

III Employment

11. The number of applicants on the live registers of the employment exchanges rose from 9.2 lakhs at the end of 1957 to 11.8 lakhs by the end of 1958. The increase was thus 2.6 lakhs as compared to 1.6 lakhs in the previous year. The vacancies notified went up from 2.97 lakhs in 1957 to 3.65 lakhs in 1958, and placements showed an increase from 1.93 lakhs in 1957 to 2.33 lakhs in 1958. Part of the increase in numbers on the live registers is due to the opening of new exchanges and the increasing use of this agency by those seeking employment. It is also known that some of those registered with the exchanges are not unemployed but are on the look-out for better jobs. The practice enjoined on government departments to recruit temporary staff through the employment exchanges also acts as an incentive for registrations on a larger scale. Nevertheless, the figures indicate that the pressure of supply on the employment market has, on balance, been on the increase.

12. The following table gives the category-wise distribution of persons registered with the employment exchanges:

	December, 1957	December, 1958
Total No. of persons on live registers	9,22,099	11,83,299
Industrial supervisory	5,929 (0.64)	8,923 (0.75)
Skilled and semi-skilled	71,508 (7.75)	88,665 (7.49)
Clerical	2,67,757 (29.04)	3,08,203 (26.05)
Educational	40,246 (4.36)	56,157 (4.75)
Domestic service	32,018 (3.47)	43,823 (3.70)
Unskilled	4,60,639 (49.96)	6,20,249 (52.42)
Others	44,002 (4.77)	57,279 (4.84)

Figures in brackets denote percentages

It will be seen that the unskilled and the clerical job seekers between them constitute nearly 80 per cent. of the registrants. There was during the year a slight increase in the proportion of unskilled persons in the total and a decline in the relative proportion of those seeking clerical jobs but, broadly speaking these are the two categories where there is

an excess supply. Reports from various States indicate continued shortage of experienced engineers, surveyors, overseers, stenographers, doctors, health visitors and similar qualified personnel.

13. The data available regarding employment trends in different industries also indicate not too satisfactory a picture. The cotton textile industry has been affected adversely by the fall in demand. Employment in that industry declined from 792,000 in December 1957 to 740,000 in June 1958. There has been some increase since; in September the number of workers employed in the cotton textile industry was 768,000. There have been closures in the jute textile industry and also in tea gardens. The closure in the early part of 1958 of manganese mines producing low-grade ore also affected employment in that industry adversely, although the position seems to have improved lately. In the coal industry, on the other hand, the average daily employment is estimated to have been larger by about 15,000, as compared to the previous year. Some small-scale industries such as handlooms made further progress during the year. On the other hand, some of the metal processing industries depending on imported supplies are reported to have been affected adversely. The shortage of steel has also probably damped down building activity, reducing correspondingly the employment opportunities in that sector.

14. While it is not possible for lack of adequate data to assess in any precise terms the trends of employment and unemployment in the economy as a whole, the various pointers mentioned above would appear to indicate some worsening, during the year, of the employment situation in some sectors of the economy.