HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XVI, No. 9
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director | Phone CA-5-1711 | JANUARY 1961

HIGHLIGHTS

Although the mid-December total was substantially above November, the 1960 holiday increase in retail employment in the area fell far short of previous years. In spite of the weather, construction showed another small gain.

Manufacturing took its fourth consecutive drop since August, with all but three of the industry groups reporting losses in some degree. Primary metals, fabricated metal products and food processing were, however, responsible for most of the decrease. Trucking & warehousing was up again.

Estimated unemployment as of mid-December was again higher than the previous month, in spite of increased employment. Again the reason was the same -- job opportunities were not of the type to absorb many of those laid off.

The usual drop in nonfarm total is forecast to February, with construction expected to gain moderately and manufacturing, according to December reports, to break about even.

NONFARM TOTAL
UP BY 6310

Area nonfarm total employment rose an estimated 6310 (1.2%) from November to mid-December, with trades reports indicating a gain of approximately 6800 in extra holiday personnel. This brought women wage and salary workers up an estimated 4900 (3.5%) over November. Although some merchants put on additional extras after December 15, the peak of holiday employment was much lower than in previous years. The post office put on about its usual number of extra workers although this is not reflected in the mid-December estimates.

PART OF LOSS
IS SEASONAL

Manufacturing's estimated 1300 drop below November came largely from primary metals (330), fabricated metal products (380) and food processing (300). In the latter two groups, although reductions were across the board, two or three major firms accounted for most of the losses. Most of the force reductions in food processing were seasonal, although about 90 workers were involved in a labor dispute. For the first time since July, the oilfield machinery group about broke even instead of reporting a loss.

CLAIMS TOTAL RISES

Paralleling an increase in unemployment, which was estimated at 27,300 as of mid-December, was a jump in continued claims from 7916 in the November sample week to 9831 as of the same week in December. Initial claims, however, were down for that week -- 1260 as compared with 1683 in the November week.

SEASONAL CUTS DUE

The usual drop in nonfarm total is forecast to February, with construction expected to gain moderately and manufacturing, according to December reports, to remain largely unchanged in total.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* Dec. '60	Prior Periods** Nov. '60	Dec. '59	Anticipated Feb. '61
Total Labor Force	547,890	539,780	530,100	542,240
Unemployment - Total	27,300	25,600	21,000	28,500
Female	7,500	7,000	5,500	7,500
Idled by Disputes	250	0	0	XXX
Employment - total 2/	520,340	514,180	509,100	513,740
Agricultural	5,750	5,900	5,750	5,830
Nonagricultural	514,590	508,280	503,350	507,910
Manufacturing	92,380	93,680	94,980	92,290
Construction	51,220	50,610	41,140	52,520
Trades	139,010	132,210	139,070	130,590
Government	40,180	40,160	39,700	40,200
Other Nonmfg.	191,800	191,620	188,460	192,310
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	452,570	446,250	442,050	445,880

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS DEC.* 1960	NOV.** 1960	DEC.** 1959	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS DEC.* 1960	NOV.** 1960	DEC.** 1959	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS DEC.* 1960	NOV.** 1960	DEC.** 1959
Manufacturing Total	$104.81	$103.89	$104.08	41.1	40.9	41.8	$2.55	$2.54	$2.49
Durable Goods	101.92	100.43	101.52	41.6	41.5	42.3	2.45	2.42	2.40
Non-Dur.Goods	108.26	108.27	107.38	40.7	40.4	41.3	2.66	2.68	2.60

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

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3104 Main Street
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Vol. XVI, No. 10
FEBRUARY 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Following the usual seasonal pattern, the estimate of total area nonfarm employment dropped sharply from December to January and unemployment rose. Major cuts were of course made in retail trade. Manufacturing dropped again but a good bit of the loss was due to a labor dispute.

Although estimated unemployment rose much more than usual, the number is fewer and the percentage of the total labor force smaller than during the 1958 recession.

A small increase in nonfarm employment is currently forecast to March, along with some lessening in unemployment. Claims actions have dropped during February.

NONFARM TOTAL
DOWN 8070

With trades employment cut back seasonally from a not-too-high December peak, area nonfarm total dropped an estimated 8070 (1.6%) in the past 30 days. Although construction employment may change daily, mid-January employer reports indicated a very small gain. A small gain was also indicated in trucking & warehousing.

While manufacturing dropped an estimated 800 in total under December, there were several substantial gains reported in individual industry groups. A labor dispute idled about 650 chemical workers and ship building reported one of its periodic reductions. On the other hand, 8 of the 17 manufacturing groups reported gains and 3 showed no change. Furniture and fixtures was up 130, food processing 190 and other groups to lesser degrees.

