

more remarkable in the light of the disastrous set-back suffered during the depression years and the more recent decline in the average hours worked weekly in industry. In 1933, at the depth of the depression, per capita real production registered a decline of one-third as compared with the relatively prosperous year of 1929.

The historical series reveal many other interesting features of the economy, including, among others: the relative stability of the portion of total income going to labour in the form of wages and salaries as opposed to the instability of farm and investment incomes (Table 4); the increasing significance of government spending in the economy as opposed to the declining importance of exports (Table 3); the relative changes in the proportion of government revenue represented by direct and indirect taxes (Table 6); and changing consumer preferences as revealed by the composition of personal expenditure (Table 8).

**Current Perspective.**—*Gross National Product and National Income.*—Gross national product in 1951 was estimated at \$21,200,000,000, a 17 p.c. increase over the 1950 total of \$18,100,000,000. A substantial part of this increase was due to the general increase in prices at which the total output of goods and services is valued. After having made allowance for these price changes, however, there remained an increase in total real output of over 5 p.c. Further comment is made below on the manner in which this increase in real output was absorbed by major groups such as consumers, governments and businesses (for investment purposes). It should be noted that the figure of 5 p.c. is based on recently developed statistical procedures and that, while it is believed sufficiently accurate for the analytical conclusions based upon it, it must be regarded as a preliminary statistic. The increase in total output was accompanied by a gain of almost 3 p.c. in the employed labour force. There was a continuation of the shift from agricultural to non-agricultural pursuits, so that the increase in the employed non-agricultural labour force was in excess of the over-all increase.

National income in 1951 was estimated at \$17,200,000,000, an increase of 18 p.c. over the preceding year. Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income, the largest component of national income, amounted to \$9,600,000,000 in 1951, a gain of 17 p.c. over 1950, while investment income, which consists of corporation profits, interest and net rental income received by persons, government investment income and a number of other items, showed an average increase of 18 p.c. over 1950. In the unincorporated business sector, there was a very large increase of 38 p.c. in accrued net income of farm operators from farm production. Approximately 25 p.c. of the total increase in volume output of gross national product is accounted for by agriculture. A large part of the increase in net income was due to a near-record wheat crop. It should be noted that adverse weather conditions resulted in a large amount of grain being left in the fields, and this addition to farm inventories was included with the figure of farm net income. On the other hand, net income of non-farm unincorporated business, which includes unincorporated retailers, unincorporated manufacturing establishments, professionals and unincorporated service establishments, increased by only 5 p.c.