

In the 17 years of the record, average hours have fallen in nearly all industries and areas for which data are available, reflecting wide-spread reductions in the standard work week and in the overtime work that was prevalent in many industries during the Second World War. The effect of the latter, however, was partly offset by the employment of a considerable amount of part-time labour. The smallest decline in hours since 1945 (less than 1 p.c.) has taken place in building and structures. This group had been severely affected by wartime shortages of labour and materials and during the war years curtailed operations generally and reduced working hours. The 17-year decrease in manufacturing hours of work approximated 8 p.c.

During the postwar years there have been widely distributed and substantial advances in average hourly and weekly wages. Although these have been attributable in the main to wage-rate revisions, other factors have contributed. Important among these, especially in the earlier part of the period, were progressive increases in cost-of-living allowances, now largely though not entirely absorbed in wage rates. Technological changes, frequently involving the employment of more highly skilled workers at the expense of lower-paid jobs, have also tended to raise wage levels, as has relatively greater expansion over the years in the industries in which pay rates usually exceed the general level. A comparatively high degree of uniformity has been shown in the percentage increases recorded since 1945 by components of the broader groups, also noted in the average weekly wage and salary figures.

12.—Annual Average Weekly Hours and Earnings of Hourly Rated Wage-Earners in Specified Industries, 1945-61 and Monthly Averages 1961

Year and Month	All Manufactures			Mining			Building and Structures		
	Average Weekly Hours	Average Hourly Earnings	Average Weekly Wages	Average Weekly Hours	Average Hourly Earnings	Average Weekly Wages	Average Weekly Hours	Average Hourly Earnings	Average Weekly Wages
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Averages—									
1945.....	44.1	0.69	30.47	43.9	0.85	38.40	40.2	0.81	32.60
1946.....	42.7	0.71	30.15	42.7	0.88	37.53	38.7	0.84	32.39
1947.....	42.5	0.81	34.47	42.3	0.99	41.83	39.3	0.82	36.12
1948.....	42.3	0.92	38.96	42.8	1.12	48.02	40.0	1.02	40.68
1949.....	42.2	0.99	41.74	42.7	1.18	50.22	40.0	1.08	43.28
1950.....	42.3	1.04	44.03	43.0	1.22	52.46	39.5	1.14	45.07
1951.....	41.7	1.18	49.29	43.1	1.35	58.06	39.4	1.29	50.67
1952.....	41.5	1.30	53.83	42.7	1.48	63.20	41.0	1.44	59.04
1953.....	41.3	1.36	56.25	42.6	1.54	65.69	40.7	1.53	64.31
1954.....	40.7	1.41	57.43	42.6	1.58	67.14	39.9	1.61	64.08
1955.....	41.0	1.45	59.45	43.2	1.61	69.68	39.5	1.63	64.46
1956.....	41.0	1.52	62.40	42.8	1.73	73.92	41.0	1.77	72.73
1957.....	40.4	1.61	64.96	42.3	1.88	79.35	41.3	1.80	78.47
1958.....	40.2	1.66	66.77	41.5	1.96	81.30	40.5	1.94	78.37
1959.....	40.7	1.72	70.16	41.5	2.04	84.80	39.6	2.01	79.59
1960.....	40.4	1.78	71.96	41.7	2.09	87.26	40.1	2.12	84.85
1961.....	40.6	1.83	74.27	41.8	2.13	89.08	39.9	2.17	86.39
1961—									
January.....	40.1	1.81	72.76	42.1	2.12	88.97	38.8	2.19	84.93
February.....	40.4	1.82	73.40	42.1	2.13	89.46	39.8	2.20	87.61
March.....	40.3	1.83	73.64	41.6	2.14	89.18	38.6	2.21	85.30
April.....	40.6	1.84	74.56	41.4	2.13	88.04	39.4	2.20	86.81
May.....	40.5	1.84	74.44	42.1	2.12	89.08	39.3	2.14	84.11
June.....	41.0	1.83	75.02	42.2	2.12	89.39	41.1	2.13	87.31
July.....	40.6	1.82	73.95	41.4	2.11	87.55	41.9	2.14	89.49
August.....	40.9	1.82	74.26	42.1	2.10	88.66	42.1	2.15	90.55
September.....	41.3	1.81	75.00	41.9	2.13	89.44	42.2	2.14	90.48
October.....	41.2	1.84	75.69	42.7	2.13	90.90	41.8	2.15	89.95
November.....	41.1	1.84	75.64	42.6	2.14	90.97	40.7	2.17	88.30
December.....	38.8	1.88	72.85	39.9	2.19	87.32	32.9	2.19	71.89