPLY MEETS DEMAND

For several years Houston has been considered an area with well-balanced labor supply and demand. This situation still exists. The area can supply any reasonable demand though it may have difficulty in filling a wholesale order for highly skilled technicians or professionals.

Numerically, the area shows a considerable supply--around 11000 more than the demand. However, by far the largest portion falls in the less-skilled group and very few in the professional field.

The demand from the nonmanufacturing industries of 375 to June and 500 to August is rather unusual at this time of the year. In fact, anticipated declines in employment have surprisingly enough turned into demands - obviously a sign of good economic conditions.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS 1/

| | APRIL 1952 | MARCH 1953 | APRIL 1953 | JUNE 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 361040 | 371875 | 372870 | 375420 |
| Unemployment - total - | 8300 | 9000 | 9500 | 11500 |
| female | 2100 | 2500 | 2800 | 3500 |
| Employed - total | 352290 | 362875 | 363370 | 363920 |
| Agricultural | 7250 | 7000 | 7250 | 7500 |
| Manufacturing | 82630 | 85140 | 84985 | 84910 |
| Construction | 29500 | 31550 | 31750 | 32000 |
| Trades | 84335 | 87105 | 87555 | 87580 |
| Others | 148575 | 152080 | 151830 | 151930 |
| Persons involved in labor disputes | 450 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households are included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be promptly furnished on request.

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

April 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 7687 | 2399* | 1661* |
| Agricultural | 349 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 1049 | 14 | 329 |
| Manufacturing | 1098 | 169 | 360 |
| Public utilities | 327 | 53 | 110 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2319 | 732 | 483 |
| Service industries | 836 | 340 | 115 |
| Private households | 1280 | 950 | 48 |
| All other | 429 | 141 | 176 |

* Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

**TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION**

Homer H. Jackson, District Director — 701 Bell Avenue — Vol. IX, No. 3
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager — Phone CA - 9331 — June 1953

HIGHLIGHTS

Employment increased slightly. Unemployment, due to students seeking summer work, increased as anticipated, and should increase more in June. Very small demand for new workers is shown.

EMPLOYMENT SHOWS SMALL INCREASE

Overall employment increased with around 460 workers, or 0.1%, since April. Since March the increase was 0.2%. While the increase in employment since May '52 is shown at 4.5%, some 6400 workers were engaged in a labor dispute at that time and were not included in the total employment figure.

Employment of women has shown an increase of 5580 or 7.2% since May '52. Most of this increase fell in the retail trade group, which has seen a rapid expansion in the past year.

The manufacturing group has shown a very small overall increase since April. However while some individual industries, such as apparel, lost, others like food and fabricated metals gained a few workers.

Among the non-manufacturing group, trade accounts for the largest gain--775 new employees.

Transportation, on the other hand, showed a loss of 300 and government decreased employment by 200.

Construction showed a small loss, but planned new projects should offset any serious decrease in employment.

VACATION BRINGS
INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Summer vacation as usual brought a flood of new job seekers into the labor market. The increase to May from April was estimated at 400, though it is expected that this increase will continue during June.

Outside of a small plant which closed and laid off its workers, no major layoffs have taken place. The above mentioned layoff caused no rise in unemployment, since the majority found work in other plants within the same industry. The increase in unemployment is purely from summer job seekers.

LITTLE DEMAND SHOWN
FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE

In the next 2 months, the demand for new workers amounts to only little over 500. Construction accounts for 300 and trade for 225 of the demand. On the other hand the manufacturing groups report that they get by with 55 persons less. The labor supply available to meet this demand is more than adequate.

It might seem like a contradiction that only 500 new workers are needed in the next two months, when the local offices of T.E.C. places around 7000 persons in jobs every month. However, the majority of demand is for replacement purposes only--that is replacements for discharges and quits -- what is generally known as turnover.

Naturally these workers are part of the labor force and form a large steady supply. It might be well to mention here that the turnover is not excessive, and at present there is no indication that it will be.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS 1/

| | MAY 1952 | APRIL 1953 | MAY 1953 | JULY 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 362815 | 372870 | 373730 | 374833 |
| Unemployment - Total | 8300 | 9500 | 9900 | 10500 |
| Female | 2400 | 2800 | 3100 | 3400 |
| Employed - Total | 348105 | 363370 | 363830 | 364333 |
| Agricultural | 7750 | 7250 | 7250 | 7500 |
| Manufacturing | 77665 | 84985 | 85045 | 84910 |
| Construction | 29700 | 31750 | 31600 | 31900 |
| Trades | 84535 | 87555 | 88330 | 88555 |
| Others | 148455 | 151830 | 151605 | 151458 |
| Workers involved in labor disputes | 6410 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households are included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be promptly furnished on request.

DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS (Houston-Baytown)

MAY 1953

| | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 7394 | 2260* | 1489* |
| Agricultural | 721 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 930 | 11 | 259 |
| Manufacturing | 977 | 143 | 316 |
| Public utilities | 288 | 28 | 94 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2014 | 713 | 417 |
| Service industries | 933 | 348 | 193 |
| Private households | 1220 | 910 | 103 |
| All other | 311 | 107 | 107 |

* Excludes agriculture

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 701 Bell Avenue | Vol. IX, No. 4 |
| A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone CA - 9331 | July 1953 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Employment in the area showed a small decrease, largely seasonal, under April and May. Due to the closing of school, estimated unemployment took an upward spurt. No significant layoffs had occurred up to mid-June. Moderate demand, chiefly in non-manufacturing, is indicated to August. Supply is ample.

APPROXIMATELY 800
DROP IN TOTAL

After rising slightly in May over April, total employment for June was estimated at approximately 800 less than the previous month, with about half of this drop being indicated among women workers. Manufacturing accounted for approximately one fourth of the net loss, with practically every industrial group showing some variation. Eight of these indicated gains of from 20 to 100 in total, nine had losses estimated at from 5 to 300, while one remained unchanged. The largest increase was in fabricated metals, the largest drop in food processing - the latter partly seasonal.

Seasonal factors were also responsible as the major contributing cause of the non-manufacturing net loss. Gains in municipal government, oil production and in finance, insurance and real estate were balanced by losses in construction, communications and transportation. Seasonal reductions in retail trade accounted for the actual loss. This is the second consecutive summer in which employment in retail trade has failed to hit - so far - a low always expected as the "summer slump". There is some indication, however, that a further drop may occur in this group during the next 30 days before salespeople are added for the back-to-school rush.

UNEMPLOYMENT RISES
AT VACATION TIME

The flood of vacation job-seekers, along with graduates entering the labor market, served to boost the June estimate of unemployment up to 11,500, 16.2% above May. At the end of June, the active files of job seekers at the Houston and Baytown TEC offices totaled 8969 (3052 women) as compared with 6736 (2178 women) the previous month. In the May figure, women constituted 32.3% of total, in June 34.0%. Clerical and sales, service and skilled applicants were higher in relation to total in June than in May, while semi-skilled and unskilled workers dropped. Initial claims filed in June increased very slightly over May, although the total number of persons filing active claims for unemployment benefits at the end of June was less than in May. The total number is below 2500.

SOME DEMAND IS
ANTICIPATED

The currently forecast increase of 1425 in total employment to August represents, as stated, a demand that should be met without difficulty. It is chiefly in transportation services, construction and retail trade. One segment of forecast demand will, however, provide some problems- a new hospital now under construction.

Supply continues to show a quite adequate margin over demand, with the usual exception of the skills chronically short in supply on a nation-wide basis.

## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | JUNE 1952 | MAY 1953 | JUNE 1953 | AUGUST 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 365825 | 373730 | 375020 | 375695 |
| Unemployment - Total | 9800 | 9900 | 11500 | 10500 |
| Female | 2650 | 3100 | 3500 | 3200 |
| Employed - Total 1/ | 348550 | 363830 | 363520 | 365195 |
| Agricultural | 8000 | 7250 | 7750 | 8000 |
| Manufacturing | 76420 | 85045 | 84850 | 84935 |
| Construction | 29950 | 31600 | 31400 | 31650 |
| Trades | 84585 | 88330 | 87730 | 88130 |
| Other | 149595 | 151605 | 152190 | 152640 |
| Workers involved in labor-management disputes | 7475 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be promptly furnished upon request.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Houston-Baytown, June 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 12731 | 2555* | 1437* |
| Agricultural | 5410 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 1155 | 19 | 330 |
| Manufacturing | 988 | 174 | 296 |
| Public utilities | 359 | 26 | 108 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2273 | 796 | 408 |
| Service industries | 975 | 493 | 140 |
| Private households | 1428 | 1006 | 123 |
| All other | 143 | 41 | 32 |

* Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 701 Bell Avenue | Vol. IX, No. 5 |
| A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone CA - 9331 | August 1953 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Total employment estimates are down again for the second consecutive month, with a rise in unemployment, and the area is in the midst of several labor disputes. But in spite of somewhat adverse conditions, there is no general pessimism. Merchants are expecting to do business as usual in the next few weeks.

TOTAL DOWN BUT
MANUFACTURING UP

The current 354,295 estimate of nonagricultural total in the area is 0.7% below May and 0.5% under June, with female employment following the same general pattern.

However, manufacturing activities indicate a small increase in total, just under 500 in the past 30 days. Non-electric machinery showed a nice gain and so, surprisingly enough, did ordnance. Transportation equipment has a loss which was of no particular significance. Six industries indicated small gains and four, small losses.

CONSTRUCTION AND
TRADES DROP

By the end of July, the employment situation was considerably complicated by labor-management disputes, but only the one involving iron workers in building trades had come to a head by July 15. Construction is estimated to have taken a drop of about 1000 by mid-July. At the same time some of the "summer slump" hit the retail merchants, which brought employment down although most merchants have expressed themselves as being pleased with business. Employment has, on the whole, held up remarkably well for the season of the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP
2000 FROM JUNE

Unemployment took an upward jump estimated at 2000 from June to July - easily understandable in the light of the trend of employment. However, it was noted that the active files of job seekers in the Houston and Baytown TEC offices showed a very small increase at the end of July as compared with June and that the increase in number of claims was equally small in the same period. While some further increase in claims is certainly natural, it is well known in the area that the type of workers involved in current employment reductions is not too much given to filing claims. Among job applicants at the TEC offices, broad occupational groups resumed their more or less normal relationship to total after June's rise in percentage of women applicants and clerical and sales workers.

TRADES DOMINATE
FUTURE DEMAND

Demand estimates of 2475 to September and 5425 to November were made without taking into consideration the situation existing in the area between mid-July and the present writing in regard to labor disputes. Since most of the demand is in trades, it naturally follows that if the tie-ups continue, buying power will be reduced, with resultant employment cuts. Any forecast is risky, thanks to both the national economic and the local labor situation. In any event, supply is quite ample for need.

## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | JULY 1952 | JUNE 1953 | JULY 1953 | SEPTEMBER 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 367795 | 375020 | 375445 | 377320 |
| Unemployment - Total | 10400 | 11500 | 13500 | 13000 |
| Female | 2750 | 3350 | 3450 | 3450 |
| Employed - Total 1/ | 355070 | 363520 | 361795 | 364320 |
| Agricultural | 8000 | 7750 | 7500 | 7750 |
| Manufacturing | 80980 | 84850 | 85275 | 85475 |
| Construction | 30500 | 31400 | 30400 | 30400 |
| Trades | 84235 | 87730 | 86900 | 88100 |
| Other | 151355 | 151790 | 151720 | 152595 |
| Workers involved in labor-management disputes | 2325 | 0 | 150 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will promptly be furnished upon request.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Houston-Baytown, July 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6977 | 1956* | 1048* |
| Agricultural | 1775 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 688 | 13 | 200 |
| Manufacturing | 838 | 119 | 275 |
| Public utilities | 202 | 29 | 60 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1595 | 630 | 280 |
| Service industries | 686 | 369 | 102 |
| Private households | 1074 | 743 | 108 |
| All other | 119 | 53 | 23 |

* Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 701 Bell Avenue | Vol. IX, No. 6
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone CA - 9331 | September 1953

HIGHLIGHTS

A further drop in nonagricultural employment has been indicated in the past 30 days, estimated at 1130 net. Relatively minor labor disputes have been felt heavily in construction, while retail trade employment has held steady. Unemployment is estimated at some 1500 above July but is expected to drop in the next 60 days. The outlook continues to be optimistic, with an increase anticipated to October. This is of course with the provision that the labor-management situation eases.

CURRENT DROP IS IN MALE WORKERS

The current area non-agricultural employment total of 353,405 is 0.8% above one year ago, 0.8% below June and 0.4% below July. While the current employment fluctuations have occurred largely among male workers, there has been little change in female employment over the past 60 days. Female total has increased 4.7% over the 12-month period.

Manufacturing showed a very small increase in total over June but dropped slightly under July. Ordnance, non-electrical machinery, food processing and chemicals lost a combined total of 475 workers. Two other industrial groups were in the loss column and two remained unchanged. Gains were shown by ten groups, ranging from 5 in electrical machinery to 80 in lumber and wood products.

In non-manufacturing, total was brought down to an 885 loss by a sizeable drop in construction, where work has been halted on most major industrial projects. Retail trade remained practically unchanged over the past 30 days and a relatively small increase was indicated in services allied to transportation. No other significant changes occurred.

Based on current information, an increase of approximately 2800 in total employment is anticipated to October - provided, of course, that the labor disputes tying up construction have been ended. A loss is expected in manufacturing, due to cuts in the war production program. Warehousing is expected to add extra workers for the handling of cotton and rice. Retail merchants are planning to add salespeople to care for fall business prior to the holidays. There is little or no indication of any change in the usual tempo of business in the area because of the end of hostilities in Korea, although this will undoubtedly be felt to some extent at one time or another.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS UP OVER JULY

An estimated 1500 increase in unemployed has occurred in the past 30 days, due for the most part to construction layoffs. No appreciable increase in number of claimants for unemployment benefits has occurred nor has the number of active applications for jobs in the Houston office varied much in the past 60 days. The unemployment figure is expected to decline in the next 60 days. Although the labor supply has always been adequate, the market is even looser in this respect right now.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | AUGUST 1952 | JULY 1953 | AUGUST 1953 | SEPTEMBER 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 367985* | 374435* | 375455 | 374445 |
| Unemployment - Total | 8400 | 13500 | 15000 | 12500 |
| Female | 2000 | 3450 | 3600 | 3000 |
| Employed - Total 1/ | 359385 | 360785 | 360155 | 361945 |
| Agricultural | 8250 | 6250 | 6750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 84916 | 85010 | 84765 | 83980 |
| Construction | 32475 | 32375 | 30875 | 32375 |
| Trades | 80150 | 82965 | 82905 | 84605 |
| Other | 153594 | 154185 | 154860 | 155235 |
| Workers involved in labor-management disputes | 200 | 150 | 300 | INA |

*Revised

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

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DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Houston-Baytown, August 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 12154 | 2173* | 1283* |
| Agricultural | 6434 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 752 | 15 | 247 |
| Manufacturing | 846 | 153 | 303 |
| Public utilities | 211 | 22 | 81 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1879 | 734 | 389 |
| Service industries | 824 | 414 | 140 |
| Private households | 1081 | 813 | 88 |
| All other | 127 | 22 | 35 |

*Excludes agriculture.

HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 701 Bell Avenue | Vol. IX, No. 7
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone CA - 9331 | October 1953

HIGHLIGHTS

The downward trend of area employment has continued, although losses are not so far serious. Manufacturing has dropped again and construction remained the same, with trades on the upgrade. Unemployment has shown a decrease and is expected to decline further to November. Most of the labor disputes have been settled and future outlook is good. Construction will probably pick up immediately and retail merchants are already planning for holiday increases. Supply is plentiful.

TOTAL IS DOWN
BUT WOMEN GAIN

September non-agricultural estimated total of 353,686 is 1809 (0.6%) below July and 579 (0.2%) below August. For the first time, the total dropped below that of one year ago, although the loss was negligible - less than 100. On the other hand, while total has been decreasing, employment of women has indicated gains. Current total of 103,427 is almost 500 above both July and August (0.6%) and 3,455 or 4.4% above September of last year. This situation is only natural in view of the type of industry affected by losses.

END OF HOSTILITIES
AFFECTS INDUSTRY

Chief factor in employment reductions is of course cessation of fighting in Korea and subsequent cuts in defense contracts. This has brought ordnance employment down sharply, with further cuts to come. Even though this area does not have a large amount of defense industry as such, it is only natural that other industries will be affected, if only indirectly. Next to ordnance, shipbuilding has shown the biggest drop. Oil tool manufacturing total is down and food processing to a lesser degree.

Seasonal pick-up in retail trade and in transportation services has brought a net gain of about 900 in non-manufacturing in the past 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT
IS DOWN 1000

While the current estimate of 14,000 unemployed is slightly higher than July, it is 1000 below the August estimate. A drop of 852 was noted in the number of active job applications with the TEC at the end of September as compared with August, and the number of new applications taken also declined. The number of active claimants for unemployment insurance was only 79 higher at the end of this month than last. Among job seekers, percentage of clerical and sales and of skilled to total was higher than in August.

HOLIDAY DEMAND
IS IN SIGHT

Expansion demand to November is currently estimated at 6600, the bulk of which is expected to come from retail trade. Included is also a probable increase in construction, with disputes settled and weather good. There is every indication that supply will be more than ample.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | SEPTEMBER 1952 | AUGUST 1953 | SEPTEMBER 1953 | NOVEMBER 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 369946* | 376415* | 377536 | 378171 |
| Unemployment - Total | 7800 | 15000 | 14000 | 12500 |
| Female | 2250 | 3600 | 3450 | 3000 |
| Employed - Total 1/ | 362031 | 361115 | 360936 | 365671 |
| Agricultural | 8250 | 6750 | 7250 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 84966 | 84665 | 83184 | 82854 |
| Construction | 32475 | 30875 | 30875 | 32375 |
| Trades | 82235 | 83865 | 84240 | 88190 |
| Other | 154105 | 154860 | 155387 | 156502 |
| Workers involved in labor-management disputes | 115 | 300 | 600 | INA |

* Revised.
1/ Self-employed unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

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DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Houston-Baytown, September 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 14402 | 2405* | 1348* |
| Agricultural | 8104 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 719 | 16 | 205 |
| Manufacturing | 879 | 167 | 301 |
| Public utilities | 369 | 35 | 114 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2117 | 751 | 457 |
| Service industries | 915 | 464 | 163 |
| Private households | 1204 | 927 | 90 |
| All other | 95 | 45 | 18 |

*Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 MAIN STREET
PHONE LI - 7481
Vol. IX, No. 8
November 1953

HIGHLIGHTS

Although manufacturing again indicated a loss for the third consecutive month, the current nonagricultural estimate of total shows an increase over the previous month for the first time since May. Few losses occurred in nonmanufacturing. Estimate of unemployment remains unchanged from September. While further losses in manufacturing have occurred since the October estimates were prepared, seasonal activity for the holidays promises a sharp upturn in total to December. Supply is generally plentiful and is expected to be augmented from the usual sources for holiday demands.

FIRST GAIN IN
TOTAL SINCE MAY

In contrast with the 0.2% loss in estimated total from August to September, October netted an 0.2% gain over the previous month, with a very slight increase over August. Employment of women also showed a gain; this was the second consecutive increase for them.

Once again, the current total fell short of one year ago, this time a little more than 700; again women workers gained over the same period - better than 3000. This situation has grown out of the fact that cutbacks are in heavy industry and that a steady uptrend exists in retail trade and other groups relying heavily on women for their needs.

Ordnance, ship repair, petroleum refining, fabricated metal products and nenelectric machinery, in that order, were the chief factors in the manufacturing loss. With the exception of petroleum refining, all the losses were due more or less directly to cessation of fighting in Korea. One ordnance plant ceased operations entirely and ship repair fell off abruptly. In plants in other industries, defense contracts were completed without renewals. Between the middle of October and November 1, additional layoffs took place in fabricated metals and in machinery; this is reflected in the current forecast of a loss in manufacturing to December.

The past 30 days saw a relatively small increase in construction, a seasonal upswing in warehousing and further gain in the medical and professional group. Retail trade also picked up.

UNEMPLOYMENT
REMAINS SAME

An estimated 14,000 unemployed in October is unchanged from the previous month. The number of job seekers in the active files of the TEC changed little from September; active claimants for unemployment benefits increased 172 over the 30-day period. Changes in the percentage relationships of broad occupational groups to total among job seekers were minor.

CHRISTMAS
IS COMING

Demand for approximately 9500 holiday extras is currently forecast; some hiring has begun. Ample supply is anticipated from outside the regular labor force.

## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | OCTOBER 1952 | SEPTEMBER 1953 | OCTOBER 1953 | DECEMBER 1953 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 369522* | 375536 | 374383 | 380721 |
| Unemployment - Total | 7800 | 14000 | 14000 | 11000 |
| Female | 2250 | 3450 | 3450 | 3000 |
| Employed - Total 1/ | 361607 | 360936 | 360383 | 369721 |
| Agricultural | 6500 | 7250 | 6000 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 85296 | 83184 | 82401 | 81999 |
| Construction | 32475 | 30875 | 31275 | 31595 |
| Trades | 82660 | 84240 | 84575 | 92025 |
| Other | 154676 | 155387 | 156132 | 158372 |
| Workers involved in labor-management disputes | 115 | 600 | 0 | INA |

*Revised
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Houston-Baytown, October 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUPS | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 6342 | 2197* | 1297* |
| Agricultural | 771 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 639 | 12 | 214 |
| Manufacturing | 669 | 124 | 250 |
| Public utilities | 232 | 47 | 82 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 1970 | 748 | 436 |
| Service industries | 844 | 397 | 199 |
| Private households | 1112 | 841 | 91 |
| All other | 105 | 28 | 25 |

*Excludes agriculture.

② H O U S T O N

# LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

HOMER H. JACKSON, DISTRICT DIRECTOR
A. R. HUTCHINS, OFFICE MANAGER
3104 MAIN STREET
PHONE LI - 7481

Vol. IX, No. 9
DECEMBER 1953

HIGHLIGHTS

In spite of further cuts in manufacturing, estimated total employment showed an increase for the second consecutive month, while unemployment dropped slightly. Holiday hiring was well under way by mid-November; although buying began later than last year, December is expected to set a record. Demand to January and March currently known is negligible and total employment is expected to drop sharply following the holidays. Supply is plentiful, being augmented by holiday jobseekers from outside the regular labor force.

GAIN OF 3100 IN
PAST 60 DAYS

The November nonagricultural total figure of 356,790 is 0.9% above September and 0.7% above October, with a net numerical gain of 3100 over the 2-month period. The current figure is 1518 below that of November 1952.

The current estimate of 105,829 for women is 2112 (2.6%) above October, 2402 (3.0%) above September and 3267 or 4.1% above a year ago. This variation from the trend in total employment arises from the fact that cutbacks have occurred in industries where few women are employed and that trades and services continue steadily to increase.

Increase in total since October was a net of approximately 2400, with manufacturing down 366 and non-manufacturing up 2773. Sizeable losses were reported in ordnance, nonelectric machinery, primary metals and shipbuilding. Smaller losses were shown in other groups, with relatively small increases in fabricated metals, electrical machinery, food processing, printing and miscellaneous manufacturing.

In non-manufacturing, construction, utilities, and professional services gained moderately while trades picked up an estimated 2725. A drop was indicated in transportation services.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS SLIGHTLY

The current estimate of 13,500 is just 500 below each of the two previous months in spite of holiday hiring. The explanation of this is in the type of industry in which layoffs have occurred and in the fact that much of the recent hiring has been done from the supply of holiday applicants not normally in the open labor market. Although the number of active claimants for unemployment benefits in the Houston office has increased 20.4% since the end of September, the actual number at the end of November was only 3802 or 1% of the total labor force. In November, 2176 initial claims were filed as against 1415 in October, and active job applications rose to 9654. As to the broad occupational relationship to total, there has been no significant variation over the past three months.

DEMAND IS SMALL

By-passing holiday demand limited mostly to December, demand to January is negligible - less than 300. A sharp drop in total employment is expected, following the usual December high.

## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | NOVEMBER 1952 | OCTOBER 1953 | NOVEMBER 1953 | JANUARY 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 371858* | 374383 | 376040 | 374020 |
| Unemployment - Total | 7800 | 14000 | 13500 | 14500 |
| Female | 2250 | 3450 | 3450 | 3950 |
| Employed - Total 1/ | 364058* | 360383 | 362540 | 359520 |
| Agricultural | 5750 | 6000 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 85356 | 82401 | 82035 | 81940 |
| Construction | 32475 | 31275 | 31475 | 31475 |
| Trades | 85510 | 84575 | 87300 | 84650 |
| Other | 154967 | 156132 | 155980 | 155705 |
| Workers involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

*Revised

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF T.E.C. PLACEMENTS BY BROAD INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Houston-Baytown, November 1953

| INDUSTRIAL GROUPS | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 5333 | 2303* | 1066* |
| Agricultural | 57 | INA | INA |
| Contract construction | 488 | 7 | 158 |
| Manufacturing | 596 | 130 | 200 |
| Public utilities | 225 | 46 | 69 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 2013 | 878 | 374 |
| Service industries | 829 | 409 | 150 |
| Private households | 1047 | 812 | 85 |
| All other | 78 | 21 | 30 |

*Excludes agriculture.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

**TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION**

HOMER H. JACKSON, DISTRICT DIRECTOR | 3104 MAIN STREET | Vol. IX, No. 10
A. R. HUTCHINS, OFFICE MANAGER | PHONE LI - 7481 | JANUARY 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

Total employment rose sharply again during December, boosted by a new high in holiday employment. Manufacturing also dropped again but most of this loss was due to a labor dispute. Estimated unemployment was 1000 less than in November. February employment, following the customary trend, is expected to drop back to about the level of last October. Expansion demand to February as stated by employers is very small and supply is ample.

HOLIDAYS HIT
NEW HIGH

Between October and December, total net employment increase was not as great in 1953 as it was a year ago. This is partly accounted for cutbacks which have taken place in manufacturing. Another factor is a warehousing season which was shorter this year than last. On the other hand, it would appear from employer reports that seasonal hiring in retail trade hit a new high. Last year, the estimated increase in this group from November first to mid-December was 7775; this year's estimate was 8675. The post office almost doubled its force to give the public fast service. These two elements plus wholesale houses netted an estimated gain of approximately 8450 from November to December.

MANUFACTURING
PICTURE INVOLVED

Manufacturing does not present the clear picture of the non-manufacturing groups. While comparison of November and December total figures for all manufacturing activities shows a loss of 1504 workers to December, 1200 of these were an approximation of those involved in two labor disputes. Both of these disputes were settled early in January.

Ordnance, for the first time since June, remained unchanged. Reductions at rice mills, bottling companies and other seasonal types of plants brought food processing a net loss estimated at 125. In printing plants, about 135 extra workers were laid off. Fabricated metals lost about 100, scattered throughout the industry. Employment among oil tool manufacturers varied little. Employment in the apparel group rose because of an increase in bag manufacturing. All other changes were small and insignificant.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 1000

Because of holiday hiring, estimated unemployment was 1000 below November. However, a somewhat sharp increase to February is expected. This will reflect holiday layoffs, midterm graduates entering the labor market and a certain number of the ever-present in-migrants not immediately employed. The latter continue to make up a large percentage of new job applicants at the T.E.C.

EMPLOYMENT TO GO DOWN

Following the usual trend, total employment is expected to drop sharply for the next 60 days. Settlement of labor disputes should bring manufacturing up, although employers have forecast little or no demand. Trades will take the loss.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | DECEMBER 1952 | NOVEMBER 1953 | DECEMBER 1953 | FEBRUARY 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 379289* | 367040 | 383626 | 375031 |
| Unemployment - Total | 7500 | 13500 | 12500 | 15000 |
| Female | 1800 | 3450 | 3100 | 3950 |
| Employed - total 1/ | 371789 | 362540 | 369926 | 360031 |
| Agricultural | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 85201 | 82035 | 80531 | 80926 |
| Construction | 32675 | 31475 | 31475 | 31975 |
| Trades | 90785 | 87300 | 93600 | 84885 |
| Other | 157378 | 155980 | 158570 | 156495 |
| Workers involved in labor-mangement disputes | 0 | 0 | 1200 | INA |

*Revised

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

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DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE JOB SEEKERS BY BROAD OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, December 23, 1953

Houston-Baytown TEC Offices

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 9035 | 2776 | 1988 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 344 | 46 | 98 |
| Clerical and sales | 1488 | 819 | 207 |
| Service (including domestic) | 1631 | 1011 | 175 |
| Agricultural | 33 | 0 | 2 |
| Skilled | 1894 | 116 | 523 |
| Semi-skilled | 1839 | 442 | 563 |
| Unskilled | 1806 | 342 | 420 |

H O U S T O N
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

HOMER H. JACKSON, DISTRICT DIRECTOR 3104 MAIN STREET
A. R. HUTCHINS, OFFICE MANAGER PHONE LI - 7481
VOL. IX, NO. 11
FEBRUARY 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

Total employment took its usual post-holiday nosedive because of retail trade, aided by construction, while unemployment is up. With a labor dispute settled, manufacturing showed a very small gain over last month. March employment is expected to go up slightly if conditions are favorable; if they are not, a further drop may occur. Stated demand from employers has naturally been small.

JANUARY TOTAL
DROPS SHARPLY

Total non-agricultural employment for January was estimated at just under 11,000 below December, with employment of women dropping approximately 4200. The current total is about 4100 below November and 4450 below one year ago. Of this latter drop, 3800 is chalked up to manufacturing, chiefly ordnance and shipbuilding. In non-manufacturing, healthy gains in several industries almost offset a much-lowered construction estimate.

In the past 30 days, the general pattern of manufacturing varied little from that of a year ago. One exception was in food processing, where a packing company layoff made a sizeable dent in the industry total. Ordnance changed little; ship repair dropped again. Settlement of a labor dispute at can companies brought the fabricated metals total up, although there is a small net loss over 60 days. Although a slight drop was indicated in oil tool manufacturers' employment, the industry does not appear pessimistic. The total for chemicals got a nice boost thanks to the completion of a new unit of one of the major companies. There was little significance in other changes.

TRADES AND
CONSTRUCTION DOWN

The usual December-to-January drop in retail trade and other extra Christmas employment brought about a decrease of around 9400 in non-manufacturing. Again, this followed the usual pattern. However, construction likewise lost considerably, particularly on heavy industrial projects. Three in this immediate area and two nearby were finished in the span of a few weeks' time. Cuts in railroad employment brought transportation services down. A bright spot was the reported increase of 350 in hospital workers, and further additions in insurance.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP

Little explanation need be given for an increase of 2500 in unemployment in the past 30 days. New TEC job applications rose 49%, the active files of job seekers 31% and active claimants for unemployment benefits in the Houston offices from 4473 at the end of December to 6337 at the end of January. In-migration of two types - newcomers and former residents - appears to be increasing lately.

SOME EMPLOYERS
STATE DEMAND

Based on employers' reports, the current forecast to March is for an increase of 1525 in total if circumstances are favorable to construction and retail trade.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | JANUARY 1953 | DECEMBER 1953 | JANUARY 1954 | MARCH 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 371850* | 383626 | 373964 | 374990 |
| Unemployment - Total | 8700 | 12500 | 15000 | 14500 |
| Female | 2300 | 3100 | 4000 | 3500 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 362910* | 369926 | 358964 | 360490 |
| Agricultural | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 84711 | 80531 | 80909 | 81000 |
| Construction | 33225 | 31475 | 29475 | 30475 |
| Trades | 85175 | 93600 | 86365 | 86775 |
| Other | 154049 | 158570 | 156465 | 156490 |
| Workers involved in labor-management disputes | 240 | 1200 | 0 | INA |

*Revised

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

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DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE JOB SEEKERS BY BROAD OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, JANUARY 25, 1954

Houston TEC Offices

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 11060 | 3277 | 2462 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 465 | 49 | 145 |
| Clerical and sales | 2119 | 1334 | 280 |
| Service (including domestic) | 1856 | 1118 | 208 |
| Agricultural | 34 | 0 | 10 |
| Skilled | 2437 | 76 | 695 |
| Semi-skilled | 2057 | 387 | 652 |
| Unskilled | 2092 | 313 | 472 |

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

HOMER H. JACKSON, DISTRICT DIRECTOR | 3105 MAIN STREET | VOL. IX, NO. 12
A. R. HUTCHINS, OFFICE MANAGER | PHONE LI - 7481 | M A R C H 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

Although total employment dropped and unemployment rose again for the second time in a row, there are some indications that a break may occur before too definite a trend is established in this direction. Manufacturing showed an actual increase for the first time since it began to drop last July (last month's gain was due to the settlement of a labor dispute). Because of retail trade and construction, non-manufacturing declined again. With favorable conditions, total employment is expected to begin to rise again by April, even though manufacturing will probably show a loss again before beginning to level off. While total claims for unemployment benefits are naturally increased, initial benefit claims are beginning to drop. Easter should bring increased employment in retail trade and good weather should boost construction.

TOTAL IS DOWN
APPROXIMATELY 1000

Current estimate of total netted a loss of just under a thousand below January - a lesser loss than took place in the same period last year. The December-January drop was greater this year than last and the current figure is approximately 3450 below February 1953. This decrease in total is exactly the same as the estimated increase in the number of women workers during the same period. This is explained by the type of layoffs which have taken place - largely involving male workers, and by the fact that indications point to more women workers in private households as well as in retail trade through normal expansion. Both total and women declined the past 30 days.

FABRICATED
METALS LEAD

Fabricated metals led the six manufacturing groups showing gains in the past 30 days by a wide margin. Next was chemicals, while small increases were indicated by furniture, electric machinery, ship repair and miscellaneous durable goods. Once again ordnance went down, with further reductions scheduled. Food processing likewise showed another loss, part of which was seasonal. Other variations were of no significance. Retail trade, at mid-February, was down an estimated 1150, although later reports are more optimistic. Construction estimates are currently 2500 less than two months ago.

INITIAL CLAIMS
TREND DOWNWARD

While February unemployment was estimated at 2000 above January and claimants for unemployment benefits have increased, initial claims for these benefits have begun to drop. This is usually to be taken as an indication of leveling off. The TEC active files of job applications in February showed a higher percentage of women to total than in January. Skilled workers increased in relation to total and clerical and sales workers dropped.

INCREASE FORECAST

Retail trade is expected to pick up an estimated 1350 to April, while construction may add 2000. Net gain to 60 days could be close to 3000. Supply is ample.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | FEBRUARY 1953 | JANUARY 1954 | FEBRUARY 1954 | APRIL 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 371150 | 373965 | 374970 | 375645 |
| Unemployment - Total | 9500 | 15000 | 17000 | 14500 |
| Female | 2700 | 4000 | 4500 | 4000 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 361410 | 358965 | 357970 | 361145 |
| Agricultural | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 6000 |
| Manufacturing | 84235 | 80910 | 81120 | 80660 |
| Construction | 33325 | 29475 | 28975 | 30975 |
| Trades | 83930 | 86365 | 85215 | 86565 |
| Other | 154170 | 156465 | 156910 | 156945 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 240 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

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DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE JOB SEEKERS BY BROAD OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, FEBRUARY 25, 1954

Houston and Baytown T.E.C. Offices

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 13552 | 4242 | 2739 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 612 | 61 | 189 |
| Clerical and sales | 2502 | 1565 | 354 |
| Service (including domestic) | 2168 | 1346 | 222 |
| Agricultural | 51 | 0 | 19 |
| Skilled | 3208 | 101 | 856 |
| Semi-skilled | 2558 | 679 | 711 |
| Unskilled | 2453 | 490 | 388 |

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

HOMER H. JACKSON, District Director | 3104 MAIN STREET | Vol. X, No. 1
A. R. HUTCHINS, Office Manager | PHONE LI - 7481 | APRIL 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

While manufacturing dropped slightly in March, estimated total employment showed its first non-seasonal increase since May 1953. The unemployment figure did not rise but claims actions are definitely leveling off and unemployment is expected to decrease. April should net a gain in total employment as should May. Construction and retail trade are both showing improvement. Manufacturing is due for another loss to May due to ordnance reductions. Employers are generally fairly optimistic.

EMPLOYMENT UP
ALMOST A THOUSAND

An estimated increase of just under one thousand in the past 30 days represents the first non-seasonal break in the downward trend of total employment in the past nine months. The number of women workers indicated little net change, with an increase in non-manufacturing being largely offset by losses in two manufacturing industries.

SIX INDUSTRIES
UP, FOUR DOWN

Disregarding 30-day fluctuations of less than 75 in total, March saw six major industries on the credit side with four in the loss column. Oil tool manufacture indicated its first gain since last July. Chemicals continued its steady expansion. Construction total is going up after losing over the past two months due to completion of several major industrial projects in the area.

While most of the big retail stores reported little variation in net total, employment in retail trade has increased because of the opening of a number of small outlying shops of all types. Several new or expanded insurance offices have been added to that group and hospital employment is increasing with growth of the Texas Medical Center.

Fabricated metals declined because of a drop in can manufacture; shipbuilding continued to cut back. Some further force reductions were reported by the railroads. The apparel group lost from a bag plant layoff due to contract completion. Ordnance remained about the same.

UNEMPLOYMENT
REMAINS UNCHANGED

Unemployment is again estimated at 17,000. Both new work applications and the active files of job applications dropped in March and unemployment benefit claims actions are dropping slightly. However, total number of active claimants had shown a small increase at the end of March. Recent job applications have indicated an unusually large number of out-of-state arrivals in Houston. They have also revealed that women laid off several months ago have just now begun to look for other jobs. A drop in unemployment is expected to May.

MORE JOBS ARE
EXPECTED BY MAY

A net increase of about 2700 in total employment is currently forecast to May, almost entirely in non-manufacturing. Construction is due to go up and retail trade has stated demand beyond Easter requirements. Current and future supply is quite adequate for all demands.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | MARCH 1953 | FEBRUARY 1954 | MARCH 1954 | MAY '54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 371765 | 374970 | 375930 | 376400 |
| Unemployment - Total | 9000 | 17000 | 17000 | 14500 |
| Female | 2500 | 4500 | 4000 | 3500 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 362765 | 357970 | 358880 | 361900 |
| Agricultural | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 6000 |
| Manufacturing | 84875 | 81120 | 80890 | 80500 |
| Construction | 33525 | 28975 | 29475 | 30975 |
| Trades | 84130 | 85215 | 85775 | 87135 |
| Other | 154485 | 156910 | 156990 | 157290 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 50 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desire, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

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DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE JOB SEEKERS BY BROAD OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, March 25, 1954

Houston and Baytown T.E.C. Offices

| OCCUPATIONAL GROUP | TOTAL | FEMALE | VETERAN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total of all groups | 12309 | 3315 | 2841 |
| Professional, technical, managerial | 585 | 66 | 166 |
| Clerical and sales | 2095 | 1374 | 281 |
| Service (including domestic) | 1772 | 966 | 203 |
| Agricultural | 33 | 1 | 12 |
| Skilled | 2983 | 115 | 830 |
| Semi-skilled | 2349 | 427 | 777 |
| Unskilled | 2492 | 366 | 572 |

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

HOMER H. JACKSON, District Director | 3104 MAIN STREET | Vol. X, No. 2
A. R. HUTCHINS, Office Manager | PHONE LI - 7481 | MAY 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

Total estimated employment rose again in April for the second time since May 1953, with a seasonal assist from Mother's Day buying in retail trade. A small increase would have been netted even without the retail gain. Manufacturing again showed a loss.

Unemployment went down as expected and initial claims for unemployment benefits dropped for the third successive month. Students out of school usually increase unemployment each June.

While current forecast to June is for a very slight drop in non-agricultural total under April, the figure is still expected to top March. Agricultural employment is increasing.

2000 JUMP IN
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

Spring farm activity joined with trades, construction and hospitals to bring total estimated employment up two thousand over last month in spite of the fact that manufacturing indicated a loss of almost 600. Even without the increase in retail trade, which was somewhat seasonal, non-agricultural total would have shown a net gain. This is the second successive break in the downward trend of non-seasonal employment which began in May 1953. Nearly a thousand more women were indicated over the past thirty days, most of whom were in retail trade. Some of these will be laid off in the next 60 days.

In manufacturing, only three industrial groups indicated fluctuations amounting to as many as a hundred workers - and all three showed up on the minus side. Ordnance of course led the losses with another cutback; a labor dispute brought primary metals down. Fabricated metals netted a loss because of one plant's layoff of a large number of workers hired two months ago for a special job.

According to reports from employers, a spurt of Spring buying brought a substantial increase in retail trade. Construction continues to improve, with building permits for the first quarter of 1954 well above the same period last year. Several large contract awards are still pending. Hospitals in the Medical Center again reported increased employment.

MANUFACTURING GAINS
20% SINCE 1950

Since there is continual discussion of the drop in manufacturing employment with the end of fighting in Korea, a pre-Korean comparison might be of interest. It might also serve to underline what has so often been proved in this area - that the area's growth and prosperity are not dependent on booms, defense or otherwise.

In April 1950 (Korean hostilities started in June), manufacturing industries employed an estimated 67,070 workers. During the period of defense production, highest manufacturing employment came in November 1952 with a total of 85,355. One year ago this had dropped to 84,720. But the most significant fact is that, after most of such production except a small amount of ordnance has been completed, the current figure of 80,310 is 13,240 higher than four years ago, a gain of about 20%.

Leaving out ordnance, strictly a war baby, five industries are largely responsible for this growth. They are industries basic to the area economy - primary metals, fabricated metals, oil tool manufacturing, chemicals and petroleum refining. Together, these five groups have netted approximately 10,750 workers above 1950 and all have had their ups and downs in the meantime.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN IN APRIL

All indications pointed to fewer unemployed in April than in the past two months. Initial claims for unemployment benefits have been dropping steadily since February. During April, a total of 2689 new claims was filed in the Houston and Baytown offices as against 3059 in March and 3956 in February. Initial claims against employers in other states accounted for 11.7% of all new claims filed during these three months. Both the number of new applications taken and the number of active job applications remaining in the files at the end of the month have also been on the decrease.

JUNE MAY SEE
TOTAL DROP SLIGHTLY

Very little net change is currently forecast in manufacturing to June. Indications are that construction will increase materially, possibly by a thousand workers. However, some seasonal decline is due in transportation services and employer reports point to reduction in retail total by June. These factors may balance off for a slight net loss in total to June.

The present ample supply will be increased from about mid-May on by high school and college students entering the labor market either permanently or for temporary vacation work.

* * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | APRIL 1953 | MARCH 1954 | APRIL 1954 | JUNE 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 372980 | 376265 | 376855 | 378260 |
| Unemployment - Total | 9500 | 17000 | 15500 | 17000 |
| Female | 2700 | 4000 | 3750 | 4250 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 363480 | 359215 | 361215 | 361260 |
| Agricultural | 6000 | 5750 | 6000 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 84720 | 80890 | 80310 | 79965 |
| Construction | 33725 | 29475 | 30225 | 31475 |
| Trades | 84580 | 85775 | 87135 | 86485 |
| Other | 154455 | 157325 | 157545 | 156835 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 50 | 140 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

**TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| HOMER H. JACKSON, District Director | 3104 MAIN STREET | Vol. X, No. 3 |
| A. R. HUTCHINS, Office Manager | PHONE LI - 7481 | J U N E 1954 |


HIGHLIGHTS

General improvement has been indicated in the employment situation in the past 30 days, with sizeable increases in both agricultural and non-agricultural totals.

As was expected, unemployment rose slightly in spite of increased employment. Students began looking for jobs by the middle of May and transportation services have had a cutback.

A slight increase in non-agricultural total is forecast to July, mostly in non-manufacturing. Construction is still on the up-grade and basic retail trade employment is growing because of the opening of so many new small stores in community centers.

30-DAY INCREASE IS
MORE THAN 3000

An over-all gain in total employment of better than 3000 was indicated in the past 30 days. Non-agricultural picked up an estimated 2575, while favorable weather increased farm employment by 500.

The non-agricultural total is still below a year ago but the margin of difference is narrowing. On the 12-month basis, a non-manufacturing increase estimated at 3980 was offset by a manufacturing loss of 4215 to net a decrease in total of 235. However, with an estimated gain of 500 in agriculture over 1953, total employment showed a net increase of 265. This is in sharp contrast with April 1954's drop of 2265 in total under the April 1953 figure.

MANUFACTURING
HOLDS ITS OWN

No change of numerical significance was indicated in any manufacturing group in the past 30 days - a fact significant in itself. The small net gain was scattered, eight groups adding an estimated 505 to offset a loss of 250 in nine others. The largest gain was 120 in printing and publishing, the largest losses about 70 in ordnance and in chemicals. The latter was seasonal. Also seasonal was an increase in food processing. A small net gain in the fabricated metals group came from such widely varied activities as a fence fabricator, a can plant and an aluminum window manufacturer. Concrete building material makers have been increasing gradually over the past 60 days because of demand from construction. Oil tool manufacturers indicated a gain while primary metals' total is still low due to a labor dispute. Shipbuilding increased slightly.

TRADES AND
CONSTRUCTION UP

Only one sour note has marred nonmanufacturing's steady gains - layoffs among the railroads. These plus seasonal cuts dropped transportation services an estimated 750 in the past 30 days. Elsewhere, non-manufacturing groups are continuing to reflect both a more stable economic situation and the area's unbroken expansion. Construction employment increase was estimated at 500 over April, while retail trade zoomed up 1100. In the general merchandise and apparel groups, 67 firms reporting to the TEC showed an aggregate increase of 598 in total and 373 women over the past 30 days. In addition, the many new community centers of all sizes are adding small stores in every retail classification at a rate almost impossible to keep abreast of with employment estimates.

STUDENTS ADD TO
UNEMPLOYMENT

Current unemployment figure of 16,000 is 500 above April, in spite of the increase in estimated employment. As reflected in claims actions, UC insured unemployment dropped. On the other hand, the railroad layoffs are not reflected in the UC claims figures. In March, 3059 initial claims for unemployment benefits were filed in the area while the May total was 2729. In the Houston offices, there were 7739 active claimants at the end of March and 7406 at the end of May. New job applications in May totaled 5048 as against 4406 in April, and the active files of all job applicants had risen 759 over 30 days ago. These reflect students looking for jobs, either temporary or regular. Clerical and sales applicants have increased in relation to total, while percentage of skilled workers in the files dropped sharply. Proportion of service workers has been on the increase since March while that of unskilled workers is less. Unemployment total is expected to remain near the current total for the next 60 days.

JULY EXPANSION
DEMAND IS SMALL

Net expansion demand to July is currently estimated at 855, all nonagricultural and with only 190 in manufacturing. Construction accounts for more than half of the total. Transportation services are expected to drop seasonally to July and to pick up before September. No demand is indicated to July in trades.

Supply is still ample and has been greatly increased by students. TEC placements were up almost 400 in May over April.

* * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | MAY '53 | APRIL '54 | MAY '54 | JULY '54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 373925 | 376855 | 380420 | 380795 |
| Unemployment - Total | 9900 | 15500 | 16000 | 16000 |
| Female | 3100 | 3750 | 4000 | 3750 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 364025 | 361215 | 364290 | 364795 |
| Agricultural | 6000 | 6000 | 6500 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 84780 | 80310 | 80565 | 80680 |
| Construction | 33575 | 30225 | 30725 | 31225 |
| Trades | 85355 | 87135 | 88560 | 88385 |
| Other | 154315 | 157545 | 157940 | 158005 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 140 | 130 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

HOMER H. JACKSON, District Director — 3104 MAIN STREET — Vol. X, No. 4
A. R. HUTCHINS, Office Manager — PHONE LI - 7481 — JULY 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

The June nonagricultural employment estimate topped the figure for a year ago for the first time since September 1953. A nice gain was shown over May, with manufacturing netting its second successive small increase. Farm employment was down a little.

Unemployment was up slightly because of so many job-hunting students but a drop is expected to August.

Both farm and non-farm employment are expected to increase in the next 30 to 60 days. Because of new outlets, retail trade as a whole seems due to miss the "summer slump", although the large stores will undoubtedly cut back.

TOTAL IS MORE THAN
2000 OVER LAST YEAR

For the first time since September 1953, the current non-agricultural employment estimate is well above one year ago. Total, including agriculture, showed a net increase of just over 2150, with farm employment down 250 and non-farm up about 2400.

Over the same 12-month period, women workers have increased approximately 4900. In manufacturing, there are slightly fewer women (some 140) than in June 1953, while non-manufacturing has added an estimated 5030. Of this latter figure, trades account for almost half (2270), with approximately 1000 increase in medical services and nearly 750 in insurance.

Following the trend set several months ago, the 2400 net gain in total non-agricultural workers was made up of two very unequal parts -- a loss of 3830 in manufacturing and a 5245 gain in non-manufacturing. Chief manufacturing losers were, as usual, ordnance, shipbuilding, oilfield machinery and food processing, in that order. The non-manufacturing gain -- in trades, finance and insurance, hospitals and crude oil production -- was cut down by recent non-seasonal layoffs in transportation services and a smaller total in construction employment than in 1953.

1845 INCREASE
IN PAST 30 DAYS

For the second successive month, manufacturing added a small increase to total to net an estimated gain of 1845 in nonagricultural employment since May. Shipbuilding took an unexpected spurt which brought the industry up 175. Fabricated metals added 130 and primary metals 75. Six other groups indicated smaller increases.

Oilfield equipment manufacturers dropped 150 and seasonal losses occurred in food processing and bag manufacturing, 65 and 90 respectively. Negligible losses were shown in two other groups, while four remained unchanged.

Construction and retail trade again were the top gainers. Employment in the large retail outlets has been holding its own and even picking up, while several new, smaller stores were opened. The new Corrigan Center in Pasadena opened with such occupants as Penny's, Grants's and A & P.

Total in transportation services remained practically unchanged, although some further railroad layoffs were felt by the end of June. An estimated 300 was picked up in petroleum production, an industry hard to keep track of because of hiring in the field. Other minor gains were indicated, from 10 in government to 150 in hospitals, with a small seasonal decrease in hotels and laundries as the only loss.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP SLIGHTLY

Due to so many job-hunting students, June unemployment was estimated at 16,500, an increase of 500 over May. Indications are that the total will be less by August. In the past 30 days, there has been a drop in the number of initial claims filed for unemployment benefits and the number of active claimants in the Houston offices was almost 800 below May. Compensable claims filed dropped 1416 in Houston and Baytown combines. Of course, some part of this comes from benefit exhaustions, but generally the situation seems improved.

During June, the area TEC offices took 6724 new job applications as compared to 5048 in May and 4406 in April. The active file of job applications at the end of June totaled 13,780 against 11,453 at the end of May. Both situations reflect the large number of students looking for jobs both temporary and permanent. New applications also continue to show a good percentage of newcomers, and of 2687 initial claims filed in June, 12% were against employers in other states.

AUGUST DEMAND
ESTIMATED AT 1420

Nonfarm demand of 1170 and an estimated 250 additional for farm work are currently estimated to August. Along with accelerated cotton and rice activity will come added employment in warehouses and at the docks. Construction demand of about 500 is estimated and a small increase in retail trade. Very small demand has been expressed by manufacturing employers and the biggest demand in this category came to about 100 workers in seasonal food processing. Supply continues to be adequate for all demands.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | JUNE '53 | MAY '54 | JUNE '54 | AUGUST '54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 375220 | 380420 | 382515 | 383455 |
| Unemployment - Total | 11500 | 16000 | 16500 | 16000 |
| Female | 3350 | 4000 | 4500 | 4000 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 363720 | 364290 | 365885 | 367455 |
| Agriculture | 6500 | 6500 | 6250 | 6750 |
| Manufacturing | 84585 | 80565 | 80755 | 80875 |
| Construction | 33375 | 30725 | 31500 | 32000 |
| Trades | 84755 | 88560 | 88975 | 89075 |
| Other | 154505 | 157940 | 158405 | 158755 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 130 | 130 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone LI - 7481
Vol. X, No. 5
AUGUST 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated total employment in July again showed an increase over the past month - not as large as June's gain over May but still substantial. Most of the gain was in non-manufacturing, while manufacturing held its own. Farm employment showed no change.

Unemployment dropped a little, back to the May level, and should drop slightly again to September.

Unless something unforeseen happens, September employment should show a nice increase over July. August is due to be the peak month for agricultural demand, both in this area and from adjacent counties.

JULY GAINS
900 OVER JUNE

With farm employment unchanged, non-agricultural total for July increased an estimated 900 over the past 30 days. Again the current figure is above the same month last year - almost 4800 higher, a gain of 1.3%.

Increase in the number of women workers in the past 30 days is estimated at 565. Compared with one year ago, total female employment has increased approximately 5700 (5.5%), with wage and salary workers up 4742 or 5.9%. Gain in women workers is still in excess of total gain against one year ago. As stated before, this situation stems from force reductions in heavy industry against expansion in trades and services where large numbers of women are utilized.

A number of labor-management disputes occurred during July, some very brief. Five were still under arbitration at mid-July, but only a small number of workers were involved.

MANUFACTURING
HOLDS ITS OWN

Net gain of less than 100 in the past 30 days was indicated in manufacturing. Net industry gains ranged from 5 to 55, scattered among ten groups. Only four showed losses, while two remained the same. Seasonal factors motivated the increases in food processing, apparel and chemicals. A pick-up of 45 in the primary metals total was indicated in spite of two labor disputes in existence at the time the estimates were made. The effect of one such dispute was offset in total by the additions of a new firm to the group. Fabricated metals, after gaining in June, took a small drop in July. So did machinery, in spite of the fact that many plants in this group reported small gains. Ordnance is down slightly.

TRANSPORTATION DOWN,
TRADES AND SERVICE UP

Railroad layoffs offset seasonal gains in trucking and warehousing to net a slight loss in transportation services. Although the gain was small, employment in trades increased instead of declining as it frequently does in July. Some 69 establishments in the general merchandise and apparel groups reporting to the TEC in July showed almost exactly the same total employment as in June and only 311 fewer workers than in May. Reporting food stores showed small aggregate gains both months, as did the miscellaneous retail group including drug stores, hardware, etc. Added to this generally optimistic situation is the number of small stores being opened all over the area. Of course, this does not mean that some merchants aren't having their troubles as usual.

Continuing increases were indicated in finance, insurance, professional services and crude oil production. Municipal government workers also showed a slight gain.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS 500

The current unemployment figure of 16,000 is 500 below June and is the same as for May. Insured unemployment has been dropping, and while some of the decrease represents benefit exhaustions, there is every indication of a leveling off. The TEC offices in the area took 4872 new work applications in July as compared with 6724 in June and 5048 in May. The active files of job applicants at the end of July were 300 below June. In July there were 4.0% fewer skilled workers in proportion to total in the files than there were in May. While unemployment is expected to decline slightly to September, no great decrease is expected in the foreseeable future, even though employment rises. While many workers laid off in one industry can find work in another, the majority of those in heavy industry cannot be utilized in expanding trades and services.

EXPANSION DEMAND
ESTIMATED AT 2735

Non-agricultural demand to September has been estimated at 2235, with about 500 in agriculture. Construction is expected to add 500, trucking and warehousing 400 and trades 950. Manufacturing demand as reported was slight and is estimated at 285. Ample farm labor seems assured, not only for local demands but also to assist in adjacent counties - a special supply always exists outside the regular labor market for this purpose. Since seasonal retail workers also outside the regular labor force will begin to enter by September, this supply too should be ample. In fact, a comfortable labor surplus continues to exist in the area.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | JULY '53 | JUNE '54 | JULY '54 | SEPT '54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 375650 | 382515 | 383060 | 383915 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13500 | 16500 | 16000 | 15500 |
| Female | 3450 | 4500 | 3950 | 3750 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 362000 | 365885 | 366785 | 368415 |
| Agriculture | 6250 | 6250 | 6250 | 6250 |
| Manufacturing | 85010 | 80755 | 80850 | 80930 |
| Construction | 32375 | 31500 | 31500 | 32000 |
| Trades | 83925 | 88975 | 89250 | 90200 |
| Other | 154440 | 158405 | 158935 | 159035 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 150 | 130 | 275 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director — 3104 Main Street — Vol. X, No. 6
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager — Phone BL-1711 — SEPTEMBER 1954

### HIGHLIGHTS

Total employment in August showed a sizeable increase over July, following the trend of the last few months. Only 180 of the gain was in manufacturing industries. As usual, non-manufacturing industries accounted for the lion's share. Agricultural employment increased 500.

The expected slight drop in unemployment predicted last month materialized. It is expected that this trend will continue, at least for a couple of months.

Employment will continue to rise slowly, though the peak employment in agriculture which was reached in August should drop back 400 to 500. Manufacturing should gain some, but non-manufacturing, particularly the trades, is estimated to gain considerably.

### AUGUST GAIN 1900 OVER JULY

As predicted last month, agricultural employment increased because of peak activities both in Harris County and adjoining counties. These activities accounted for an increase of 500.

Manufacturing gained 180, while non-manufacturing industries increased 1200. As to women workers, the increase was over 300. As long as the lighter industries expand more rapidly than the heavier, employment of women will increase percentwise more rapidly than total employment.

The labor front was unusually quiet; no workers were idle because of labor-management disputes.

### MANUFACTURING INCREASES SLIGHTLY

Manufacturing industries gained almost twice as much in August as in June. However, the total net gain was only 180, or 0.2%. Food products, printing & publishing, apparel, primary metals, and machinery were among the industries that gained in employment. Fabricated metals lost, and so did transportation equipment. Ordnance showed a small gain, but not enough to nullify previous losses. The gains ran from 5 to 175, while the losses ran from 5 to 300.

Recent gains in manufacturing employment have been small, but the trend is upward. However, it still has some way to go before it recoups the loss of 4.4% since August a year ago.

### NON-MANUFACTURING FOLLOWS UPWARD TREND

The transportation group was able to show a considerable gain this month, with the seasonal rise in trucking & warehousing offsetting recent lay-offs in railroad employment.

Construction likewise showed a gain. In fact, nearly all non-manufacturing industries had employment advances. The exceptions were utilities and communications, but losses in these were insignificant.

The total non-manufacturing gain was over 1200, ranging for individual industries from 15 to 500. The retail group showed a gain of 225, generally in new, smaller stores on the fringes of Houston, where most expansion seems to take place.

Wholesale trade maintained a status quo, with no employment change, up or down, and the same held true for finance-insurance-real-estate and personal services.

Oil production gained 50, and professional services increased employment by 75.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS AGAIN

As expected, unemployment dropped again--to 15,500--500 more than August 1953. Insured unemployment dropped even more. Measured in requests for unemployment benefits at the Houston TEC offices, the drop per working day was 10% under July.

New applications for jobs totaled 5182 in August, as against 4620 in July. This does not indicate increased unemployment. On the contrary, since July had 19 working days and August 23, the daily average fell from 243 in July to 225 in August.

The number of placements made in August was 5194 (226 per working day), and 4170 (219 per working day) in July. This increase points toward the same trend of more jobs and less unemployment. Though the changes are small, they are encouraging. It is expected that the trends will continue for the next couple of months, but the changes will probably again be small.

DEMAND FOR NEW WORKERS
SET AT 1710

Non-agricultural demand for the next two months is estimated at 1710. Manufacturing will account for 160--less than last month's forecast. Expansion seems slow and somewhat uncertain in nearly all manufacturing industries. The largest demand (155) is from food processors.

Non-manufacturing industries, on the other hand, show a rather large demand--1550 for the group. Among these, transportation needs 400, trades 1050, and business services 100.

This demand can easily be met from the local supply, though of course some job openings may be more difficult to fill than others. Generally speaking, the area has enough labor supply to fill all existing and expected vacancies without feeling pinched.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | AUG '53 | JULY '54 | AUG '54 | OCT '54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 376415 | 383060 | 384195 | 384305 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 16000 | 15500 | 15000 |
| Female | 3600 | 3950 | 3750 | 3350 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 361115 | 366785 | 368695 | 369305 |
| Agriculture | 6750 | 6250 | 6750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 84665 | 80850 | 81030 | 81200 |
| Construction | 30875 | 31500 | 32000 | 32000 |
| Trades | 83865 | 89250 | 89475 | 90525 |
| Other | 154860 | 158935 | 159440 | 159830 |
| Persons involved in labor management disputes | 300 | 275 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol X, No. 7 |
| A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone BL-1711 | OCTOBER 1954 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated increase in total employment from August to September was almost twice as great as from July to August. Contributing most were agriculture, construction, trucking and warehousing, retail trades, hsopitals and schools. Manufacturing also showed a gain.

The drop in unemployment was sharper than expected - 1500 under August and back to the same level as one year ago. A further but much smaller decrease is expected to November.

Because of higher employment levels than usual in retail trade throughout the past few months, net increase in total employment to November is not currently expected to be as great as last year. However, circumstances may alter this. Manufacturing is expected to show a small loss.

TOTAL IS UP 3215
TO MID-SEPTEMBER

September total employment was estimated at 3215 above August, with 750 of this in agriculture. Net gain over one year ago is 10,720 - a 3% pick-up.

Women workers continue to follow the established trend, accounting for 48% of the increase in the past 30 days and 66.5% of that of the past 12 months. September estimate is 1550 above August, with retail trade's gain topped by schools and hospitals and the apparel and finished products group also contributed substantially.

Manufacturing gains, while still small, have been more substantial over the past two months and the loss as compared with a year ago much less than at any time in the past several months. A net increase of 430 has been estimated since August and the loss under one year ago has been cut to 1756. Apparel (bag manufacturers) hit a seasonal high as did processing of rice and cotton seed oil in the food products group, with increases of 250 and 160 respectively. Furniture and the wood products groups also indicated nice gains and 12 other industries came out on the plus side. Based on employer reports, losses were indicated in only five groups. Ordnance was down again, by 75. Shipbuilding lost just under a hundred and fabricated metals 50. Oil tool manufacturing led in net loss, with 100.

PROFESSIONAL GROUP
LEADS NON-MANUFACTURING

The professional group - specifically hospitals and schools - led the non-manufacturing parade with an increase estimated at 900. The public schools and other educational institutions reported approximately 400 more employees than for either of the past two years. Hospitals in the Texas Medical Center have added some 500 to their payrolls since early August.

Transportation services, retail trade and construction were also bright spots. The seasonal peak has been reached in trucking and warehousing, with a gain of about 420 over the past 30 days. Retail trade's estimated increase of nearly 600 since August is partly seasonal and partly expansion.

Municipal government reported a small decrease, as did crude oil producers.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 1500

Unemployment at mid-September was estimated at 14,000 - 1500 below August. Initial claims for unemployment benefits filed in September totaled 1868 as compared with 2490 in August, while continued claims actions dropped from 16126 in August to the September total of 12915. At the end of August there were 12304 active job applications in the Houston and Baytown files of the TEC; in September there were 10090. Part of this decrease was students who returned to school and withdrew from the labor force. The Houston TEC offices made 556 more non-agricultural job placements in September than last month.

Unemployment is expected to drop another 500 to November. This is a small figure in relation to possible employment gains but the labor force will be greatly augmented in the next two months by holiday job seekers.

DEMAND TO NOVEMBER
ESTIMATED AT 2025

Of the 2025 demand currently anticipated to mid-November, 1850 is in trade. This is a much lower figure than in previous years, but the majority of retail stores have kept employment at a much higher level through the summer and fall than ever before and their stated needs are therefore less. However, experience has proved that merchants usually understate their needs at this time. This is the low point in manufacturing employment and stated requirements are negligible. Supply is ample both within and outside of the labor market for seasonal demand.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | SEPT. '53 | AUGUST '54 | SEPT. '54 | NOV. '54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 375790 | 384195 | 385910 | 385505 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14000 | 15500 | 14000 | 13500 |
| Female | 3450 | 3750 | 3500 | 3250 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 361190 | 368695 | 371910 | 372005 |
| Agriculture | 7250 | 6750 | 7500 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 83185 | 81030 | 81460 | 81405 |
| Construction | 30875 | 32000 | 32500 | 32500 |
| Trades | 84240 | 89475 | 90065 | 91915 |
| Other | 155640 | 159440 | 160385 | 160435 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 600 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. X, No. 8
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone BL-1711 | NOVEMBER 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

Another gain in non-agricultural employment was estimated for October in comparison with September, in spite of the fact that manufacturing dropped. Force reductions occurred in three major manufacturing groups, while retail trade and health services both came up again.

The trend of slightly decreasing unemployment has continued and should hold for another 60 days.

In spite of the annual pre-season pessimism on the part of local merchants, indications already point to the usual high level of December employment.

TOTAL IS UP
DESPITE CUTBACKS

In spite of the fact that cutbacks in several groups netted a loss of a little over 500 in manufacturing, estimated increase in total was almost 1500 over the past 30 days. Most of it was in retail and wholesale trade, with an assist from the chemicals manufacturing group. Women workers numbered slightly more than 900 above the September estimate.

Primary metals, fabricated metal products and the machinery group accounted for employment losses totaling approximately 800 in the past 30 days.

There was considerable variation within the primary metals industry but the total of 17 out of 18 establishments reporting to the TEC netted a very small gain. However, one plant had a layoff, reported to be temporary in nature, which brought the industry total down an estimated 175.

In fabricated metals, which netted a loss of 220, approximately half was in one establishment which has been much above its normal employment since June on a big contract. The rest of the loss was scattered throughout the industry, offsetting gains reported by several firms. Five oil tool manufacturers reported layoffs ranging from 35 to 100 and totaling a little over 300. Some smaller concerns reported gains but the combined net loss was estimated at 410 for the machinery group.

RETAIL TRADE
AHEAD AGAIN

On the credit side of the ledger, a combination of expansion and seasonal upswing brought an increase in trades employment estimated at 1675. Of this, 1575 was in retail outlets. The steady spread of new stores of all types throughout the area continues, from small personal businesses to the big supermarkets and small department stores. The latest new major community center to begin to make itself felt in the retail employment total is the one located in the 4100-block of North Shepherd. Further additions to Medical Center hospital staffs added 225 to the professional group. Chemicals, the only manufacturing group with appreciable increase, owed much of its 185 net gain to seasonal influences. Six other manufacturing classifications gained from 10 to 75.

Little change was indicated in total employment in transportation services over the past 30 days. Construction is holding a fairly high level, with the current estimate unchanged from September.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS SLIGHTLY

The 13,700 estimate of unemployment as of mid-October is only 300 below September, although increase in total employment is much higher. While some of the additional workers have undoubtedly come out of this segment of the labor force, many of those involved in the layoffs previously mentioned cannot be utilized in the type of jobs open in expanding industries. Although initial claims filed during October rose to 2416 as compared with 1868 in September, the current figure is slightly below August. Continued claims actions dropped almost 1200. The active files of job seekers at the end of October totaled 9710 (2802 women) as against 10090 total and 3178 women in September. The Houston and Baytown TEC offices took 5034 new applications for work in October, a gain of 382 over September. Among the broad occupational groups in the active files percentage of skilled workers to total was higher and that of sales and clerical workers lower than in the preceding month.

HOLIDAY DEMAND
ESTIMATE 8880

On the basis of current reports, holiday demand to December has been set at 8880, with 7700 in trades. Post office facilities will also play a big part. Transportation services are expected to total about 550 less to December and some further reduction is expected in manufacturing. Supply for this demand is available in ample quantity from its usual source outside the regular labor market.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | OCTOBER '53 | SEPT. '54 | OCTOBER '54 | DEC. '54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 374640 | 385910 | 385455 | 393155 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14000 | 14000 | 13700 | 13500 |
| Female | 3450 | 3500 | 3250 | 3250 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 360640 | 371910 | 371755 | 379655 |
| Agriculture | 6000 | 7500 | 5850 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 82400 | 81460 | 80935 | 80635 |
| Construction | 31275 | 32500 | 32500 | 32500 |
| Trades | 84575 | 90065 | 91740 | 99440 |
| Other | 156390 | 160385 | 160730 | 161330 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included

- NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. X, No. 9
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone BL-1711 | DECEMBER 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

Seasonal hiring in retail trade netted estimated total employment a sizeable gain over October. It offset a seasonal drop in trucking and warehousing and cutbacks in manufacturing. Current total is an estimated 3.8% above a year ago.

A slight increase in unemployment because of the cutbacks referred to reversed the downward trend of the past few months.

Indications still point to a very successful season for local merchants, with high December employment levels. Current supply is ample. Anticipated demand to January is negligible and employment can be expected to take its usual post-holiday nose-dive.

1.2% GAIN IS
NETTED IN TOTAL

A 1.2% gain - almost 4600 - was estimated in total area non-agricultural employment over the past 30 days, with the current figure 13430 above November of last year. With the beginning of the holiday season, current total of women workers rose higher than usual - about 2900 above October and approximately 8600 above a year ago.

The biggest item in the net gain was, of course, retail trade, with an increase estimated at 4500 total and 2440 women. Among employers reporting regularly to the TEC, 138 in the general merchandise and apparel, food and miscellaneous groups showed 1875 more on their payrolls than they had 30 days before. A number of the reports were made early in November and mid-month figures would have been higher. This does not take into account new independent outlets opened in the past month. Prospects for high December employment look good.

Construction indicated a small employment increase, with ideal weather aiding the steady pace which is being maintained.

MANUFACTURING
DOWN AGAIN

Once again, manufacturing took a loss, dropping 330 under October. This was somewhat better than the more than 500 net reduction in the previous month. Seven industrial groups indicated gains totaling an estimated 260, while ten lost 590 net all together.

Ordnance reported a scheduled layoff of 80 and seasonal food processors brought that industry total down 75. Primary metals, a large loser in October, showed another small drop. A layoff was prevented at one major plant by placing most of the workers on a short work-week. Normal hours have since been resumed.

The nonelectric machinery group, heaviest loser last month, still held the title in November. Reported cutbacks dropped the group's employment by 250 in the past 30 days. "Slow business" was the usual reason given - not unusual at this time of year. Some of the smaller plants and one of the largest reported upswing in their orders. Pipe fabricators seem to be at a particularly low level.

The duration of any of these layoffs is not known but re-hiring is not expected before the first of the year.

The fabricated metals group, down over 200 last month, came up in November to show a gain of 125. Fluctuation is common in the industry because of structural steel fabrication contracts.

UNEMPLOYED
ESTIMATE UP

In spite of rising employment, current estimate of 14300 unemployed is up slightly over October. While employment increases have been chiefly in the nonmanufacturing groups and employers have drawn on supply outside the regular labor force, the layoffs have occurred among those workers fitted only for heavy industry.

Initial claims filed in November totaled 2966 as compared with 2416 in October. Continued claims actions filed in November rose sharply over October. The active files of job seekers totaled 11,431 as compared with 9710 at the end of October, with part of the increase being due to holiday job-seekers.

DEMAND SMALL,
SUPPLY PLENTIFUL

Aside from the December holiday demands which are being met without difficulty, anticipated demand to January is negligible and supply is ample. Employers report a more-than-adequate flow of "gate" applicants - even machinists. Supply is usually augmented by some of the holiday "extras" who decide to remain in the open labor market.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | NOVEMBER '53 | OCTOBER '54 | NOVEMBER '54 | JANUARY '55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 376295 | 385455 | 390525 | 386210 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13500 | 13700 | 14300 | 14500 |
| Female | 3450 | 3250 | 3250 | 3450 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 362795 | 371755 | 376225 | 371710 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5850 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 82035 | 80935 | 80605 | 80605 |
| Construction | 31475 | 32500 | 32700 | 32700 |
| Trades | 87300 | 91470 | 96290 | 91965 |
| Other | 156235 | 160730 | 160880 | 160690 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desire, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. X, No. 10
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone BL-1711 | January 1955

HIGHLIGHTS

Retail trade accounted for a large increase in employment. Manufacturing again showed a loss, though a very small one, practically negligible. Unemployment decreased slightly, probably because of Christmas hiring, though most of the unemployed were not of the type usually employed in retail stores. From the number of persons who found temporary employment in November and December it appears that retail trade experienced a very successful Christmas.

The "fair sex" particularly benefits from the seasonal employment, and in many instances this year, because of the "shop early" campaign, got employment of longer duration than usual.

January should see a reduction in employment, with the release of temporary workers, as to be expected. Regular employment should show little fluctuation in the near future.

UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS
IN DECEMBER

Unemployment dropped 2.1% in December. This decrease was largely due to seasonal activities in retail trade. However, in December 1953 only 12,500 were unemployed, as against 14,000 in December 1954. Still unemployment in the area is not excessive--only 3.7% of its total nonagricultural employment.

EMPLOYMENT UP

As could be expected, employment rose sharply--more than 5600 over November. Retail trade showed a large gain, whereas transportation dropped 230.

The manufacturing group as a whole decreased very slightly, though some industries gained and others lost. Part of the gain fell in the heavier industries. Lumber and wood products, for instance, rose 25; furniture and fixtures, 25; and machinery, 85. Food manufacturers lost 79, apparel 60, and chemicals 50. The total loss in the manufacturing group was only 16.

According to expectation, the greatest employment increase, proportionately, fell to the women. This increase amounted to 2145, bringing the total number of female workers up to 93,330. A considerable number of these were housewives and students that normally are not in the labor market. The slogan "shop early" obviously had its effect on hiring as well, since most of the additional hiring of women occurred in November, with less hiring in December than usual.

DEMAND DOWN

The months of January and February should show a decrease of 9150 workers--the majority of these temporary hires in wholesale & retail trade and government (Post Office). Ordnance should lose 160, but chemicals and allied products should pick up 85 and apparel 70. Business & personal services are slated for a gain of 300 and medical and professional services for a gain of 100.

MORE EMPLOYED
PERSONS NOW

A year ago the area had 370,181 employed persons; now it has 381,845, an increase of 11,664, even though unemployment has increased 1500. Manufacturing industries, which had their ups and downs in 1954, came out practically in <u>status quo</u>, no gain, no loss. With the exception of the transportation and governmental services groups, nonmanufacturing showed sizable increases, the largest, of course, in the trade group.

Women over the year showed a greater employment increase than the opposite sex; female employment was up 6.7%, whereas the over-all gain was 3.2%. Manufacturing, which has been slow all during the year, showed an increase of 0.5% in employment of women.

The year 1954, which was inaugurated with widespread lay-offs and increased unemployment, finally succeeded in fighting off the dreaded recession. By the middle of the year Houston was back again in good shape: Employment increasing and unemployment reduced by several thousand.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | DECEMBER 1953 | NOVEMBER '54 | DECEMBER '54 | FEBRUARY 55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 383881 | 390525 | 395845 | 388690 |
| Unemployment - Total | 12500 | 14300 | 14000 | 16000 |
| Female | 3100 | 3250 | 3250 | 3450 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 370181 | 376225 | 381845 | 372690 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 80549 | 80605 | 80595 | 80640 |
| Construction | 31475 | 32700 | 32700 | 32700 |
| Trades | 93940 | 96290 | 100925 | 92385 |
| Other | 158467 | 160880 | 161875 | 161215 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 1200 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. X, No. 11 |
| A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone BL-1711 | February 1955 |


HIGHLIGHTS

January employment in the area took the usual drop after a successful season over the holidays, with retail trade slightly higher than was forecast. Manufacturing showed little overall change from the two preceding months. The current estimate of unemployment is naturally higher than for December, although the increase is only a small percentage of the employment cut.

January saw an increase, following the usual trend at this time of year, in claims actions both initial and continued, in totals of active job applications and active claimants and of new work applications in the area TEC offices.

A slight increase in total is forecast to March, although stated demand in current employer reports is small. Supply is comfortably adequate for all foreseeable demand in the area.

EMPLOYMENT IS
3.8% ABOVE 1954

The annual December high in employment was of course followed by the annual January drop. However, this year's estimated decline in total is slightly less than occurred in the same period last year. The reduction under November roughly corresponds with that for last year. It is on the 12-month basis of comparison that the area's solid progress is really apparent. The current estimate is approximately 13,500 (3.8%) above January 1954, whereas the latter estimate was approximately 4500 below that of January 1953.

At the beginning of 1954, employment figures reflected heavy losses in ordnance, shipbuilding and construction and lesser ones in non-electric machinery and food processing. The manufacturing total was about 3800 below the previous January and even non-manufacturing netted a loss. The area was exhibiting a general feeling of uneasiness. The fabricated metal products group had just settled a major labor dispute.

With the advent of 1955, it can be stated with reasonable certainty that the situation has materially improved, both in regard to employment and general outlook.

Although there have been a number of layoffs in heavy industry in recent months, manufacturing's net loss over the past 12 months was approximately 450. The machinery group is down substantially and ordnance has been cut back by more than half. Primary metals, fabricated metal products and shipbuilding are also below last January but not significantly so. On the other hand, nice gains have been made by chemicals, furniture & fixtures, printing & publishing, lumber & wood products and electrical machinery. Although employers show their usual and understandable reluctance to forecast, some have ventured the possibility that recent layoffs might be recalled early in the year. One such recall was scheduled, at least partially, around the first of February.

Only one industrial group in non-manufacturing failed to show a substantial gain over the past year. This was transportation services, where the railroads were responsible for the loss.

Construction, which last January had lost about 2000 in the preceding month, is now estimated at 3225 above a year ago, with signs of further improvement. Skyrocketing retail trade has picked up an estimated 5760 and wholesale trade 650. The professional group, which includes both the public schools and the hospitals in the rapidly-growing Texas Medical Center, added an estimated 2250. The finance, insurance & real estate group has increased by more than 1000, mostly in insurance.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP FROM DECEMBER

The current unemployment estimate is 2500 above December, after holiday cutbacks. This figure is only 500 higher than that for January 1954 as compared with the increase of 13,500 in employment. There were 8325 active unemployment benefits claimants at the end of January as compared to 6952 in December. Initial claims filed in January totaled 3933 as against 2780 in December, while the active files of job seekers rose from 10588 to 12676. Current forecast is for fewer unemployed by March.

DEMAND SMALL -
SUPPLY ADEQUATE

Stated demand to March is, as usual, very small - just 555. Known demand from manufacturing totals less than 200, part of which is a scheduled call-back. Reporting employers in construction indicated some small demand for the period. No difficulties seem to have been experienced in the filling of demand and there is no indication that any may be anticipated. Supply is comfortably adequate.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | JANUARY 1954 | DECEMBER 1954 | JANUARY 1955 | MARCH 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 374220 | 395845 | 389210 | 389175 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 14000 | 16500 | 16000 |
| Female | 4000 | 3250 | 3750 | 3450 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 359220 | 381845 | 372710 | 373175 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 80910 | 80595 | 80475 | 80550 |
| Construction | 29475 | 32700 | 32700 | 32950 |
| Trades | 86365 | 100925 | 92775 | 92790 |
| Other | 156720 | 161875 | 161010 | 161135 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone BL-1711
Vol. X, No. 12
MARCH 1955

HIGHLIGHTS

Reversing trends of past years, estimates of nonagricultural employment for February netted an increase in total over January, as well as in the number of women workers. Retail trade held its own instead of dropping as usual in the past and manufacturing showed an encouraging gain.

Indications point to a smaller number of unemployed in February. Manufacturing employers reported many call-backs among accessions and TEC job placements increased sharply over January. The number of initial claims filed for unemployment benefits dropped approximately 20% and total number of claimants is down.

Outlook to April appears favorable, with a net increase in total of approximately 1525 currently forecast. It is entirely possible that this figure may be exceeded if conditions are favorable in heavy industry. Unemployment is expected to go down. Supply is still ample in numbers.

FEBRUARY
REVERSES TREND

The current pick-up of approximately 1750 over January in estimated nonagricultural employment is contrary to the usual trend which has been broken only one other time since 1950. Estimated number of women is up a little more than 400.

Most of the increase this time was in manufacturing. While some of this figure was gained through revisions stemming from recently available information on employers not included in the TEC reporting program, the actual 30-day gain was quite substantial. Primary metals jumped 265 and most firms in the industry reported higher employment to some degree. Chemicals picked up an estimated 155 and fabricated metals 100 - its first increase since November. Oil tool manufacture indicated a small net gain of 50 and seven other industries reported gains of 35 or less. No group indicated a loss.

Non-manufacturing's net gain was small - just short of 250 - as against a loss of more than 1200 for the same period last year. The explanation for this lies in the fact that retail trade, usually down in February, has held to the January level. Some stores did cut back below last month's levels but many reported more employment. In addition, two sizeable new community centers made themselves felt in the employment picture.

Construction is picking up, particularly in the residential field. Over a million dollars' worth of new commercial building contracts were announced in January, plus another $1,400,000 worth of schools and churches.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN SLIGHTLY

A drop of 500 was estimated in unemployment in February. During that month, 331 manufacturing employers reported 1463 accessions to the TEC, of which 400 (27.3%) were call-backs or re-hires. During February, initial claims filed for unemployment benefits dropped to 3282 from January's 3968 and the number of active claimants went down. The Houston and Baytown offices of the TEC made 4199 non-agricultural job placements in February as compared to 3635 in January, with those in construction more than doubled. The number of active job seekers in the files remained approximately the same as the previous month, with little change in the occupational composition. The number of new applications taken increased slightly. A further drop in unemployment is anticipated to April.

EXPANSION
DEMAND 1740

On the basis of employer reports, expansion demand to April is currently estimated at 1740. A part of this will be offset by a scheduled reduction in ordnance. Since known demand from manufacturing added to less than 100, it is entirely possible that the figure may go higher since conditions in heavy industry appear to be improving. Construction is expected to increase materially from now on and Easter will see a sizeable increase in retail employment.

Normal supply on the open labor market is ample for demand. Interesting facts were recently brought to light in regard to utilization of supply outside the regular labor force. A survey was made in an outlying community typical of those surrounding Houston. In it are located both retail centers and large establishments of the type which have chosen such a location in preference to the congested down-town areas. These employers make every effort to hire people living in the immediate vicinity. Retail stores find they materially boost sales by employing their own customers. Some industrial employers have hit on the idea of breaking down a number of their clerical jobs so that they can be filled by qualified housewives on a part-time basis. This limited survey of one suburb indicates that many of the clerical and sales workers employed there were not actively seeking jobs when they were hired.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | FEBRUARY 1954 | JANUARY 1955 | FEBRUARY 1955 | APRIL 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 375225 | 389210 | 390455 | 391480 |
| Unemployment - Total | 17000 | 16500 | 16000 | 15500 |
| Female | 4500 | 3750 | 3750 | 3500 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 358225 | 372710 | 374455 | 375980 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 81120 | 80475 | 81975 | 81850 |
| Construction | 28975 | 32700 | 33000 | 33500 |
| Trades | 85215 | 92775 | 92775 | 93775 |
| Other | 157165 | 161010 | 160955 | 161105 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION



Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone BL-1711



Vol. XI, No. 1
APRIL 1955


HIGHLIGHTS

After the year-end doldrums, the current employment estimate for the area shows the most substantial January-to-March gain in more than five years. The past 30 days saw little net change in manufacturing but a nice non-manufacturing increase led by retail trade and construction. This situation reversed that of last month when manufacturing led.

The estimate of unemployment in March is considerably below February. All types of claims actions for unemployment benefits have dropped sharply since January. The active files of job-seekers are down and TEC job placements are up.

Total employment is expected to show a relatively small increase to May, part of which will be in seasonal farm workers. Retail trade employers reporting to the TEC in March indicated a very small loss for the forecast period but this may not materialize. Construction is expected to show further gains. With the entrance into the labor market of students job-hunting before the end of school, unemployment is expected to go up a little even though employment also rises.

MARCH TOTAL
IS UP 2110

Approximately 2110 workers have been added to area employment in the past 30 days according to the March estimates. Of this number, 1810 were in industry, 250 were domestics in private households and 50 were seasonal farm workers. Contrary to last month, practically all of the nonagricultural gain was in nonmanufacturing. Approximately one-third of the added workers were women.

Manufacturing showed practically no change in total over the past 30 days - gaining a net of 20. The picture would have been a little different if 260 production workers in the apparel group had not been counted out as the result of a labor-management dispute. Aside from this, only ship repair indicated a drop in employment. Most industrial group gains were less than 50 except those in primary metals (130) and oil tool manufacture (75).

TRADES AND
BUILDING UP

Retail trade, combining pre-Easter activity and growing community centers, indicated a gain of almost 1100 over the past 30 days. Construction, not greatly slowed down even by winter, is definitely on an upswing again, with the opening of several major new residential developments.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 1500

March saw a definite lessening in unemployment, with an estimated 14,500. There has been a sharp drop in all types of unemployment benefits claims actions in the area. At the end of February, there were 8206 active claimants in the files; March total was 7007. Initial claims for benefits filed during March in the four TEC offices totaled 2133 as compared to 3282 the month before. The active files of job seekers were down to 10,458 from the February total of 12676, with no significant change, percentagewise, in the occupational composition. The TEC offices made 877 more job placements in March than in February, for a total of 5100. Farm workers placed numbered 194. Call-backs accounted for 30.7% of the hires reported in March by manufacturing employers.

ESTIMATED MAY
DEMAND 1430

Employment requirements to May are estimated at 980 for non-agricultural and 450 as seasonal farm workers. Based on employers' reports, manufacturing demand is set at 220, with more than half, or 140, in food processing. Normal seasonal demand is coupled with some mills' purchase of government surplus rice. Both fabricated metals and oil tool manufacturers had small stated demand. A slight gain is expected in trucking and warehousing and construction should add at least another 500, if not more.

