

manufacturing classes than had existed for several years. Thus, at the end of 1945, just under 58 p.c. of all persons in recorded employment were engaged in factory work, as compared with the proportion rather more than 61 p.c. at the same date in 1944. In 1939, however, the general ratio had been rather less than 52 p.c. of the total engaged in manufacturing, so that the 1945 distribution was still abnormal.

With the gradual release of workers from the Armed Forces and from employment in war work, the sex distribution of the persons on the payrolls of the co-operating firms showed some variation from that which had been indicated in immediately preceding years. At Oct. 1, 1944, the 271 per 1,000 workers in recorded employment in the nine leading industries were women, a proportion which considerably exceeded that of 253 per 1,000 indicated 12 months later. The latter proportion was the lowest since 1942, when the number of women per 1,000 employed at Oct. 1, had been 235. In the year ended Oct. 1, 1945, there were declines of about 5.3 p.c. in recorded employment for men, and of about 13.5 p.c. in that for women. It is nevertheless important to note that men constituted rather more than 51 p.c. of the total workers released by the firms furnishing data during the year.

The Bureau of Statistics tabulated monthly returns from an average of 15,358 firms and branches in the eight leading industries, in which the reported employees averaged 1,787,751. In 1944, the employers participating in the current surveys had numbered 14,641, and their staffs had averaged 1,850,851. The index of employment (1926=100) averaged 175.1 in 1945, showing a reduction of 4.3 p.c. as compared with that of the preceding 12 months. (In connection with the members of respondents, it should be noted that adjustment is currently made in the index numbers for increased coverage of industry.) The amounts distributed in weekly salaries and wages by the establishments furnishing data in the year under review had aggregated \$57,178,954, representing an estimated annual payroll of approximately \$2,973,306,000 disbursed in salaries and wages by these firms and branches. The average earnings per employee were \$31.99 in 1945, as compared with \$31.84 in 1944, \$30.78 in 1943, and \$28.56 in 1942. While the latest index of aggregate earnings was lower by 3.8 p.c. than that of 1944, the average earnings of the typical individual in recorded employment showed an increase of 0.5 p.c. in the same comparison.

In connection with the figures of earnings, it is interesting to note the much greater rise that has taken place during the period for which information is available in the index of payrolls than in that of employment. Thus, in 1945, there was an average increase of 14.7 p.c. in employment from the commencement of the payroll record at June 1, 1941, as compared with the gain of 42.6 p.c. in the reported salaries and wages in the same period. The reasons for the substantially greater advance in the latter than in the former index may be recapitulated as follows: (1) the concentration of workers which, despite important declines during 1945, then still existed in the heavy manufacturing industries, where rates of pay are above the average and, in addition, there has been a considerable amount of overtime work; (2) payment of cost-of-living allowances to the majority of workers, at rates which were increased on more than one occasion before their absorption in the basic wage rates from Feb. 15, 1944; (3) the progressive up-grading of employees as they gained experience and (4) the payment of higher wage rates in a large number of cases.