



Index numbers of industrial employment are available for men and women separately since 1949. The generally upward movement to 1957 extended to both sexes, interrupted only in 1954 when the figure for men fell from 1953 by 4.1 points to 109.8, and for women by 1.7 points to 109.9. During most of the period, the growth of employment for men was relatively larger than for women, but in 1957 the index for the latter averaged 123.6 as against 122.7 for men. Differences in the levels of activity in industries employing larger or smaller proportions of men and women are mainly responsible for the moderate variations shown in the indexes for the two sexes.

A monthly record of average hourly and weekly wages of hourly rated wage-earners has been available since the beginning of 1945. Since then, substantial increases in the averages have taken place in all industries and areas, accompanied by widespread declines in the length of the work week. Particularly marked reductions in hours have taken place in manufacturing, in which overtime was an important factor during the war years. A notable exception to the general lowering in the averages of hours worked as compared with 1945 is the construction industry, which had been adversely affected in the early months of the man-hours and hourly earnings record by shortages of labour and materials.

. From 1945 to 1957, average hourly earnings in manufacturing have risen by 131 p.c. to \$1.60. Although the 1957 average in plants producing non-durable manufactured goods was lower at \$1.47 than the figure of \$1.73 in the durable goods group, it may be noted that, since the record was established, the increase in the former amounted to 141 p.c. as compared with 125 p.c. in the latter. This disparity in rate of gain was caused