SUPPLY SHOULD
REMAIN AMPLE

The relatively small demand can easily be met from current supply, which will be augmented by seasonal farm workers as well as job-hunting students. The full impact of the students will not be felt until after the first of June.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | MARCH 1954 | FEBRUARY 1955 | MARCH 1955 | MAY 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 376265 | 390455 | 391325 | 392705 |
| Unemployment - Total | 17000 | 16000 | 14500 | 15000 |
| Female | 4000 | 3750 | 3250 | 3500 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 359215 | 374455 | 376565 | 377705 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5800 | 6250 |
| Manufacturing | 80890 | 81975 | 81995 | 82100 |
| Construction | 29475 | 33000 | 33500 | 34000 |
| Trades | 85775 | 92775 | 93915 | 93750 |
| Other | 157325 | 160955 | 161355 | 161605 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 50 | 0 | 260 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XI, No. 2 |
| A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone BL-1711 | MAY 1955 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Increased output in fabricated metals and oil field machinery, seasonal and other activity in food processing, settlement of a labor dispute in the apparel group and stepped-up construction netted the area another substantial employment gain. Crude oil production and a contra-seasonal increase in trucking and warehousing also contributed.

April unemployment was estimated at 1,000 under March. Initial claims total was about the same as last month but continued claims for unemployment benefits dropped sharply again. TEC job placements topped the March total both for non-agricultural and for farm workers. More new job applications were taken by the TEC offices in April than in March and the increase was largely in clerical workers.

Little net change in employment was forecast to June. Very little stated demand came from manufacturing establishments. An increase in construction was balanced off by forecast cuts in retail trade, but subsequent reports indicate that business has improved. Supply is still comfortably adequate and will be augmented from mid-May on by the usual crop of school graduates and other job-hunting students.

WIDESPREAD
ACTIVITY SHOWN

All segments of area employment indicated gains in April. Manufacturing picked up an estimated 850, non-manufacturing 780 and agriculture 200 for a total of 1830. Of the 17 industrial groupings of manufacturers, only three indicated losses in April and these were minor. Three showed no change. Increases in the remaining 11 ranged from 5 each in electrical machinery and in paper products to 260 in apparel where a labor dispute was settled. Running close behind the latter group were non-electric machinery with 245 and fabricated metals with 215.

Although 3 firms among the metal fabricators accounted for approximately half of the total, gains were shown by the majority of reporting employers and almost half of the reported accessions were call-backs. A similar situation prevailed in the oilfield machinery group, where one firm represented a little less than half of the total gain and the remainder was well scattered. This industry's callbacks were less than 15% of reported accessions. Food processing gained an estimated 100, partly seasonal and partly among millers handling government surplus rice.

Construction led non-manufacturing with a gain estimated at 500. Handling of the government surplus rice also brought an out-of-season increase in transportation services. Both wholesale and retail trade about broke even with March.

LITTLE CHANGE
FORECAST TO JUNE

Based on April employer reports, employment forecast to June shows practically no change. However, in the light of subsequent reports, there is a good possibility that the next 30 days may show an increase that could still be held to June. This is particularly true in manufacturing, where little change was forecast and in retail trade, where reporting employers indicated cutbacks netting about 500 loss for this group. Business appears good.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS 1000

The April estimate of 13500 unemployed is 1000 below March and 2500 below February. Although initial claims filed for unemployment benefits totaled about the same as last month, continued claims actions dropped sharply under the March figure, which was in turn much below that of February. On the Houston TEC offices, there were 915 fewer active claimants in the files at the end of April than at the end of March. New work applications taken increased by 340, but job placements in non-agricultural activity increased by 304 and for farm workers by 408. There were approximately 250 fewer job seekers in the active files than at the end of March.

Supply has been quite adequate for demand and will be somewhat increased from mid-May on by high school and college graduates and vacationing students. Additional farm demand will have its own supply.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | APRIL 1954 | MARCH 1955 | APRIL 1955 | JUNE 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 376855 | 391325 | 391895 | 393685 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15500 | 14500 | 13500 | 15000 |
| Female | 3750 | 3250 | 3450 | 3750 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 361215 | 376565 | 378395 | 378685 |
| Agriculture | 6000 | 5800 | 6000 | 6250 |
| Manufacturing | 80310 | 81995 | 82845 | 82775 |
| Construction | 30225 | 33500 | 34000 | 34500 |
| Trades | 87135 | 93915 | 94005 | 93525 |
| Other | 157545 | 161355 | 161451 | 161235 |
| Persons involved in labor-managements disputes | 140 | 260 | 0 | INA |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 4-1711
Vol. XI, No. 3
JUNE 1955

HIGHLIGHTS

The current estimate of total employment for the area is within 500 of the December 1954 seasonal peak, which was an all-time high.

Construction, retail trade, food processing and primary metals, in that order, accounted for more than two-thirds of the total industrial gain. Seasonal farm employment increased and a gain is indicated in domestics in private households.

Unemployment showed a further drop, with every type of unemployment benefit claims action down for the third month in succession. TEC job placements were almost 1200 greater in May than in April and fewer job applicants were in the active files.

Relatively light demand is expected to July, with most of it in construction and agriculture. Some small losses are forecast and net gain is not expected to be large. The labor force received its usual additions from the annual supply of high school and college students around the first of June. Supply has been adequate for all demands.

EMPLOYMENT UP
ALMOST 3000

Total employment as estimated for May was 2950 above April, with non-agricultural workers up 2650 and farm workers 300. The current figure for total is just 500 below the seasonal peak of December 1954, an all-time high. The nonagricultural estimate is 1050 below the December figure while agriculture is 550 higher.

Greatly expanded activity in construction brought an increase thought to be conservatively estimated at 1000. Retail trade, practically unchanged in total last month, took an upturn to net almost 500 increase. Transportation services indicated little over-all change, and the same may be said of the balance of non-manufacturing.

FOOD PROCESSING
LEADS IN GAIN

Manufacturing's gain, estimated at 760, is lead by food processing with 260. Over and above this industry's normal seasonal gain were workers added at the mills processing government surplus rice. These are temporary workers, of course, and the duration of this activity will vary among the mills.

Primary metals made a substantial gain estimated at 100. Increases of 70 or 75 were indicated in stone, clay & glass, machinery, ship repair and apparel & finished products. Smaller increases were shown in furniture & fixtures, fabricated metals, electric machinery, textile mill products, paper & allied products, printing & publishing, petroleum refining and rubber specialties. Chemicals indicated a small seasonal drop and the miscellaneous durable goods group lost a few in total. This latter group includes ordnance.

SLIGHT INCREASE
FORECAST TO JULY

Currently forecast demand to July is for 940 in non-agricultural activities and 200 additional farm workers. Construction is expected to continue to increase in tempo for the next several months, with 750 demand tentatively forecast. Based on employer reports for May, a slight drop is forecast in retail trade. Again this may be a false alarm, since the last two such forecast based on the same information failed to materialize. Stated demand in manufacturing to July is negligible.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN AGAIN

A 5.3% drop under April is reflected in the May estimate of 12,800, making a total decrease of 11.7% in the past 60 days. Every type of claims action for unemployment benefits was down, and the active files of such claimants at the end of May had dropped 1041 below the April total.

TEC job placements in nonagricultural activity rose from 5210 made by the four area offices in April to 6396 in May, with farm placements jumping from 602 to 1503. The active files of job seekers totaled 425 fewer than at the end of April. Students began to register several weeks ago. Increased employment in the next 60 days will not prevent an increase in unemployment in view of the fact that local educational institutions graduated approximately 6000 students.

The comfortably adequate supply will be augmented by a portion of these graduates and other students looking for summer employment. Seasonal farm workers are also entering the labor force.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | MAY 1954 | APRIL 1955 | MAY 1955 | JULY 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 383010 | 394485 | 396855 | 398780 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16000 | 13500 | 12800 | 14000 |
| Female | 4000 | 3450 | 3250 | 3750 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 366880* | 380985* | 383935 | 384780 |
| Agriculture | 6500 | 6000 | 6300 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 80565 | 82845 | 83665 | 83695 |
| Construction | 30725 | 34000 | 35000 | 35750 |
| Trades | 88560 | 94005 | 94525 | 94370 |
| Other | 160530 | 164135 | 164445 | 164465 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 130 | 0 | 120 | INA |

* Revised.
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XI, No. 3
J U L Y 1955

HIGHLIGHTS

June's non-agricultural employment estimate for the area topped the December '54 all-time high by more than 1000 and the civilian labor force went over 400,000.

In the past 30 days, non-agricultural total has risen by an estimated 2085, with farm employment up 200. Manufacturing is responsible for almost half of the total gain, with retail trade and construction still on the up-grade.

As anticipated last month, the number of unemployed rose in spite of increased employment. This happens every June following the close of school, after which many of the unsuccessful job-hunters withdraw from the labor market.

Unemployment benefit claims actions continue to drop. TEC offices took more new job applications this month than last and the active files of job seekers increased as the result of school closing.

The light known demand to August will not place any strain on the area's adequate labor supply. Retail merchants have again indicated an employment drop two months hence which again may not materialize.

EMPLOYMENT
PASSES MILESTONE

Estimated non-agricultural employment for June, with only a relatively small seasonal boost, topped the December 1954 peak by 1035. The December figure, of course, carried the holiday peak for retail trade. The current employment figure plus school students entering the labor market either permanently or for the summer brought the area's total civilian labor force above 400,000 for the first time. June employment is up an estimated 2285 over May, of which 2085 is in non-agricultural and 200 in farm activity.

MACHINERY LEADS
MANUFACTURING

The non-electric machinery group, largely oil tool makers, leads manufacturing's increase of 605 with 260 additional workers. Based on employer reports, 11 other industrial groups indicated gains, the largest of which was 90 in ship repair. Vacation extras helped to boost petroleum refining by 85, while rubber goods processors reported increases totaling 70. The remaining groups netted 50 or less each. Four groups showed losses, all minor except in apparel and finished products. In this industry, several small gains and the addition of a new firm were offset by a reduction at one major bag plant, ending in a net loss of 70.

NON-MANUFACTURING
UP NEARLY 1500

Continued increases in both construction and retail trade (500 and 665 respectively) served to bring non-manufacturing estimated total up again in June.

In spite of repeated employer forecasts of reduced employment over the past two or three months, the "summer slump" in retail trade seems to be a thing of the past in Houston. Reductions have again been forecast to August and they might occur, but the pattern of the past two months indicates otherwise. No slump took place last year, definitely breaking a long-established trend. A slight drop in wholesale trade was indicated since May, however.

Most of the major non-manufacturing activities showed some small increase with the exception of service industries, which did not appear to net any over-all change, and government, which dropped slightly.

UNEMPLOYMENT
INCREASE NORMAL

An increase of about 1800 in unemployment in spite of increased employment is the natural result of the flood of students poured into the local labor market. Some of those who do not find jobs by the end of June will withdraw again. A sizeable drop in unemployment is expected to August. All types of unemployment benefit claims actions continue to drop, with continued claims decreasing roughly 1000 per month for the past 3 months. There were 1384 fewer active benefit claimants at the end of June than in April.

STATED DEMAND
IS LIGHT

Stated demand to August in employer reports is light, with total employment not expected to increase greatly unless retail trade reverses its forecast. Supply is quite adequate for all demands.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | JUNE 1954 | MAY 1955 | JUNE 1955 | AUG. 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 385105 | 396855 | 400820 | 399720 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16500 | 12800 | 14600 | 13000 |
| Female | 4400 | 3250 | 4000 | 3500 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 368475* | 383935 | 386220 | 386720 |
| Agriculture | 6250 | 6300 | 6500 | 6750 |
| Manufacturing | 80755 | 83665 | 84270 | 84355 |
| Construction | 31500 | 35000 | 35500 | 35750 |
| Trades | 88975 | 95425 | 95070 | 94670 |
| Other | 160995 | 164445 | 164880 | 165195 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 130 | 120 | 0 | INA |

* Revised.
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XI, No. 5
AUGUST 1 9 5 5

HIGHLIGHTS

Non-agricultural employment in the area was still going up in July and unemployment was down slightly. Farm employment dropped back to the May level.

Non-farm gain in the past 30 days was approximately 1000, with manufacturing accounting for almost half of it. Ten industry groups indicated gain, three dropped slightly and four remained the same.

Retail trade broke even with the previous month. Construction indicated a small increase in spite of a labor dispute in one craft union.

Leveling-off of the student rush into the labor market in June helped to bring unemployment down for the July estimate.

Known demand to September is confined for the most part to trades, transportation services and agriculture. November is expected to see the usual hectic hiring for Christmas buying in retail trade.

Supply has been quite adequate and is expected to remain so. Seasonal demands in agriculture and retail sales will be met from their own special supply of workers who enter the labor market for that sole purpose.

GAIN SMALLER
BUT SUBSTANTIAL

Mid-summer slowed the area's estimated employment gains down a bit in July as compared with June. The past 30 days netted an increase in non-agricultural total estimated at approximately 1000, with farm employment dropping back to the May level.

More that 40% of the gain to July was indicated in manufacturing. While 10 of the 17 industrial groups showed increases, the non-electric machinery group was responsible for slightly more than half of the total. This industry is at its highest since June 1954. Fabricated metal products also made a sizeable gain over the past 30 days. In the remaining eight, increases ranged from 10 in stone, clay and glass to 80 in miscellaneous rubber products.

Only two manufacturing groups indicated losses and one of these was purely a paper one resulting from re-classification of a firm. Apparel and finished products was down slightly. Four groups remained unchanged.

RETAIL TRADE
HOLDS ITS OWN

Again the summer slump was staved off and retail trade did not change in estimated total from June. Most stores report good to excellent business, although some of the smaller shops have cut back a bit.

Construction indicated a small gain even though a labor dispute occurred with the roofers. Home building continues apace.

With the exception of government, all remaining non-manufacturing classifications showed small net increases over June. One federal facility has been reducing force over the past several weeks and this contributed to a 200 loss in this group.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN IN JULY

The current unemployment estimate of 13800 is 800 below the June figure. Many of the students either found jobs or withdrew if unsuccessful at finding vacation employment. While continued claims filed for unemployment benefits dropped again, some increase in initial claims was noted. The increase occurred during two weeks in the middle of the month and the number filed has been dropping since. The active file of job seekers registered in the TEC offices dropped from 11214 in June to 10713 in July, while 5479 new work applications were taken as compared with 7227 in June.

DEMAND ESTIMATED
AT 2280 TO SEPTEMBER

Demand to September, currently estimated at 2280, is confined almost entirely to trades, transportation services and agriculture. Based on employer reports, manufacturing indicates little change. Normal Fall upswing in retail trade plus opening of a large shopping center brings the estimate for this group to 1125. Some 700 farm workers are expected to be added to the agricultural total and this should be reflected in an increase in trucking and warehousing. Available supply, plus special supplies of seasonal workers, should be quite adequate for all demands.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | JULY '54 | JUNE '55 | JULY '55 | SEPT. '55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 386000 | 401180 | 401445 | 402180 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16000 | 14600 | 13800 | 12600 |
| Female | 3950 | 4000 | 3500 | 3250 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 369725* | 386580* | 387385 | 389580 |
| Agriculture | 6250 | 6500 | 6300 | 7000 |
| Manufacturing | 80850 | 84270 | 84695 | 84655 |
| Construction | 31500 | 35500 | 35750 | 35750 |
| Trades | 89250 | 95070 | 95090 | 96225 |
| Other | 161875 | 165240 | 165550 | 165950 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 275 | 0 | 260 | INA |

* Revised.
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XI, No. 6
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | SEPTEMBER 1955

HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the now-to-be-expected increase in estimated total employment over the past month, August saw the estimate for manufacturing pass the previous peak of November 1952 by better than 500. For the second time in a row, manufacturing has accounted for almost half of the total non-farm gain. Cotton picking caused a sizeable increase in farm workers.

Durable goods, chiefly machinery and primary metals, accounted for more than one third of the total non-agricultural increase over July. Gain in the nondurable goods group, while much smaller, was still encouraging.

While marking time for two months, retail trade again indicated an upturn. Construction, transportation and allied services, crude oil production and government employment showed small gains.

Because of the nature of most industries involved in the current increase, proportionate gain in the number of women workers to total has been smaller.

Unemployment was down under July. Initial claims filed for unemployment benefits have been dropping steadily since mid-July and continued claims actions since the last week in July.

Demand to October reflects stepping up in trades and transportation services. As usual, practically no demand has been expressed by manufacturing employers. Supply has presented few problems and future demands are expected to be met with relative ease, even those coming up for the holidays.

TOTAL IS
UP 3230

Total area employment in August showed an estimated gain of 3230 over July, with 2680 in non-agricultural activity and 550 in farm workers. Women workers increased by just under 600.

Manufacturing accounted for 45.3% of the non-farm gain, a net of 1215. Five industries in the durable goods group were responsible for 72.8% of the manufacturing and 33% of the total increase. These were machinery (chiefly oil tool manufacturers) with 310 additional workers reported, primary metals with 205, fabricated metal products 135, ship repair 120 and electrical machinery 115. In the nondurable group, chemicals picked up 140, petroleum products 75 and apparel 50. Four other manufacturing industries made gains ranging from 10 to 40, three remained unchanged and two indicated minor losses.

RETAIL TRADE
BOOSTED AGAIN

After marking time in July, retail trade took another upturn in August. Preliminary hiring for the new Palms Center which opened September 1 was a heavy contributor to the more than 500 increase. Only one major establishment reported a cutback, a number of extras hired for a special sale. Most of the larger and many of the smaller stores in the general merchandise and apparel groups reported either small increases or no change. The summer slump definitely did not materialize.

All of the remaining nonmanufacturing activities indicated small gains, the largest of which was 250 in construction.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND
CLAIMS DOWN

The current unemployment estimate is down from July. In the third week of July, 523 initial claims were filed for unemployment benefits; by the first week in September, this figure had dropped gradually to 306. Correspondingly, continued claims actions for the same period dropped from 2623 to 2106 per week. The file count of active claimants dropped from 5077 as of July to 4541 at the end of August. The TEC area offices made 6208 job placements in nonagricultural activities and 8765 seasonal farm workers. The TEC active files of job seekers totaled 10537 in August as against 10713 at the end of July.

OCTOBER DEMAND
IS UP SEASONALLY

Seasonal factors are evident in demand to October, both stated and otherwise. Total, based on employer reports and past experience, is currently estimated at just under 3000 net. Trades account for 2125 of the total and approximately 850 is for the warehouses and truckers. Supply is still adequate for demands and seasonal activities will call forth the usual number of those interested only in such employment.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | AUGUST 1954 | JULY 1955 | AUGUST 1955 | OCTOBER 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 387135 | 401445 | 404115 | 405795 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15500 | 13800 | 13500 | 13400 |
| Female | 3750 | 3500 | 3500 | 3250 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 371635* | 387385 | 390615 | 392395 |
| Agriculture | 6750 | 6300 | 6850 | 5850 |
| Manufacturing | 81030 | 84695 | 85910 | 85845 |
| Construction | 32000 | 35750 | 36000 | 36000 |
| Trades | 89475 | 95090 | 95705 | 97830 |
| Other | 162380 | 165550 | 166150 | 166870 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 260 | 0 | INA |

* Revised.
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XI, No. 7
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | OCTOBER 1955


HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated net increase in area employment since July is in excess of that for any previous 60-day period in recent years other than at the Christmas season. While the current gain of almost 3000 in nonagricultural activities over August is in part a revision of the estimate for the professional services group, the actual 30-day increase in employment is gratifying.

Based on employer reports, manufacturing's net increase was very small. Substantial gains in retail trade and transportation services, along with added personnel in schools, brought the total up.

Unemployment indicated a sharp drop under August and about 10% under July. Claims actions for unemployment benefits continued to drop and the TEC's active file of job seekers at the end of September was greatly below August. Unemployment, barring unforeseen developments, should continue to lessen over the next 3 months.

Total demand to the next 60 days is high, since much of the holiday hiring should be done by mid-November. Little demand was stated by manufacturing. Since the labor force is already being augmented by year-end job hunters from outside the regular labor market, demand however heavy should present few problems.

OVER-ALL GAIN
ESTIMATE 3325

Total employment estimates for the area in September netted a gain of 3325 over August, with 2925 in non-agricultural and 400 in farm activities. Peak in farm employment was reached between mid-August and mid-September. Women workers made up almost 900 of the estimated increase, a gain of 1% in the past 30 days and 6.7% over a year ago. The current non-agricultural total is 18,150 or 5.7% greater than for September 1954.

RETAIL TRADE
TAKES LEAD

Manufacturing's estimated net gain over August was only 105. However, reports were not available during the current period from several major establishments and the 30-day gain may prove to have been actually greater than estimated. On the basis of September reports, no industrial group indicated gains greater than machinery's 85.

Retail trade once more took over the lead in employment gains. In addition to further expansion at Palms Center, increased hiring for Fall business started early in September. One major retailer operating several stores reported calling its regular extras much earlier than usual in order to give them further training.

Trucking and warehousing showed seasonal gains due to movement of cotton and rice. While the cotton season was approximately on schedule, handling of rice has been delayed because of the rain around harvest time.

Construction appeared to change little in the past 30 days. Some large buildings are nearing completion.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS 1000

The current unemployment estimate is 1000 below August. Claims actions for unemployment benefits have continued to drop. Initial claims hit a low of only 247 in the week ending September 9 and 1790 continued claims were filed the third week of September. Over a period of 16 weeks recently a comparison was made of the number of initial claims filed as against the number of waiting-period claims filed the following week. It was found that roughly one out of every three filing initially failed to follow up his first claim. At the end of September 3433 active claimants were in the Houston office files as compared with 4052 at the end of August. Active files of job seekers in the four area office dropped to 7939 at the end of September from 10537 in August.

DEMAND HIGH
TO NOVEMBER

Total demand to November is currently estimated at 6580, with 6150 in trades, 350 in transportation services and 80 in manufacturing. These demands should present no problems since the labor force is already being augmented by those who enter only to look for jobs from now to Christmas. Any unstated demand of the type usually made by area employers in manufacturing should be met easily from currently available supply. That this supply continually is refreshed by in-migrants who are qualified is borne out by the enormous increase in area population.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | SEPTEMBER 1954 | AUGUST 1955 | SEPTEMBER 1955 | NOVEMBER 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 388850 | 404115 | 406440 | 410440 |
| Uneployment - Total | 14000 | 13500 | 12500 | 11500 |
| Female | 3500 | 3500 | 3250 | 3000 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 374850* | 390615 | 393940 | 398940 |
| Agriculture | 7500 | 6850 | 7250 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 81460 | 85910 | 86015 | 86015 |
| Construction | 32500 | 36000 | 36000 | 36000 |
| Trades | 90065 | 95705 | 96605 | 102755 |
| Other | 163325 | 166150 | 168070 | 168420 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

* Revised.

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET
## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XI, No. 8
NOVEMBER 1955

HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated total employment in the area increased more than 1100 in the past 30 days in spite of a sharp but normal seasonal drop in number of farm workers. Non-farm total gain was estimated at better than 2100. Employment of women continues to go up proportionately faster than total.

Manufacturing netted a gain despite losses indicated in several industries. With the exception of three with small losses or no change, all non-manufacturing groups indicated employment gains. Largest gainer was trades, followed by construction.

Unemployment went down but to a lesser degree than in the previous month. Initial claims for unemployment benefits were up from the previous month but the number of active claimants dropped sharply. Total of the active files of job seekers was below September and new work applications higher.

Demand to mid-December is estimated in excess of 10,000, if this holiday season repeats the pattern of the past two years. A numerically ample supply is available from the usual sources, though some merchants have complained that too many applicants are unqualified.

NON-AGRICULTURAL
GAINS 2165

Non-farm employment in the area picked up an estimated 2165 in the past 30 days, and agricultural total dropped some 1050 below last month. Women in industry showed an increase of 695, with an added 200 in private homes bringing their total gain up to 895. The current non-agricultural estimate of 388,855 is a 20,010 gain over the October 1954 figure of 368,845. The estimated total of women workers has increased 6135 over the past 12 months, from 112,205 to 118,340.

MANUFACTURING
GAINS SPOTTY

Nine manufacturing groups indicated gains, seven losses and one no change, for a net pick-up estimated at 355 over the past 30 days. The only three numerically significant were gains of 185 and 205 respectively in machinery and chemicals and a loss of 110 in petroleum refining. The latter came largely through release of temporary workers. Part of the gain in chemicals is seasonal, the remainder expansion. Most of the machinery gain was made by three major plants. None of the remaining changes were of any particular significance.

NEW CENTER AIDS
RETAIL TRADE

Opening of several large stores in the new Long Point shopping center helped to boost retail trade an estimated 850. Employment reports from 176 retailers showed a total of 685 additional employees, of whom 456 were women. A 200 increase estimated for wholesale trade was made up of small gains throughout the group, apparently unconnected with seasonal activity.

Construction employment indicated a gain, rather unusual at this time of year. Increase in trucking and warehousing was estimated at just under 250, while communications dropped slightly. Personal service indicated a small net gain and governmental establishments reported 140 additional employees. A slight drop was noted in oil production employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 500

The current estimate of unemployed is 500 below September - a total drop of 11.1% in the past 60 days. At the end of October a total of 2829 active claimants for unemployment benefits were in the Houston offices' files, as against 3433 in September and 4052 in August. While initial claims increased slightly over September, the total was 11.7% less than August. Job seekers in the active files at the end of October totaled 7638 as compared to 7939 in September, while 7370 persons were placed in non-farm jobs in October against 6662 in September. The August total was 6208. Virtual end of the fall harvest was responsible for a sharp drop in farm placements.

SEASONAL DEMAND
HEAVY AS USUAL

Demand to mid-December, based on previous experience, has been estimated at 10,280, with a total of 9185 in wholesale and retail trade and 1500 at the post office. A number of large stores started hiring earlier than usual this year. Supply is numerically adequate, but many applicants, according to employers, fall short of necessary qualifications for sales work. Curiously enough, these merchants report adequate supply of clerical workers. Stated demand from manufacturers is less than 100, with a few minor force reductions forecast to December.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | OCTOBER 1954 | SEPTEMBER 1955 | OCTOBER 1955 | DECEMBER 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 388395 | 406440 | 407055 | 415885 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13700 | 12500 | 12000 | 11000 |
| Female | 3250 | 3250 | 3500 | 3000 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 374695* | 393940 | 395055 | 404885 |
| Agriculture | 5850 | 7250 | 6200 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 80935 | 86015 | 86370 | 86200 |
| Construction | 32500 | 36000 | 36400 | 36500 |
| Trades | 91750 | 96605 | 97665 | 106840 |
| Other | 163660 | 168070 | 168420 | 169595 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

* Revised.
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION



Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711



Vol. XI, No. 9
DECEMBER 1955


HIGHLIGHTS

While retail trade showed a sharp increase over the past 30 days, the gain to mid-November was not as high as had been expected. Indications are that heavy hiring began shortly thereafter and has proceeded as as usual.

Manufacturing netted a very small gain in November, contrasting with a drop over the same period last year. However, some seasonal layoffs are known to have taken place since the middle of November.

Unemployment dropped an estimated 500 during the past 30 days. Number of claimants for unemployment benefits was greater than in October but less than in September and far below November 1954.

After hitting a high in December, employment in January is expected to drop sharply under the November figure. In addition to reductions in sales forces, cutbacks in trucking and warehousing may be expected.

Supply has been ample even if not as well qualified as local merchants might desire.

NON-AGRICUALTURAL
UP; FARM DOWN

A gain estimated at almost 3000 was indicated in non-manufacturing employment over the past 30 days, while farm total dropped as the season neared its close.

Although the November figure did not go as high as was expected, it still represents an increase of 18,395 or approximately 5% over November 1954.

According to employer reports gathered the early part of November, threat of the bus strike slowed down some of the anticipated heavy hiring in retail trade. Although it appears to have gotten well under way near the middle of the month, the current estimate reflects the slow-down, both in the industry and in total. December estimates are expected to reflect one of the area's best selling seasons.

Again this month small gains have been reported throughout the wholesale group that do not appear to be seasonal. Construction also indicated a small increase again, unusual for this time of year.

MANUFACTURING
BREAKS EVEN

While manufacturing's gain was so small as to be of no consequence numerically, it is significant in that any degree of gain at this time of year is a reversal of the usual trend. However, since the mid-November date of these estimates, some seasonal and other force reductions have taken place and these are reflected in the forecast to January.

Although the total for manufacturing shows practically no change, there was considerable variation among individual groups. Of the 16, eight gained and eight lost. Fabricated metal products felt the combined effect of seasonal reductions and material shortages. Its loss of 190 more than offset a gain of 170 in non-electric machinery. Food processing dropped 115 as rice milling neared its end, and apparel netted a loss as the result of liquidation of one of Houston's oldest garment-makers. Chemicals and the miscellaneous group indicated gains of 75 each and ship repair, 60. Primary metals, down in October, increased slightly in November. Stone, clay & glass, furniture & fixtures and electric machinery had gains estimated from 15 to 40. Aside from the three already discussed, losses in the five remaining groups ranged from 10 in petroleum refining to 35 in lumber & wood products.

UNEMPLOYMENT
LOWERED 500

Current estimate of 11,500 unemployed represents a drop of 500 under October. While there has been a small increase in claims for unemployment benefits over the past 60 days, the weekly average for November was 43.2% below November 1954. The type of industries cutting back at this time of year would naturally bring an increase in unemployment claims even though unemployment itself lessened. Active claimant files in the Houston offices totaled 3172 at the end of November, 261 fewer than in September. An inevitable rise in unemployment will be due in January.

SHARP DROP
DUE IN JANUARY

As usual, area employment is expected to drop sharply in January after an all-year high in December. The current forecast is approximately 3400 under the current total and it might drop further. Cutbacks can be expected in trucking and warehouses and material shortages may affect manufacturing.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | NOVEMBER 1954 | OCTOBER 1955 | NOVEMBER 1955 | JANUARY 1956 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 393465 | 407055 | 409160 | 407140 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14300 | 12000 | 11500 | 13000 |
| Female | 3250 | 3500 | 3500 | 3750 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 379165* | 395055 | 397660 | 394140 |
| Agriculture | 5850 | 6200 | 5850 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 80605 | 86370 | 86420 | 86075 |
| Construction | 32700 | 36400 | 36550 | 36550 |
| Trades | 96290 | 97665 | 100325 | 97875 |
| Other | 163820 | 168420 | 168515 | 167890 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

*Revised
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# H O U S T O N
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol.XI, No. 10
JANUARY 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

Nonagricultural employment in the area as of December set several records on a yearly comparative basis, topping 1954 and 1953 by wide margins. According to merchants quoted in local newspapers, holiday sales, a little slow to start, were the best in history and the 1956 outlook is promising.

Manufacturing showed little net change over the past 30 days, a fact very satisfactory in itself. Seasonal reductions in some industries were almost offset by nonseasonal gains in others.

Unemployment, estimated at 500 below November, was 3000 below a year ago. Total number of active claimants varied little between November and December. Number of initial claims filed dropped each successive week throughout December after rising the first week. January will bring the usual sharp increase.

While total employment may drop as greatly as currently forecast to February, reports from employers since Christmas indicate that levels may remain higher, at least in January.

Supply for holiday hiring proved to be ample. Future supply promises to be quite adequate for all demands except in a few highly specialized skills as usual.

1955 SHOWS
SOLID PROGRESS

December's estimate of 400,585 total nonagricultural employment was 5.7% higher than last year and 9.9% above 1953. Total number of women employed has increased at an even greater rate - the current figure of 124,965 is 6.8% higher than December of 1954 and 13.7% above 1953.

Holiday employment was of course responsible for most of the 8775 gain over November and 11,730 over October, while manufacturing indicated practically no change in total. But on a 12-month basis of comparison, manufacturing's non-seasonal increase of 5800 over December 1954 was 27% of the estimated 21,500 total gain. This is in sharp contrast to December 1954 when manufacturing barely broke even with the previous December and was almost 5000 below the post-war peak reached in November 1952. It is now more than 1000 above this previous all-time high.

MACHINERY IS
TOP GAINER

Far out in front among the manufacturing groups forging ahead over the past twelve months was machinery, with an increase of about 1600. Primary metals and chemicals both indicated gains of a little more than 700, while furniture and fixtures, food processing and petroleum refining picked up close to 400 - a few more or less. In the range from 250 to 350 were fabricated metals, ship repair, printing & publishing and miscellaneous rubber products. Of the seven remaining industrial groups, four indicated gains from 50 to 145 and three were from 10 to 75 below their 1954 estimates. The miscellaneous durable goods group took a loss of 75 because of a final reduction of 300 in ordnance, whereas three instrument manufacturers in the group have added almost 200 workers over the past 12 months.

Estimated number of women in manufacturing has risen 645 since December 1954.

RETAIL TRADE
HITS HIGH

What merchants say was the best Christmas business in history zoomed trades employment up an estimated 7275 above November and just short of 10,000 above October. The December 1955 figure was 6675 (6.6%) above 1954 and 14,000 (15.0%) Above 1953. Employer reports indicated that more extra workers were added this year from October to mid-December than in the two previous years. The estimate of 107,600 was slightly higher than forecast in October.

The only other significant change in non-manufacturing employment in December was at the Post Office - also holiday extras.

UNEMPLOYMENT
BELOW 1954

December's estimated 11,000 unemployed is 500 below November and 3000 below 1954- a drop of 21.4%. While the total number of unemployment claims actions for December were up slightly over November, weekly totals of initial claims filed dropped each successive week after rising the first one. At the end of December, there were 3615 active claimants in the area TEC files. This is a drop of 48% under the 6952 as of December 1954. Naturally, a sharp increase is to be expected in January as usual. The TEC offices took 3394 new work applications during December and placed 5044 persons in non-agricultural jobs.

TOTAL TO
GO DOWN

A sharp drop in employment to February is inevitable, and at mid-December it was set at 11,470 with 9640 in trades. However, in the light of reports received from employers since Christmas, it is possible that a number of force reductions will be smaller than anticipated and the level may not dip as low as forecast. Supply appeared to be adequate at peak and continues to be so.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | DECEMBER 1954 | NOVEMBER 1955 | DECEMBER 1955 | FEBRUARY 1956 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 398785 | 409160 | 417335 | 407865 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14000 | 11500 | 11000 | 13000 |
| Female | 3250 | 3500 | 3000 | 3750 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 384785* | 397660 | 406335 | 394865 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5850 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 80595 | 86420 | 86395 | 86425 |
| Construction | 32700 | 36550 | 36650 | 36650 |
| Trades | 100925 | 100325 | 107600 | 97960 |
| Other | 164815 | 168515 | 169940 | 168080 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | INA |

*Revised
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XI, No.11
FEBRUARY 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

After taking the customary nose-dive following the holiday peak, estimated January employment in the area broke a previous trend by dropping to less than 1000 below last November. For the past two years, net loss in total over this 60-day period has been approximately 4000.

Manufacturing's total continued to remain practically unchanged although all but 3 of the component groups indicated some degree of change. Seven went up and seven went down. Non-manufacturing's net loss was due entirely to seasonal factors.

Unemployment rose as a natural result of these seasonal layoffs, but both the unemployment estimate and number of active benefit claimants in the TEC offices were much below January 1955.

Current forecast to March shows no change in total from January as known demand is offset by anticipated seasonal cutbacks. Continued generally favorable conditions could easily bring a net increase. Supply continues to be ample with the usual exceptions of certain skills.

12-MONTH GAINS
CONTINUE HIGH

The January estimate of 390,825 total non-agricultural employment for this area is 9760 (2.4%) below December, a normal drop, but only 985 (0.3%) under November. It is a gain of 20,925 (5.6%) over January 1955 and is more than 1400 greater than the total labor force as estimated 15 months ago - for October 1954.

Total employment of women in the area was estimated at 118,845 in January. Compared with the past two months, it follows the same pattern as total employment. Against January 1955, it shows an increase of approximately 5800 or 5.1%.

Farm employment is now at its non-seasonal level, which it should maintain until early Spring.

MACHINERY
STILL LEADS

The non-electric machinery group - largely oilfield equipment - continues in the lead of manufacturing gains with 220 over the past 30 days. Shipbuilding picked up 170. Also reporting gains were fabricated metals (75), chemicals (50), petroleum refining (40), paper & allied products (15). A net increase of 60 was spread out among instrument makers and miscellaneous durable goods.

In four of the seven industries indicating losses, these were reported as strictly seasonal. Apparel & finished products went down an estimated 220, with these workers and more expected to be recalled in 30 to 60 days. Food processing dropped another 105, while stone, clay & glass and printing & publishing were down slightly. Loss of approximately 100 in furniture & fixtures was identified as partially seasonal. A very small net loss in primary metals was of no significance and rubber processing dropped about 70.

No change was indicated in the totals for lumber and wood products, electrical machinery and textile mill products.

TRADES TAKE
NORMAL DROP

Local merchants' early pessimism regarding January business prospects seems to have been ill-founded; the majority report excellent post-holiday business. While retail employment indicated a normal drop of nearly 8700 under December, it is currently only 1675 below the November estimate and January hiring was unusually active. In January 1955, trades total went 3725 below the previous November.

Construction continues not only to hold up but to indicate small, steady gains. New projects - industrial, commercial and residential - announced or already under contract, promise to keep this trend up. Seasonal cut in trucking and warehousing is in progress and government employment is down sharply with release of holiday extras at the Post Office. No other significant changes were noted.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP

The mid-January estimate of unemployment was 13,000, 2000 more than December but a normal seasonal increase. Insured unemployment (continued claims actions filed) for the week ending nearest January 15 was up 18.5% above the same week in December but it was down 41.7% below one year ago. At the end of January TEC area files contained a total of 4,640 active claimants for all types of unemployment benefits as contrasted with 8325 in January 1955. The total is only 1084 above November.

FORECAST IS SAME

Current forecast to March shows no net increase in total. Stated demand for 500 additional workers is offset by anticipated cuts in trucking & warehousing. However, unless business conditions worsen, it is probable that there will be an increase. Supply should be ample for all demands.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | JANUARY 1955 | DECEMBER 1955 | JANUARY 1956 | MARCH 1956 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 392150 | 417335 | 409575 | 409075 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16500 | 11000 | 13000 | 12500 |
| Female | 3750 | 3000 | 4250 | 3750 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 375650* | 406335 | 396575 | 396575 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 80475 | 86395 | 86440 | 86730 |
| Construction | 32700 | 36650 | 36850 | 37000 |
| Trades | 92775 | 107600 | 98710 | 98730 |
| Other | 163950 | 169940 | 168825 | 168365 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

*Revised.
1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished promptly upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

**TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION**

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XI, No. 12
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | MARCH 1956


HIGHLIGHTS

February's total employment estimate for the area showed a small increase over last month, while women workers netted a small loss.

Most of the 30-day gain was in manufacturing, led by machinery and fabricated metals. Non-manufacturing remained practically unchanged in total. Retail trade was down slightly, transportation up.

The unemployment estimate for February is 500 above January but claims actions have dropped sharply since the second week in February. Both unemployment and claims are still far below a year ago.

Current outlook to April is optimistic, with an estimated increase of slightly more than a thousand forecast. Barring unforeseen circumstances, only transportation services is expected to fall below its current figure. Supply in general is still ample for demand.

TOTAL RISES
ABOUT 600

February non-agricultural employment in the area, estimated at 391,435, is less than 400 below November 1955, when the holiday boom was on the way, and a little more than 600 above January. Reversing the past two months, non-manufacturing remained practically unchanged in total and manufacturing accounted for most of the increase. Because retail trade dropped slightly, total number of women workers also dropped.

There is no apparent significance in the decrease in retail employment. Cutback in January was not as great as usual for that time of year and most retailers still report good business. Many of them forecast increases to April for Easter business and small new shops continue to spring up. Estimated employment for retail trade is now 8.1% above last February.

An increase of a little more than 250 was indicated in transportation and allied services. There was little change apparent in construction. Some residential work was slowed down by bad weather but industrial and commercial continued as usual. The remainder of the non-manufacturing groups showed nothing of significance.

MANUFACTURING
PICKS UP 540

Manufacturing picked up a net increase estimated at 540 in the past 30 days. For the fourth consecutive month, the oilfield machinery group led in gains. This largest of the area's manufacturing industries has had its ups and downs since World War II. A post-war employment peak of 15,125 was reached in December 1948, after which it dropped to a low of 10,800 in November '49. By slow degrees, it climbed to a new high of 16,800 in July 1953. During the next two years it gradually dropped back to the 1948 level, then began another slow upward trek, not regaining its 1953 peak until November 1955. The current estimate of 17325 is an increase of 215 over the past month and represents an increase of 14.4% over a year ago. Material shortages appear to be somewhat relieved in recent weeks.

The fabricated metals group picked up an additional 150. Almost half of the workers laid off last month in furniture and fixtures were recalled, but the apparel and finished products group is still down after January's loss of more than 200. In food processing, some of last month's seasonal loss was regained and a new firm was counted in the paper and allied products group. Five other industries indicated gains of from 5 to 70, four showed insignificant losses ranging from 10 to 35 and two remained unchanged.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP SLIGHTLY

Unemployment, estimated at 13,500 for February, is up 500 from January. The highest point in unemployment compensation claims came early in February, after which they began to drop sharply. During the week ending February 10, 510 initial intrastate claims were filed in the area offices; in the same week of March, only 290. At the end of February, there were 5171 active claimants for unemployment benefits in the area files.

DEMAND IS UP
FOR SPRING

Total demand currently estimated at 1605, offset by anticipated seasonal reduction in trucking and warehousing, is expected to bring area employment up a little more than 1000 by April. Supply has presented few difficulties and none are expected.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | FEBRUARY 1955 | JANUARY 1956 | FEBRUARY 1956 | APRIL 1956 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 393395 | 409575 | 410685 | 411465 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16000 | 13000 | 13500 | 13000 |
| Female | 3750 | 4250 | 3750 | 3500 |
| Employment - Total 1/ | 377395 | 396575 | 397185 | 398465 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5950 |
| Manufacturing | 81975 | 86440 | 86980 | 87180 |
| Construction | 33000 | 36850 | 37000 | 37500 |
| Trades | 92775 | 98710 | 98330 | 99160 |
| Other | 163895 | 168825 | 169125 | 168675 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
A. R. Hutchins, Office Manager

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XII, No. 1
APRIL 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

Area employment was estimated to have increased better than 2000 over the past 30 days. Employment of women resumed its upward trend although the increase was very small.

Construstion accounted for almost half of the gain and manufacturing more than one third. Retail trade remained practically unchanged and wholesale employment indicated a small gain. Other changes were very slight.

