

in part by marked expansion in employment in the interval in the higher-pay components of the light manufacturing industries, such as oil refining, pulp and paper products and printing and publishing.

Subsection 2.—Employment and Weekly Earnings, 1957

The 1957 average index numbers of industrial employment and payrolls were 2.3 p.c. and 7.8 p.c., respectively, above those for 1956, previously the maximum figures. However, the trend in both indexes had turned downward towards the end of the year and employment at Dec. 1 in the establishments surveyed was 2.5 p.c. below the level of 12 months earlier, although it was higher than in the same period in 1955 and earlier years. With the weakening of employment, the underlying movement of the general payroll figure was downward in the latter part of 1957; the Dec. 1 index exceeded that for 1956 by only 2 p.c. while at the beginning of the year it had been more than 11 p.c. higher.

Average weekly wages and salaries rose by 5.5 p.c. in 1957 over 1956, reaching an all-time high of \$67.70. The increase was about average for the postwar years and equalled that of 1956 over 1955. In terms of purchasing power, however, the rise in weekly earnings in 1957 was little more than half as great as the increase between 1955 and 1956, consumer prices having increased more sharply in the later period.

Employment for women showed a larger percentage increase in 1957 than was reported for men, the general index for the latter rising 1.8 p.c. and for women 3.9 p.c. over 1956. In manufacturing, the gains for workers of the two sexes differed only slightly. On the whole, women made up 22.6 p.c. of the reported staffs in 1957, a fractionally higher proportion than in immediately preceding years.

Employment by Industry.—Employment in most divisions of the goods-producing industries rose slightly in the early months of 1957 but the trend turned downward in all divisions except mining before the end of the year. On the other hand, the general movement in the service-producing category continued upward throughout 1957.

The timing of the cyclical downturns in activity in the goods-producing divisions differed from industry to industry. The durable goods sector of manufacturing was the first to show declines. The peak in the seasonally adjusted employment index was reached towards the end of 1956, followed by declines throughout 1957. By Dec. 1, employment in durables was 6 p.c. below the level of a year earlier. Staffs declined throughout 1957 in the electrical apparatus, wood, and iron and steel groups but the trend in transportation equipment did not move definitely downward until the autumn. The Dec. 1 figure was 5 p.c. lower than at the same date of 1956. Non-ferrous metal and non-metallic mineral products also showed small year-to-year reductions in employment at the end of 1957.

The curtailment in plants producing non-durable manufactured goods came later than the recession in the durable goods sector. Employment in the group as a whole in the first seven months of 1957 rose slightly from the levels reached in the latter part of 1956, the downturn occurring late in the summer. The declines in three component groups of the non-durable division (rubber, textile and paper products) began earlier, however, and employment in these industries was 7 p.c. or 8 p.c. lower at Dec. 1, 1957, than at the same date of 1956. Late in the year, a larger-than-seasonal decline was reported in clothing. The trend of employment in chemical and petroleum and coal products also turned downward late in 1957 but the Dec. 1 indexes for these industries were higher than a year earlier. Little change was recorded in the 1957 basic situation in foods and beverages, leather goods, printing and publishing and miscellaneous manufacturing groups, with most variations of consequence explicable in terms of seasonal factors.

Mining was the only industry division in the goods-producing class in which employment showed no definite downturn during 1957. Employment in the metal mining group tended to rise, mainly because of the doubling of employment in uranium mining during the year. There were substantial declines in the numbers employed in diamond drilling and prospecting in the metals field. In fuels, oil and natural gas, staffs declined less than is usual in the autumn. Employment in coal mining, which has been declining for many