

pulp and paper, and printing and publishing, and a levelling in several of the relatively low-pay industries, have been important factors in narrowing the percentage differences between earnings in plants producing durable goods and those manufacturing non-durable goods. Substantial advances in employment during the 14 years were also reported by several of the heavy industries, notably non-ferrous metal products and electrical apparatus and supplies, but the levels in these classes were closer to the divisional average so that the rise in their working forces had less effect on the group than the changes in industrial distribution taking place in the non-durable group as a whole.

12.—Changes in Average Hours and Earnings in Specified Industries, 1945 to 1959

Industry	Average Hours Worked			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Earnings		
	1945	1959	Change	1945	1959	Change	1945	1959	Change
	No.	No.	p.c.	\$	\$	p.c.	\$	\$	p.c.
Mining.....	43.9	41.5	- 5.5	0.85	2.04	+ 140	37.40	84.80	+ 127
Manufacturing.....	44.1	40.7	- 7.7	0.69	1.72	+ 149	30.47	70.16	+ 130
Durable goods.....	44.5	41.0	- 7.9	0.76	1.87	+ 146	34.04	76.66	+ 125
Non-durable goods.....	43.7	40.4	- 7.6	0.61	1.58	+ 159	26.57	63.90	+ 140
Construction—									
Building and structures.....	40.2	39.6	- 1.5	0.81	2.01	+ 148	32.60	79.59	+ 144
Highways, bridges and streets..	36.7	41.2	+12.3	0.63	1.56	+ 148	23.19	64.28	+ 177
Service.....	43.8	39.4	-10.0	0.43	1.00	+ 133	18.92	39.29	+ 108

In 1959, average hourly earnings in manufacturing generally rose 6 cents over 1958, or 3.6 p.c., to \$1.72. Although this gain was larger than that recorded in 1958 over 1957, it was smaller than in most of the postwar years. Per capita weekly wages also rose to a new high of \$70.16, increasing 5.1 p.c. over 1958. This was the greatest percentage advance since 1952 and was partly a result of a gain of 0.5 hours in the length of the average work week. At 40.7 hours, this was at its highest level since 1956.

In the durable goods component of manufacturing, average hourly earnings advanced by 3.9 p.c. in 1959 over 1958. With a rise of 0.7 hours in the length of the average work week, per capita weekly wages increased to a greater extent—by 5.9 p.c. Restoration of more usual conditions following settlement of major industrial disputes in iron and steel products and in smelting and refining, which had seriously affected the situation in 1958, contributed materially to the higher figures. Wage rates moved up in many industries. On the other hand, substantial lay-offs of relatively highly paid wage-earners in aircraft, railway rolling-stock and shipbuilding plants tended to offset the effect of these factors on the group averages.

Average hourly earnings in the light manufacturing industries showed a gain of 3.3 p.c. in 1959, bringing the figure to \$1.58. The average work week was 0.3 hours longer than in 1958 and weekly wages rose by 4.2 p.c. The gain in average hourly earnings was the smallest recorded in a year-to-year comparison since 1949, although that in weekly wages was larger than the 1958 increase over 1957, reflecting the longer work week. Wage-rate increases in meat products, breweries, rubber and textile products, pulp and paper mills, printing and publishing, petroleum refining and other industries contributed to higher average earnings in 1959. A higher level of employment in the rubber group, in