A relatively small drop in unemployment was indicated and all types of claims actions were down. Greatest drop was in initial claims filed. A further drop is anticipated to May.

A net increase in non-agricultural total is forecast to May, with construction again playing a major role. Farm employment may also be expected to increase in the next 60 days.

No apparent trouble was noted in filling demand as represented by the employment gain of the past 30 days. Students will begin to enter the labor market about the middle of May and supply promises to be ample.

NON-FARM GAIN
MORE THAN 2200

A net gain in non-farm employment estimated at 2255 was chalked up in the past 30 days. Manufacturing accounted for 36.1% of this figure and construction for 44.3%. Gain in number of women workers was slight - estimated at just over 300, but it marked resumption of the upward trend that has existed for some time, broken only by the drop leveling off after Christmas. Total employment is up 5.3% over March 1955 and women 4.2%, with manufacturing rising 7.2%.

13 MANUFACTURING
GROUPS GAIN

Of the 17 manufacturing groups, only two - lumber & wood products and food processing - indicated employment losses in the past 30 days and these were small. Variations in the food processing group are usually seasonal. No net change in total was indicated in textile mill products or in furniture & fixtures, although there was considerable change within the latter group. The remaining 13 had estimated gains ranging from 5 in primary metals upward to 225 in machinery (chiefly oilfield).

Machinery's eleventh consecutive monthly gain was spread throughout the industry although two firms accounted for 143 out of the 225 total. Increases were scattered throughout the fabricated metals group but a few force reductions brought the net increase down to 105. Shipbuilding also added the same number.

Seasonal increase in manufacture of fertilizer gave chemicals more than half of its estimated gain of 180 since February. Expansion is still continuing at some of the major plants, where workers are being added gradually. The apparel & finished products group indicated a slight gain in March although total is still under December.

CONSTRUCTION
LEADS GAINS

Little of significance occurred in nonmanufacturing activities except in construction, where an incerase of 1000 was estimated over the past 30 days. All types of building are involved, with several large commercial projects getting under way.

Retail trade, judged by employer reports, showed practically no net change in total and wholesale trade indicated a small increase.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 500

March's 13000 estimate of unemployment is 500 below last month and 11.5% below the 14,500 of one year ago. A total of 4613 active claimants for unemployment benefits were in the area TEC files at the end of March as compared with 5171 in February. All types of claims actions are down and a further drop in unemployment is forecast.

NONFARM FORECAST
TO MAY UP 1000

Current non-farm employment forecast to May shows a net increase of 1000, while farm activity should be stepped up sharply. Construction is the chief factor in non-farm demand, with a forecast increase of 1000. Stated demand in manufacturing would indicate a gain of just over 200, and retail trade is expected to do a little better than hold its own. Some reduction is slated in trucking and warehousing which will bring the net gain down. Supply has been ample for demand generally in the current month. Students will begin to look for jobs by the middle of May.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | MARCH 1955 | FEBRUARY 1956 | MARCH 1956 | MAY 1956 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 394265 | 410685 | 412495 | 413495 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14500 | 13500 | 13000 | 12500 |
| Female | 3250 | 3750 | 3750 | 3500 |
| Employment - Total | 379505 | 379185 | 399495 | 400995 |
| Agriculture | 5800 | 5750 | 5800 | 6300 |
| Manufacturing | 81995 | 86980 | 87795 | 88000 |
| Construction | 33500 | 37000 | 38000 | 39000 |
| Trades | 93915 | 98330 | 98535 | 98685 |
| Other | 164295 | 169125 | 169365 | 169010 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 260 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Acting Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XII, No. 2
M A Y 1 9 5 6

HIGHLIGHTS

Estimates of non-agricultural employment in the area have been revised upward with more valid data on three non-manufacturing industries as the basis.

From March to April, non-farm employment gained almost a thousand in total despite a net loss in manufacturing as the result of a labor dispute in chemicals.

Only four other industrial groups, two in manufacturing and two in non-manufacturing, indicated losses. All were small and seasonal. Three groups remained unchanged.

April unemployment estimate is unchanged from March but is 500 below February. All types of claims actions continue to drop but new work applications have increased and job-seeking inmigrants are plentiful.

A substantial increase in employment may be expected in the next 60 days. Several new projects should add to construction's total and the labor dispute has been settled. Some seasonal reduction can be expected in trucking and warehousing.

Generally speaking, supply is ample. The usual exceptions apply in skills chronically short. Students have already begun to enter the labor force, either for permanent or for temporary summer jobs.

970 ESTIMATED
GAIN IN TOTAL

A net gain of 970 in total nonagricultural employment has been estimated over the past 30 days. An increase of 1100 in non-manufacturing was partially offset by temporary net loss in manufacturing resulting from a labor dispute involving a large number of workers in the chemicals group. Women were estimated to have increased almost 500, mostly in retail trade.

In spite of the net loss in manufacturing total, only four industries failed to indicate a gain of some size. Lumber and wood products and food processing dropped an estimated 40 each and both losses were seasonal. Petroleum products did not change.

Net gains of from 50 to 285 were reported in ship building, stone, clay & glass, machinery (chiefly oil tools), and fabricated metals. The remaining nine groups indicated gains of from 5 to 35.

CONSTRUCTION
AND TRADE LEAD

Trades, with just over 750, and construction with 500 led in total gains. In addition to over-all employment increases in retail outlets, several major stores located in new shopping centers were opened. No let-up appears to be in sight for construction, at least not through the summer months.

Some seasonal cutbacks have been indicated in trucking and warehousing, with most commodity movements tapering off.

While little else of significance has been noted in non-manufacturing during the past 30 days, the over-all total for these industries has gained 14515 in the past year.

UNEMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATE SAME

The April unemployment estimate of 13,000 is unchanged from March. Althought claims actions of all types are still continuing to drop, new work applications in the TEC area offices have increased. Job-seeking in-migrants are still plentiful and many students started looking for work well ahead of the close of school. The five TEC offices in Harris County placed 6568 workers in April as against 5608 in March. New job applications rose from 4599 in March to 5473 in April

JUNE TOTAL
INCREASE DUE

An increase in non-farm employment of just under 1200 is currently forecast to June. Since a portion of this figure is the approximately 675 chemical workers who were scheduled to return to their jobs on May 2, it is entirely probable that the actual increase to June will be greater than forecast. Construction has indicated increased employment and seasonal food processing is also slated for a gain. Retail employers again forecast cutbacks but if these materialize they may be offset by completion of new stores now building. A further reduction in trucking and warehousing may be expected.

With the exception of the usually chronically short skills, supply continued adequate for demand. More than 6000 students will graduate from area schools and universities and many will be added to the local labor supply. Qualified inmigrants are still a source to draw from.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

| | APRIL 1955 | MARCH 1956 | APRIL 1956 | JUNE 1956 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 399725 | 418345 | 419465 | 423695 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13500 | 13000 | 13000 | 15500 |
| Female | 3450 | 3750 | 3750 | 4500 |
| Employment - Total* | 386225 | 405345 | 406465 | 408195 |
| Agriculture | 6000 | 5800 | 5950 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 82845 | 87445 | 87315 | 88230 |
| Construction | 34000 | 38000 | 38500 | 39000 |
| Trades | 94005 | 98535 | 99500 | 99265 |
| Other | 169375 | 175565 | 175200 | 175200 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 675 | xxx |

* Revised
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XII, No. 3
JUNE 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

Non-agricultural employment has risen an estimated 4000 over April. Manufacturing accounted for approximately half of the net gain. Non-electric machinery reports more than 500 increase in past 30 days. Construction is up an estimated 500 and trades are up 845 over April.

Estimated unemployment went up 2000 over March and April. This was due mainly to students looking for summer work.

Supply of applicants is still adequate, as many of the 5500 June graduates will remain permanently in the labor force.

AREA EMPLOYMENT UP

An increase in total nonagricultural employment estimated at 3935 has occurred in the past 30 days, with 3635 in industry and the remainder in private households. Farm workers increased with vegetable harvesting and cotton chopping.

Once more in the lead in manufacturing gains was the machinery group, chiefly oil field, with 520 in the past 30 days, and 2540 since May 1955. Almost 400 of the current increase was reported by 2 firms. Fabricated metals had an increase of 185. Chemicals are up 770 ( including settled labor dispute). Of the remaining manufacturing groups, ten indicated gains from 10 to 80 in paper and allied products in the miscellaneous group. Lumber and wood products and ship repair indicated losses, and two groups remained unchanged.

Few variations were shown in non-manufacturing other than in construction, retail trade and the professional groups. Heavy construction accounted largely for a 1000 increase in that industry between March and May. In retail trade, several major establishments have been opened in various shopping centers. In the professional group, schools employment increased an estimated 625.

A revision has been made in both the chemicals and petroleum refining groups. Three chemical plants have been reclassified into the petroleum group.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP SEASONALLY

With an influx of job-hunting students into the labor market beginning early in May, unemployment was estimated at 15,000 as increase of 2000(15.4%) over March and April. Although the current figure is also above a year ago numerically, the percentage relationships of the two figures to their respective labor force totals are almost the same- 3.2% in May 1955, 3.5% at present. There is no significance in the higher unemployment figure when it is considered that the area's labor force has increased more than 23,000 - almost 6% - in that 12 month period. All types of claims actions have dropped sharply. Insured unemployment for the week ending nearest the 15th of May was 23.6% below March and 30.7% below a year ago. Active claimants in the five TEC offices in the area totaled 3506 at the end of May as compared with 4613 in March and 5023 a year ago.

DROP IS
FORECAST

Forecast to July is for a seasonal drop in total of just under 2500, with reductions in trucking and warehousing, retail trade and schools. Stated demand totaling 250 was reported in manufacturing. This anticipated loss in total is expected to be more than made up by mid-September, with a forecast increase of 2855 over current.

Students seeking summer jobs usually hit a peak in June and those unsuccessful in finding summer work by July begin to withdraw. Many of the casual workers in trucking and warehousing usually turn to farm work when their normal activities are at a seasonal low and are consequently not unemployed.

Except for the usual chronically short skills, area supply has been ample for demand. Nonagricultural job placements were 5608 in March, 6568 in April and 6807 in May. Farm placements made a jump from 133 in March to 3347 in May. Gate supply continues to be reported as plentiful by the majority of employers.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | MAY 1955 | APRIL 1956 | MAY 1956 | Anticipated 2 Mos. Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 402785 | 419465 | 425950 | 422515 |
| Unemployment - Total | 12800 | 13000 | 15000 | 14000 |
| Female | 3250 | 3750 | 4500 | 4125 |
| Employment - Total | 389865* | 406465 | 410950 | 408515 |
| Agriculture | 6300 | 5950 | 6500 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 83665 | 87315 | 89115 | 89365 |
| Construction | 35000 | 38500 | 39000 | 39000 |
| Trades | 94925 | 99500 | 100145 | 100020 |
| Other | 169975 | 175200 | 176190 | 173630 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 120 | 675 | 0 | xxx |

* Revised
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XII, No. 4
J U L Y 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

Very little net change was shown in estimated total area employment between May and June. A substantial increase in manufacturing was almost offset by non-manufacturing's loss due to a labor dispute in construction and to schools closing.

Job-hunting students added another estimated thousand to area unemployment for mid-June. Initial claims for unemployment benefits went up slightly in June over May but continued claims dropped.

Current 60-day forecasts were made prior to the calling of the steel strike. What the actual employment situation will be by September is impossible to predict. The effect of this labor dispute is far-reaching, since a large part of the area's manufacturing depends on steel produced both locally and elsewhere. Material shortages will inevitably bring layoffs.

EMPLOYMENT TOTAL
CHANGES LITTLE

The June estimate of the area's non-farm employment remained practically unchanged in total from May. Manufacturing gained an estimated 1375 while non-manufacturing netted a loss of 1260, leaving an overall gain of 115. Number of women workers dropped slightly; increases in manufacturing and in retail trade were more than offset by summer reductions in the service staffs of the schools. Farm workers were fewer in June than in May though the total is still above two months ago.

MANUFACTURING HAS
NICE INCREASE

Between mid-May and mid-June, manufacturing employers indicated increases netting a total estimated at 1375. In four groups, gains reported by employers ran from 125 to 375. The lowest figure, in petroleum refining, was in large part temporary vacation workers. A net increase of approximately 200 was indicated in fabricated metals, widely scattered throughout the industry group. Such employment losses as were reported were very small.

Industry-wide gains with small losses also characterized food processing, which netted a 260 increase (mostly seasonal), and non-electric machinery, where a gain of 375 was indicated.

Of the remaining manufacturing groups, all but four showed increases which ranged from 15 to 85. Three indicated declines estimated at 25 each, none significant, and one showed no change.

NON-MANUFACTURING
NETS A LOSS

Construction employment dropped because of a labor dispute involving a major contractor and a large number of school workers were released for the summer. These two factors served to bring the non-manufacturing total down an estimated 1260, despite an increase of more than 1300 in trades employment. No significant changes were noted in other industry groups among non-manufacturing activities.

## UNEMPLOYMENT IS UP 1,000

Closing of schools brought unemployment up again in June, with the current figure estimated at 16,000, an increase of 1000. This is in keeping with the usual trend. Little actual change occurred in relation to unemployment benefits claims. In the five TEC offices in the area, total of active claimants at the end of June was 3526 as compared with 3506 in May. The active files of job applicants in the TEC offices took their expected jump in total during June.

The forecast to August, based on information prior to the steel strike is for an increase of just under 1000 in non-farm employment. Most of this is in construction, following settlement of the labor dispute, with a small increase indicated in trucking and warehousing. According to employer reports, a cutback is expected in retail trade. However, since calling of the steel strike on June 30th, no valid forecasts could possibly be made. In addition to the large number of workers involved directly in the dispute, some layoffs are already known to have occurred as a result of the shut-down. That other such layoffs will follow is inevitable and the effect on area employment in general cannot be foreseen.

* * * * * *

### LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | JUNE 1955 | MAY 1956 | JUNE 1956 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 406695 | 425950 | 427900 | 428265 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14600 | 15000 | 16000 | 16000 |
| Female | 4000 | 4500 | 4900 | 4900 |
| Employment - Total | 392095* | 410950 | 410765 | 412265 |
| Agriculture | 6500 | 6500 | 6200 | 6750 |
| Manufacturing | 84270 | 89115 | 90490 | 90640 |
| Construction | 35500 | 39000 | 38100** | 39500 |
| Trades | 95070 | 100145 | 101485 | 100860 |
| Other | 170755 | 176190 | 174490 | 174515 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 1135 | xxx |

* Revised. ** Labor dispute 6/13/56 through 6/25/56.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XII, No. 5
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | AUGUST 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

There has been very little net change in estimated total employment in the area in spite of the labor-management dispute involving steelworkers throughout July. Employment of women was down slightly.

The estimate of unemployment was unchanged from June. Total of active claimants for unemployment benefits has changed little since May although initial claims were up the middle of July.

Return of the steelworkers beginning August 6 should bring a return to normal operations about the first of September.

Current forecast to September, an 11,100 increase in total, includes the returning steelworkers, re-opening of schools and the completion of Gulfgate Shopping City. Supply has been adequate and is expected to remain so.

TOTAL SHOWS
LITTLE CHANGE

In spite of the labor-management dispute which involved 3800 steelworkers in three plants, area non-agricultural employment indicated a net loss of only 310 (0.1%) under June. Number of farm workers was estimated at slightly below June. Total non-agricultural employment has gained 17,800 (4.5%) in the past 12 months.

The July estimate of 87,905 employment in manufacturing shows a net loss of 2628 in the past 30 days. However, excluding the steel strike itself and a shutdown resulting directly from the strike, there was actually a gain of almost 800. In the fabricated metals group, the 250 out at one company offset a gain of 200 reported in July by other employers. One company in the primary metals group suspended operations with a layoff of approximately 250. This, together with the other workers out in the steel strike, netted that industry a 3540 loss. Except for a few very small and widely scattered layoffs, and reductions in hours rather than in employment, the above summarizes the known effect of the nation-wide work stoppage on the area employment total through July.

SUBSTANTIAL GAINS
IN SOME GROUPS

Oilfield and related machinery continued its record-setting gains with another 400 in the past 30 days. Food processing indicated a seasonal increase of about 150, largely at rice mills. Petroleum refining and chemicals reported a combined total gain of 250, including vacation extras in both industries. The area's fast-growing instrument manufacturing industry showed an increase of more than 100.

Settlement of last month's labor dispute in construction and a stepped-up tempo in industrial building brought an estimated 1900 increase in construction employment. And once again retail trade has apparently side-stepped the "summer slump", with estimated employment gaining very slightly in July over June. A small increase was indicated in trucking and warehousing.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UNCHANGED

Unemployment estimated at 16,000 for July is unchanged from June. While layoffs have not so far been of any consequence , many major industrial employers have either cut down or stopped hiring except for necessary replacements. Initial claims filed for unemployment benefits were higher in July than in June. However, at the end of July, the files of active claimants in the 5 TEC offices totaled 3674 as compared to 3526 in June and 3506 in May. The current total is 1403 (27.6%) fewer than one year ago.

BIG INCREASE
TO SEPTEMBER

As stated, the 11,100 increase in total non-farm employment to September includes the steelworkers who began their return to work on August 6. Little change in manufacturing otherwise is indicated in the current forecast. It is entirely possible that some force reductions will occur before the steel supply returns to normal. Biggest news in the next 60 days is the opening of Gulfgate Shopping City on September 20. This along with normal seasonal upswing in retail sales will give a tremendous boost to retail employment. Another major factor in the increase is the re-opening of schools early in September.

Supply is still adequate. There is no indication that retail trade's heavy demand will not be met with comparative ease, as demand of this type in the area has always drawn into the labor force large numbers of women who can be trained if they lack experience. Immigrants and transfers from elsewhere continue to fill local openings.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | JULY 1955 | JUNE 1956 | JULY 1956 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 407080 | 427900 | 430640 | 437925 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13800 | 16000 | 16000 | 16000 |
| Female | 3500 | 4900 | 4900 | 4900 |
| Employment - Total | 392960* | 410765* | 410825 | 421925 |
| Agriculture | 6300 | 6200 | 6000 | 6000 |
| Manufacturing | 84760 | 90490 | 87905** | 91530 |
| Construction | 35750 | 38100 | 40000 | 40000 |
| Trades | 95090 | 101485 | 101780 | 106185 |
| Other | 171125 | 174490 | 175140 | 178210 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 260 | 1135 | 3815 | xxx |

*Revised. **Labor dispute 6/30/56 through 8/6/56.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XII, No. 6
SEPTEMBER 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

A jump of approximately 600 in area non-farm employment has been estimated for the past 30 days, with farm workers increased for the cotton-picking season. Employment of women went up, mostly in manufacturing.

Unemployment in August was estimated at 1000 below July. Initial claims for unemployment benefits have been dropping since the middle of July.

Forecast to October is for a sizeable employment increase, including seasonal upswing in retail trade, opening of Gulfgate Shopping City and re-opening of schools.

Supply has been adequate and added demand from retail trade from now until Christmas is expected to be met the usual way - from among women entering the labor market solely for this type of work.

EMPLOYMENT GAINS
6005 IN AUGUST

The August estimate of 410,830 for area non-farm employment is a 6005 (1.5%) gain over July. Of this, 75% was in manufacturing and included the steelworkers who returned to their jobs. Contrary to the usual trend, increase in women workers was greater in manufacturing than in non-manufacturing.

The total net gain in manufacturing over July was estimated at 4505. When allowance is made for the steelworkers, expansion increase totaled approximately 700 and women made a net gain of 250.

Only one manufacturing group failed to indicate a gain, however small, over July. This was fabricated metal products, which remained practically unchanged in net total. Temporary seasonal layoffs occurred in two large plants and partly offset the 250 steelworkers who returned to work.

MACHINERY IS
GAINER AGAIN

For the second successive month, the machinery group (mostly oilfield) reported gains of 400 in total. During the current month, this industry also added approximately 125 women. Gains have been scattered throughout the entire group, which has increased about 3000 in the past year.

Based on employer reports, net increases ranging from 125 to 175 were estimated in food processing, apparel & finished products and transportation equipment. The apparel group was responsible for 175 additional women in the manufacturing total.

In the rest of the manufacturing groups, gains ranged from 5 each in textiles, paper & allied products and rubber goods to 90 in petroleum refining. In between, the average gain per industry was about 30.

MODERATE GAINS IN
NON-MANUFACTURING

Retail trade got past the "summer slump" with a small gain estimated at 300. Heavy industrial projects brought construction up an estimated 750. Minor changes - all on the plus side - in the remaining non-manufacturing groups netted a 450 gain.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN IN AUGUST

The current estimate of 15,000 unemployed is 1000 below July and June. Few layoffs occurred as a result of the steel strike and most activities returned to normal after its settlement. Initial claims for unemployment benefits filed in the 5 TEC offices in the area during the mid-week of July totaled 518. For the same week in August they dropped to 362. The total of active claimants at the end of August was 3780, a drop of 16.8% below August 1955. The TEC made 5984 non-agricultural placements in August against 5666 in July and 7303 farm workers were placed as compared with 932 the previous month. In the active files of job seekers with TEC, clerical and sales workers were higher in percentage relation to total at the end of August than in July and skilled and unskilled workers were lower.

FORECAST HIGH
FOR OCTOBER

Employment increase to mid-October is currently estimated at approximately 7500. This, of course, includes resumption of normal staffs in the schools early in September. The chief factor is retail trade, where normal Fall upswing is re-inforced by the opening of Gulfgate Shopping City, with 59 shops, a bank and a branch post office. A small seasonal increase is expected in trucking and warehousing.

Supply for the current month has been ample. Indications are that Gulfgate demands will be met satisfactorily and seasonal workers there and elsewhere in trades are expected to be available from the usual sources - housewives and part-time student workers normally outside the regular labor force.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | AUGUST 1955 | JULY 1956 | AUGUST 1956 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 410465 | 430640 | 433815 | 438065 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13500 | 16000 | 15000 | 14000 |
| Female | 3500 | 4900 | 4750 | 4500 |
| Employment - Total | 396965* | 410825 | 418030 | 424065 |
| Agriculture | 6850 | 6000 | 7200 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 85995 | 87905 | 92410 | 92315 |
| Construction | 36000 | 40000 | 40750 | 40750 |
| Trades | 95705 | 101780 | 102080 | 106420 |
| Other | 172415 | 175140 | 175590 | 178830 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 3815 | 785 | xxx |

*Revised.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# H O U S T O N
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XII, No. 7
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | OCTOBER 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated area employment jumped almost 5500 in the past 30 days for a total gain of approximately 11,500 since July. Estimated number of women workers rose a little more than 3650 in September.

Manufacturing showed little net change, with bulk of the September increase in retail trade and schools. Big news was, of course, the opening of Gulfgate Shopping City.

Estimated unemployment remained unchanged from August and there was little variation in number of active claimants for unemployment benefits over the past 30 days.

Forecast to November is for another sizeable increase, mainly expected in holiday trade activities.

Supply has been ample and should be supplemented from now on by persons who enter the labor force only for seasonal employment.

EMPLOYMENT UP
6.2% FROM 1955

Non-farm employment in the area was estimated at 416,310 for September, a gain of 5480(1.3%) in total over the past 30 days and 24,315(6.2%) over September 1955. The current total of 127,650 for women is 3.0% higher than the August estimate and 5.8% above a year ago. After reaching its peak in August, seasonal farm employment dropped sharply to September.

MANUFACTURING
NETS LITTLE CHANGE

The manufacturing estimate of 92,535 represents a net gain of only 125 over August. While the pinch of steel scarcity has caused only minor force reductions, it has slowed employment gains down in several industries. Only three industries indicated any significant change. Oilfield machinery showed the largest gain again, but only 140 as compared with the 400 in each of the two preceding months. Lumber and wood products picked up an estimated 115. Apparel & finished products, after a substantial gain in August, dropped 135 in a seasonal slump. In the remaining industrial groups, four reported losses and four gains, with 30 as the top figure for each. Six groups indicated no net change.

NONMANUFACTURING
TAKES BIG JUMP

Non-manufacturing took a jump estimated at 5355 in the past 30 days. Construction, mostly industrial, indicated another gain but the big news was in retail trade and schools.

Re-opening of schools, with full staffs, added 2165 to the professional group's total gain over August estimated at 2225. Opening of the handsome Gulfgate Shopping City was of course the dominant factor in an increase of 2550 in retail employment. A small seasonal increase was indicated in trucking and warehousing and governmental employment dropped 250 with discontinuance of some summer services by the city.

UNEMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATE SAME

Estimated unemployment for September remained unchanged from August at 15,000. While initial claims were rising slightly toward the middle of the month, the total of 293 filed the first week of September was the lowest since the first week in July. At the end of September, there were 3721 active benefits claimants in the five TEC offices in the area as compared with 3780 in August.

HOLIDAY INCREASE
DUE TO NOVEMBER

Based on employer reports, little change in employment is expected to November except in trades. Net increase in total is currently forecast at 6415, with 6200 in wholesale and retail trade. This latter figure is roughly two-thirds of the usual peak reached between December 1 and 15 and is based solely on past experience.

Supply, even with the opening of Gulfgate, has been ample for demand during September. A total of 5592 new job applications was taken by the TEC during the month as compared with 5023 in August. The TEC made 6824 non-farm job placements, an increase of 840 over August. No real difficulties are expected in filling November demand from the retail stores for the holidays. All types of demand continue to be met in part by qualified in-migrant workers, a valuable supplement to local supply.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | SEPT. 1955 | AUGUST 1956 | SEPT. 1956 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 411745 | 433815 | 438915 | 442475 |
| Unemployment - Total | 12500 | 15000 | 15000 | 14000 |
| Female | 3250 | 4750 | 4500 | 4000 |
| Employment - Total | 399245* | 418030 | 422410 | 428475 |
| Agriculture | 7250 | 7200 | 6100 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 86165 | 92410 | 92535 | 92650 |
| Construction | 36000 | 40750 | 41250 | 41250 |
| Trades | 96605 | 102080 | 104710 | 110910 |
| Other | 173225 | 175590 | 177815 | 177915 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 785 | 785 | xxx |

*Revised
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private household included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XII, No. 8
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | NOVEMBER 1956

HIGHLIGHTS

Total employment in the area estimated for October broke about even with the previous month. A slight increase in non-agricultural employment was almost offset by a seasonal drop in number of farm workers.

Manufacturing indicated a minor loss in total while retail trade again gave non-manufacturing a boost. Few significant changes occurred in any industry.

Estimated unemployment was down slightly under the previous month, along with the total of active claimants for unemployment benefits.

Indications point to a record holiday season, with peak employment due by mid-December.

Supply for the past 30 days has been satisfactory, with the exception of temporary workers for the Christmas season. However housewives and students usually are available to fill this demand.

NON-FARM TOTAL
GAINS SLIGHTLY

The October estimate of 416,670 non-farm employment is a gain of only 360 over September but women increased by an estimated 610. Such losses as occurred were in industries where men predominate while chief gains were in retail trade and in professional services. The current non-farm total is 21,320 or 6.2% above one year ago and the estimate for women 6335 (6.5%).

Farm employment has dropped almost to its non-seasonal level.

MANUFACTURING
MARKS TIME

Manufacturing continues to mark time, netting a loss against September estimated at 100. Many industries normally slow down toward the end of the year and added to this is a material shortage beginning to be felt because of the steel strike in July. So far, effect of this shortage has been in curtailment of hiring and shorter hours rather than in significant layoffs.

Reports from employers in the nonelectric machinery group indicated a small net gain for this industry, while fabricated metals showed a small loss in total. In the food processing group, some rice millers had a lull in mid-October between processing government surplus rice and the new crop. This, together with small seasonal cutbacks in other types of activity, netted a loss estimated at 125. On receipt of the new crop of rice, an employment increase is expected.

Apparel and finished products indicated a loss for the second successive month, with the prospect that most of the loss will be made up around the first of the year. Expansion of major chemical plants brought that industry a 30-day gain of almost 200, while petroleum refining dropped approximately 150 in vacation extras and shutdown workers. Reports indicated 60 additional workers in the growing rubber products group.

For the first time in several months, a slight drop in construction employment was indicated, in heavy industrial projects nearing completion. Some cuts were reported in the transportation group although trucking and warehousing showed little variation. Retail trade, beginning its holiday upswing, gained an estimated 475 even after the "grand opening" staffs at Gulfgate were cut back to normal operating levels. Several of the hospitals and some outlying school districts added a total of 275 to the professional group. Government employment also increased 145.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN SLIGHTLY

October's unemployment estimate of 14,500 is 500 below September. Initial claims for unemployment benefits, which rose toward the end of September, dropped during the first two weeks in October. At the end of October, there were 3619 active claimants in the five TEC offices in the area.

HEAVY HOLIDAY
DEMAND DUE

If past years are a guide, demand to mid-December in trades will be a little less than 10,000. This, together with extras at the post office and stated demand in manufacturing of almost 600, will bring the area's total up about 12,000 in the next 60 days. Early in November, temporary workers for the Christmas season were in short supply. However, housewives and students usually become available to fill this demand in time.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | OCTOBER 1955 | SEPTEMBER 1956 | OCTOBER 1956 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 412670 | 438915 | 437015 | 447450 |
| Unemployment - Total | 12000 | 15000 | 14500 | 13000 |
| Female | 3500 | 4500 | 4250 | 3900 |
| Employment - Total | 400670* | 422410 | 422470 | 434450 |
| Agriculture | 3200 | 6100 | 5800 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 86570 | 92535 | 92435 | 93030 |
| Construction | 36400 | 41250 | 41000 | 41000 |
| Trades | 97655 | 104710 | 105185 | 115040 |
| Other | 173845 | 177815 | 178050 | 179630 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 785 | 45 | xxx |

* Revised
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private household included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XII, No. 9 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | DECEMBER 1956 |


HIGHLIGHTS

The November non-farm employment estimate was up moderately over October with almost half of the gain in women workers.

Manufacturing showed little net change in total; non-manufacturing's largest gain was in retail trade for holiday extras. Construction remained the same and trucking and warehousing increased slightly.

Unemployment was estimated at 500 below October although total of active claimants for unemployment benefits was up at the end of November.

Holiday hiring in retail trade was not as heavy to mid-November as anticipated but a high is expected for December. To January, forecast for total employment is a little above the November level.

Newspaper and other publicity apparently brought housewives and students into the labor market in sufficient numbers to satisfy retail trade demand. Other supply has been ample.

NOVEMBER GAIN
LESS THAN USUAL

Estimated gain in non-agricultural total over the past 30 days was 1270 (0.3%), much less than for the past three years. The November total of 417,940 is 20,940 (5.1%) above a year ago.

Manufacturing has been following its usual pattern of marking time toward the year's end and showed practically no net change in total from October. However, non-manufacturing broke with the trend of the past few years in that retail trade indicated only a relatively minor gain instead of its usual upward zoom to mid - November. Hiring for Christmas did not get well under way until near Thanksgiving; in consequence, gain over October was limited to an estimated 925. Indications were that peak employment would be reached between December 1 and 10.

Construction indicated little net change and employers reported some seasonal increase in trucking and warehousing.

While all but three industrial groups in manufacturing indicated some change, none was of sufficient significance to warrant discussion. With two exceptions, none exceeded 40; both of the exceptions were of a temporary nature.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 500

Unemployment was estimated at 14,000 for mid-November, 500 less than October. This figure represents 3.2% of the total labor force. A rise in claims actions the last half of the month reflected some indirect effect of the longshoremen's strike, since waterfront activities practically came to a standstill.

The total of active job applications in the 5 TEC offices in the area at the end of November was up about 800 over October. In November, 5122 new applications were taken and 5320 persons were placed in jobs with non-farm employers.

INCREASE EXPECTED
TO JANUARY

To January, the current forecast for total employment is 2220 above the November figure. Of the net gain, better than 800 is anticipated in manufacturing. Layoffs in primary metals are being recalled; some rice millers expect increased activity. Both the chemicals and petroleum groups have stated demand for manning new plants and additional facilities at old ones. In non-manufacturing, little activity is anticipated to January. It has been estimated that retail trade will be about 1325 above the current level, although it could be higher if January sales are good.

Supply during the month has been satisfactory. Newspaper and other publicity apparently brought housewives and students into the labor market in sufficient numbers to meet merchants' demands.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | NOVEMBER 1955 | OCTOBER 1956 | NOVEMBER 1956 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 414885 | 437015 | 437740 | 440910 |
| Unemployment - Total | 11500 | 14500 | 14000 | 15000 |
| Female | 3500 | 4250 | 4000 | 4750 |
| Employment - Total | 403385* | 422470 | 423740 | 425910 |
| Agriculture | 5850 | 5800 | 5800 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 86655 | 92435 | 92465 | 93275 |
| Construction | 36550 | 41000 | 41000 | 41000 |
| Trades | 100325 | 105185 | 106110 | 107435 |
| Other | 174005 | 178050 | 178365 | 178450 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 45 | 0 | xxx |

* Revised
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# H O U S T O N
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XII, No. 10
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | JANUARY 1957

HIGHLIGHTS

Since peak holiday hiring in retail trade was apparently not reached until after mid-December, the December employment increase was not as great as in past years although a very substantial gain was indicated.

Manufacturing, on the other hand, indicated an unprecendented year-end gain, with all but four of the 17 industrial groups up to some degree. Reported losses were small. Construction and crude oil production were the only non-manufacturing activities to show any loss, both minor.

Unemployment was estimated at 1000 below November, with claims actions dropping after the first of December.

December supply was apparently quite sufficient for holiday demands, according to employers reporting to the TEC, particularaly in regard to students.

Current forecast to February is for practically the same employment total as for November. Cutbacks in retail employment may, however, bring it down.

DECEMBER TOTAL
IS UP 7300

An increase of approximately 7300 in nonfarm total employment was estimated to December, with 4350 additional women.

Contrary to the usual trend, manufacturing indicated a year-end gain of approximately 500 to December. Chief gainer among the industry groups was apparel & finished products, which more than re-couped its losses of the previous two months. Food processing was up an estimated 100 and machinery 110. Ten other groups reported net increases ranging from 5 to 45.

The only losses indicated in manufacturing groups were in fabricated metals, chemicals and miscellaneous rubber goods, and none exceeded 30. A small rubber processor announced closing of its plant.

RETAIL HIRING
PEAK DELAYED

Retail trade apparently did not hit its holiday hiring peak until after the middle of December, judging from employment reports received by the TEC. For the past several years this peak has come between December 1 and 15. As a result, the 1956 seasonal increase in trades employment of 6640 from October to December is almost one-third less than for the same period the previous year. Indications are that even with additional hiring the week before Christmas in some of the stores, the top figure fell below expectations.

There would appear to be no doubt that the opening of so many large first-class community shopping centers within the past six months has been changing the shopping habits of area residents. Some of the big downtown stores reported a drop in sales as compared with last year yet the Houston area as a whole showed a net gain according to newspaper reports.

Very little change was indicated in any other non-manufacturing activity except government, where Christmas extras swelled the Post Office total.

UNEMPLOYMENT,
CLAIMS DROP

Estimated unemployment hit its seasonal low in December - 13,000. Both initial and continued claims dropped during the month after the first week although they began to rise sharply after Christmas. At the end of December there were 4496 active benefits claimants in the five TEC offices in the area as compared with 4359 in November. New work applications totaled 3803 for December and 5671 job placements were made with non-farm employers.

FEBRUARY FORE-
CAST UNCERTAIN

To February, the current forecast is for a drop of a little better than 7200 in total. This would bring the non-farm total to approximately the November level. However, cuts in retail trade employment after Christmas have, in some cases, been greater than anticipated and this may result in a lower figure. Demand of less than 200 in manufacturing was indicated to February in employer reports but additional increases -- some call-backs - are expected, possibly by the end of January. Supply is expected to be ample for most demands, and the labor force will be augmented by mid-term high school graduates in February.

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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | DECEMBER 1955 | NOVEMBER 1956 | DECEMBER 1956 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 423555 | 437740 | 443995 | 438275 |
| Unemployment - Total | 11000 | 14000 | 13000 | 14500 |
| Female | 3250 | 4000 | 3750 | 4500 |
| Employment - Total | 412555* | 423740 | 430995 | 423775 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5800 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 86685 | 92465 | 92970 | 93135 |
| Construction | 36650 | 41000 | 40850 | 40850 |
| Trades | 107600 | 106110 | 111825 | 105550 |
| Other | 175870 | 178365 | 179600 | 178490 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

* Revised
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XII, No.11
FEBRUARY 1957

HIGHLIGHTS

- The January estimate of total non-farm employment in the area took the usual nose-dive after Christmas, although it stood a little above the November figure.

Unemployment rose as a natural result of the holiday force reductions, but no more than was normal. Claims actions also rose sharply at the first of the year.

Manufacturing, for the second successive month, indicated a substantial gain, led by primary metals. Aside from the holiday layoffs, little change occurred in non-manufacturing.

Supply during January appeared quite ample for all demands and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

A very slight increase in total employment is currently forecast to March but recent indications point to cuts in retail trade which may change the picture.

POST-HOLIDAY
DROP OVER 6000

Post-holiday drop in total non-farm employment was estimated at 6140, bringing the current total to 419,105. Employment of women as of mid-January was estimated at 129,290, a drop of 3875. Compared with a year ago, the gain in total is estimated at 21,755 (5.5%) over January 1956 while women workers have increased 7000 or 5.7%.

From employer reports received by the TEC, there is no doubt that the December peak in retail trade fell short of past years. Just how far it did go above the mid-December estimate of 90,350 is difficult to determine. The current figure, based on employer reports, is almost identical with the estimate for November and is 6950 above January 1956.

MANUFACTURING
GAINS AGAIN

Manufacturing indicated a substantial gain for the second successive month, estimated at just under 600. This brings the 60 day increase to an estimated 1080, a sharp departure from the usual trend at this time of year.

Standout among the industrial groups was primary metals, up an estimated 400 to recoup its losses of recent months plus a little more. Chemicals, down slightly in December, indicated more than 100 additional workers to January with the completion of a new plant near Pasadena. Another new plant in the petroleum products group helped net that industry a gain of 80 after some minor cutbacks at several refineries.

Non-electric machinery, chiefly oil tools, continues to gain steadily, although the pace has slowed down as compared with the early months of 1956. The industry is currently estimated at better than 2600 above one year ago.

Another industry growing steadily, though on a smaller scale, is instrument manufacture. Since June, this group has netted an increase estimated at 315.

Manufacturing's estimated increase in total of 6735 over the past 12 months is a 7.8% gain. The current figure of 12,620 for women in these industries is 930 or 8.0% above January 1956.

UNEMPLOYMENT ON
SEASONAL RISE

An increase of 2000 to January in estimated unemployment is a normal trend at this time of year. Both initial and continued claims began to rise at the first of the year. Peak for initial benefits claims was the week ending January 12, when a total of 714 were filed. However, of the 628 persons filing intra-state initial claims that week, only 424 returned to file the following week. Since the end of November, one out of every three initial intra-state claimants has failed to file his or her first compensable claim. The January unemployment estimate of 15,000 represents 3.4% of the total labor force.

Although the current forecast is for an increase in total to March, it appears that reduction in retail trade may bring it down instead. Supply has been quite ample and promises to remain so.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | JANUARY 1956 | DECEMBER 1956 | JANUARY 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 416100 | 443995 | 439855 | 440200 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13000 | 13000 | 15000 | 15000 |
| Female | 4250 | 3750 | 4500 | 4200 |
| Employment - Total | 403100* | 430995 | 424855 | 425200 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 86810 | 92970 | 93545 | 93770 |
| Construction | 36850 | 40850 | 40750 | 40750 |
| Trades | 98710 | 111825 | 106270 | 106600 |
| Other | 174980 | 179600 | 178540 | 178330 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

* Revised
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XII, No.12
M A R C H 1957

HIGHLIGHTS

As anticipated, cutbacks in retail trade during the past few weeks, along with construction, brought the February non-farm employment estimate down about a thousand under January.

While current total is very slightly above November '56, the number of women is less since force reductions have involved more women workers than men.

Unemployment at mid-February was also above the January estimate, following the usual trend.

Manufacturing indicated little net change from last month although there was considerable variation among the individual industrial groups.

Present indications confirm the forecast increase in total employment to March and April, with merchants planning extras for Easter buying. Some expansion is also indicated in manufacturing.

Supply has been ample during the past 30 days and should remain so.

NON-FARM TOTAL
DOWN 1100

February, which might be characterized as the most uncertain month of the year employmentwise, saw estimated nonfarm total drop 1100 under January, to 418,005. With retail trade the chief contributing factor, more than half the net loss was in women workers.

Employment reductions in trade were concomitant with the January drop in department store sales. At the same time, the majority of retail establishments reporting to the TEC in February forecast at least temporary increases to 30 and 60 days for anticipated Easter selling. It has also been noted on more recent reports that retail employment appears more stabilized; this in turn parallels a reported rise in sales over the 1956 level as of mid-February.

Losses were indicated in construction and in transportation services, while small gains were reported in all other non-manufacturing classifications.

MANUFACTURING
BREAKS EVEN

After reversing its usual year-end trend and netting an estimated 1110 gain from October through January, manufacturing about broke even in total over the past 30 days. Seven industrial groups reported gains, from 5 in apparel & finished products to 170 in machinery. Six showed losses, from 5 in miscellaneous non-durable goods to 95 in food processing. No change was reported in four groups.

In the machinery group, where oilfield equipment predominates, 56 establishments, with a total of almost 17,000 employees, reported to the T. E. C. in February. Out of this number, 31 showed employment increases against 9 reporting losses. The remaining 16 were unchanged.

The fabricated metals group netted a gain estimated at 40. Establishments in this in-

industry follow no pattern and are subject to wide seasonal variations from differing causes. Out of the 50 establishments reporting (with employment totaling approximately 6100), 17 indicated gains and 15 losses. One layoff of 30 was due to material shortage and two, totaling 50, were seasonal; all three were temporary. One spring-maker discontinued manufacturing in Houston. On the credit side, one structural fabricator put on 46 for an export contract; another plant which has been expanding for several months increased its total by 80. Other changes were inconsequential in themselves.

Primary metals made another small gain of 35 to bring the industry an estimated 175 above one year ago. Seasonal factors were responsible for a loss of 75 in lumber & wood products; the same number were lost in stone, clay & glass because of slackening in demand for building products of certain types. Furniture & fixtures netted a loss through transfer of part of a plant elsewhere.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP SLIGHTLY

Unemployment at mid-February was estimated at 15,500, an increase of 500 over January. Although claims for unemployment benefits have risen since early December, the increase is proportionately smaller than over the same period a year ago. From the first week in December '55 to the last of February '56, continued claims rose 29.7% Currently, over the same period, the increase was 23.0%. At the end of February there were 6182 active claimants for all types of unemployment benefits in the TEC office files in the area. Unemployment is currently 3.5% of the total labor force.

INCREASE FORECAST

Based on employer reports, an increase of almost 1800 is forecast to April, with approximately 300 in manufacturing and 1600 in retail trade. Some drop is expected in transportation services. Farm employment is expected to see a seasonal upswing.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | FEBRUARY 1956 | JANUARY 1957 | FEBRUARY 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 417370 | 439855 | 439255 | 440950 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13500 | 15000 | 15500 | 15000 |
| Female | 3750 | 4500 | 4650 | 4200 |
| Employment - Total | 403870* | 424855 | 423755 | 425950 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 6150 |
| Manufacturing | 87260 | 93545 | 93510 | 93805 |
| Construction | 37000 | 40750 | 40500 | 40500 |
| Trades | 98330 | 106270 | 105110 | 106740 |
| Other | 175530 | 178540 | 178885 | 178755 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

* Revised

Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, the information will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIII, No. 1
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | A P R I L 1957

HIGHLIGHTS

March employment estimates for the area bore out previous forecasts, showing a nonfarm gain of approximately 1400 to return to a little above the January level.

In March, retail trade regained a large part of its February loss while construction dropped for the second successive month. Manufacturing again broke about even in total although individual groups indicated changes.

Estimated unemployment for March dropped slightly, back to the January level. The current figure is 3.4% of the total labor force.

Current forecast to May is for a further increase in nonfarm total and a sharp seasonal upswing in agricultural workers. Weather permitting, construction is expected to pick up and considerable stated demand exists in retail trade exclusive of Easter extras. Demand from manufacturing is moderate.

Supply continues to be ample except for the usually chronically short occupations.

MARCH TOTAL
REGAINS LOSS

The March nonfarm estimate of 419,400 total employment is a net gain of approximately 1400 (0.3%) over February. Women workers were up an estimated 870 (0.7%) to 129,545. The current total is 19,160 or 4.8% above March 1956, while total for women is up 6995 or 5.7%. Farm employment did not indicate any change.

RETAIL TRADE
BOOSTS TOTAL

As was the case in February, trade was the chief contributing factor in the employment change. An estimated gain of 840 over the past 30 days more than offset a drop in construction estimated at 500. At the same time, smaller gains were indicated in all the remaining nonmanufacturing groups. Largest of these was just over 200 in the service industries. In the professional group, hospitals added an estimated 100.

LITTLE CHANGE IN
MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing's net change was a gain of approximately 100. Based on employer reports, nine industrial groups indicated increased employment, five showed losses and three no change.

Top gainer over the past 30 days was the chemicals group with 170. This was partly a seasonal pickup in fertilizer manufacture and partly additional workers for new plant facilities. Machinery added another 75 and miscellaneous durable goods 55. The remaining gains ranged from 30 down to 10.

Transportation equipment dropped an estimated 155 and food processing 75. Smaller losses were indicated in lumber and wood products, fabricated metal products and printing and publishing. The three groups showing no net change were furniture and fixtures, electrical machinery and textile mill products.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 500

Unemployment at mid-March was estimated at 15,000, a decline of 500 under the previous month. At the end of March, total of active claimants for all types of unemployment benefits in the 5 TEC offices was 6414 as compared with 6182 at the end of February, but initial claims actions were dropping from the highs of the previous two months. Unemployment in relation to total estimated labor force continues to be well within the percentage range of a balanced labor market. The March estimate is 3.4% of the total labor force.

NON-FARM GAIN
IS FORECAST

A net increase of just under 1850 in non-farm employment is currently forecast to May. Seasonal farm work should bring agricultural employment up about 750 by mid-May. The non-farm estimate by-passes the Easter high in retail trade, which should be reached at least by April 15. Approximately 200 stated demand currently exists in manufacturing to May. Of the net increase in non-manufacturing, 1000 is expected in construction if weather is favorable. Considerable activity is anticipated in retail trade with a number of new outlets scheduled to open by mid-summer.

Ample supply has been available and students will begin to hunt jobs by mid-May.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | MARCH 1956 | FEBRUARY 1957 | MARCH 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 419040 | 439255 | 440150 | 442240 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13000 | 15500 | 15000 | 14500 |
| Female | 3750 | 4650 | 4450 | 4250 |
| Employment - Total | 406040* | 423755 | 425150 | 427740 |
| Agriculture | 5800 | 5750 | 5750 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 87765 | 93510 | 93615 | 93820 |
| Construction | 38000 | 40500 | 40000 | 41000 |
| Trades | 98535 | 105110 | 106015 | 106840 |
| Other | 175940 | 178885 | 179770 | 179580 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

*Revised.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households included.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIII, No. 2
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | MAY 1957


HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated non-farm employment in the area rose again from March to mid-April, with almost double the gain made the previous month.

The usual Easter boost in retail trade was responsible for most of the estimated 2575 net gain. Manufacturing total dropped very slightly. Construction had showed little change up to the time bad weather set in.

The April unemployment estimate was 500 below March, with total of active claimants down and TEC job placements up.

Nonfarm employment is expected to drop to June with the closing of schools and some cutting back in retail sales personnel. Demand in manufacturing remains moderate. Good weather should bring some increase in construction. May and June will bring the first of the seasonal farm peaks.

Supply, currently ample for demand, will begin to be increased by job-hunting students beginning the last half of May.

NON-FARM TOTAL
SHOWS NICE GAIN

The nonfarm estimate of 421,975 total employment in the area at mid-April represents an increase of 2575 (0.7%) over the previous month. This is almost twice the net gain estimated from February to March. Since retail trade was the chief factor in the current gain, women workers accounted for 81% of the increase. The current estimate of 131,650 for women is up 2.0% from March and approximately 7.0% above April 1956. Total non-farm employment is currently 20,720 or 5.2% over a year ago.

MANUFACTURING
DOWN SLIGHTLY

Manufacturing netted a minor loss estimated at 100 over the past month, with some degree of change indicated in all industrial groups but three.

For the second successive month, the chemicals group was the top gainer, with 140. Most of this was reported by companies in the process of plant expansion. This gradual increase in employment is scheduled to continue for several months. The April estimate is 975 above a year ago and employers reporting to the T.E.C. had stated demand totaling 210 to August.

Gains indicated by five other groups were all small, ranging from 5 in electrical machinery to 35 in petroleum refining. Stone, clay & glass picked up 30, paper & allied products and printing & publishing 20 each.

For the first time in several months, machinery netted a loss, estimated at 90. Two fairly sizeable layoffs were reported, partially offset by gains scattered over the industry. Fabricated metal products varied greatly within the group but broke even in total. Food processing indicated a drop estimated at 85 resulting from a lull in processing of government surplus rice. Apparel & finished products was down

40, miscellaneous rubber good 45 and miscellaneous durable goods 35. Primary metals, lumber & wood products and furniture & fixtures indicated smaller losses of no particular significance.

TRADE GROUPS
BOOST TOTAL

An increase of almost 2600 to mid-April in wholesale and retail trade was the chief factor in the area's employment gain. Easter buying was the reason for adding sales and other personnel, but many employers reported that they expected to keep a good part of these "extras" through the vacation season to relieve regular employees.

About 200 were reported as being added to hospital staffs in the past month. Trucking and warehousing was down to some extent, a normal seasonal trend. Other variations in nonmanufacturing were small and insignificant.

CLAIMANTS DOWN
IN APRIL

Unemployment, estimated at 14,500, is 500 below March. At the end of March, there were 6414 active claimants for unemployment benefits in the files of the 5 T.E.C. offices in the area. By the end of April, this total had dropped to 5662. The number of initial claims filed each week dropped throughout April, although there was an increase the first week of May. Records continue to show that approximately one out of every three persons filing an initial claim fails to return to file a compensable claim. Unemployment currently is 3.3% of the total labor force.

DROP FORECAST IN
NON-FARM TOTAL

A drop in non-farm total currently estimated at just under 1800 is forecast to June. Manufacturing employers have indicated expansion demand totaling 325, mainly in food processing and chemicals. With favorable weather, an increase of 1000 is expected in construction. Retail trade can be expected to cut back in total and the closing of schools will bring release of approximately 2500 workers. Further drop is anticipated in trucking & warehousing. A slight increase is forecast in petroleum production and in the service industries, chiefly among launderers and cleaners.

Supply, which has been quite ample, will be increased from the last of May through June by graduates and vacationing students.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | APRIL 1956 | MARCH 1957 | APRIL 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 420880 | 440150 | 442275 | 443210 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13000 | 15000 | 14500 | 16500 |
| Female | 3750 | 4450 | 4250 | 5000 |
| Employment - Total | 407205* | 425150 | 427775 | 426710 |
| Agriculture | 5950 | 5750 | 5800 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 87635 | 93615 | 93515 | 93840 |
| Construction | 38500 | 40000 | 40000 | 41000 |
| Trades | 99300 | 106015 | 108600 | 107625 |
| Other | 175820 | 179770 | 179860 | 177745 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 675 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

* Revised. Self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private hsehlds. incl.
NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished upon request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIII, No. 3 |
|---|---|---|
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | J U N E 1957 |

HIGHLIGHTS

Total area employment (including agriculture) as estimated for May netted a very small increase because of labor disputes which brought manufacturing down sharply. Net gain in wage and salary workers was estimated at less than 200.

Retail trade and construction were the major gainers during the past 30 days. Manufacturing would have shown a small net gain had it not been for labor disputes.

Unemployment was estimated at a little above April, although initial claims for unemployment benefits had been dropping to the middle of May.

A drop in total nonfarm employment to July is currently forecast because of closing of schools and anticipated cut-backs in retail trade. These losses are expected to be partially offset by some gain in manufacturing. In addition to stated demand, settlement of one labor dispute and possible settlement of another will make the increase greater. Farm activity is also expected to pick up.

Supply has been ample for current demand and students were added to it in June.

LABOR DISPUTES
CUT GAINS

While the May estimate of total employment shows a substantial gain of 3215 (0.8%) over March, labor disputes existant in May brought manufacturing down sharply. Net gain in wage and salary workers over the past 30 days was estimated at less than 200, while the over-all gain, including agriculture, was 690. Over the past year total employment has risen an estimated 15,345 (3.7%), with nonfarm wage and salary workers up 15,170 (4.3%) and total of women up 7815 or 6.3%. Farm activity is running about two months behind its usual schedule because of the rains.

MANUFACTURING
DOWN 1100

With more than 1200 workers out on strike at mid-May, the estimate for manufacturing dropped 1100 under April. Nonelectric machinery was the hardest hit and petroleum refining total also suffered. Both industries would otherwise have shown a small net gain.

From April to May, nine industries indicated gains from 5 to 140; seven, losses from 5 to 875 and one no change. With few exceptions, changes were not especially significant. The largest net gain (140) was in shipbuilding, a relatively small industry which fluctuates greatly. No other increase exceeded 45, which took place in the instruments group. Among the losers, machinery topped with 875, followed by petroleum refining with 305. Next largest loss was 90 in apparel and finished

NOTE: Beginning with this issue of the Houston Labor Market, estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. All employment figures used for manufacturing, total employment and total labor force have been revised.

products, influenced by bag manufacture. Temporary layoffs at two plants brought furniture and fixtures down 60. Chemicals lost 35; smallest of the three labor disputes was in this groups.

CONSTRUCTION AND
RETAIL TRADE UP

Industrial building brought construction an increase estimated at 750 over April. Based on employer reports, gain in retail trade was estimated at 475, largely in department stores and apparel shops. A very slight decrease was indicated in wholesale trade, of a temporary nature.

Transportation services were down a little under 200, a large portion of which was in railroads. Trucking and warehousing appears fairly steady. Hospital facilities have again reported gains and municipal governments have added summer personnel.

UNEMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATE UP 500

At 15,000, estimated unemployment is 500 above April. Although the number of active claimants for unemployment benefits in the 5 TEC offices in the area totaled 6006 at the end of May as compared with 5662 in April, initial claims dropped from 624 the first week of April to 416 the last week of May. The downward trend was broken only once - in the first week of May.

DOWNWARD TREND
FORECAST TO JULY

On the basis of current employer reports, a net reduction of 1340 is forecast to July. Stated demand totaling approximately 575 was reported by manufacturing establishments. If these increases materialize this total will be boosted considerably by the settlement on June 10 of the largest of the strikes. Seasonal food processing is expected to show an increase, chemical plants are still expanding gradually and the furniture group expects to recall its layoffs. Some expansion is scheduled in primary metals, with more due in the early fall or late summer. In non-manufacturing many workers will be off the payrolls of the schools and some will not work at all during vacation. Cuts are expected in retail trade by mid-summer, possibly larger than forecast.

Supply has been ample during the past 30 days and students, graduate and vacationing, were entering the labor market by the end of May. Most of those who do not find immediate employment usually withdraw from the labor market. There is no indication that supply will be anything other than satisfactory for the next 60 days.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES* AND FORECAST

| | MAY 1956 | APRIL 1957 | MAY 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 426205 | 440360 | 442795 | 442160 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 14500 | 15000 | 16500 |
| Female | 4500 | 4250 | 4000 | 4750 |
| Employment - Total | 411205 | 425860 | 426550 | 425660 |
| Agriculture | 6500 | 5800 | 6050 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 88900 | 91600 | 90500 | 91075 |
| Construction | 39000 | 40000 | 40750 | 41000 |
| Trades | 100145 | 108600 | 109025 | 108745 |
| Other | 176660 | 179860 | 180225 | 178340 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 1245 | xxx |

*Revised. Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in pvt. households included.
NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director — 3104 Main Street — Vol. XIII, No. 4
S. W. Braden, Office Manger — Phone CA 5-1711 — JULY 1957

HIGHLIGHTS

Total area employment netted a loss estimated at just over 500 from May to June. The largest of three labor disputes was settled and manufacturing total rose almost 2000, offset by closing of schools, some cut in retail trade and a small drop in farm employment.

Job-hunting students brought unemployment up in June. Claims for unemployment benefits dropped appreciably between mid-May and June and have continued to hold the lower level.

If present indications hold, a small increase in non-farm total is expected to August, largely in nonmanufacturing. Farm employment is also expected to go up as cotton begins to mature.

There were no difficulties encountered in filling current demands. Students were available for vacation fill-ins and part-time jobs.

MANUFACTURING
IS UP 1900

Of the 17 manufacturing groups, 12 indicated gains ranging from 25 to 985, four showed losses from 5 to 30 and one, no change. Oilfield machinery made the largest gain, with settlement early in June of a major labor dispute. Vacation extras and force-account construction brought petroleum refining up 275. Substantial increases were indicated in fabricated metals and shipbuilding. The chemicals group is continuing its gradual expansion, with construction progressing on enlarged plant facilities. Food processing, usually up at this time of year, did not show any net change. Primary metals is also showing a gradual increase, netting a gain of 55 in the past 30 days. Furniture & fixtures and stone, clay & glass gained 65 and 50 respectively. Paper & allied products picked up 60 and the apparel group made a small gain for the first time since January.

SCHOOLS AND TRADE
OFFSET GAINS

Closing of schools for the summer released approximately 2450 workers from the payrolls. (Employmentwise, the professional staff is considered as being on a 12-month basis.) As expected, retail trade dropped about 500. According to reports made to the TEC, the reduction was not so much an actual cutback as it was failure to utilize many of the stores' "regular" extras. A very small gain, estimated at 250, was indicated in construction. Insignificant additions were noted in all transportation services and crude oil production. Banks and insurance companies reported a number of students hired as usual for the summer.

Farm employment was down from May and reports indicate that seasonal activity is about 45 to 60 days behind schedule since plantings were delayed by rains.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP

Following the usual seasonal pattern, unemployment rose an estimated 1500 as job-hunting students flooded the labor market. Most of these withdraw if they don't find work within a short time after school is out. Between the middle of May and the middle of June, the weekly total of continued claims actions dropped almost 12%. This lowered level has continued to prevail through mid-July. At the end of May, active claimants for all types of unemployment benefits in the 5 TEC offices in the area totaled 6006; at the end of June the number had dropped to 5721.

AUGUST FORECAST
UP SLIGHTLY

Based on current employer reports, a gain of 800 in non-farm total is forecast to August, mostly in non-manufacturing. Demand exists in primary metals, fabricated metal products, electric machinery, ship building, instrument manufacture, seasonal food processing and chemicals, with a drop expected in machinery and petroleum refining. By mid-August, a gradual increase may be expected in warehouses that handle farm commodities. Retail trade has forecast a very moderate gain and opening of an addition to a major hospital is due to add to the total of the professional group.

Mid-August is expected to mark the start of the seasonal farm peak, which probably will extend through September.

Supply has been ample during the current period for all demands and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST

| | JUNE 1956 | MAY 1957 | JUNE 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 430245 | 445560 | 445670 | 445170 |
| Unemployed - Total | 16000 | 15000 | 16500 | 15000 |
| Female | 4900 | 4000 | 4750 | 4000 |
| Employment - Total | 413110* | 429315* | 428770 | 430170 |
| Agriculture | 6200 | 6050 | 5900 | 6500 |
| Manufacturing | 92365* | 92465* | 94365 | 94585 |
| Construction | 38100 | 40750 | 41000 | 41000 |
| Trades | 101485 | 109025 | 108520 | 108670 |
| Other | 174960 | 181025 | 178985 | 179415 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 1135 | 12345 | 400 | XXX |

* Revised.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.

Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION


| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIII, No. 5 |
|---|---|---|
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | A U G U S T 1957 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Area employment struck a more optimistic note in July, with a 30-day gain estimated at 1760 in total. Of this, 300 was in agriculture and the remainder evenly divided between manufacturing and non-manufacturing.

Unemployment was estimated at 500 below June and total of active claimants for unemployment benefits dropped again.

Total employment, both farm and non-farm, is expected to rise sharply to September because of reopening of schools, upswing in retail trade and cotton picking. Some increase is forecast in manufacturing.

Supply has been ample, broadly speaking, and demand of early fall should bring the usual additional supply needed into the labor force.

NON-FARM GAINS
1470 SINCE JUNE

A net gain over June in non-farm total estimated at 1470 was almost evenly divided between manufacturing and non-manufacturing. Manufacturing's 700 increase brought its 60-day gain to an estimated 2500. Out of the 17 industrial groups, 12 indicated increased employment in the past 30 days and five, losses. No loss exceeded 30 except in petroleum refining, where a number of temporary workers were released.

A further substantial increase was reported in shipbuilding and seasonal food processing was up. Primary metals has begun an upward climb that promises to continue for the next two or three months at least. Fabricated metals made its third successive gain.

Non-manufacturing's increase of 760 was spread out among the various groups with the exception that practically no over-all change was indicated in either construction or retail sales totals. Trucking and warehousing also remained unchanged.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN FROM JUNE

At mid-July, estimated unemployment dropped to 16,000. Total of active claimants for all types of unemployment benefits in the 5 TEC offices was 5393 at the end of July, 328 under June and 613 under May. A further drop is anticipated to September.

SHARP INCREASE
DUE BY SEPTEMBER

The current forecast to September is 5550 additional in non-farm total. Schools will be back to full staffs early in September and several new ones are to be opened. Retail employers made few forecasts except for outlets in new shopping centers but indications point to employment increases from now until Christmas. Some increase in trucking and warehousing is to be ex-

NOTE: Beginning with this issue, information on hours and earnings in manufacturing in the Houston-Baytown labor market area will be published each month. This information, in tabular form on the following page, is complied by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

pected with movement of area crops. Peak of seasonal farm employment is expected between mid-August and mid-September. On the basis of employer reports, manufacturing demand to September is currently forecast at a little more than 100 net. While demand appears heavy, it is not likely to present any serious problem since it is of the type easily filled when such workers are known to be needed.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS 1/

| | JULY 1956 | JUNE 1957 | JULY 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 430270 | 445570 | 446895 | 452530 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16000 | 16500 | 16000 | 15500 |
| Female | 4900 | 4750 | 4500 | 4250 |
| Employment - Total | 411085 | 428704* | 430430** | 437030 |
| Agriculture | 6000 | 5900 | 6200 | 7250 |
| Manufacturing | 88165 | 94265* | 94965** | 95085 |
| Construction | 40000 | 41000 | 41000 | 41000 |
| Trades | 101780 | 108520 | 108720 | 110595 |
| Other | 175140 | 178985 | 179545 | 183100 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 3185 | 400 | 465 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
* Final figure - revised. ** Preliminary figure - subject to revision.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | July* 1957 | June 1957 | June 1956 | July* 1957 | June 1957 | July 1956 | July* 1957 | June 1957 | July 1956 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $98.88 | $97.86 | $91.57 | 41.9 | 42.0 | 42.2 | $2.36 | $2.33 | $2.17 |
| Durable Goods | 96.93 | 95.46 | 87.64 | 42.7 | 43.0 | 43.6 | 2.27 | 2.22 | 2.01 |
| Non-dur. Goods | 100.86 | 100.37 | 95.47 | 41.0 | 40.8 | 40.8 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.34 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XIII, No. 6
SEPTEMBER 1957

HIGHLIGHTS

Total area employment took a jump estimated at approximately 3650 from July to August. Farm gains accounted for 550, manufacturing 700 and non-manufacturing the remainder, with trades up about 1500. All of the major labor disputes were settled by the end of August.

Estimated unemployment was down 1000 and claims actions continued to drop each week in August.

Substantial employment increases are expected to October, mostly in schools employment and retail trade. Forecast increase in manufacturing is slight. Seasonal farm peak will come in the last half of September.

Seasonal additions to the labor force to meet retail demand from now until Christmas are expected to be forthcoming as usual. Supply has been ample.

3095 INCREASE IN
NON-FARM TOTAL

Total non-farm employment jumped from an estimated 432,630 in July to 435,715 as of mid-August - 3095 or 0.7%. Employment of women was up 1120 or 1.0%. Current non-farm is 16,365 (3.9%) above the estimate of a year ago.

While all major labor disputes had been settled by the end of the month, one, in stone, clay & glass, is reflected in the mid-August figures for manufacturing. End of the strike in petroleum refining was a major factor in a gain estimated at 355. Shipbuilding was also reported up 175. The apparel group, handicapped lately by lack of materials, began to retrieve some of its losses with a gain of 130 and more is due. Primary metals was up an estimated 90 while fabricated metal products indicated a slight drop. Chemicals picked up an estimated 75 and no net change was indicated in food processing. The oilfield machinery group has steadied since June, showing little variation in total.

Trades took an upward swing, with retail sales spurred by buying for school. Based on employer reports, increase in retail employment over the past 30 days was estimated at just under 1400 in total and approximately 800 women. Industrial projects brought construction up an estimated 500. Hospitals reported increases totaling approximately 160. Slight gains were reported in communications and in utilities while transportation services changed little in total.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 1000

At mid-August, unemployment was estimated at 15,000, 1000 below July. Initial claims for unemployment benefits dropped sharply from the last week in July to the last week in August, with a corresponding drop in the number of continued claims filed.

FALL PROSPECTS
APPEAR GOOD

Current signs point to greatly increased employment to October. Opening of schools the first week in September brought almost half of the anticipated 6600 gain for the next 60 days. As usual, stated demand in manufacturing is small, less than 200 net. Some further increase in construction employment on industrial work is indicated and trucking and warehousing are scheduled for a seasonal increase.

Retail trade, with sales through Aug. 31 up 11% over the same period past year, has already started its seasonal upswing. The next 60 days' forecast is for just under 2600 more to be added. This figure may be somewhat larger with the opening of Meyerland Plaza, scheduled for the end of October.

Supply has been ample and merchants report that seasonal jobseekers have begun to enter or re-enter the labor force as usual. Supply for these demands has always been adequate in past years. Employers who use it report that "gate" supply is ample.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | AUGUST 1956 | JULY 1957 | AUGUST 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 442335 | 455285 | 457765 | 462585 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 16000 | 15000 | 14000 |
| Female | 4750 | 4500 | 4250 | 4000 |
| Employment - Total | 426550* | 438820* | 442465 | 448585 |
| Agriculture | 7200 | 6200 | 6750 | 6250 |
| Manufacturing | 93265 | 94965 | 95665** | 95830 |
| Construction | 40750 | 41000 | 41500 | 41570 |
| Trades | 102080 | 108720 | 110225 | 112900 |
| Other | 183255 | 187935 | 188325 | 191855 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 785 | 465 | 300 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ** Preliminary figure - subject to revision.
* Revised. Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in pvt. hsehlds. included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Aug.* 1957 | July 1957 | Aug. 1956 | Aug.* 1957 | July 1957 | Aug. 1956 | Aug.* 1957 | July 1957 | Aug. 1956 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $97.47 | $98.36 | $90.90 | 41.5 | 40.4 | 40.4 | $2.36 | $2.37 | $2.25 |
| Durable Goods | 96.90 | 98.24 | 89.79 | 42.9 | 41.0 | 41.0 | 2.28 | 2.29 | 2.19 |
| Nondurable Goods | 97.91 | 99.20 | 91.94 | 39.8 | 40.0 | 39.8 | 2.46 | 2.48 | 2.31 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XIII, No. 7
OCTOBER 1957

HIGHLIGHTS

September saw total area employment take another upward jump, gaining an estimated 4755. Nonmanufacturing accounted for 3855, manufacturing 100 and agriculture, 800. The major factor was reopening of schools. All labor disputes of any importance were settled.

No change was indicated in unemployment although claims actions and total of active claimants for unemployment benefits continue to drop.

Mid-November should see a substantial increase in non-farm total, with holiday hiring in retail trade well under way and a major new shopping center opened. Farm employment should be back to normal.

Supply has been ample and the usual entry or reentry into the labor force of housewives, students and other job-seekers is expected to be adequate for holiday needs.

NON-MANUFACTURING
LEADS IN GAINS

Following the usual trend at this time of year, gain in non-manufacturing far overshadowed manufacturing, with one single group accounting for approximately 89% of the total increase. This was the schools, recalling service and custodial personnel and adding new teachers.

Reports received by the TEC during September from 174 retail trade establishments with a total of 28,107 employees showed a net variation in total of less than 100 over the past 30 days. Although retail sales figures continue to top the same periods last year, many major stores are apparently using fewer of their regular extras and some have reduced their totals.

While residential building is down, heavy construction indicated an increase estimated at 500 to September. Little change was indicated in trucking and warehousing and release of summer workers brought the total in government employment down more than 400.

MANUFACTURING
CHANGES SLIGHT

Preliminary September figures for manufacturing indicated a net gain of 100 over August. Settlement of the area's last major labor dispute helped stone, clay and glass to gain 180, while expanded production units boosted primary metals another 110. Seasonal factors were responsible for a loss of 105 in fabricated metal products and vacation workers returning to school were the largest part of petroleum refining's loss of 125. Other variations were not particularly significant.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UNCHANGED

Although estimated unemployment remained at 15,000, area total of active claimants for unemployment benefits has dropped from 5393 in July and 5327 in August to 4476 at the end of September, a 17% decrease over the past 60 days. Initial claims for U.I. benefits filed in the area dropped from a high of 511 in the second week of July to a low of 304 the first week of September and rose to 381 the last of September.

SHARP INCREASE
TO NOVEMBER

With holiday hiring expected to be well under way and Meyerland Plaza completed, an increase in non-farm total of almost 6700 is forecast to November. Approximately 6000 of this is anticipated in trades, with a small seasonal pick-up in trucking and warehousing and with manufacturing demand below 200.

No difficulties are expected in filling this large demand. Ample supply of housewives, students and other job-seekers has always made itself available before and during the holidays. Current supply has been adequate except in the usual chronically short occupations. TEC non-farm job placements in the area rose from 5337 in July to 6946 in September, a 30.1% gain. Farm workers placed in September totaled 7770.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | SEPTEMBER 1956 | AUGUST 1957 | SEPTEMBER 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 447095 | 457665 | 462120 | 466990 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 15000 | 15000 | 15000 |
| Female | 4500 | 4250 | 4250 | 4000 |
| Employment - Total | 431310* | 442365* | 447120 | 451990 |
| Agriculture | 6100 | 6750 | 7550 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 92865 | 95565 | 95665** | 95860 |
| Construction | 41250 | 41500 | 42000 | 42000 |
| Trades | 104710 | 110225 | 110275 | 116300 |
| Other | 186385 | 188325 | 191630 | 192080 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 785 | 300 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ** Preliminary figure - subject to revision.
* Revised. Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in pvt. hshlds. included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET ARES 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sept* 1957 | Aug. 1957 | Sept. 1956 | Sept.* 1957 | Aug. 1957 | Sept. 1956 | Sept.* 1957 | Aug. 1947 | Sept. 1957 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $99.84 | $97.70 | $94.70 | 41.6 | 41.4 | 41.9 | $2.40 | $2.36 | $2.26 |
| Durable Goods | 99.06 | 97.58 | 92.66 | 42.7 | 42.8 | 43.3 | 2.32 | 2.28 | 2.14 |
| Non-dur. Goods | 100.75 | 97.66 | 96.56 | 40.3 | 39.7 | 40.4 | 2.50 | 2.46 | 2.39 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XIII, No. 8
NOVEMBER 1957

HIGHLIGHTS

October's estimated gain in non-farm employment was less than 500, with manufacturing and construction down and retail trade up. Seasonal farm demands dropped sharply.

Unemployment was estimated at a thousand above September, with an increase in total of claimants for unemployment benefits and initial claims filed during the month.

Mid-December is expected to see the usual holiday peak in retail trade, with opening of a major shopping center at the end of October to swell the November figure. Reports from manufacturers indicated little change for the next 60 days.

Supply has been ample during the current period and no difficulty is expected in filling holiday demands.

MANUFACTURING
SLOWING DOWN

Manufacturing has shown indications of its usual year-end slow-down, with a net loss estimated at 300 in the preliminary October figure as compared with September and August. Eight industry groups indicated reductions ranging from 5 to 30 and two were down 75 each. Food processing dropped 115 and primary metals 125. Five industries reported gains, from 60 in oil-field machinery down to 10 in apparel. Over the past 60 days, the machinery group has netted a 210 increase and printing & publishing 115. Since August, petroleum refining has dropped an estimated 325, some of which was in extra vacation workers and some in force-account construction. Stone, clay & glass has held its 180 gain over the past 60 days.

NON-MANUFACTURING
NET GAIN OF 720

Changes indicated in non-manufacturing to mid-October were relatively minor, with the exception of just under 600 gained in wholesale and retail trade combined. Some small shopping centers were completed but Meyerland Plaza did not open until the end of October. Construction dropped slightly as some industrial projects near completion. Trucking and warehousing showed little change; utilities were up approximately 100. Small over-all gains were indicated in finance, insurance and real estate, business services and in city government.

UNEMPLOYMENT
AT 16,000

At 16,000, the October unemployment estimate is 1000 above September. While total of active claimants for unemployment benefits in the 5 TEC offices in this area rose from 4476 at the end of September to 5547 in October, this latter total is 174 less than June's 5721 and 867 below the March total of 6414. During the five weeks ending October 31, 2372 initial UI claims were filed in the area, while during the same period in May these claims totaled 2387.

USUAL HOLIDAY
DEMAND EXPECTED

While local merchants are, as usual, reluctant to forecast, the customary mid-

December employment peak is expected. Current forecast of increase to December is slightly lower than that of last year but this could easily be exceeded. No difficulties are expected in filling whatever demand arises. As of the end of October, Meyerland Plaza's approximately 1000 demand had been filled and the center opened.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | OCTOBER 1956 | SEPTEMBER 1957 | OCTOBER 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 445985 | 462020 | 461890 | 470780 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14500 | 15000 | 16000 | 15000 |
| Female | 4250 | 4250 | 4250 | 4000 |
| Employment - Total | 431440* | 447020 | 445890 | 455780 |
| Agriculture | 5800 | 7550 | 6000 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 92865 | 95565 | 95265** | 95215 |
| Construction | 41000 | 42000 | 41750 | 41250 |
| Trades | 105185 | 110275 | 110855 | 119455 |
| Other | 186590 | 191630 | 192020 | 194110 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 45 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ** Preliminary figure - subject to revision.
* Revised. Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in pvt. hshlds. included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct.* 1957 | Sept. 1957 | Oct. 1956 | Oct.* 1957 | Sept. 1957 | Oct. 1956 | Oct.* 1957 | Sept. 1957 | Oct. 1956 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $96.32 | $101.46 | $90.17 | 40.3 | 42.1 | 40.8 | $2.39 | $2.41 | $2.21 |
| Durable Goods | 94.58 | 99.10 | 89.25 | 41.3 | 42.9 | 42.3 | 2.29 | 2.31 | 2.11 |
| Non-dur.Goods | 98.14 | 103.57 | 91.46 | 39.1 | 41.1 | 39.1 | 2.51 | 2.52 | 2.34 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XIII, No. 9
DECEMBER 1957


HIGHLIGHTS

A gain estimated at just over 1500 was indicated in the area's employment total for November, in spite of a drop in manufacturing and in construction. Some early holiday hiring plus opening of a major shopping center at the end of October boosted retail trade to offset other losses. Farm employment is back to approximately its non-seasonal level.

Estimated unemployment as of mid-November was up to 17,500, an increase of 1500 over October. While Unemployment claims are up, total of active claimants in area TEC files at the end of November was not much higher than in May.

Following the mid-December high, total employment is expected to drop to January, with some increase also due in unemployment. Very small demand was indicated in manufacturing.

Supply was ample for November demand and promised to be plentiful to fill holiday needs.

AREA NON-FARM
TOTAL UP 1535

A gain estimated at approximately 2800 in trades between October and November offset losses in manufacturing and construction to net an over-all increase of 1535 in non-farm employment. Increase in women workers was greater than total.

To date, manufacturing losses do not represent in themselves anything serious. It has, with some exceptions, been a matter of a few here and a few there. The November manufacturing total was 300 below October, with only two industry groups showing a variation of more than 65. These two reported cutbacks which were stated to be temporary only.

CONSTRUCTION
DOWN 1000

Inclement weather, plus near-completion of some major industrial jobs, served to drop construction an estimated 1000 under October. Trucking and warehousing activities were also slowed down; little variation was noted in employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT
FIGURE UP

Estimated unemployment rose 1500 to a mid-November figure of 17,500. The types of workers involved in layoffs are not those in demand for current employment increases. While unemployment claims have risen considerably, their current totals are not quite comparable with the figures of other years. Not only has the labor force grown and employment increased, but the extension of Unemployment Insurance coverage to include all firms with four or more employees has, since 1955, almost doubled the number of employers covered. In the first quarter of 1955, Harris County had 5783 employers covered by the Act. By the first quarter of 1957, 9917 establishments were subject -- an increase of 72.2%. Inevitably, this would add to the number of workers entitled to file such claims. A small increase in unemployment is anticipated to January, when holiday extras are released.

A net decrease in total of 2355 (1640 women) to January is currently forecast, of which approximately 2100 is expected in retail trade. Indications are that the December peak, while high, will fall short of those of the past two years. Supply is currently ample for all demands that have arisen and promises to remain so.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | NOVEMBER 1956 | OCTOBER 1957 | NOVEMBER 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 446500 | 461990 | 464825 | 462920 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14000 | 16000 | 17500 | 18000 |
| Female | 4000 | 4250 | 4000 | 4500 |
| Employment - Total | 432500* | 445990 | 447325 | 444920 |
| Agriculture | 5800 | 6000 | 5800 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 92665 | 95365 | 95065** | 95240 |
| Construction | 41000 | 41750 | 40750 | 40500 |
| Trades | 106110 | 110855 | 113660 | 111540 |
| Other | 186925 | 192020 | 192050 | 191890 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **Preliminary figure - subject to revision.
* Revised. Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in pvt. hshlds. included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov.* 1957 | Oct. 1957 | Nov. 1956 | Nov.* 1957 | Oct. 1957 | Nov. 1956 | Nov.* 1957 | Oct. 1957 | Nov. 1956 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $95.84 | $96.08 | $89.51 | 40.1 | 40.2 | 40.5 | $2.39 | $2.39 | $2.21 |
| Durable Goods | 94.25 | 94.12 | 87.57 | 40.8 | 41.1 | 41.5 | 2.31 | 2.29 | 2.11 |
| Non-dur. Goods | 97.71 | 98.14 | 92.43 | 39.4 | 39.1 | 39.5 | 2.48 | 2.51 | 2.34 |

1/ Figures cover production workers only. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

H O U S T O N
# LABOR MARKET
## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIII, No. 10 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | JANUARY 1958 |


HIGHLIGHTS

While no major layoffs had been reported in manufacturing up to December 15, small personnel cuts - across the board in every sense - had been made in sufficient numbers to bring a substantial reduction in manufacturing total as of that date. Bad weather and completion of some heavy industrial building projects brought construction down. Retail holiday hiring was relatively heavy but fell below the past two years. Total employment netted a gain over November.

As of mid-December, unemployment was estimated at 20,000, up 2500 over November. Unemployment benefit claims actions and number of active claimants rose sharply.

Drop in total employment to February is expected to be much greater than usual at this time of year.

December supply was quite adequate for all demands.

DECEMBER NON-FARM
GAINS 4775

Holiday hiring in trades and at the Post Office served to offset losses estimated at 700 in manufacturing and 1250 in construction to net a gain in total for December estimated at 4775.

While the increase in trades employment between October and December 1957 was estimated at a higher figure than for the same period in 1956, this figure included the new Meyerland Plaza as well as seasonal extras. All indications are that holiday hiring was much below the past two or three years. Furthermore, January reports have indicated that post-holiday cutbacks are far greater than for any January in recent years.

Of the 17 manufacturing groups, 13 indicated losses and four, gains. Food processing dropped an estimated 140, ship repair and stone, clay & glass 115 each and apparel & finished products 105. Oilfield machinery was down 80 and furniture & fixtures and chemicals 70 each. Two others lost 35 each and four, 5 each. The largest gain was 55 in printing & publishing and lumber & wood products picked up 20. The two remaining groups added 5 each.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP TO 20,000

As of December 15, unemployment was estimated at 20,000, an increase of 2500 over November. At the end of December, active claimants for all types of unemployment benefits in the 5 TEC offices in the area totaled 8487 as compared with 6723 at the end of November. Up to the first of November, the number of initial claims filed each week in the area was running no higher than in the spring of 1957. Since mid-November, however, the weekly average has risen sharply and claimants have represented all segments of industry and all types of workers.

EMPLOYMENT DUE
TO DROP SHARPLY

Current estimate of employment to February is approximately 10,000 below the December figure and the drop could be even greater.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | DECEMBER 1956 | NOVEMBER 1957 | DECEMBER 1957 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 452640 | 464825 | 472050 | 464995 |
| Unemployment - Total | 13000 | 17500 | 20000 | 23000 |
| Female | 3750 | 4000 | 4000 | 5000 |
| Employment - Total | 439640* | 447325 | 452050 | 441995 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5800 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 93065 | 95065 | 94365** | 93760 |
| Construction | 40850 | 40750 | 39500 | 39500 |
| Trades | 111825 | 113660 | 118960 | 110975 |
| Other | 188150 | 192050 | 193475 | 192010 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ** Preliminary figure - subject to revision.
* Revised.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec.* 1957 | Nov. 1957 | Dec. 1956 | Dec.* 1957 | Nov. 1957 | Dec. 1956 | Dec.* 1957 | Nov. 1957 | Dec. 1956 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $99.22 | $96.08 | $94.55 | 41.0 | 40.2 | 42.4 | $2.42 | $2.39 | $2.23 |
| Durable Goods | 95.87 | 94.25 | 91.16 | 41.5 | 40.8 | 43.0 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.12 |
| Non-Dur. Goods | 102.91 | 98.35 | 98.41 | 41.0 | 39.5 | 41.7 | 2.51 | 2.49 | 2.36 |

1/ Figures cover production workers only. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIII, No. 10 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | FEBRUARY 1958 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Area non-farm employment took its usual post-holiday nosedive to which was added another drop in construction and in manufacturing. Outside of retail trade, most force reductions continued to be small and across the board. The estimated January total remained appreciably higher than it was a year ago.

Estimated unemployment rose sharply, influenced in part by area residents laid off from jobs outside the county but in daily commuting distance. Unemployment claims actions increased. Despite these increases, unemployment for January was only slightly more than 5% of the total labor force.

A further drop in employment, with some rise in unemployment is forecast to March. A number of layoffs have occurred in the past few weeks, but at the present time it is hard to separate rumors from facts.

Supply was generously ample for January demands.

NON-FARM TOTAL
DOWN 10,935

In January, total nonfarm employment was estimated at 10,935 (2.8%) below December and 6160 (1.6%) below November while holding a gain of 7625 (1.8%) above one year ago. Total of women workers, down 5035 below December, was 6420 or 5.7% above January 1957. Trades were down an estimated 7190 under December, construction 2000 and manufacturing another 700.

Only two manufacturing groups reported losses in excess of 100 - 275 in fabricated metal products and 240 in primary metals. Next highest were 95 in food processing and 70 in furniture & fixtures; six others dropped between 15 and 40. Gains were reported by six groups, the largest on which was 45 in electrical machinery. One, miscellaneous durable goods, netted no change.

UNEMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATE 24,000

January estimate of 24,000 unemployed is an increase of 4000 over December. This figure represents 5.2% of the total labor force as against a 3.3% figure in January 1957. During this 12-month period, the labor force increase has been estimated at 16,625 or 3.7%, with an employment gain of over 7600 - 1.8%. Some of those currently unemployed are residents of the area who have been working outside the area but in daily commuting distance on construction jobs that have been finished or temporarily held up. Total of active claimants for unemployment benefits in the 5 TEC offices in the area rose from 8487 at the end of December to 11,918 in January, and weekly average of initial claims filed from around 850 in December to approximately 1500 in January. A recent check showed that 20% of new job applicants at the TEC had lived here 30 days or less.

EMPLOYMENT TO
DROP FURTHER

Current forecast is for a further drop in employment to March. At this point, however, any forecast is felt to be of very dubious validity. A number of layoffs are known to have occurred since mid-January but it is difficult to obtain information by which to separate rumor from fact. The majority of employers state these layoffs are temporary. Good weather could bring an early increase in construction.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | JANUARY 1957 | DECEMBER 1957 | JANUARY 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 448490 | 472050 | 465115 | 466460 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 20000 | 24000 | 26000 |
| Female | 4500 | 4000 | 4750 | 5000 |
| Employment - Total | 433490* | 452050 | 441115 | 440460 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 93465 | 94365 | 93665** | 92865 |
| Construction | 40750 | 39500 | 37500 | 37500 |
| Trades | 106270 | 118960 | 111770 | 111910 |
| Other | 187255 | 193475 | 192430 | 192435 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ** Preliminary figure - subject to revision.
* Revised.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Jan.* 1958 | Dec. 1957 | Jan. 1957 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Jan.* 1958 | Dec. 1957 | Jan. 1957 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Jan.* 1958 | Dec. 1957 | Jan. 1957 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing-Total | $98.98 | $99.53 | $93.63 | 40.9 | 41.3 | 41.8 | $2.42 | $2.41 | $2.24 |
| Durable Goods | 97.39 | 96.10 | 92.02 | 41.8 | 41.6 | 42.8 | 2.33 | 2.31 | 2.15 |
| Non-dur. Goods | 100.30 | 103.98 | 95.65 | 39.8 | 41.1 | 40.7 | 2.52 | 2.53 | 2.35 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIII, No. 11
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | MARCH 1958

HIGHLIGHTS

The February estimate of total area non-agricultural employment was down sharply under January. Losses were indicated in all but four manufacturing groups and in all but one in non-manufacturing. With a few exceptions, layoffs continued to be small and across the board industrially and occupationally. Current employment total is still above one year ago.

Increase in unemployment over January was estimated at 3500. Bad weather has compounded some types of layoffs, particularly in construction. The February estimate represents 5.9% of the total labor force.

Although further employment cuts may continue in manufacturing, current indications are that scheduled starts of new construction and retail trade requirements for Easter should bring a small net increase in non-farm employment to April.

Supply has been more than sufficient for current demands.

NON-FARM TOTAL
DOWN 4405

February's estimate of 430,960 total non-farm is down 4405 under January, a drop of 1.2%, while it remains 4215 (1.0%) above one year ago. Since recent layoffs, except those in retail trade, have largely involved male workers, drop in employment of women has been relatively low - 625 or 0.5% in the past 30 days. Over the past 12 months, women workers have increased an estimated 6340 (4.8%), mostly in retail trade and professional services.

Chief contributors to a net loss of 1000 in manufacturing were machinery, primary metals and chemicals. Gains and losses in the remaining groups balanced off, each totaling 145.

CONSTRUCTION AND
RETAIL TRADE OFF

Construction was estimated to be down another thousand, with a slightly smaller drop in retail trade. Transportation and allied services and crude oil production were also major losers, while business & personal services and government dropped slightly. Hospital staff increases brought the professional services group up.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP TO 27,500

The February estimate of 27,500 unemployed is an increase of 3500 over January. Active claimants for unemployment benefits in the area totaled 16,819 at the end of February. The TEC offices in the area took 8500 new work applications as compared to 7415 in January. However, increase in initial claims filed in the past 30 days was less than in January as compared with December.

INCREASE FORECAST
TO APRIL

Forecast to April, based on February employer reports and other available information, shows an anticipated net increase in total of approximately 900, with further losses in manufacturing offset by increases in construction and retail trade. There is a possibility, however, that employment might show some unforecast increase shortly.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | FEBRUARY 1957 | JANUARY 1958 | FEBRUARY 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 446995 | 465115 | 464210 | 466815 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15500 | 24000 | 27500 | 29000 |
| Female | 4650 | 4750 | 5500 | 5500 |
| Employment - Total | 432495** | 441115 | 436710 | 437815 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5750 | 5950 |
| Manufacturing | 93365 | 93665 | 92665* | 91825 |
| Construction | 40500 | 37500 | 36500 | 37250 |
| Trades | 105110 | 111770 | 110800 | 111920 |
| Other | 187770 | 192430 | 190995 | 190870 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ** Revised. * Preliminary figure - subject to revision.

Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb.* 1958 | Jan. 1958 | Feb. 1957 | Feb.* 1958 | Jan. 1958 | Feb. 1957 | Feb.* 1958 | Jan. 1958 | Feb. 1957 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $98.74 | $98.57 | $92.29 | 40.8 | 40.9 | 41.2 | $2.42 | $2.41 | $2.24 |
| Durable Goods | 95.47 | 97.34 | 90.94 | 40.8 | 41.6 | 42.1 | 2.34 | 2.34 | 2.16 |
| Non-durable Goods | 102.16 | 100.0 | 93.67 | 40.7 | 40.0 | 40.2 | 2.51 | 2.50 | 2.33 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIII, No. 12 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | APRIL 1958 |



HIGHLIGHTS

With manufacturing employment down and non-manufacturing breaking almost even, the area netted a loss in March estimated at just over 1400. Retail trade was up slightly and construction indicated no over-all change from February.

Unemployment as estimated for March was up 3300 to set a record for the high in this area. However, a leveling-off of initial claims for unemployment benefits began about the middle of March.

Current forecasts are of dubious value. If the local situation is not complicated further, some over-all net increase may occur to May. It has been tentatively estimated at approximately 1500, with manufacturing down again and with construction retail trade up.

Needless to say, supply has been ample.

NON-FARM TOTAL
DOWN, FARM UP

Total employment estimated at 435,385 for March was 1325 (0.3%) below February. The nonfarm estimate of 429,535 was 1425 lower than 30 days ago; farm workers showed a slight seasonal increase.

In spite of the fact that manufacturing is currently 2300 (2.5%) below March 1957, non-manufacturing remains 3525 above one year ago, to net a gain of 1225 (0.3%) in total non-farm. Since most force reductions have involved few women, the number of women workers has risen an estimated 5560 (4.2%) over the past 12 months.

March's 1400 drop in manufacturing came mainly from two groups: primary metals indicated a net loss of 645 and nonelectric machinery 585. Fabricated metal products lost 100, chemicals 85, apparel & finished products 70 and stone, clay & glass 60. Losses of from 5 to 45 were reported in lumber & wood products, electric machinery, paper & allied products and petroleum refining. Six groups indicated gains ranging from 5 in textiles to 50 in food processing and 80 in furniture & fixtures.

RETAIL TRADE
HAS SMALL GAIN

The mid-February indications that retail trade was about to halt its downward slide materialized in a March employment gain estimated at 570. Reports on construction indicated, for the first time since October, that employment in this industry held its own. Crude oil production dropped again and small losses were indicated in transportation & allied services.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP TO 30,800

The March estimate of 30,800 unemployed is 6.6% of the total labor force, highest in the area's history. While this figure is more than double that for March 1957, it should be noted that the labor force has increased 3.8% since then. Some of the unemployed are from layoffs outside the Houston area. Initial claims for unemployment benefits, which rose early in March, began to level off about the third week. Total of active claimants in the area in March - 19,140 - showed a much smaller increase than for the previous 30 days.

Current forecast of a 1490 over-all employment increase to May is based on the assumption that both construction and retail trade will increase sufficiently to offset further losses in manufacturing.

Since mid-March, some further layoffs, duration unknown, have been reported in primary metals and oilfield machinery. The situation at the moment is such that forecasts are of doubtful validity.

* * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | MARCH 1957 | FEBRUARY 1958 | MARCH 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 449060 | 464210 | 466185 | 468425 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 27500 | 30800 | 31000 |
| Female | 4450 | 5500 | 5500 | 5250 |
| Employment - Total | 434060** | 436710 | 435385 | 437425 |
| Agriculture | 5750 | 5750 | 5850 | 6400 |
| Manufacturing | 93565 | 92665 | 91265* | 91110 |
| Construction | 40000 | 36500 | 36500 | 37500 |
| Trades | 106015 | 110800 | 111320 | 112120 |
| Other | 188730 | 190995 | 190450 | 190295 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment are made by the TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. * Preliminary figure - subject to revision
** Revised.
Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | March* 1958 | Feb. 1958 | March 1957 | March 1958 | Feb. 1958 | March 1957 | March 1958 | Feb. 1958 | March 1957 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $96.80 | $96.88 | $92.93 | 40.5 | 40.2 | 41.3 | $2.39 | $2.41 | $2.25 |
| Durable Goods | 93.61 | 92.63 | 92.44 | 40.7 | 40.1 | 42.6 | 2.30 | 2.31 | 2.17 |
| Non-durable Goods | 100.35 | 101.15 | 93.55 | 40.3 | 40.3 | 39.8 | 2.49 | 2.51 | 2.35 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director — 3104 Main Street — Vol. XIV, No. 1
S. W. Braden, Office Manager — Phone CA 5-1711 — MAY 1958


HIGHLIGHTS

The first small increase in total employment since December was estimated between March and April. The April drop in manufacturing was considerably less than in any recent month. Retail trade was up for the second successive month; construction indicated its first gain since last September. Farm work has increased.

Unemployment was up slightly over March, still influenced by layoffs of area residents working outside the area. Increase in total claimants for unemployment benefits dropped sharply as compared with the jumps over the past six months. Initial claims have continued to drop and continued claims began to lessen about the end of April.

Current estimate to June is for a drop of approximately 2000 in nonagricultural total, largely because of workers to be released by the schools. Although employer reports appear to indicate at least a leveling off in employment otherwise, forecasts are still of very dubious validity.

NON-FARM TOTAL
IS UP 1430

Estimated nonfarm total for April is 1430 above March, with manufacturing down 300 and non-manufacturing up 1730. Increase in seasonal farm workers was estimated at 300. Current estimate of total is almost exactly the same as for April 1957; women workers have, however, increased an estimated 4365 or 3.2%.

Of the 17 manufacturing groups, 6 indicated gains, 8 losses and 2, no change. Major loss was in oilfield machinery, down approximately 300; others ranged downward from 80 in shipbuilding to 5 in textile mill products and furniture & fixtures. Greatest 30-day gain was 95 in stone, clay & glass, followed by 75 in printing & publishing and ranging downward to 5 in electric machinery. No change was indicated in food processing or in the small miscellaneous non-durable group.

With improved weather and starts on some industrial projects, construction picked up an estimated 500. Retail trade again showed a small gain, estimated at just under 800. Wholesale trade employment appears to have dropped slightly. A small seasonal cut was indicated in trucking & warehousing. Government employment drop came from reductions at Ellington A.F.B. The professional group added to its total through schools and hospitals and service industries showed some small gains.

UNEMPLOYMENT
INCREASE SMALL

As at previous times, estimated unemployment rose again even though total employment increased. Unemployment in the area is still influenced by area residents being laid off of jobs outside the area. At the end of April, active claimants for unemployment benefits in the area totaled 20,218 as compared with 19,140 in March. This is in sharp contrast to the 4901 increase that occurred between January and February and the 2321 in March.

Release of service and custodial workers by the schools is the major factor in a currently forecast drop of approximately 2000 in non-farm total to June. Some further increase in construction is expected. With the exception of some manufacturing layoffs which are known to have occurred since mid-April, most employer reports indicate a possible leveling off in employment. This is conditioned, however, by many factors which could change the situation at any time.

* * * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | APRIL 1957 | MARCH 1958 | APRIL 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 451215 | 466285 | 468765 | 467935 |
| Unemployment - Total | 14500 | 30800 | 31650 | 32500 |
| Female | 4250 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 |
| Employment - Total | 436715** | 435485 | 437115 | 435435 |
| Agriculture | 5800 | 5850 | 6050 | 6450 |
| Manufacturing | 93365 | 91365 | 91065* | 90935 |
| Construction | 40000 | 36500 | 37000 | 37500 |
| Trades | 108600 | 111320 | 111975 | 111975 |
| Other | 188950 | 190450 | 191025 | 188575 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimates of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. * Preliminary figure, subject to revision. ** Revised. (Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with W.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | April* 1958 | March 1958 | April 1957 | April* 1958 | March 1958 | April 1957 | April* 1958 | March 1958 | April 1957 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $94.96 | $95.99 | $94.21 | 39.9 | 40.5 | 41.5 | $2.38 | $2.37 | $2.27 |
| Durable Goods | 91.66 | 92.16 | 93.73 | 40.2 | 40.6 | 42.8 | 2.28 | 2.27 | 2.19 |
| Non-durable Goods | 99.00 | 100.19 | 94.96 | 39.6 | 40.4 | 39.9 | 2.50 | 2.48 | 2.38 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager

Vol. XIV, No. 2
J U N E 1958

HIGHLIGHTS

May estimate of total nonfarm employment is little changed from March and April. Losses have continued in manufacturing; non-manufacturing about broke even with the previous month. Retail trade indicated little change and construction was up; transportation services and crude oil production dropped. Farm total is up.

Estimated unemployment was up very slightly over April. Total of active unemployment benefits claimants went down for the first time since September 1957 and initial claims filed dropped each week during May.

July nonfarm total is expected to go down again, with further loss in manufacturing and with school workers off. Retail merchants have forecast increased employment and construction is still improving. However, with the many existing uncertainties, forecasts continue to be of very dubious validity.

NON-FARM TOTAL
445 BELOW APRIL

May non-farm total was estimated at 445 below the final (revised) April figure of 430,065, with the number of women practically unchanged. Current total is approximately 1900 (0.4%) below one year ago. Women workers have fared better than the men - May's estimate of 139,420 tops one year ago by 3880 (3.5%).

While employment appears, from the total figures, to be leveling off, it is not as level as it looks. Between March and May, increased employment in construction, retail trade and service industries failed to offset a 1900 loss in manufacturing, more than 400 in transportation services and further cuts in crude oil production.

Manufacturing's chief losers were oilfield machinery (1465), chemicals (255), petroleum refining (190), primary metals (165), instrument manufacturing (120), and electrical machinery (120). About one third of the net loss occurred between April and May. Fabricated metals is the only heavy industry group to show an increase (220) over the past 60 days. Food processing, unchanged in April, showed a seasonal upturn in May. Manufacturing total is currently 3000 (3.3%) below May 1957.

May construction employment was estimated at 500 above April. While contract awards through April were much above 1957 in dollar value, the type of industrial and commercial work involved employs relatively small numbers of craftsmen. The same applies to much of the residential development under way.

Retail trade held its own employmentwise, with no net change indicated from April. Most of the drop in the transportation group was in railraod workers.

UNEMPLOYMENT
RISE IS SMALL

Estimated unemployment of 32,000 for May is up only 350 above April. Total of active claimants in the area was 19,383 at the end of May as compared to 20,218 in April, the first decrease in 8 months. Initial claims hit the year's low in May.

DROP FORECAST

Based on employer reports and assuming the present situation will get no worse, current forecast to July is for a net loss of 1550 in non-farm total and a further seasonal increase of about 850 farm workers.

Manufacturing indicates further losses. Increase is expected in construction and retail merchants have indicated additional hiring. However, uncertainties existing in major industries connected with oil make even 30-day forecasts of dubious validity at the present moment.

* * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | MAY 1957 | APRIL 1958 | MAY 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 453810 | 467665 | 467870 | 468175 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 31650 | 32000 | 33000 |
| Female | 4000 | 5500 | 5500 | 5750 |
| Employment - Total | 437565** | 436115 | 435870 | 435170 |
| Agriculture | 6050 | 6050 | 6250 | 7100 |
| Manufacturing | 92465 | 90065** | 89465* | 89320 |
| Construction | 40750 | 37000 | 37500 | 38000 |
| Trades | 109025 | 111975 | 111975 | 112445 |
| Other | 189275 | 191025 | 190680 | 188305 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 1245 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. * Preliminary figure, subject to revision. **Revised. (Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May* 1958 | April 1958 | May 1957 | May* 1958 | April 1958 | May 1957 | May* 1958 | April 1958 | May 1957 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $94.96 | $95.60 | $92.57 | 39.9 | 40.0 | 40.6 | $2.38 | $2.39 | $2.28 |
| Durable Goods | 90.57 | 92.06 | 90.47 | 39.9 | 40.2 | 41.5 | 2.27 | 2.29 | 2.18 |
| Non-durable Goods | 99.75 | 98.70 | 94.64 | 39.9 | 39.8 | 39.6 | 2.50 | 2.48 | 2.39 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director — 3104 Main Street — Vol. XIV, No. 3
S. W. Braden, Office Manager — Phone CA 5-1711 — JULY 1958


HIGHLIGHTS

Closing of schools for the summer brought the June estimate of area employment down under May and boosted unemployment. June estimate for manufacturing (preliminary) indicated a small net increase and retail trade and construction were up. Seasonal farm workers also increased.

Although unemployment was up sharply with entry of summer jobhunters, initial unemployment benefits claims filed during June continued at a much lower level than that of the first four months of the year.

Current forecast to August is for a small net increase in nonfarm total, with agriculture hitting near its seasonal high. Indications point to continuing loss in manufacturing, particularly in the durable goods group.

NON-FARM DROPS
1325 UNDER MAY

June's 428,865 preliminary non-farm estimate is 1325 below the final May figure of 430,190 (revised). While manufacturing is currently 5000 under June 1957, non-manufacturing and agriculture gains have served to cut the net loss over the past 12 months to 1685.

With gains indicated in 11 manufacturing groups and losses in only five, the June estimate netted an increase of 300 -- the first since last August. Nondurable goods total was up 400, with durable goods down 100. Food processing employment increased by 215 workers and chemicals by 100. Fabricated metals added 70 and paper & allied products 60. Gains of 45 each were indicated by lumber & wood products, furniture & fixtures and apparel. Oil tool manufacturing and primary metals dropped again - 205 in the former and 35 in the latter. The oil tool group has lost 1275 over the past 60 days and 3285 since June '57. Primary metals has dropped 200 since May and 1015 in the past 12 months.

Construction was up by an estimated 500, retail trade by 470, transportation & allied services by 220 and government, 100. Wholesale trade was down slightly, with much of the loss reported by concerns who deal in heavy machinery. Further but relatively minor losses were reported in oil field services. Cutback estimated at just over 2600 in the professional group is entirely seasonal -- school workers off for the summer.

SEASONAL FACTOR
IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Entry of summer jobhunters into the labor market as usual brought a sharp increase in unemployment. June's estimate of 34350 is 7.3% higher than May. However, throughout June, initial claims for unemployment benefits filed in the area maintained the lowered level reached in May. There were 18,718 active claimants at the end of June as compared with 19,383 at the end of May.

SMALL GAIN FORECAST

Current forecast is for gains in construction and retail trade to offset expected losses in manufacturing to August.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | JUNE 1957 | MAY 1958 | JUNE 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 453950 | 468440 | 469715 | 471400 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16500 | 32000 | 34350 | 34000 |
| Female | 4750 | 5500 | 6000 | 5750 |
| Employment - Total | 437050** | 436440** | 435365 | 437400 |
| Agriculture | 5900 | 6250 | 6500 | 7400 |
| Manufacturing | 94265 | 88965 | 89265* | 89215 |
| Construction | 41000 | 37500 | 38000 | 38500 |
| Trades | 108520 | 111975 | 112245 | 112800 |
| Other | 187365 | 191750 | 189355 | 189485 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 400 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Preliminary figure, subject to revision. ** Revised.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | June* 1958 | May 1958 | June 1957 | June* 1958 | May 1958 | June 1957 | June* 1958 | May 1958 | June 1957 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $96.56 | $94.56 | $97.86 | 40.4 | 39.9 | 42.0 | $2.39 | $2.37 | $2.33 |
| Durable Goods | 90.11 | 89.55 | 95.46 | 39.7 | 39.8 | 43.0 | 2.27 | 2.25 | 2.22 |
| Non-durable Goods | 103.82 | 100.00 | 100.37 | 41.2 | 40.0 | 40.8 | 2.52 | 2.50 | 2.46 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIV, No. 4 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | AUGUST 1958 |


HIGHLIGHTS

For the second time this year, estimated non-farm employment in the area has shown an increase. The July figure was approximately 1400 above June and broke even with May. Manufacturing total has varied very little for the past three months.

Unemployment dropped from its June seasonal high and initial unemployment benefits claims filed continued to hold their lower level attained last month.

Indications point to a substantial gain in non-farm total to September, although manufacturing may drop slightly. Schools will be re-opened and construction, retail trade and warehousing have stated demand.

Farm employment dropped in July as usual, with peak expected in late August and early September.

NON-AGRICULTURAL
TOTAL UP 1410

Gain in non-farm total to July was estimated at 1410, with manufacturing netting a loss of 100. Construction helped boost non-manufacturing an estimated 1000 and retail trade, reversing the usual summer trend, indicated a small gain. Little over-all change was indicated in transportation & allied services, while crude oil production dropped again. Several hospitals reported additional employment and government total went up with highway department and recreational activities.

In manufacturing, while there was little net change in total, there was considerable variation among individual industries. Primary metals reported increases netting a gain of 115 and furniture & fixtures 75. Shipbuilding was also up appreciably. Improved business added to the total in the stone, clay and glass group. Non-electric machinery dropped 160 and fabricated metals 100. Food processing indicated temporary seasonal cuts adding up to 270. Other changes were small and of no great significance.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS TO 32,650

Estimated unemployment at 32,650 for July is 1700 below June's seasonal peak and represents 7.0% of the labor force. There appears a possibility that the figure might drop to September. Insured unemployment is gradually dropping, with initial claims at approximately the same lower level reached in May and June. Total of active claimants in the area stood at 17,931 at the end of July as compared with 18,718 in June. The percentage of skilled workers to total of active job applications in the 6 TEC offices in the area has dropped sharply in the past two months.

GAIN EXPECTED
TO SEPTEMBER

Current forecast is for a net increase in non-farm total of 4160 to September. Largest factor in this forecast is re-opening of schools. Indications also point to some increase in construction total and retail merchants will probably add to meet demand of fall trade. Employer reports to the TEC indicate that manufacturing is due for a further slight drop.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | JULY 1957 | JUNE 1958 | JULY 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 455285 | 469615 | 468950 | 472585 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16000 | 34350 | 32650 | 31000 |
| Female | 4500 | 6000 | 6125 | 5750 |
| Employment - Total | 438820** | 435265 | 436300 | 441585 |
| Agriculture | 6200 | 6500 | 6125 | 7250 |
| Manufacturing | 94965 | 89165 | 89065* | 88870 |
| Construction | 41000 | 38000 | 39000 | 39500 |
| Trades | 108720 | 112245 | 112525 | 113050 |
| Other | 187935 | 189355 | 189585 | 192915 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 465 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
* Preliminary figure, subject to revision. ** Revised.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS. | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | July* 1958 | June 1958 | July 1957 | July* 1958 | June 1958 | July 1957 | July* 1958 | June 1958 | July 1957 |
| Manufacturing Total | $97.27 | $97.44 | $98.36 | 40.7 | 40.6 | 41.5 | $2.39 | $2.40 | $2.37 |
| Durable Goods | 91.53 | 90.97 | 98.24 | 40.5 | 39.9 | 42.9 | 2.26 | 2.28 | 2.29 |
| Non-dur.Goods | 103.73 | 104.74 | 99.20 | 41.0 | 41.4 | 40.0 | 2.53 | 2.53 | 2.48 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

H O U S T O N
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIV, No. 5 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | SEPTEMBER 1958 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated total nonfarm employment in the area for August again showed a gain over the previous month. Farm total rose sharply. Manufacturing dropped, construction gained and retail trade did not change in total.

The August unemployment estimate showed the second successive drop, to the lowest point since March. All types of claims actions were down.

With accelerated fall buying and re-opening of schools, a substantial increase in nonfarm total is expected to October. Although such forecasts are still of dubious value, manufacturing has indicated a small net gain two months hence, the first such indication this year.

The current labor dispute involving carpenters will have considerable effect on employment total to September, and to October if it continues.

NONFARM TOTAL
1260 ABOVE JULY

The preliminary August non-farm estimate of 431,235 (138,565 women) is 1260 above the July final total and 2470 above June. While manufacturing dropped another 600 in the preliminary August figure, nonmanufacturing rose an estimated 1860. Nonfarm total is currently 4880 below August 1957, although non-manufacturing is up about 2500 and women workers have shown an increase estimated at approximately 2500. Farm employment at mid-August was estimated at a high of 7000.

Manufacturing's 600 loss was less significant than usual; much of it was seasonal. Food processing dropped 155, vacation extras were released at refineries and shipbuilding went down 100. One refinery reported a force reduction through retirements and quits. A drop of 135 in fabricated metals was partly seasonal. Loss indicated in non-electric machinery was less than 100. Five industrial groups showed gains, topped by 130 in furniture & fixtures. This industry has added more than 200 workers in the past 60 days. Construction was up an estimated 1325 and trucking & warehousing showed a small increase. Almost 350 were added in utilities.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS TO 31,000

The August estimate of 31,000 unemployed is 1650 below July and 3350 under June's seasonal high. Insured unemployment for the sample week in August was approximately 1200 below the same week in July, with a total of 17,423 active claimants in the area at the end of August.

INCREASE DUE
TO OCTOBER

Current non-farm forecast to October is for an increase of about 6000. The carpenters' labor dispute, which will have very marked effect on the September total, will also affect October's if not settled. Reopening of schools added about 2800 early in September and retail trade demand may net approximately 2500. Some seasonal increase may be expected in trucking & warehousing. Manufacturing indicated a net increase totaling 300, the first this year.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | AUGUST 1957 | JULY 1958 | AUGUST 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 457665 | 468925 | 469235 | 472215 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 32650 | 31000 | 29500 |
| Female | 4250 | 6125 | 6000 | 5750 |
| Employment - Total | 442365 | 436275 | 438235 | 442715 |
| Agriculture | 6750 | 6125 | 7000 | 6250 |
| Manufacturing | 95565 | 88865 | 88265* | 88565 |
| Construction | 41500 | 39000 | 40325 | 40325 |
| Trades | 110225 | 112525 | 112350 | 114825 |
| Other | 188325 | 189760 | 190295 | 193050 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 300 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
* Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Aug.* 1958 | July 1958 | Aug. 1957 | Aug.* 1958 | July 1958 | Aug. 1957 | Aug.* 1958 | July 1958 | Aug. 1957 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $95.91 | $96.80 | $97.70 | 40.3 | 40.5 | 41.4 | $2.38 | $2.39 | $2.36 |
| Durable Goods | 94.21 | 92.57 | 97.58 | 41.5 | 40.6 | 42.8 | 2.27 | 2.28 | 2.28 |
| Non-dur. Goods | 97.61 | 101.66 | 97.66 | 39.2 | 40.5 | 39.7 | 2.49 | 2.51 | 2.46 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIV, No. 6
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | OCTOBER 1958


HIGHLIGHTS

Loss in construction employment resulting from a labor dispute brought September's total area non-farm employment down sharply under August. Had this not occurred, a substantial gain would have been shown. Farm employment was at approximately the August level.

Preliminary September estimates for manufacturing showed an increase of 500 over the past 30 days. Retail trade and trucking & warehousing indicated small gains while about 2600 were added with re-opening of school.

Estimated unemployment rose inevitably in September as a result of the loss in construction. However, insured unemployment has continued to drop.

November should see holiday hiring well begun and settlement of the construction labor dispute on October 13 should bring employment in that industry at least back to its August level.

DISPUTE BRINGS
TOTAL DOWN

Setback in construction resulting from the labor dispute which began late in August brought the area's September non-farm total down an estimated 4220 (1.1%) below August. Otherwise, a substantial gain of almost 3500 would have been made over the past 30 days.

The 500 increase estimated in manufacturing came mainly from primary metals, oilfield machinery and food processing.

Petroleum refining was reported up slightly and furniture & fixtures indicated another gain. No industry loss, except chemical's 140, exceeded 80 and most involved fewer than 50 workers. Paper and allied products was down 80, stone, clay & glass 60 and fabricated metals 50. The last two were affected by lessened construction demand and vacation extras played a major part in paper products.

Nonmanufacturing dropped an estimated net of 4720 under August, with construction down almost 7700. A drop of 250 was indicated in government and wholesale trade was estimated at slightly below August. Retail trade picked up approximately 400 and trucking & warehousing 200. The services group, including schools, shot up an estimated 2815.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP 1000

Increase in unemployment was unavoidable with the setback in construction. Even so, insured unemployment for the sample week in September dropped 6% below August and 15.4% below July. Number of active claimants in the area dropped 963, or 5.5%, to 16,460 at the end of September

EMPLOYMENT GAIN
DUE TO NOVEMBER

Forecast increase of 13,620 to November is based primarily on resumption of full construction employment and holiday hiring in retail trade. TEC reports from 242 manufacturing establishments indicated practically no change in total to November. Such forecasts are still undependable.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | SEPTEMBER 1957 | AUGUST 1958 | SEPTEMBER 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 462020 | 469235 | 469840 | 474035 |
| Unemployment - Total | 15000 | 31000 | 32000 | 28000 |
| Female | 4250 | 6000 | 5750 | 5750 |
| Employment - Total | 447020 | 438235 | 434090 | 446035 |
| Agriculture | 7550 | 7000 | 7075 | 5900 |
| Manufacturing | 95565 | 88265 | 88765* | 88725 |
| Construction | 42000 | 40325 | 32650 | 40325 |
| Trades | 110275 | 112350 | 112615 | 117815 |
| Other | 191630 | 190295 | 192985 | 193270 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 3750 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sept.* 1958 | Aug. 1958 | Sept. 1957 | Sept.* 1958 | Aug. 1958 | Sept. 1957 | Sept.* 1958 | Aug. 1958 | Sept. 1957 |
| Manufacturing Total | $98.64 | $97.03 | $101.46 | 41.1 | 40.6 | 42.1 | $2.40 | $2.34 | $2.41 |
| Durable Goods | 95.87 | 94.62 | 99.10 | 41.5 | 41.5 | 42.9 | 2.31 | 2.28 | 2.31 |
| Non-Dur. Goods | 101.91 | 99.25 | 103.57 | 40.6 | 39.7 | 41.1 | 2.51 | 2.50 | 2.52 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIV, No. 7 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | NOVEMBER 1958 |

HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated non-farm employment in the area for October took a jump of approximately 10,000 over the previous month.

Manufacturing showed another substantial gain, construction was returning to normal, total for schools went up and retail trade indicated a moderate increase. Farm employment took a seasonal drop.

October estimate of unemployment was the lowest since February, with all types of claims actions dropping sharply during October. Total of active claimants in the area was 8.3% below September.

Mid-December will see the height of holiday activity with a corresponding rise in employment in trades and at the post office. Some further increase is expected in manufacturing. As usual, supply is expected to be ample.

MANUFACTURING
UP 900 IN 60 DAYS

October preliminary estimate of a 400 increase in manufacturing brings to 900 the net gain over the past 60 days. The non-electric machinery group (mainly oilfield) indicated a total almost 600 higher than in September and primary metals picked up another 110. The machinery group is currently 835 above August and primary metals 350. Furniture & fixtures was up 60 in October for a total gain of 105 over August. The apparel group rose 55 and smaller gains were indicated in stone, clay & glass and petroleum refining.

Food processing took a seasonal drop estimated at 140. No other loss exceeded 50 and none was of any great significance.

Construction employment indicated a fairly rapid recovery from the labor dispute that was settled early in October. Gain in retail trade, estimated at just over 600, was smaller than anticipated although total increase over August is more than a thousand. Additional personnel in the public schools brought that group up approximately 900; an increase of about 150 was indicated by hospitals.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN TO 29,500

The October estimate of 29,500 unemployed is a drop of 2500 (7.8%) under September and the lowest since February '58. Insured unemployment dropped from 10,263 for the sample week in September to 8700 for the same week in October, a 15.2% decrease. In this sample week in October, 761 initial claims were filed in the area as compared with 965 in September.

HOLIDAY PEAK DUE
IN DECEMBER

Since some large retail stores report that they have already started hiring their holiday extras for training, retail employment should, by December, have reached a peak at least equal to last year's. If so, an overall increase of more than 10,000 should be due to December. The current forecast to 10,900 also includes extra workers at the post office and stated demand totaling 225 from manufacturing.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | OCTOBER 1957 | SEPTEMBER 1958 | OCTOBER 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 461990 | 469840 | 472825 | 480825 |
| Unemployment - Total | 16000 | 32000 | 29500 | 27500 |
| Female | 4250 | 5750 | 5750 | 5500 |
| Employment - Total | 445990 | 434090 | 443325 | 453325 |
| Agriculture | 6000 | 7075 | 6150 | 5750 |
| Manufacturing | 95365 | 88765 | 89165* | 89390 |
| Construction | 41750 | 32650 | 40325 | 40325 |
| Trades | 110855 | 112615 | 113225 | 122150 |
| Other | 192020 | 192985 | 194460 | 195710 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 3750 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
* Preliminary figure, subject to revision
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct.* 1958 | Sept. 1958 | Oct. 1957 | Oct.* 1958 | Sept. 1958 | Oct. 1957 | Oct.* 1958 | Sept. 1958 | Oct. 1957 |
| Manufacturing - Total | $98.90 | $100.77 | $96.08 | 40.7 | 41.3 | 40.2 | $2.43 | $2.44 | $2.39 |
| Durable Goods | 99.07 | 98.65 | 94.12 | 41.8 | 41.8 | 41.1 | 2.37 | 2.36 | 2.29 |
| Non-dur. Goods | 98.75 | 102.82 | 98.14 | 39.5 | 40.8 | 39.1 | 2.50 | 2.52 | 2.51 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XIV, No. 8
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | DECEMBER 1958

HIGHLIGHTS

Beginning of holiday buying brought the November estimate of the area's wage and salary total up almost 3000 above October. Manufacturing shows signs of at least becoming stabilized, with indications of improvement.

Estimated unemployment in the area took a further drop, with the November figure at 12.5% below September. Insured unemployment has continued to decrease although initial claims rose in November.

Following the usual trend, a drop in employment is expected to January, with the December peak in between. Holiday hiring may not prove to be as great as in previous years but business appears good. As usual, supply is ample for all demands.

WAGE AND SALARY
TOTAL UP 2960

A net gain estimated at 2960 in wage and salary workers since October was all in non-manufacturing. Employment of women increased an estimated 2.85 (1.9%) above October. While the current total is approximately 2200 (0.6%) below a year ago, women workers have increased an estimated 4225 or 3.7%.

Current preliminary manufacturing estimate is the same in total as the October final and 100 above September. There was, however, some degree of variation in every individual industry group. Gains ranged from 10 in lumber and wood products and in miscellaneous durable goods to 175 in food processing and 335 in oilfield machinery. Losses were slightly more numerous but of less significance than were the gains. The fabricated metals group went down 140, largely as an aftermath of the construction tie-up, and shipbuilding indicated one of its periodic drops.

Retail sales employment was estimated at 2725 above October and the service groups reported small increases. Little change was indicated in construction.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN TO 28,000

November's estimated 28,000 unemployed is a 5.1% decline over the past 30 days and 4000 or 12.5% in the past 60 days. Insured unemployment dropped approximately 2% between October and mid-November and 16.8% in the 60-day period since September. UI insured unemployment currently represents 2.6% of the estimated State insured labor force as compared with 3.3% in September. Active job applications in the 6 TEC offices in the area also showed a sharp drop, from 28,068 in September to 25,298 in November.

DECEMBER PEAK--
JANUARY DROP

Current forecast is for a drop to January of 2400 below the November total, with the December peak in between. Some manufacturing establishments have begun calling back layoffs and there are indications that more will be recalled. Supply is ample.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST[1/]

| | NOVEMBER 1957 | OCTOBER 1958 | NOVEMBER 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 464,825 | 472,525 | 473,185 | 472,680 |
| Unemployment--Total | 17,500 | 29,500 | 28,000 | 30,000 |
| Female | 4,000 | 5,750 | 5,750 | 6,000 |
| Employment--Total | 447,325 | 443,025 | 445,185 | 442,680 |
| Agriculture | 5,800 | 6,150 | 5,850 | 5,750 |
| Manufacturing | 95,065 | 88,865 | 88,865* | 88,985 |
| Construction | 40,750 | 40,325 | 40,325 | 40,325 |
| Trades | 113,660 | 113,225 | 115,950 | 113,450 |
| Other | 192,050 | 194,460 | 194,195 | 194,170 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

[1/] Estimate of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
* Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA[1/]

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Nov.* 1958 | Oct. 1958 | Nov. 1957 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Nov.* 1958 | Oct. 1958 | Nov. 1957 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Nov.* 1958 | Oct. 1958 | Nov. 1957 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing-Total | $100.36 | $98.90 | $96.08 | 41.3 | 40.7 | 40.2 | $2.43 | $2.43 | $2.39 |
| Durable Goods | 98.70 | 99.12 | 94.25 | 42.0 | 41.8 | 40.8 | 2.36 | 2.36 | 2.31 |
| Non-dur. Goods | 101.50 | 98.75 | 98.35 | 40.6 | 39.5 | 39.5 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.49 |

[1/] Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary--subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION



Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711



Vol. XIV, No. 9
JANUARY 1959


HIGHLIGHTS

December non-farm employment in the area jumped an estimated 10,400 above November, thanks largely to "holiday extras". Construction was up and manufacturing still held steady. Women workers increased by approximately 5000.

Unemployment in December was estimated at a thousand below November - lowest figure since January 1958 and 8.5% below October.

Following the usual trend at this time of year, employment is expected to drop to February and unemployment to increase to some extent. Claims actions have followed a normal end-of-year fluctuation. Supply was quite ample for holiday demands.

DECEMBER NON-FARM
TOTAL TOPS 1958

Total non-farm employment in December, estimated at 482,380 in the preliminary report, was 10,395 or 2.7% above November, 13,255 (3.5%) above October and 3330, or 0.9%, above a year ago. This is the first time since April '58 that the current figure has topped that of the previous year. Since cutbacks during the past year have been so largely in heavy industry and in construction, increase in women workers has been greater, percentagewise, than in total.

Employment reports received from retail merchants indicated a holiday hiring peak at least equal to previous years and above '57. Peak was reached just after the 15th. Construction reports also indicated an increase, estimated at just under 1700, and a small seasonal drop was reported in the trucking & warehousing group. Extra workers at the post office boosted government.

MANUFACTURING
HOLDS STEADY

Preliminary estimates for manufacturing totaled 88,865, a gain of 100 over the November final figure. While some degree of change was indicated in every industrial group except furniture & fixtures and ten of the 17 showed gains, only four amounted to more than 30 workers. The most significant change was an increase of 80 in machinery - its fourth consecutive gain, to bring the group's estimated total up 695 since September. Seasonal food processing dropped 115, printing & publishing was up 70 and primary metals was down 40.

27,000 ESTIMATE
OF UNEMPLOYED

The December estimate of 27,000 unemployed represents 5.6% of the total labor force as compared with 6.2% in October and 5.9% in November. While insured unemployment of 8,827 for the sample week in December was up from November's 8516, initial claims filed dropped from 919 to 770 in the same two periods.

A sharp drop in employment total is expected to February, following the usual post-holiday pattern. Manufacturing, on an even keel for the past four months, shows signs of further improvement during 1959.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | DECEMBER 1957 | NOVEMBER 1958 | DECEMBER 1958 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 472,050 | 473,085 | 482,380 | 472,140 |
| Unemployment - Total | 20,000 | 28,000 | 27,000 | 29,000 |
| Female | 4,000 | 5,750 | 5,500 | 6,000 |
| Employment - Total | 452,050 | 445,085 | 455,380 | 443,140 |
| Agriculture | 5,750 | 5,850 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
| Manufacturing | 94,365 | 88,765 | 88,865* | 88,865 |
| Construction | 39,500 | 40,325 | 42,000 | 42,000 |
| Trades | 118,960 | 115,950 | 123,445 | 112,265 |
| Other | 193,475 | 194,195 | 195,320 | 194,260 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturning employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
* Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Dec.* 1958 | Nov. 1958 | Dec. 1957 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Dec.* 1958 | Nov. 1958 | Dec. 1957 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Dec.* 1958 | Nov. 1958 | Dec. 1957 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing - Total | $100.36 | $98.57 | $99.53 | 41.3 | 40.9 | 41.3 | $2.43 | $2.41 | $2.41 |
| Durable Goods | 97.76 | 96.05 | 96.10 | 41.6 | 41.4 | 41.6 | 2.35 | 2.32 | 2.31 |
| Non-dur. Goods | 102.66 | 101.00 | 103.98 | 40.9 | 40.4 | 41.1 | 2.51 | 2.50 | 2.53 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earning averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XIV, No.10
FEBRUARY 1959

EMPLOYMENT
SERIES REVISED

Effective with this issue, industrial designation of employment estimates is based upon the new Standard Industrial Classification Manual (1957), sponsored by the Federal Bureau of the Budget. Adoption of this classification structure (which will be used in the 1960 Census) involved the establishment of new employment benchmarks in each industrial group. Some changes in classification were relatively large, but most were minor. Availability of more complete data resulted in many revisions affecting total employment. Monthly estimates for 1958 have been revised to provide year-ago comparability, but estimates for prior years are not comparable.

HIGHLIGHTS

January's estimate of non-farm employment total, although down sharply under December, was higher than the year-ago figure for the first time since March 1958. Drop of 200 in preliminary manufacturing estimate was not significant. Unemployment up seasonally was 5.9% of total labor force. Initial claims for unemployment benefits rose the first two weeks in January and then began to drop back. Supply is ample.

JANUARY ESTIMATE
TOPS YEAR-AGO TOTAL

Though employment estimates prior to January 1958 can no longer be used for numerical comparison, previous trends remain valid. For the first time since March '58 the current nonfarm estimate showed a net increase over the year-ago figure. With the January '59 figure dropped an estimated 10,620 (2.5%) below the December 1958 seasonal peak, it is only 1315 (0.3%) below November and is 2735 (0.7%) above January 1958. Most of the loss was seasonal.

MANUFACTURING
OUTLOOK IMPROVED

Although manufacturing employment has varied as much as 400 in total since beginning its upward climb in September, all signs point to definitely improved conditions in the area. Although down 200 under December in the preliminary estimates, the drop was of no great significance since four industries with seasonal factors or varying work-loads reported reductions to a combined total of approximately 500. On the other hand, the chemicals group was up 120, miscellaneous durable goods (including instruments) 150, paper & allied products 60. Oilfield machinery is currently estimated at 985 above its August low, adding 275 in the past 60 days and with further gain forecast.

In non-manufacturing, aside from seasonal cutbacks, a slight increase was indicated in crude oil production employment. Construction dropped some due to bad weather.

Rise in estimated unemployment to 29,500 as of January is a normal seasonal trend. During the first week in January, 1415 initial claims for unemployment benefits were filed; these dropped to 1194 for the week ending January 24. February's have dropped further. Insured unemployment for the sample week in January was 11.6% above

December and only 15.7% above November's low point of the year.

INCREASE TO MARCH DUE

Although retail trade may drop to February and thereby bring the total down, present indications in employer reports to the TEC point to an over-all increase to March, currently estimated at approximately 2950. Demand is expressed by machinery, instruments, fabricated metals and chemicals. Opening of 3 large new stores plus Easter buying should net retail trade about 2000. If weather conditions improve, construction may be expected to re-coup its January loss plus some additional.

* * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | JANUARY 1958 | DECEMBER 1958 | JANUARY 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 493,825 | 510,180 | 502,060 | 504,665 |
| Unemployment - Total | 24,000 | 27,000 | 29,500 | 29,000 |
| Female | 4,750 | 5,500 | 6,250 | 6,000 |
| Employment - Total | 469,825** | 483,180** | 472,560** | 475,665 |
| Agriculture | 5,750 | 5,750 | 5,750 | 5,900 |
| Manufacturing | 97,300 | 92,800 | 92,600* | 92,770 |
| Construction | 36,000 | 41,000 | 40,400 | 41,150 |
| Trades | 115,910 | 124,945 | 116,600 | 118,600 |
| Other | 214,865 | 218,685 | 217,210 | 217,245 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by the TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **Revised. *Preliminary figure, subject to revision. (Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan* 1959 | Dec. 1958 | Jan. 1958 | Jan.* 1959 | Dec. 1958 | Jan. 1958 | Jan.* 1959 | Dec. 1958 | Jan. 1958 |
| Manufacturing Total | $99.84 | $100.19 | $97.53 | 41.6 | 41.4 | 40.3 | $2.40 | $2.42 | $2.42 |
| Durable Goods | 97.11 | 99.96 | 95.68 | 41.5 | 42.0 | 40.2 | 2.34 | 2.38 | 2.38 |
| Nondurable Goods | 103.25 | 100.12 | 99.38 | 41.8 | 40.7 | 40.4 | 2.47 | 2.46 | 2.46 |

1/ Firgures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XIV, No.11
M A R C H 1959

HIGHLIGHTS

For the first time in three years, estimated non-farm employment in the area did not drop from January to February. Preliminary February figure was almost the same in total, with a 300 gain in manufacturing offsetting a net drop of 125 in nonmanufacturing. February total estimate is above the year-ago figure by a gratifying margin.

Estimated unemployment for February was unchanged at 29,500, representing 5.9% of the total labor force. Insured unemployment was up slightly but initial claims for unemployment benefits have been dropping since early February.

Current outlook to April is for a small over-all gain in non-farm total. Seasonal farm activity should begin to get under way with an increase in agricultural workers. Supply remains ample for demand.

NON-FARM TOTAL
UP 1.3% OVER 1958

Preliminary estimate for February nonfarm total, netting a very slight gain of less than 200 over January, was 5835 (1.3%) above February 1958. This is more than double the increase that January showed over the previous year's figure. Women workers gained an estimated 325 (0.3%) in February over January and 3850 (3.2%) over February 1958. Farm total remained unchanged.

Manufacturing's preliminary February figure is 300 above the January final, with 10 of the 18 groups reporting gains ranging from 5 in paper & allied products to 280 in shipbuilding. Oilfield machinery made good on its forecast increase and now stands at more than 1100 above its low of last summer. Miscellaneous durable goods picked up an estimated 105, furniture and fixtures 95, primary metals 85 and chemicals 50. Three industry groups reported losses in excess of 100. Seasonal factors brought food processing down an estimated 150; part of a 110 drop in petroleum refining was shut-down crews. While some of the metal fabricators reported gains, reductions, small and scattered throughout the group, netted an estimated 120 loss.

Non-manufacturing about broke even. Bad weather hampered construction and trucking and warehousing were down seasonally; wholesale trade continues on a downward trend. Retail trade was up, as were medical and professional services and municipal government. A small increase was also indicated in the finance, insurance and real estate group.

UNEMPLOYED UNCHANGED

February unemployment remained at the same estimate as for January -- 29,500. There was very slight variation in insured unemployment but initial claims for the sample week in February totaled 1092 as compared with 1194 for the same week in January.

INCREASE FORECAST
TO APRIL

Current forecast to April is for a gain of about 1700 in nonfarm total. Manufacturing accounts for 470, with stated demand in 11 of the 18 industry groups. Retail trade is expected to net a gain over the current total even after Easter extras are laid off. Three large new stores are due for opening. With good weather, construction is due to pick up again. Supply has been ample during the past month, supplemented by mid-year graduates.

* * * * * * * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | FEBRUARY 1958 | JANUARY 1959 | FEBRUARY 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 494,500 | 502,160 | 502,335 | 502,795 |
| Unemployment - Total | 27,500 | 29,500 | 29,500 | 27,500 |
| Female | 5,500 | 6,250 | 6,250 | 6,000 |
| Employment - Total | 467,000 | 472,660 | 472,835 | 475,295 |
| Agriculture | 5,750 | 5,750 | 5,750 | 6,000 |
| Manufacturing | 96,100 | 92,700 | 93,000* | 93,470 |
| Construction | 34,750 | 40,400 | 40,080 | 40,580 |
| Trades | 115,580 | 116,600 | 116,700 | 117,200 |
| Other | 214,820 | 217,210 | 217,305 | 218,045 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | XXX |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb.* 1959 | Jan. 1959 | Feb. 1958 | Feb.* 1959 | Jan. 1959 | Feb. 1958 | Feb.* 1959 | Jan. 1959 | Feb. 1958 |
| Manufacturing Total | $101.99 | $99.53 | $95.28 | 41.8 | 41.3 | 39.7 | $2.44 | $2.41 | $2.40 |
| Durable Goods | 100.67 | 98.36 | 91.18 | 42.3 | 41.5 | 38.8 | 2.38 | 2.37 | 2.35 |
| Nondurable Goods | 103.66 | 101.86 | 100.12 | 41.3 | 41.0 | 40.7 | 2.51 | 2.46 | 2.46 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
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A P R I L 1959

HIGHLIGHTS

Preliminary estimate of nonfarm total for the area in March took a spurt of well over 6,000 above February. This makes current total well above that of March 1958. Manufacturing made its biggest gain since 1956; retail trade had a good Easter season and some large new stores were being readied for opening. Construction indicated a substantial gain. Transportation and allied services were down.

Estimated unemployment was 2000 below February. Initial unemployment benefit claims have continued to drop since mid-January.

Current outlook to April is for some small increase in non-farm total and a seasonal upswing in agriculture.

Supply continues to remain ample for area demands.

MARCH NON-FARM TOTAL
UP 3.5% OVER 1958

Estimated area non-farm employment total for March took a spurt, only partly seasonal, of 6450 (1.6%) over February. This brought the March figure 3.5% (14,160) above one year ago. Women workers were estimated at 2810 (2.2%) above February and 7360 (6.1%) above March 1958.

Retail trade was out front with an estimated 3275 gain. A good part of this was Easter buying that apparently exceeded expectations. Also entering into it was at least partial staffing of three large new department stores.

Construction employment reports indicated a gain to mid-March of just over 2000 and city schools reported an increase. Transportation services was the only group down to any appreciable extent.

MANUFACTURING
INCREASED 900

In the preliminary March estimates, 11 of the 17 manufacturing groups indicated increases ranging from 5 to 360; five showed losses from 5 to 60 and one, no change. Net result was a gain estimated at 900 over February. This cut to 1300 the loss in manufacturing as compared with a year ago. Shipbuilding was top gainer; next was fabricated metal products with 120, stone, clay & glass with 115 and chemicals with 100. The machinery group's gain was estimated at 95; others were 70 or less. The only loss indicated that came to more than 20 was a seasonal one of 60 in apparel & finished products.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS 2,000

March unemployment, estimated at 27,500, is 6.8% below February, 10.7% under March 1958. UI insured unemployment for the sample week in March was about 800 under February and 2226 (20.4%) below March '58. A total of 853 initial claims of all types filed in the March sample week was 48.8% less than the same week a year ago.

Nonfarm net gain to May is expected to be small. Retail trade is due for a drop after Easter. Demand in manufacturing is estimated at 600 and construction at 500.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | MARCH 1958 | FEBRUARY 1959 | MARCH 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 496,025 | 502,335 | 506,885 | 507,795 |
| Unemployment - Total | 30,800 | 29,500 | 27,500 | 27,000 |
| Female | 5,500 | 6,250 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Employment - Total | 465,225 | 472,835 | 479,385 | 480,795 |
| Agriculture | 5,850 | 5,750 | 5,850 | 6,300 |
| Manufacturing | 95,200 | 93,000 | 93,900* | 94,495 |
| Construction | 35,500 | 40,080 | 42,150 | 42,650 |
| Trades | 114,165 | 116,700 | 119,975 | 118,975 |
| Other | 214,510 | 217,305 | 217,510 | 218,375 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar.* 1959 | Feb. 1959 | Mar. 1958 | Mar.* 1959 | Feb. 1959 | Mar. 1958 | Mar.* 1959 | Feb. 1959 | Mar. 1958 |
| Manufacturing Total | $102.66 | $102.48 | $96.29 | 41.9 | 42.0 | 40.8 | $2.45 | $2.44 | $2.36 |
| Durable Goods | 100.96 | 100.96 | 93.84 | 42.6 | 42.6 | 40.8 | 2.37 | 2.37 | 2.30 |
| Nondur. Goods | 103.73 | 104.08 | 98.90 | 41.0 | 41.3 | 40.7 | 2.53 | 2.52 | 2.43 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION



Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711



Vol. XV, No. 1
M A Y 1959


HIGHLIGHTS

Preliminary April estimate of nonfarm employment in the area topped the March final figure by approximately 4100. For the first time since January 1958, manufacturing was above the year-ago figure. Agriculture has started its seasonal upswing.

Unemployment in April was estimated at almost 13% below March. Unemployment benefit claims were down sharply under both March and a year ago.

Current outlook to June is for very little net change in non-farm total employment, since substantial increases indicated by employer reports in several industries would be closely balanced by school workers laid off for the summer. Farm work is expected to increase.

Supply has been ample and school grads and summer job seekers will be added in June.

NONFARM GAINS 0.9%

The April estimate of 477,840 nonfarm total is 0.9% above March and 4.0% above April 1958. An estimated total of 154,540 women in April was a 1.0% increase over March and 6.5% above a year ago. A slight increase was indicated in farm workers.

Manufacturing, up 900 over the final March figure, showed a substantial gain of 1100 over April 1958. Durable goods total was 1700 above the year-ago figure, while nondurable was 600 under, the loss stemming largely from petroleum refining. Over the past 30 days, five industry groups indicated gains of 100 or more - fabricated metal products 250, primary metals 225; stone, clay & glass 160, printing and publishing 150 and non-electric machinery 100. Four others gained from 5 to 45, four lost from 10 to 30 and four remained unchanged.

NON-MANUFACTURING
GAINS WIDELY

All major non-manufacturing groups except two indicated gains. Retail trade was up 850 and wholesale 60. Construction gained an estimated 665, transportation services gain was negligible. More than 600 workers were added in the professional group and government employment increased 245.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS 12.7%

April estimate of 24,000 unemployed was 3500 below March and 7650 (24.2%) below April 1958. UI insured unemployment for the sample week in April was 7480 against 8702 in March, a decrease of 14.0%. The April figure was 37.9% lower than that of April '58.

SMALL GAIN
SEEN TO JUNE

Closing of schools and release of workers for the summer is expected to almost offset anticipated demand of about 3100 elsewhere to June. This would net a small gain of approximately 300. Stated demand in manufacturing totaled 435. Construction expects to remain on the upswing through the summer. Retail employment reports indicate just above 500 additional to June. Smaller demand was stated in petroleum production (100) and the two service groups (465).

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | APRIL 1958 | MARCH 1959 | APRIL 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total labor force | 497,245 | 507,085 | 507,840 | 510,050 |
| Unemployment - Total | 31,650 | 27,500 | 24,000 | 25,500 |
| Female | 5,500 | 6,000 | 5,750 | 6,250 |
| Employment - Total | 465,595 | 479,585 | 483,840* | 484,550 |
| Agriculture | 6,050 | 5,850 | 6,000 | 6,400 |
| Manufacturing | 93,600 | 93,800 | 94,700* | 95,135 |
| Construction | 36,000 | 42,150 | 42,815 | 44,325 |
| Trades | 114,810 | 119,975 | 120,885 | 121,500 |
| Others | 215,135 | 217,810 | 219,440 | 217,190 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. * Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Apr.* 1959 | March 1959 | Apr. 1958 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Apr.* 1959 | March 1959 | Apr. 1958 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Apr.* 1959 | March 1959 | Apr. 1958 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $103.39 | $103.31 | $95.44 | 42.2 | 42.2 | 40.1 | $2.45 | $2.46 | $2.38 |
| Durable Goods | 103.25 | 103.05 | 93.56 | 43.2 | 43.3 | 40.5 | 2.39 | 2.38 | 2.31 |
| Nondur. Goods | 103.32 | 104.30 | 97.51 | 41.0 | 40.9 | 39.8 | 2.52 | 2.55 | 2.45 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 2 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | June 1959 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Preliminary figures for May brought total area employment up an estimated 4,000 above April and almost 22,500 above a year ago. Manufacturing netted another gain although smaller than last month's.

Estimated unemployment dropped in May again for the third consecutive month, to its lowest point since December 1957.

Current outlook to July is for a somewhat small net increase in nonfarm total, with agriculture on its seasonal upswing. Close of schools and release of workers for the summer plus entry into the labor force of graduates and other student job hunters always affects the labor market at this time of year.

Supply has been ample.

CURRENT GAINS
ARE WIDESPREAD

May's preliminary employment estimate of 487,840 in the area is 0.8% above April, 1.7% above March and 4.8% above one year ago. Manufacturing picked up another 200 over the past 30 days, non-manufacturing 3550 and agriculture 250. Women non-farm workers gained an estimated 980 (0.8%) over April and 9035 (7.4%) over May 1958.

While much the larger part of the nonfarm gains have been in non-manufacturing, improvement made by manufacturing since the first of this year has been encouraging. The preliminary May total of 94,900 is 200 above April, 1100 above March, 2200 above a year ago and highest since March 1958.

Of all industrial groups hit by the reductions which began early in 1958, only two are currently below the year-ago figures. Non-electric machinery, biggest loser, has also been the biggest gainer--190 over April, 320 over March and 1195 over a year ago. Primary metals, up 385 over March, has added 865 in the past 12 months and is currently above even January 1958.

Transportation services gained appreciably in the past 30 days, with railroads up and with trucking and warehousing reporting an un-seasonal rise. Further gains in trades were indicated, estimated at just over 1100. Both service groups were up, with hospitals again playing a large part in the professional group.

UNEMPLOYMENT
31.3% BELOW '58

An estimated 22,000 unemployed as of May is a drop of 2000 (8.3%) since April and of 10,000 (31.3%) since May 1958. It is the lowest figure since December '57. Insured unemployment in May was 10.3% below April and 44.1% below a year ago. UI insured unemployment at 6730 for the sample week in May is 2.0% of the estimated State insured labor force. Current unemployment is 4.3% of the total labor force.

SMALL GAIN TO JULY

Current forecast to July is for a net increase of about 900 in nonfarm and 200 in farm. All manufacturing groups but three had stated demand. Aside from schools, only trucking & warehousing expects to cut back. Supply remains ample for demand, especially since school closed in June.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST1/

| | May 1958 | Apr. 1959 | May 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 497,360 | 507,840 | 509,840 | 511,965 |
| Unemployment--Total | 32,000 | 24,000 | 22,000 | 23,000 |
| Female | 5,500 | 5,750 | 5,500 | 6,000 |
| Employment--Total | 465,360 | 483,840 | 478,840* | 488,965 |
| Agriculture | 6,250 | 6,000 | 6,250 | 6,450 |
| Manufacturing | 92,700 | 94,700 | 94,900* | 95,445 |
| Construction | 36,500 | 42,815 | 43,000 | 45,000 |
| Trades | 114,810 | 120,885 | 121,995 | 122,780 |
| Other | 215,100 | 219,440 | 221,695 | 219,290 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Industry | May* 1959 | Apr. 1959 | May 1958 | May* 1959 | Apr. 1958 | May 1958 | May* 1959 | Apr. 1959 | May 1958 |
| Manufacturing (Total) | $103.00 | $102.17 | $94.64 | 41.7 | 41.7 | 40.1 | $2.47 | $2.45 | $2.36 |
| Durable Goods | 103.68 | 101.34 | 90.57 | 43.2 | 42.4 | 39.9 | 2.40 | 2.39 | 2.27 |
| Nondur. Goods | 101.85 | 103.48 | 98.74 | 40.1 | 40.9 | 40.3 | 2.54 | 2.53 | 2.45 |

1/Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

*Preliminary--subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 3
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | J U L Y 1959


HIGHLIGHTS

The area's June non-farm employment total showed a net gain over the previous month in spite of release of school workers for vacation. Farm work is increasing.

Unemployment indicated its usual seasonal rise to mid-June because of student job-hunters. Claimants for unemployment benefits were still dropping.

Current outlook to August now depends entirely on the steel strike. Based on June employer reports, an increase in non-farm total of more than 2,000 might have been expected.

Supply, with students added, has been ample for demand.

NON-FARM TOTAL
UP ALMOST 2000

The estimated 483,485 non-farm total for the mid-June preliminary figure is a net increase of 1965 over the May final. This brought the 60-day gain up to an estimated 5645 (1.2%) and topped the June 1958 figure by approximately 25,450 (5.5%). Total for women dropped below May since most of the schools' vacation layoffs were maids and lunchroom workers.

Preliminary figures for manufacturing indicated a 500 net gain over May, with 10 of the 17 groups on the plus side, 6 reporting loss and one no change. Fabricated metals led the gains with 295, followed by non-electric machinery's 165. The others ranged from 15 in lumber & wood products up to 85 in primary metals. This put the latter group 1030 above one year ago, setting the high peak of its employment. No losses were significant except that in the rubber & miscellaneous plastics products group, where two plants were hit by disastrous fires.

In non-manufacturing, reports from employers in trucking & warehousing and waterfront activities indicated employment increases unusual at this time of year. For the third consecutive month, crude oil production and oilfield service employers reported gains, although the total was not large. Construction indicated a moderate increase, estimated at 500. Trades were estimated at just under 850 above May. In the service groups, laundries and amusements both reported added employment and hospitals added students and summer workers. Only the governmental group was down, with release for vacation time of an estimated 2250 school workers.

UNEMPLOYMENT
AT 23,000

A rise of 1000 in estimated unemployment to mid-June follows the usual seasonal trend after the schools close. The 23,000 estimate is a drop of 33% under June 1958 and is 4.5% of the total labor force. Insured unemployment continued downward from May.

The current forecast to August, based on June reports prior to the steel strike, stands at a net increase in total of approximately 2250. What the actual situation will be is impossible to predict, in view of the area's dependence on steel for so much of its varied activities.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | JUNE 1958 | MAY 1959 | JUNE 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 498,895 | 509,770 | 513,035 | 515,100 |
| Unemployment - Total | 34,350 | 22,000 | 23,000 | 22,000 |
| Female | 6,000 | 5,500 | 6,000 | 5,500 |
| Employment - Total | 464,545 | 487,770 | 489,935 | 493,100 |
| Agriculture | 6,500 | 6,250 | 6,450 | 7,350 |
| Manufacturing | 93,000 | 95,100 | 95,600* | 95,610 |
| Construction | 37,000 | 43,000 | 43,500 | 45,800 |
| Trades | 115,080 | 121,995 | 122,835 | 123,190 |
| Other | 212,965 | 221,425 | 221,550 | 221,150 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 100 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS JUNE* 1959 | MAY 1959 | JUNE 1958 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS JUNE* 1959 | MAY 1959 | JUNE 1958 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS JUNE* 1959 | MAY 1959 | JUNE 1958 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $103.99 | $103.99 | $ 97.68 | 42.1 | 42.1 | 40.7 | $2.47 | $2.47 | $2.40 |
| Durable Goods | 104.68 | 105.80 | 92.17 | 43.8 | 43.9 | 39.9 | 2.39 | 2.41 | 2.31 |
| NonDur. Goods | 102.91 | 102.26 | 103.34 | 40.2 | 40.1 | 41.5 | 2.56 | 2.55 | 2.49 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

*Preliminary--subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Office Manager
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XV, No. 4
AUGUST 1959

HIGHLIGHTS

Just immediately prior to the steel and other strikes, area non-farm employment at mid-July chalked up another gain in the preliminary estimates. Manufacturing dropped slightly while nonmanufacturing gained. Farm activity slowed up a little.

Unemployment indicated a drop from June's seasonal rise back to the May level. Initial unemployment claims were up slightly over June but insured unemployment (continued claims) showed very little change.

Forecast to September, based on July reports, is for a substantial increase in non-farm total. This will depend, however, entirely on the duration of the strike.

Supply has continued to be ample for all demands.

NON-FARM UP
ALMOST 1500

July's preliminary estimate of 485,080 was approximately 1500 (0.4%) above the final June figure, and 25,300 (6.3%) above July 1958. Women workers were up an estimated 725 over June, with a net gain in the 12-month period estimated at 10,360 (8.7%).

Manufacturing dropped 300 under June in preliminary figure, largely due to cutbacks in shipbuilding. Only four of the 17 groups netted changes in total of more than 75, either plus or minus. A net gain of 195 was indicated in non-electric machinery and primary metals was up another 75 just as the strike occurred. Shipbuilding dropped an estimated 335 and instrument manufacture 140. Other changes were minor and of no particular significance.

Changes in non-manufacturing employment were likewise rather small and unsignificant except for a 1500 increase indicated by reports from construction employers, particularly on public works projects. Retail trade about broke even and trucking and warehousing dropped slightly after its June upsurge. Employment in oil production activities continues to improve slowly.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN TO 22,000

The mid-July estimate of 22,000 unemployed is 4.3% of the labor force, as compared to the 32,650 (6.6% of the labor force) one year ago. While July unemployment is estimated at 32.7% below a year ago, insured unemployment for the sample week was 47% below July 1958 and 12.3% below May. Initial claims filed in the July sample week were well below that week a year ago.

OUTLOOK IS
PROBLEMATICAL

Since approximately 4040 workers have been idled since mid-July by the steel and other assorted strikes, validity of forecasts depends entirely on how long work and production stoppages continue. Up to the middle of August employment in general had not been appreciably affected. Should the disputes be settled before available stocks run out, chances are good that employment will continue its normal course. Based on July reports, a net increase of 5150 is forecast to September.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | JULY 1958 | MAY 1959 | JULY 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 498,305 | 513,135 | 513,330 | 518,430 |
| Unemployment - Total | 32,650 | 23,000 | 22,000 | 21,000 |
| Female | 5,750 | 6,000 | 5,750 | 5,500 |
| Employment - Total | 465,655 | 490,035 | 491,230* | 497,430 |
| Agriculture | 6,125 | 6,450 | 6,150 | 7,200 |
| Manufacturing | 92,900 | 95,700 | 95,400 | 95,050 |
| Construction | 38,000 | 43,500 | 45,000 | 46,025 |
| Trades | 115,275 | 122,835 | 122,710 | 124,330 |
| Other | 213,355 | 221,550 | 221,970 | 224,825 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 100 | 100 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. * Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVRG. WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | July* 1959 | June 1959 | July 1958 | July* 1959 | June 1959 | July 1958 | July* 1959 | June 1959 | July 1958 |
| Manufacturing Total | $104.00 | $106.07 | $ 97.51 | 42.8 | 42.6 | 40.8 | $2.43 | $2.49 | $2.39 |
| Durable Goods | 102.60 | 107.49 | 93.38 | 45.0 | 44.6 | 40.6 | 2.28 | 2.41 | 2.30 |
| NonDurable Goods | 105.30 | 105.04 | 101.02 | 40.5 | 40.4 | 40.9 | 2.60 | 2.60 | 2.47 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

*Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION



Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 5
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | SEPTEMBER 1959


HIGHLIGHTS

Gains in several industries during August cut the area's nonfarm employment loss to 1500 in spite of approximately 4000 workers involved in labor-management disputes. Farm employment was up.

August unemployment was estimated at 1000 under July, with both initial and continued claims for unemployment benefits dropping.

To October, return of school workers plus seasonal increases in trade and trucking and warehousing should provide a substantial employment boost. If the steel strike is ended, non-farm total could increase approximately 9,000.

There has been no shortage of supply.

NON-FARM NETS
LOSS OF 1500

With just over 4,000 workers out because of labor disputes, the area's August non-farm total netted an estimated 1500 loss in preliminary figures. The 483,220 non-farm estimate is practically the same as for June and is about 22,900 (5.7%) above one year ago. Women workers gained an estimated 935 (0.7%) over the past 30 days and 11,230 (9.4%) over the past 12 months.

While August's manufacturing estimate of 92,700 was 2700 below July, it was 600 above August '58. Eleven of the 17 industrial groups reported gains in the past 30 days, including three of the four which had workers out on strike. Furniture and fixtures picked up 150, instruments 155, food processing 145, fabricated metals 55, electrical machinery 45 and non-electric machinery 35. The only loss of either size or consequence was in primary metals with over 3200 out because of the steel strike.

No net change in construction employment was indicated; some types of work were hampered by weather while others were not. Trades picked up a total estimated at just over 600, services 220, government 280 and communications 170.

UNEMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATE 21,000

Mid-August's estimate of 21,000 unemployed - 1000 under July - represents 4.1% of the total labor force, in contrast to the 6.2% of August '58. Numerically, the 12-month drop is 10,000 or 32.3%. Insured unemployment, at 6158 for the August sample week, was 3.3% below July and about 43.0% below last August.

OUTLOOK STILL
PROBLEMATICAL

Unless there is a greater lack of steel and consequently more layoffs than employer reports indicate are anticipated, it would appear that October will see an employment increase regardless of whether the strike is settled or not. Schools returned to pre-vacation levels plus in September. Movement of cotton should bring a seasonal increase in trucking and warehousing. Stated demand in reports from retail merchants came to an estimated 2000. Manufacturing's forecast trend is slightly downward unless the strike is settled. With settlement, gain to October could run as high as 9,000. Otherwise it is estimated at approximately 5000 or even less.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | AUGUST 1958 | J U L Y 1959 | AUGUST 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 498,075 | 512,970 | 514,935 | 517,385 |
| Unemployment - Total | 31,000 | 22,000 | 21,000 | 19,000 |
| Female | 6,000 | 5,750 | 5,500 | 5,250 |
| Employment - Total | 467,075 | 490,870 | 489,895* | 498,385 |
| Agriculture | 7,000 | 6,150 | 6,675 | 6,075 |
| Manufacturing | 92,100 | 95,400 | 92,700 | 96,415 |
| Construction | 39,325 | 45,000 | 45,000 | 45,100 |
| Trades | 115,100 | 122,710 | 123,330 | 125,435 |
| Other | 213,550 | 221,610 | 222,190 | 225,360 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 100 | 4,040 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. * Preliminary figure, subject to revision. (Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

| INDUSTRY | AVRG. WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | AUG.* 1959 | JULY 1959 | AUG. 1958 | AUG.* 1959 | JULY 1959 | AUG. 1958 | AUG.* 1959 | JULY 1959 | AUG. 1958 |
| Manufacturing, Total | $105.22 | $104.80 | $99.14 | 43.3 | 42.6 | 40.8 | $2.43 | $2.46 | $2.43 |
| Durable Goods | 104.41 | 106.52 | 99.42 | 45.2 | 44.2 | 41.6 | 2.31 | 2.41 | 2.39 |
| Nondurable Goods | 105.73 | 102.82 | 98.40 | 41.3 | 40.8 | 40.0 | 2.56 | 2.52 | 2.46 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 6
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | OCTOBER 1959

HIGHLIGHTS

Preliminary September estimates showed a substantial gain in nonfarm employment in spite of strikes and bad weather. Manufacturing reports indicated a relatively small drop. However, except in the primary and fabricated metal products groups, no net loss in any industry group in the area can be blamed on the steel strike. Rain cut into construction activity but this loss was more than offset by gains in trades and by return of vacationing school personnel. Gain in number of women workers was greater than that in non-farm total. Seasonal farm employment was up.

Mid-September's estimated unemployment was unchanged from the August figure. Both insured unemployment and initial claims for unemployment benefits continue to drop.

Unless the steel strike continues unduly, employer reports indicate a normal seasonal increase to November, with a decrease possibly to be expected in manufacturing. Supply has been ample for all demands.

NON-FARM TOTAL
GAIN AT 2570

With manufacturing netting a loss estimated at 400 in the preliminary September figures and with construction off an estimated 1850 because of rain, indicated gains of about 1100 in trucking and warehousing, 1560 in trades and 2785 in government helped to bring non-farm net gain to 2570 (0.6%) over mid-August. The current non-farm total of 485,040 is 23,425 (6.2%) higher than in September 1958. Women wage and salary workers were estimated at approximately 134,000, a gain of 2930 (2.2%) over August and 11,830 (9.7%) over one year ago. Few women have been involved in current force cuts but they loom large in the expanding groups. The only significant changes in manufacturing were a further drop of 200 in fabricated metal products and 180 in the primary metals group, and a gain of 210 in oilfield machinery.

UNEMPLOYMENT
STILL 21,000

The mid-September unemployment estimate of 21,000 is unchanged from August and remains 4.1% of the total labor force. One year ago, it was estimated at 32,000 and 6.4% of the labor force. Insured unemployment was 1.8% below August while initial claims for UI benefits dropped 10.1%.

OUTLOOK IS
UNCERTAIN

The actual employment situation to mid-November is anybody's guess, dependent on the steel strike. When it began, the majority of employers indicated from 3 to as high as 6 months' supplies. Imports have helped greatly. Late reports indicate, in many cases, that supplies may be approaching a dangerous low if the situation does not change soon. Nevertheless, current November forecast is for an estimated 6100 increase in non-farm total. Manufacturing forecast is for a small net loss, although eight industry groups have stated demand. Retail trade, trucking & warehousing and construction are all due for good gains.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | SEPTEMBER 1958 | AUGUST 1959 | SEPTEMBER 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 499,440 | 514,185 | 517,180 | 516,490 |
| Unemployment - Total | 32,000 | 21,000 | 21,000 | 20,000 |
| Female | 5,750 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,250 |
| Employment - Total | 463,690 | 489,145 | 492,240* | 496,490 |
| Agriculture | 7,075 | 6,675 | 7,200 | 5,850 |
| Manufacturing | 92,400 | 92,600 | 92,200 | 92,090 |
| Construction | 32,650 | 45,000 | 43,150 | 45,125 |
| Trades | 115,340 | 123,330 | 124,890 | 128,450 |
| Other | 216,225 | 221,540 | 224,800 | 224,975 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 3,750 | 4,040 | 3,940 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Preliminary figure, subject to revision. (Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVRG. WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SEPT.* 1959 | AUG. 1959 | SEPT. 1958 | SEPT.* 1959 | AUG. 1959 | SEPT. 1958 | SEPT.* 1959 | AUG. 1959 | SEPT. 1958 |
| Manufacturing Total | $103.64 | $102.37 | $101.02 | 42.3 | 42.3 | 41.4 | $2.45 | $2.42 | $2.44 |
| Durable Goods | 98.01 | 99.13 | 99.66 | 42.8 | 43.1 | 41.7 | 2.29 | 2.30 | 2.39 |
| NonDurable Goods | 109.25 | 105.73 | 102.34 | 41.7 | 41.3 | 41.1 | 2.62 | 2.56 | 2.49 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 7
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | NOVEMBER 1959

HIGHLIGHTS

A small 30-day drop in area nonfarm total as estimated at mid-October still left a fairly comfortable margin of increase over August. Bad weather still interfered with construction and a tightening steel supply has begun to make itself felt. Manufacturing total was down, yet several of the groups indicated gains and two of the three biggest losses had no relation to the steel strike. Crude oil production and transportation services were off slightly while trades employment has already begun its upward seasonal climb. Farm work has dropped from its seasonal peak.

Estimated unemployment at mid-October was up slightly over September, with very little change in insured unemployment shown in the sample weeks of the two months.

Current indications point to a rather normal holiday employment peak at mid-December and supply is expected, as usual, to be ample. Effects of the steel strike will undoubtedly be felt in some quarters for several months.

NON-FARM DROP
LESS THAN 500

Mid-October's preliminary non-farm total of 484,280 is less than 500 (0.1%) short of the September final of 484,740. Farm workers dropped from an estimated 7200 to 6250 as seasonal activity neared its end. Women wage and salary workers rose an estimated 810 (0.6%). The current non-farm total is 19,185 (4.1%) above last year and women have gained almost 11,300 or 7.6%.

Manufacturing was down 700 below the September final estimate and 1400 below August. While some of the 30-day loss was due to the steel strike, as in the case of the fabricated metals group, most was not. Even this group was partially affected by the weather. Shipbuilding dropped sharply again as it has been doing since spring. Chemicals showed a loss, most of which was at one plant and some of which was seasonal. Petroleum refiners have been gradually cutting back personnel while maintaining production. Seven industry groups indicated gains over September. In excess of 100 were oilfield machinery, printing & publishing and food processing. Strangely enough, primary metals gained slightly in the face of the steel strike.

UNEMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATE 21,500

A rise of 500 in unemployment was estimated to mid-October, with the 21,500 representing 4.2% of the total labor force. Almost no variation occurred in insured unemployment as compared with September; initial claims were up slightly.

NORMAL HOLIDAY
INCREASE SEEN

While not all steel workers have been recalled and short supply of material may cause employment cuts in several industries, employer reports through October and into November indicate that Christmas hiring will go apace as usual. Merchants appear to have made their plans earlier this year than last. Supply is ample.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | OCTOBER 1958 | SEPTEMBER 1959 | OCTOBER 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 500,745 | 516,880 | 515,970 | 523,270 |
| Unemployment - Total | 29,500 | 21,000 | 21,500 | 22,000 |
| Female | 5,750 | 5,500 | 5,250 | 5,250 |
| Employment - Total | 471,245 | 491,940 | 490,530* | 501,270 |
| Agriculture | 6,150 | 7,200 | 6,250 | 5,850 |
| Manufacturing | 92,400 | 91,900 | 91,200 | 93,655 |
| Construction | 39,325 | 43,150 | 42,550 | 42,550 |
| Trades | 115,950 | 124,890 | 126,340 | 134,800 |
| Other | 217,420 | 224,800 | 224,190 | 224,415 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 3,940 | 3,940 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Preliminary figure, subject to revision
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS OCT.* 1959 | AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS SEPT. 1959 | AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS OCT. 1958 | AVG. WEEKLY HOURS OCT.* 1959 | AVG. WEEKLY HOURS SEPT. 1959 | AVG. WEEKLY HOURS OCT. 1958 | AVG. HOURLY EARNINGS OCT.* 1959 | AVG. HOURLY EARNINGS SEPT. 1959 | AVG. HOURLY EARNINGS OCT. 1958 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Manufacturing | $101.50 | $106.07 | $97.12 | 41.6 | 42.6 | 40.3 | $2.44 | $2.49 | $2.41 |
| Durable Goods | 98.60 | 103.17 | 96.26 | 42.5 | 43.9 | 40.8 | 2.32 | 2.35 | 2.36 |
| Non-Durable Goods | 104.60 | 109.03 | 98.06 | 40.7 | 41.3 | 39.7 | 2.57 | 2.64 | 2.47 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 8 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | DECEMBER 1959 |

HIGHLIGHTS

Mid-November area employment, with partial return of steelworkers to their jobs and with holiday hiring begun, showed a net gain of more than 4000 in non-farm total in preliminary estimates. Primary metals and fabricated metal products were at the top in the manufacturing increase. Trades, trucking & warehousing and government employment were chief gainers in non-manufacturing, while construction was slightly off because of the weather. Farm work showed little seasonal demand and its employment level was just above normal.

Estimated unemployment at mid-November was up sharply, influenced by several different factors, and insured unemployment was higher than in October. However, both are well below November 1958 figures.

The usual after-Christmas drop in employment total is expected to January, with what would appear to be a normal December peak due in holiday hiring. Effect of the steel strike is expected to continue being felt. Supply is ample.

MID-NOVEMBER
NONFARM UP 4200

Preliminary mid-November estimate of nonfarm total was approximately 4200 (1.0%) higher than the October final figure. The current 488,440 tops the year-ago estimate by about 20,700 (4.4%). A gain was indicated in women wage and salary workers of 2700 (2.0%) in the past 60 days and 6760 (5.2%) in the past 12 months.

With part of the steelworkers back on the job a week after the back-to-work order, primary metals was up 1520, according to employer reports. The fabricated metals group, which showed a drop of 540 in the final October estimates, picked up approximately 300 to mid-November. Another small increase was indicated in oilfield machinery, in instrument manufacture and printing & publishing. The apparel group was also up slightly. Food processing dropped seasonally. Changes in other manufacturing groups were small.

While merchants planned well in advance this year, and while there is no reason to think the mid-December peak will be any lower than usual, the 30-day increase to mid-November was below last year's. On the other hand, the November estimate is almost 5000 above August. Seasonal factors influenced an increase in transportation & allied services and a drop in the personal services group. Governmental employment was up.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP TO 23,500

Unemployment at mid-November was estimated at 2000 more than in October. The increase had three main causes: a sizeable portion of the steel workers had not been able to return to their jobs because mill operations were not quite ready for them; bad weather cut into construction employment; holiday hiring was not yet in full swing although workers were available.

Employment is expected to drop to January following the usual seasonal pattern.

## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | NOVEMBER 1958 | OCTOBER 1959 | NOVEMBER 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 501,615 | 515,975 | 517,830 | 515,375 |
| Unemployment - Total | 28,000 | 21,500 | 23,500 | 23,000 |
| Female | 5,750 | 5,250 | 5,750 | 6,250 |
| Employment - Total | 473,615 | 490,535 | *494,330 | 492,375 |
| Agriculture | 5,850 | 6,250 | 5,850 | 5,750 |
| Manufacturing | 92,600 | 91,000 | 92,600 | 93,620 |
| Construction | 39,325 | 42,550 | 42,125 | 42,850 |
| Trades | 118,675 | 126,340 | 128,390 | 125,965 |
| Other | 217,165 | 224,395 | 225,365 | 224,190 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 3,940 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Preliminary figure, subject to revision
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

## GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov.* 1959 | Oct. 1959 | Nov. 1958 | Nov.* 1959 | Oct. 1959 | Nov. 1958 | Nov.* 1959 | Oct. 1959 | Nov. 1958 |
| Total Manufacturing | $101.68 | $100.60 | $99.05 | 41.5 | 41.4 | 41.1 | $2.45 | $2.43 | $2.41 |
| Durable Goods | 97.06 | 96.18 | 98.18 | 41.3 | 42.0 | 41.6 | 2.35 | 2.29 | 2.36 |
| Non-Durable Goods | 106.50 | 104.60 | 99.88 | 41.6 | 40.7 | 40.6 | 2.56 | 2.57 | 2.46 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON
# LABOR MARKET

**TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 9 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | JANUARY 1960 |


HIGHLIGHTS

Full-scale holiday hiring plus return of steelworkers shot the area's mid-December non-farm total up more than 11,200 above mid-November in the preliminary estimates. Manufacturing was estimated at 900 above the final November figure, with only minor fluctuations in all groups except primary metals and stone, clay & glass. Again the chief nonmanufacturing gains were made in retail trade, transportation services and government. Construction again indicated a small drop because of weather.

Unemployment dropped sharply in the December estimates as compared with November. Insured unemployment varied little but initial claims for jobless benefits were below November.

To February, nonfarm total is expected to drop back to around the November level, barring unforeseen developments. As usual, supply was quite ample for the heavy holiday demand.

DECEMBER NONFARM
TOTAL 500,000

Preliminary mid-December estimate of area non-farm total was a flat 500,000; women workers accounted for just over 170,000. The total tops the year-ago figure by almost 23,000 or 4.8%, while women gained 14,835 (9.6%).

Since the final November estimate of manufacturing was 800 higher than the preliminary, net gain over the past 60 days for manufacturing alone was estimated at 3300. Since return of the steelworkers starting the first week in November, primary metals employment has risen 3180, fabricated metal products 380 and nonelectric machinery 200. Except for a drop of 105 in stone, clay & glass, none of the other 14 groups indicated any change in excess of 60. Six indicated gains, six losses, two no change.

SALES PEAK
EXCEEDS '58

This year's mid-December peak of retail trade employment, as measured from October to December, exceeded that of 1958 by an estimated 3100, according to employer reports to the TEC. Top employment at the Post Office does not appear in the current figures because it was reached just after the week covered by the reports. Trucking & warehousing took another upward spurt, to net transportation services a gain estimated at 850. Construction reports indicated a drop of just under 1200, with weather to blame.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS TO 21,000

With a return of normal "business as usual", unemployment at mid-December was estimated at 21,000 -- 2,500 below November and 6000 (22.2%) below December 1958. Insured unemployment changed little from November but initial claims were down.

According to employer reports, February employment may be expected to drop back to about the November level. Supply is ample.

## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | DECEMBER 1958 | NOVEMBER 1959 | DECEMBER 1959 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 509,820 | 518,630 | 526,750 | 516,545 |
| Unemployment - Total | 27,000 | 23,500 | 21,000 | 22,000 |
| Female | 5,500 | 5,750 | 5,500 | 5,250 |
| Employment - Total | 482,820 | 495,130 | 505,750* | 494,545 |
| Agriculture | 5,750 | 5,850 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
| Manufacturing | 92,800 | 93,400 | 94,300 | 94,535 |
| Construction | 41,000 | 42,125 | 40,950 | 41,200 |
| Trades | 124,945 | 128,390 | 138,475 | 126,910 |
| Other | 218,325 | 225,365 | 226,275 | 226,150 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

* Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * *

## GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVRG. WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec.* 1959 | Nov. 1959 | Dec. 1958 | Dec.* 1959 | Nov. 1959 | Dec. 1958 | Dec.* 1959 | Nov. 1959 | Dec. 1958 |
| Manufacturing-Total | $104.08 | 102.75 | 100.19 | 41.8 | 41.6 | 41.4 | $2.49 | $2.47 | $2.42 |
| Durable Goods | 101.76 | 99.42 | 99.96 | 42.4 | 41.6 | 42.0 | 2.40 | 2.39 | 2.38 |
| Nondurable Goods | 106.97 | 106.50 | 100.12 | 41.3 | 41.6 | 40.7 | 2.59 | 2.56 | 2.46 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 10
S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | FEBRUARY 1960

HIGHLIGHTS*

January's estimated employment and unemployment in the area followed their usual seasonal pattern - employment total dropped sharply and unemployment rose. Preliminary manufacturing estimate was the same as for December, with mostly minor change in the various industrial groups. Retail trade, construction, trucking & warehousing and government were down.

Both initial and continued claims for unemployment benefits went up as usual from December to January but insured unemployment remained well below a year ago.

Based on January employer reports, current forecast is for a substantial net gain in non-farm total to March. Since much of it is in construction, continued bad weather will probably cut it down. Retail trade indicated an upswing. Supply has been and is expected to remain ample.

NON-FARM TOTAL
DROPS 16,730

Preliminary non-farm total of 488,020 for January is 16,730 (3.3%) below December, approximately 5700 (1.2%) below November, while remaining approximately 16,550, or 3.5%, above January 1959. Farm employment is at its non-seasonal level.

A post-holiday season drop estimated at 12,925 brought trades down, while reports from construction indicated a loss due to bad weather estimated at just over 3000. Trucking & warehousing reported a seasonal drop and Christmas extras were laid off at the post office. Wholesale trade and crude oil production both indicated small gains over December.

During the past 30 days to mid-January, changes within the various manufacturing groups were small. Only one netted as much as 100 change -- food processing reports indicated 170 seasonal increase. Primary metals was down 95, 80 of which was a labor dispute. Of the remaining 15 groups, six reported gains of from 10 to 85, seven losses from 15 to 55 and two, no change.

UNEMPLOYMENT
FOLLOWS TREND

Mid-January estimate of 24,500 unemployed, up from 21,000 in December, followed the usual trend, with construction contributing. Insured unemployment for the sample week in January, at 7615, was 12.6% above November but was 23.5% below the same week a year ago.

INCREASE FORECAST

Based on January employer reports, nonfarm increase to March is forecast at just under 4200, mostly in trades and construction. Bad weather can easily change this. The reports indicated little net change in manufacturing total to March.

* Employment estimates in this issue have been revised on the basis of a new benchmark established for 1959. Hours and Earnings have been revised on the same basis.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | January* 1959 | December* 1959 | January 1960 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 506,700 | 531,500 | 518,350 | 518,550 |
| Unemployment - Total | 29,500 | 21,000 | 24,500 | 20,500 |
| Female | 6,250 | 5,500 | 6,000 | 5,750 |
| Employment - Total | 477,200 | 510,500 | 493,770** | 498,050 |
| Agriculture | 5,750 | 5,750 | 5,750 | 5,850 |
| Manufacturing | 94,675 | 96,375 | 96,375 | 96,405 |
| Construction | 40,590 | 41,140 | 38,115 | 40,840 |
| Trades | 117,195 | 139,070 | 126,265 | 127,690 |
| Other | 218,990 | 228,165 | 227,265 | 227,265 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 0 | 80 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics *Revised.

** Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan.* 1960 | Dec. 1959 | Jan. 1959 | Jan.* 1960 | Dec. 1959 | Jan. 1959 | Jan.* 1960 | Dec. 1959 | Jan. 1959 |
| Manufacturing Total | $105.17 | $104.08 | $99.29 | 41.9 | 41.8 | 41.2 | $2.51 | $2.49 | $2.41 |
| Durable Goods | 102.37 | 101.52 | 98.36 | 42.3 | 42.3 | 41.5 | 2.42 | 2.40 | 2.37 |
| Non-Dur. Goods | 107.79 | 107.38 | 100.86 | 41.3 | 41.3 | 41.0 | 2.61 | 2.60 | 2.46 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

#  H O U S T O N
# LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XV, No. 11 |
| S. W. Braden, Office Manager | Phone CA 5-1711 | M A R C H 1960 |

HIGHLIGHTS

At mid-February, preliminary estimates of nonfarm total in the area were above January by approximately the margin of increase indicated in construction reports. Manufacturing and retail trade were down. Remaining non-manufacturing groups indicated small net gains. Women workers were down slightly in total. A few seasonal agricultural workers were added.

Estimated number of unemployed remained unchanged from the January figure. While initial claims dropped, continued claims increased and so did the number of active jobseekers.

Employer reports, for the most part, continue to be optimistic as to forecasts. Based on February reports plus plans for the up-coming federal census, a substantial gain in nonfarm total is forecast to mid-April. Seasonal farm activity is also expected to pick up. Supply is plentiful.

30-DAY GAIN IN
TOTAL IS 2490

The mid-February preliminary estimate of 489,660 nonfarm total is 2440 (0.6%) above January and approximately 19,000 (4.0%) above February 1959. While the February figure of 134,820 women wage and salary workers is a drop of more than 300 under January, it is almost 9900 (7.0%) above a year ago. Seasonal increase in farm workers was estimated at 50, on local truck farms.

In spite of the weather, reports from all types of construction employers indicated a gain estimated at 2675 over January. A between-season drop of just under 900 was indicated in retail trade, while wholesalers added an estimated 460, with a number of new outlets opened. Changes in all other non-manufacturing groups were small but on the plus side.

MANUFACTURING DOWN

Preliminary February estimate of manufacturing was 600 under January. The larger loss was in durable goods - 145 in stone, clay & glass, 160 in primary metals, 210 in machinery. Shipbuilding and furniture & fixtures were up with 90 each. The instruments group has dropped 220 since December. In non-durable goods, losses were reported in all but two groups. Petroleum refining gained 20 and textiles remained unchanged. Greatest drop was 90 in seasonal food processing; apparel and miscellaneous rubber and plastics were down 40 each and chemicals 30.

UNEMPLOYED 24,500

Mid-February's estimated 24,500 unemployed is 16.7% above December but 16.9% below a year ago. Insured unemployment for the February sample week was 8240 compared to January's 7615 but initial jobless benefit claims dropped from 1468 to 1254.

APRIL INCREASE DUE

February reports indicated anticipated net gain to April of approximately 5000, with 310 in manufacturing, 1950 in construction, 1925 in trades and about 1200 census-takers. Trucking & warehousing is expected to drop seasonally.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | February* 1959 | January* 1960 | February 1960 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 505,875 | 517,550 | 520,040 | 522,320 |
| Unemployment - Total | 29,500 | 24,500 | 24,500 | 21,500 |
| Female | 6,250 | 6,000 | 6,250 | 5,750 |
| Employment - Total | 476,375 | 492,970 | 495,460** | 500,820 |
| Agriculture | 5,750 | 5,750 | 5,800 | 6,150 |
| Manufacturing | 93,975 | 95,075 | 94,475 | 94,785 |
| Construction | 40,270 | 38,115 | 41,090 | 42,740 |
| Trades | 117,295 | 126,765 | 125,355 | 128,280 |
| Other | 219,085 | 227,265 | 227,740 | 228,865 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 80 | 80 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics *Revised.

** Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

NOTE: If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistic.

| INDUSTRY | Average Weekly Earnings | | | Avrg. Weekly Hours | | | Avrg. Hourly Earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb.* 1960 | Jan. 1960 | Feb. 1959 | Feb.* 1960 | Jan. 1960 | Feb. 1959 | Feb.* 1960 | Jan 1960 | Feb. 1959 |
| Manufacturing Total | $103.38 | $103.57 | $102.90 | 40.7 | 41.1 | 42.0 | $2.54 | $2.52 | $2.45 |
| Durable Goods | 99.88 | 100.04 | 101.63 | 40.6 | 41.0 | 42.7 | 2.46 | 2.44 | 2.38 |
| Non-Dur. Goods | 106.90 | 107.12 | 104.08 | 40.8 | 41.2 | 41.3 | 2.62 | 2.60 | 2.52 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Homer H. Jackson, District Director — 3104 Main Street — Vol. XV, No. 12
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director — Phone CA 5-1711 — A P R I L 1960

HIGHLIGHTS

Preliminary mid-March non-farm employment estimate for the area showed a comfortable gain over the February final. Both manufacturing and non-manufacturing were up, although manufacturing is still below the January estimate and also below a year ago. Construction, trades and government led the non-manufacturing gain and women workers increased. No change was indicated in farm employment total.

Unemployment was estimated at 24,000 as of mid-March. Insured unemployment varied little from February and initial claims were down slightly. Job applications with the TEC totaled about the same as for February.

March employer reports indicated demand to May totaling an estimated net increase of approximately 4000 in non-agriculture. Farm work is expected to take a seasonal upswing. Supply is quite ample.

NON-FARM GAIN
ABOUT 3200

March preliminary estimates of wage and salary total for the area were up approximately 3200 (0.7%) above the February final and about 15,000 (3.6%) above March 1959. Women workers gained an estimated 1240 (0.9%) over the past 30 days, up 8300 (6.5%) above a year ago.

Nine manufacturing groups reported gains over February, five losses and three, no change. But in spite of a net gain of 400 over February, manufacturing total remained 400 below January and 200 below March of last year. For the second successive month, both fabricated metal products and shipbuilding have reported substantial increases. Stone, clay & glass, down sharply in February, recouped approximately two-thirds of its loss by mid-March. Chemicals also reported a gain. Machinery is currently 335 below January although still 670 above a year ago.

Construction picked up a little more than 900 to bring its estimated 60-day gain to approximately 3600 in spite of the weather. Retail trade reports indicated an increase estimated at 1200, while wholesale picked up 275. Public schools brought up government total.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS 500

Mid-March estimate of 24,000 unemployed is 500 below February and is 4.6% of the labor force. Insured unemployment as of the sample week in March differed little from 30 days ago and initial claims were down slightly.

MAY GAIN FORECAST

A net increase of around 4000 is forecast to May. Although 13 of the 17 manufacturing groups have stated demand, this gain may be more than offset by layoffs known to have occurred since mid-March. Estimate of retail trade and construction demands total 3400. Supply is ample for demand, both numerically and occupationally.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | March 1959 | February 1960 | March 1960 | Anticipated 2 Months Hence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 510,725 | 519,840 | 522,485 | 526,615 |
| Unemployment - Total | 27,500 | 24,500 | 24,000 | 23,500 |
| Female | 6,000 | 6,250 | 6,250 | 6,000 |
| Employment - Total | 483,225* | 495,260 | 498,485** | 503,115 |
| Agriculture | 5,850 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,350 |
| Manufacturing | 94,875 | 94,275 | 94,675 | 94,675 |
| Construction | 42,340 | 41,090 | 41,705 | 43,860 |
| Trades | 120,570 | 125,355 | 127,840 | 129,095 |
| Other | 219,590 | 227,704 | 228,465 | 229,135 |
| Persons involved in labor-management disputes | 0 | 80 | 0 | xxx |

1/ Estimate of manufacturing employment made by TEC in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics *Revised

** Preliminary figure, subject to revision.
(Self employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households are included.)

**NOTE:** If a more detailed industrial break is desired, it will be furnished on request.

* * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Source: Texas Employment Commission in co-operation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | March* 1960 | Feb. 1960 | March 1959 | March* 1960 | Feb. 1960 | March 1959 | March* 1960 | Feb. 1960 | March 1959 |
| Manufacturing Total | $102.31 | $101.91 | $103.81 | 40.6 | 40.6 | 42.2 | $2.52 | $2.51 | $2.46 |
| Durable Goods | 99.23 | 97.77 | 103.53 | 40.5 | 40.4 | 43.5 | 2.45 | 2.42 | 2.38 |
| Non-Dur. Goods | 105.97 | 107.16 | 104.30 | 40.6 | 40.9 | 40.9 | 2.61 | 2.62 | 2.55 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT

TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XVI, No. 1
MAY 1960

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

For the third consecutive month, current estimate of area non-farm employment was up substantially over the preceding month. Almost half of April's gain over March was in construction and manufacturing indicated its second successive gain. In non-manufacturing, April employer reports indicate net employment increases in every group but three - wholesale trade, utilities and local government. Non-farm total is well above April '59 although manufacturing is below the year-ago estimate. A small seasonal farm gain was indicated.

Estimated unemployment at mid-April is below March, with insured unemployment in the April sample week down 15.0% from the same week the previous month. Number of initial claims filed changed little from March to April. Supply has been ample.

Employer forecasts continue to be optimistic. A seasonal drop in warehousing and school vacation time are, however, expected to bring the June non-farm total down while farm work should increase.

NONFARM TOTAL
UP 4880

Preliminary nonfarm wage-and-salary total at mid-April was estimated at a gain of 4880 (1.1%) over March. Women workers increased in the same ratio. Compared with April 1959, the current total is up 4.4% and women workers an estimated 6.3%. Rate of gain in number of women is higher than total because increase in trades employment made up 42% of the 12-month gain.

Manufacturing in general has continued to indicate improved conditions. It should be noted, however, in connection with the 400 gain in preliminary April estimates over the March final, that this does not reflect a major layoff known to have occurred in primary metals. Fabricated metals indicated an increase of almost 300, reflecting in part the improved conditions in construction. Gains totaling about 150 were reported in the primary metals group. Directory compiling and producing boosted printing and publishing. Shipbuilding dropped because of completion of contracts and seasonal reductions in rice milling brought food processing down.

Improved weather at long last gave construction a boost estimated at about 2350. Mother's Day and early spring buying gave retail trade an assist although wholesale trade reports indicated a slight drop. Only a little more than half the full U.S. census staff is reflected in a 765 gain in federal employment. Release of almost 200 temporary school census-takers brought local government total down.

UNEMPLOYED DOWN 1700

Unemployment, estimated at 22,300 at mid-April, is 9.0% below February, 7.1% under both March and one year ago. Insured unemployment for the mid-April sample week dropped to 7,124 from the March figure of 8,387. Pickup in construction undoubtedly was a major contributor to the decrease.

Supply has been ample and should be for currently-stated forecast demand. Re-calls are largely available for the total demand of about 750 in manufacturing to June. No problems exist in adding an anticipated 2000 to construction or 550 in trades. No imbalances between demand and supply exist in the area other than chronic shortages in some types of clerical workers and scarcity of workers in highly specialized skills. This situation is nationwide.

* * * *

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | Current* APRIL '60 | Prior Periods** MARCH '60 | APRIL '59 | Anticipated JUNE '60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 525,660 | 522,290 | 511,180 | 526,500 |
| Unemployment - Total | 22,300 | 24,000 | 24,000 | 23,800 |
| Female | 6,000 | 6,250 | 6,000 | 6,750 |
| Idled by Disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | xxx |
| Employment - Total 2/ | 503,360 | 498,290 | 487,180 | 502,700 |
| Agricultural | 6,000 | 5,800 | 6,000 | 6,400 |
| Nonagricultural | 497,360 | 492,490 | 481,180 | 496,300 |
| Manufacturing | 94,880 | 94,480 | 95,480 | 95,140 |
| Construction | 44,060 | 41,700 | 43,000 | 46,090 |
| Trades | 128,650 | 127,840 | 121,480 | 129,200 |
| Government | 40,320 | 39,770 | 37,440 | 37,290 |
| Other Nonmfg. | 189,450 | 188,700 | 183,780 | 188,570 |
| Nonagri. Wage & Salary | 435,840 | 430,690 | 419,130 | 434,770 |

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U.S. Department of Labor.

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Apr.* 1960 | Mar.** 1960 | Apr.** 1959 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Apr.* 1960 | Mar.** 1960 | Apr.** 1959 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Apr.* 1960 | Mar.** 1960 | Apr.** 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing - Total | $103.57 | $103.07 | $102.58 | 41.1 | 40.9 | 41.7 | $2.52 | $2.52 | $2.46 |
| Durable Goods | 100.21 | 99.96 | 101.76 | 40.9 | 40.8 | 42.4 | 2.45 | 2.45 | 2.40 |
| Nondur. Goods | 108.05 | 106.86 | 103.48 | 41.4 | 41.1 | 40.9 | 2.61 | 2.60 | 2.53 |

1/ Production workers only. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift.

* Preliminary - Subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

# HOUSTON

## LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XVI, No. 2
J U N E 1960

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Gathering speed in construction was again the main factor in boosting area non-farm employment total to mid-May. Seasonal farm activity is on its upward swing. Although the preliminary May estimate for manufacturing shows a gain over the April final, it reflects only a small portion of a major layoff which occurred in primary metals. Trades employment total about broke even with April while trucking and warehousing took a seasonal drop.

Mid-May's estimate of 21,500 unemployed is a drop of 10.4% in the past 60 days. The current figure represents 4.1% of the total labor force. Insured unemployment in the May sample week again dropped under the previous month.

While employer forecasts continue to be optimistic for the most part, nonfarm total employment is expected to drop to July. Closing of schools for vacation and the Census Bureau for another decade plus further seasonal cutbacks in trucking and warehousing is expected to more than offset anticipated increases in construction, service industries and trades.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
UP ALMOST 4400

Preliminary May estimate of total nonfarm employment showed a gain of 4140 over April with farm workers up 250, an 0.9% increase over all. Compared with a year ago, the current estimate of wage-and-salary workers shows a 4.3% increase, with women workers up 6.2%.

Eight of the 17 manufacturing groups indicated gains over the past 30 days, seven reported losses and two no change. If the full effect of the aforementioned layoff had been reflected in the figures, a small net gain would still have been shown. Fabricated metal products jumped an estimated 235, a total of 510 since March. Printing and publishing was up an estimated 150 and shipbuilding 125, while oilfield machinery showed another small gain. Food processing dropped due to a seasonal downturn in rice milling. There was no particular significance in other variations.

Based on May employer reports, increase in construction employment was estimated at 4400 over April -- a total gain of 10,350 over January's low point. Retail trade reports indicated a slight gain, wholesale a slight drop. Release of a large number of census enumerators and closing of San Jacinto Ordnance Depot brought government total back down.

UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS AGAIN

The 21,500 estimate of unemployed at mid-May is 3.6% below the April figure. While it is only 500 below May 1959, the total labor force of the area has increased more than 17,500. Insured unemployment for the sample week in May - 6912 - was 3.0% under April and 17.6% below March. U.I. initial claims were 14.1% below March.

With the usual exception of certain chronic nationwide skill shortages, area supply continues to be well-balanced and ample for demand, present and future. Graduates and other students are being added.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | Current* MAY '60 | Prior Periods** April '60 | May '59 | Anticipated July '60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 530,260 | 526,670 | 512,710 | 529,800 |
| Unemployment - Total | 21,500 | 22,300 | 22,000 | 22,500 |
| Female | 6,000 | 6,000 | 5,500 | 6,500 |
| Idled by Disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | XXX |
| Employment - Total 2/ | 508,760 | 504,370 | 490,710 | 507,300 |
| Agricultural | 6,250 | 6,000 | 6,250 | 6,550 |
| Nonagricultural | 502,510 | 498,370 | 484,460 | 500,750 |
| Manufacturing | 95,380 | 94,980 | 95,980 | 95,180 |
| Construction | 48,460 | 44,060 | 43,190 | 49,190 |
| Trades | 129,500 | 129,550 | 122,590 | 129,640 |
| Government | 39,700 | 40,320 | 37,800 | 37,070 |
| Other Nonmfg. | 189,470 | 189,460 | 184,900 | 189,670 |
| Nonagri. Wage & Salary | 440,490 | 436,840 | 422,410 | 438,730 |

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U.S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS May* 1960 | Apr.** 1960 | May** 1959 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS May* 1960 | Apr.** 1960 | May** 1959 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS May* 1960 | Apr.** 1960 | May** 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $105.47 | $103.63 | $103.15 | 41.2 | 40.8 | 42.1 | $2.56 | $2.54 | $2.45 |
| Durable Goods | 102.34 | 100.78 | 104.28 | 41.1 | 40.8 | 44.0 | 2.49 | 2.47 | 2.37 |
| Non-Dur. Goods | 109.03 | 106.49 | 102.00 | 41.3 | 40.8 | 40.0 | 2.64 | 2.61 | 2.55 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711
Vol. XVI, No. 3
J U L Y 1960

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Preliminary non-farm total for June indicated a small net increase over May's final instead of the drop that had been anticipated earlier. A gain in construction helped to offset seasonal losses in transportation services and schools. Estimated unemployment rose as a result of schools closing; there was little change in insured unemployment. Farm work was handicapped by bad weather in the past month.

Little net change in nonfarm total is currently forecast to August. Construction reports indicate some leveling off, while retail trade expects to gain. Trucking & warehousing predicts a seasonal drop. Although individual groups indicated expected changes to August, manufacturing total itself is changed little in the forecast.

NON-FARM CHANGE
LESS THAN 400

Instead of the expected drop in non-farm total from May to June, preliminary estimates showed a net gain of 360. Customary seasonal losses in trucking & warehousing and in public school service workers were offset by another marked increase in construction employment plus smaller gains in business and personal services, hospitals, engineering, insurance, financial services and oil producing.

The current preliminary June total is almost 1.0% above April and 3.8% above one year ago. Women workers decreased an estimated 2200 (1.6%) under May, mostly in school service workers, although the total is about 6000 (4.6%) above June '59. Over the past 30 days, according to reports, trades netted a small loss, with wholesale up slightly and retail down -- a reversal of their respective trends of past months.

Manufacturing showed a net gain of 100 over the May final figure. Fabricated metals, revised downward in the May final, is currently estimated at 545 above last month and approximately 800 over March, paralleling construction. Primary metals showed a 250 drop under May and printing & publishing dropped sharply after completion of the city directory. Oilfield machinery was up an estimated 205 and seasonal food processing 120. No other variations were particularly significant.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP SEASONALLY

Estimated unemployment at 23,400 is 1900 above May, usual seasonal pattern following the close of school. The current figure represents 4.4% of the area's total labor force. Insured unemployment for the sample week at mid-June was 6941 as compared to 6912 in May. In this same period in June, 1069 initial claims for benefits were filed; in May, the number was 1028.

SUPPLY IS AMPLE

There have been no supply problems in the area during the past 30 days beyond those which most areas have with them always. The 1960 crop of high school and college graduates who want jobs has joined the labor force. It has also been noticed that college recruitment has been stepped up.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | Current* June '60 | Prior Periods** May '60 | June '59 | Anticipated Aug. '60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 531,930 | 529,660 | 516,030 | 529,870 |
| Unemployment - Total | 23,400 | 21,500 | 23,000 | 21,500 |
| Female | 6,500 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Idled by Disputes | 0 | 0 | 100 | XXX |
| Employment - Total 2/ | 508,530 | 508,460 | 492,930 | 508,370 |
| Agricultural | 5,950 | 6,250 | 6,450 | 6,150 |
| Nonagricultural | 502,580 | 502,210 | 486,480 | 502,220 |
| Manufacturing | 95,180 | 95,080 | 96,580 | 95,200 |
| Construction | 51,590 | 48,460 | 43,690 | 50,740 |
| Trades | 129,360 | 129,500 | 123,430 | 130,290 |
| Government | 37,070 | 39,700 | 35,560 | 37,200 |
| Other Nonmfg. | 189,380 | 189,470 | 187,220 | 188,790 |
| Nonagri. Wage & Salary | 440,550 | 440 190 | 424,430 | 440,190 |

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

| INUDSTRY | Average Weekly Earnings June * 1960 | May ** 1960 | June ** 1959 | Average Weekly Hours June * 1960 | May ** 1960 | June** 1959 | Average Hourly Earnings June * 1960 | May ** 1960 | June ** 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $105.59 | $107.27 | $105.83 | 41.9 | 42.4 | 42.5 | $2.52 | $2.53 | $2.49 |
| Durable Goods | 104.30 | 105.90 | 107.00 | 43.1 | 43.4 | 44.4 | 2.42 | 2.44 | 2.41 |
| Non-Dur. Goods | 107.59 | 109.03 | 104.78 | 40.6 | 41.3 | 40.3 | 2.65 | 2.64 | 2.60 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

# HOUSTON

# LABOR MARKET

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XVI, No. 4
AUGUST 1960

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office


HIGHLIGHTS

July preliminary estimate of area nonfarm employment total showed a small net gain over the June final figure. Manufacturing employment total went up and nonmanufacturing down. Eleven of the 17 manufacturing groups indicated some degree of gain in employment over June. Wet weather caused a drop in construction employment and retail trade was also down slightly. Little change was indicated in transportation services.

The estimate of unemployment at mid-July was 500 higher than that for June, paralleling a slight increase in insured unemployment. However, insured unemployment for the sample week in July was approximately 20% below that of the same period in July 1959.

Current forecast to September is for a net gain in nonfarm employment of just over 1900, with a drop in manufacturing and an increase in retail trade, plus reopening of schools. Further increase is also due in seasonal farm workers. Supply remains adequate.

NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT
SHOWS SMALL GAIN

For the second successive month, estimated nonfarm employment showed a small gain instead of the drop that had been forecast earlier. The preliminary July total of 503,175 workers was 400 (0.1%) above the June final, more than 900 (0.2%) above May and 3.6% above July 1959. Women workers gained 200 (0.1%) in the past 30 days. July rains interfered somewhat with both construction and farm activity.

All of the mid-July total manufacturing employment gain was netted in nondurable goods, although the situation in primary metals has improved and employment in the fabricated metal products group continues to go up. Indications point to a downward trend in the number of workers engaged in oilfield tools and equipment manufacture. This group dropped an estimated 225 from June to July with further cuts scheduled. Most of the changes in nondurable goods groups were significant only from a seasonal standpoint, as in food processing and vacation and turnaround workers at refineries. However, in chemicals, an increase of 260 workers since May includes a fair measure of expansion in addition to the usual summer extras.

Both wholesale and retail trade reports indicated a slight employment drop in the past month. Trucking and warehousing made a very small gain instead of the net loss expected to July. Construction's employment loss due to bad weather was estimated at just under 1000.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS
500 ABOVE JUNE

The 23,900 estimate of unemployment as of mid-July is 500 above June and represents 4.5% of the total labor force. Insured unemployment at 7262 for the July sample week was a little higher than June's 6941 but far below the 8758 in the same period of 1959. Initial claims were up slightly. Supply is ample for all known demands.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | Current* July '60 | Prior Periods** June '60 | July '59 | Anticipated Sept. '60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 533,050 | 532,130 | 516,070 | 534,300 |
| Unemployment - Total | 23,900 | 23,400 | 22,000 | 23,000 |
| Female | 6,750 | 6,500 | 5,750 | 6,250 |
| Idled by Disputes | 0 | 0 | 100 | XXX |
| Employment - Total 2/ | 509,150 | 508,730 | 493,970 | 511,300 |
| Agricultural | 5,975 | 5,950 | 6,150 | 6,200 |
| Nonagricultural | 503,175 | 502,780 | 487,820 | 505,100 |
| Manufacturing | 95,875 | 95,380 | 96,180 | 95,450 |
| Construction | 50,610 | 51,590 | 45,190 | 50,410 |
| Trades | 128,930 | 129,360 | 123,305 | 129,820 |
| Government | 37,220 | 37,070 | 35,620 | 39,500 |
| Other Nonmfg. | 190,540 | 189,380 | 187,525 | 189,920 |
| Nonagri. Wage & Salary | 441,150 | 440,750 | 425,770 | 446,910 |

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

| INDUSTRY | Average Weekly Earnings July* 1960 | June** 1960 | July** 1959 | Avrg. Weekly Hours July* 1960 | June** 1960 | July** 1959 | Avrg. Hourly Earnings July* 1960 | June** 1960 | July** 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $104.14 | $103.98 | $105.83 | 41.0 | 41.1 | 42.5 | $2.54 | $2.53 | $2.49 |
| Durable Goods | 100.12 | 101.26 | 106.04 | 41.2 | 41.5 | 44.0 | 2.43 | 2.44 | 2.41 |
| Non-Dur.Goods | 108.94 | 107.59 | 106.08 | 40.8 | 40.6 | 40.8 | 2.67 | 2.65 | 2.60 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

# HOUSTON

## LABOR MARKET

### EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson District Director
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XVI, No. 5
SEPTEMBER 1960

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Rained-out construction jobs and a seasonal low in trucking & warehousing were the chief factors behind a drop in the area's estimated nonfarm employment as of mid-August. Farm activity was also hampered by wet weather. August preliminary estimate for manufacturing was 200 above the July final, 800 above June. Retail trade was up while wholesale reports indicated a loss. Estimated unemployment at mid-August was 900 below July in spite of the employment drop, partly because of students withdrawing from the open labor market. Returning school workers account for more than half of the sizeable net increase in nonfarm employment currently forecast to October, Trades and transportation are scheduled for seasonal gains. Supply has been ample.

WOMEN WORKERS INCREASE
WHILE TOTAL DROPS

While estimated total of nonfarm workers in the area dropped 930 (0.2%) from July to mid-August, women workers increased by 1390 (1.0%). In addition to the fact that most layoffs involved men, retail trade reports indicated a greater increase in number of women employed than in total. The current estimate of all nonfarm wage and salary workers is approximately 16100 (3.8%) above August 1959, when the steel strike began. Women workers show an estimated gain of 5870 (4.5%) over last year.

A gain of 200 in manufacturing over July was shown in August preliminary figures. In the final July estimates, nonelectric machinery recouped 115 of its 225 loss as indicated in the preliminary estimates. However, the industry again showed a loss to August of 280. Primary metals employment rose 160 over July. The fabricated metals group again showed a substantial gain -- 170 over July, 305 over June and 710 over a year ago. Changes in other industries had little significance.

CONSTRUCTION IS
HAVING TROUBLES

Construction, hampered by two months of intermittant rain, is currently estimated at 975 below July and 1950 under 60 days ago. Although the pipefitters' picketing ceased on Sept. 19, the strike is not yet settled. Its settlement, plus good weather, could bring an employment gain rather than the loss forecast. Retail trade has apparently started its seasonal upturn, with new stores and seasonal hiring promising substantial gains to October.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DROPS SLIGHTLY

Unemployment at mid-August was estimated at 23,000 - 900 lower than for July. Insured unemployment at 7319 for the August sample week varied little from the 7262 of July. Many vacation jobhunters leave the labor force in July and warehouse and construction workers join in the cotton harvest in this and other counties.

Supply has been sufficient in quantity as well as satisfactory in quality for practically all current demands. The type of demand that will be heavily felt from now until December has never taxed the area's resources of man- or woman-power.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | CURRENT* Aug. '60 | PRIOR PERIODS** July '60 | Aug. '59 | ANTICIPATED Oct. '60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 531,330 | 533,150 | 517,990 | 535,260 |
| Unemployment - Total | 23,000 | 23,900 | 21,000 | 22,000 |
| Female | 6,500 | 6,750 | 5,500 | 6,500 |
| Idled by Disputes | 0 | 0 | 4,040 | XXX |
| Employment - Total 2/ | 508,330 | 509,250 | 492,950 | 513,260 |
| Agricultural | 5,980 | 5,970 | 6,680 | 6,100 |
| Nonagricultural | 502,350 | 503,280 | 486,270 | 507,160 |
| Manufacturing | 96,180 | 95,980 | 93,480 | 95,830 |
| Construction | 49,640 | 50,610 | 45,190 | 48,890 |
| Trades | 129,260 | 128,930 | 123,930 | 131,510 |
| Government | 37,550 | 37,220 | 35,890 | 37,550 |
| Other Nonmfg. | 189,720 | 190,540 | 187,780 | 193,380 |
| Nonagri. Wage & Salary | 440,330 | 441,250 | 424,220 | 445,140 |

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Aug. * 1960 | July** 1960 | Aug. ** 1959 | AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS Aug. * 1960 | July** 1960 | Aug.** 1959 | AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS Aug. * 1960 | July** 1960 | Aug. ** 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $104.39 | $104.70 | $102.37 | 41.1 | 40.9 | 42.3 | $2.54 | $2.56 | $2.42 |
| Durable Goods | 101.75 | 99.80 | 99.59 | 41.7 | 40.9 | 43.3 | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.30 |
| Non-Dur.Goods | 108.14 | 109.75 | 105.73 | 40.5 | 40.8 | 41.3 | 2.67 | 2.69 | 2.56 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

# HOUSTON

## LABOR MARKET

### EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson District Director
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XVI, No. 6
October 1960

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Return of school workers and seasonal increases in retail trade and trucking and warehousing barely served to offset losses in manufacturing and construction to net a nonfarm total employment gain estimated at slightly less than 300 in the area for September. Increase in seasonal farm workers was estimated at 925.

Unemployment was estimated at 1000 higher than at mid-August and currently represents 4.5% of the total labor force. Insured unemployment for the September sample week was identical with July and very slightly lower than in August. Initial claims dropped.

Forecast for November anticipates construction re-couping much of its losses and retail trade being well started on holiday hiring. Manufacturing is expected to have further cutbacks. Supply has been adequate and is expected to remain so.

NONFARM WORKERS
3.3% ABOVE 1959

Mid-September's estimate of 440,765 nonfarm wage and salary workers is less than 300 above the August figure. It shows a substantial gain, however, over September 1959 of 14,175 (3.3%). Although construction is down currently almost 3300 from the July estimate, gain in that industry alone over a year ago is greater than the number of persons involved at that time in the steel strike. The upward trend in employment of women continues with a gain in their number of an estimated 1815 or 3.5% over August and 4265 (3.5%) over one year ago. Farm employment rose sharply but did not reach last year's estimate.

FACTORY WORKERS
DOWN 1300

While manufacturing workers dropped under August by an estimated 1300, it was not quite as bad as it looks. Seasonality in production and in release of vacation extras brought employment decreases in food processing, paper and allied products, chemicals and petroleum refining. A sharp drop in nonelectric machinery was almost all at one plant. A small loss reported in fabricated metals was of no particular significance. Other changes were minor. Construction's estimated loss due to the pipefitters' strike was 2300. Trades employment reports indicated gain over August of just over 900, as did those from trucking and warehousing. Re-opening of schools added most of an estimated 2400 to government total.

CLAIMS VARY LITTLE

Though indications pointed to about 1000 more unemployed persons than in August, insured unemployment has remained almost constant for the past three months. The September figure of 7262 was identical with July and initial claims for the September sample week were 237 fewer than in August.

To November, construction is expected to recoup the greater part of recent losses. Retail trade should increase from holiday hiring and new stores opening. Manufacturing reports currently indicate a drop.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | CURRENT* Sept.'60 | PRIOR PERIODS** Aug. '60 | Sept. '59 | ANTICIPATED Nov. '60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 534,490 | 531,480 | 520,780 | 535,825 |
| Unemployment - Total | 24,000 | 23,000 | 21,000 | 22,000 |
| Female | 6,750 | 6,500 | 5,500 | 6,000 |
| Idled by Disputes | 800 | 0 | 3,940 | xxx |
| Employment - Total 2/ | 509,690 | 508,480 | 495,840 | 513,825 |
| Agricultural | 6,900 | 5,975 | 7,200 | 5,875 |
| Nonagricultural | 502,790 | 502,505 | 488,640 | 507,950 |
| Manufacturing | 94,875 | 96,180 | 92,875 | 94,040 |
| Construction | 47,340 | 49,640 | 43,340 | 49,690 |
| Trades | 130,350 | 129,415 | 125,485 | 133,555 |
| Government | 39,950 | 37,550 | 38,680 | 40,125 |
| Other Nonmfg. | 190,275 | 189,720 | 188,260 | 190,540 |
| Nonagri. Wage & Salary | 440,765 | 440,480 | 426,590 | 446,425 |

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

* * * * * * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Sept.* 1960 | Aug.** 1960 | Sept.** 1959 | AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS Sept.* 1960 | Aug.** 1960 | Sept.** 1959 | AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS Sept.* 1960 | Aug.** 1960 | Sept.** 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $104.55 | $103.98 | $104.16 | 41.0 | 41.1 | 42.0 | $2.55 | $2.53 | $2.48 |
| Durable Goods | 100.04 | 101.99 | 100.82 | 41.0 | 41.8 | 42.9 | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.35 |
| Non-Dur.Goods | 109.47 | 106.39 | 108.36 | 41.0 | 40.3 | 41.2 | 2.67 | 2.64 | 2.63 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT

TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S.W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director
3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XVI, No. 7
November 1960

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Contrary to normal expectations of a rise by mid-October in total nonfarm employed workers and an accompanying decline in total unemployment, there was no change in either this year.

Adverse general conditions in the oil and steel industries continued to be felt locally. Though cuts in oil tools & machinery and steel & steel products were not as deep as last month, the circle of businesses affected widened.

By mid-October there had been no actual fall weather, and the usual fall upsurge in retail trade had not materialized.

EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT
AT STANDSTILL

The mid-October preliminary estimate gave the Houston area only five more employed wage & salary workers than the final figure for mid-September. A net loss in manufacturing was offset by a gain in nonmanufacturing.

Total unemployment, meanwhile, remained at an estimated 24,000, or 4.5 percent of the labor force. Insured unemployment for the sample week in October stayed at practically the same level it has maintained since mid-July.

FURTHER RETRENCHMENT
IN MANUFACTURING

Factory employment dropped 700 in the 30 days ending October 15, bringing the loss since mid-August to 2000. Durable goods declined 500 in the past month, with oil tools & machinery and steel & steel products hardest hit. Nondurables dropped 200, prominently in chemicals, petroleum, and apparel. Of the 17 major manufacturing groups, 14 had fewer workers than at mid-September.

TRADE BOOST
STILL IN FUTURE

Fall buying is slow to date. Unseasonably warm weather has persisted. One employer said, "What everybody in Houston needs is for a good norther to hit."

With very few exceptions--only one group exception (grocery stores say business is good), retailers describe business conditions variously from "not too good" to "very bad." From clothing stores to restaurants, lumber yards to antique dealers, toy shops to optometrists, the report is the same, but most managers feel that the upturn will come. One chain department store head, with outlets all over Houston, said, "When the public decides to buy, it will buy."

Generally, downtown retailers were less optimistic as to increases in volume of sales and more cautious in expressing demand for pre-Holiday extras than those in suburban centers. But it appeared to be the consensus that fewer extras would be needed this year than formerly, that none would be used until after Thanksgiving, that few would be hired from the open labor market.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | Current* Oct. '60 | Prior Periods** Sept. '60 | Oct. '59 | Anticipated Dec. '60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 533,445 | 534,890 | 519,750 | 540,215 |
| Unemployment - Total | 24,000 | 24,000 | 21,500 | 22,000 |
| Female | 6,750 | 6,750 | 5,500 | 6,000 |
| Idled by Disputes | 0 | 800 | 3,940 | XXX |
| Employment - Total 2/ | 509,445 | 510,090 | 494,310 | 518,215 |
| Agricultural | 6,250 | 6,900 | 6,250 | 5,900 |
| Nonagricultural | 503,195 | 503,190 | 488,060 | 512,315 |
| Manufacturing | 94,575 | 95,275 | 91,800 | 90,705 |
| Construction | 48,000 | 47,340 | 42,550 | 49,645 |
| Trades | 131,075 | 130,350 | 126,340 | 139,655 |
| Government | 39,720 | 39,950 | 38,985 | 40,260 |
| Other Nonmfg. | 189,825 | 190,275 | 188,385 | 192,050 |
| Nonagri. Wage & Salary | 441,170 | 441,165 | 426,035 | 450,290 |

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U.S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

| Industry | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OCT.* 1960 | SEPT.** 1960 | OCT.** 1959 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS OCT.* 1960 | SEPT.** 1960 | OCT.** 1959 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS OCT.* 1960 | SEPT.** 1960 | OCT.** 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $105.73 | $104.55 | $100.60 | 41.3 | 41.0 | 41.4 | $2.56 | $2.55 | $2.43 |
| Durable Goods | 103.32 | 100.70 | 96.18 | 42.0 | 41.1 | 42.0 | 2.46 | 2.45 | 2.29 |
| Non-Dur. Goods | 108.14 | 109.20 | 104.60 | 40.5 | 40.9 | 40.7 | 2.67 | 2.67 | 2.57 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

# HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK



Homer H. Jackson, District Director
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director

3104 Main Street
Phone CA-5-1711



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Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Although area wage and salary employment at mid-November was estimated at approximately 4300 above October, the over-all employment situation is somewhat beclouded and uncertain.

Manufacturing took another loss, in the same group of heavy industries as in the past two months. Construction was up but still fluctuating because of the weather. A very small gain in retail trade employment was from new stores and not holiday hiring. Trucking & warehousing was up.

Unemployment too was up, since job opportunities have not been of the type to absorb many of the layoffs and because many re-entering the labor market for holiday work had not found it.

Current forecast is for a small net gain to January but the present situation does not lend itself to very valid forecasts.

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY GAIN NOT TYPICAL

Numerically, the 4290 (1.0%) net gain in nonfarm wage and salary total estimated to mid-November followed the trend of previous years but departed from it otherwise. Just over 2600 (60.5%) of the net increase was indicated in construction, 1055 in trucking and warehousing and related activities and 500 in service industries. On the other hand, retail trade normally up somewhat sharply with holiday hiring, would have shown a decrease if it has not been for the opening of several new stores around Thanksgiving.

Manufacturing dropped an estimated 900, again mainly in the same groups that felt the pinch in October - primary and fabricated metals and oilfield tools and machinery. Their aggregate net loss in the past 30 days was estimated at almost 800, with further cuts known to have occurred since mid-November.

UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE 4.8% OF LABOR FORCE

Once again the area is the victim of the phenomenon of rising unemployment in the face of increased employment. Job opportunities have not, by and large, been of the type to attract or absorb the majority of those being laid off. Insured unemployment varied little from September to October, but total for the November sample week stood at 7916 as against 7289 in October and 7262 in September. For that week in November, initial claims totaled 1683 as compared with 1298 in October and 1082 in September. As a result of this, plus the fact that many re-entering the labor market for holiday employment were not finding it, the mid-November estimate of unemployment rose to 25,600, 4.8% of the total labor force.

FORECAST GAIN DOUBTFUL

It is rather doubtful, at the present moment, that the current forecast of a net increase of 565 in nonfarm total to January will materialize. Though an estimated drop of less than 500 in retail trade is based on employer reports, after-Christmas cuts will probably be much greater. Further reduction is due in manufacturing but construction forecasts some increase.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

| | Current* Nov. '60 | Prior Periods** Oct. '60 | Nov. '59 | Anticipated Jan. '61 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Labor Force | 539,475 | 534,435 | 521,680 | 541,290 |
| Unemployment - Total | 25,600 | 24,000 | 23,500 | 27,000 |
| Female | 7,000 | 6,800 | 5,750 | 7,500 |
| Idled by Disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | XXX |
| Employment - total 2/ | 513,875 | 510,435 | 498,180 | 514,290 |
| Agricultural | 5,900 | 6,250 | 5,850 | 5,900 |
| Nonagricultural | 507,975 | 504,185 | 492,330 | 508,540 |
| Manufacturing | 93,875 | 94,775 | 94,275 | 92,965 |
| Construction | 50,610 | 48,000 | 42,315 | 52,190 |
| Trades | 132,210 | 131,865 | 128,985 | 131,925 |
| Government | 40,160 | 39,720 | 39,335 | 40,195 |
| Other Nonmfg. | 191,120 | 189,825 | 187,420 | 193,345 |
| Nonagri. Wage & Salary | 446,450 | 442,160 | 431,030 | 447,015 |

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U.S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

| INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS NOV.* 1960 | OCT.** 1960 | NOV.** 1959 | AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS NOV.* 1960 | OCT.** 1960 | NOV.** 1959 | AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS NOV.* 1960 | OCT.** 1960 | NOV.** 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Total | $104.14 | $105.57 | $102.75 | 41.0 | 41.4 | 41.6 | $2.54 | $2.55 | $2.47 |
| Durable Goods | 100.60 | 101.75 | 99.42 | 41.4 | 41.7 | 41.6 | 2.43 | 2.44 | 2.39 |
| Non-Dur.Goods | 108.40 | 109.47 | 106.24 | 40.6 | 41.0 | 41.5 | 2.67 | 2.67 | 2.56 |

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.