Though manufacturing wage and salary employment is currently estimated at 3,100 below January '60, the total of area wage and salary workers is still a comfortable 18,700 (4.4%) above a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS
5.8% OF LABOR FORCE

Mid-January estimate of 31900 unemployed, a 5.8% segment of the labor force, is far below the 34,350 and 6.9% of June 1958. Insured unemployment of 10,580 for January's sample week is well below the 12,772 of April 1958, and all claims figures had begun to drop during February. In view of the latter fact, lessened unemployment is expected to March.

EMPLOYMENT GAIN
EXPECTED TO MARCH

Area employers continue to hold stubbornly to a moderately optimistic outlook toward the next few months. Their reports to the TEC indicated a relatively small employment gain to March of about 2450. A net gain in manufacturing is forecast and construction will increase if the weather improves.

NOTE: A new formula for estimating the number of jobless workers was used in this month's computation of the labor force. Appropriate revisions have been made in estimates for previous months. The new formula was developed through special efforts by several states and by statisticians in the U. S. Department of Labor to improve estimating techniques.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* Jan. '61	Prior Periods** Dec. '60	Jan. '60	Anticipated March '61
Total Labor Force	546,910	547,500	518,850	546,835
Unemployment - Total	31,900	24,900	24,400	30,000
Female	8,000	7,500	6,000	7,500
Idled by Disputes	650	250	80	XXX
Employment - Total 2/	514,360	522,398	494,370	516,835
Agricultural	5,830	5,750	5,750	5,870
Nonagricultural	508,530	516,600	488,620	510,965
Manufacturing	93,250	94,050	96,350	93,540
Construction	51,640	51,230	38,125	53,540
Trades	131,040	139,025	126,775	130,880
Government	40,250	40,180	39,145	40,320
Other Nonmfg.	192,350	192,115	188,225	192,685
Nonagril Wage & Salary	443,080	451,150	424,370	445,515

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Jan.* 1961	Dec.** 1960	Jan.** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Jan.* 1961	Dec.** 1960	Jan.** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Jan.* 1961	Dec.** 1960	Jan.** 1960
Manufacturing Total	$105.52	$104.19	$103.57	40.9	40.7	41.1	$2.58	$2.56	$2.52
Durable Goods	98.17	99.88	100.04	40.4	40.6	41.0	2.43	2.46	2.44
Nondur. Goods	113.85	108.94	107.12	41.4	40.8	41.2	2.75	2.67	2.60

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. **Revised.

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street | Vol. XVI, NO.11
S. W. Braden, Asst. Dist. Director | Phone CA-5-1711 | M A R C H 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

The general trend of employment and unemployment in the area over the past thirty days would appear to indicate a definite improvement in the area's economy.

Although increase in estimated employment was small, manufacturing showed its first gain since last August, with indications of further improvement. Construction was up in spite of the weather. Trucking and warehousing and trades employment dropped in a normal seasonal manner.

Unemployment dropped an estimated 2,150. Insured unemployment went up slightly over January but initial claims were down. Some layoffs in heavy industry have been called back and more holiday extras still hunting regular work have again withdrawn from the labor force.

Further, substantial gain is currently forecast to April, mainly in manufacturing, construction and trade.

TOTAL GAIN SMALL;
MANUFACTURING UP

Estimated nonfarm net gain over January was only 640, but manufacturing's pickup of 300 was its first upward turn since August of last year. Since retail trade employment indicated a further seasonal drop, estimated employment of women was down slightly from January. But compared with February 1960, total of nonfarm wage and salary workers has gained an estimated 16,880 (4.0%) and women, 4070 or 3.0%. Farm employment has indicated very little change in total.

The most significant changes in manufacturing were increases estimated at 100 in primary metals and 390 in nonelectric machinery. In both industries, the largest part of the gain was call-backs from previous layoffs. Employment in fabricated metal products held its own after a gain last month.

Construction reports showed another overall increase in total in spite of weather conditions. Trucking & warehousing total was down slightly for seasonal reasons.

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN
ESTIMATED 2,150

Call-backs from layoffs and withdrawal of some job-hunting seasonal workers "left over" from the holidays played significant parts in the drop of estimated unemployment to 29,750 from January's 31,900. The current estimate is 5.5% of the total labor force. While there was a small increase in insured unemployment over January, initial claims filed in the February sample week were 16.8% fewer than in January - 1615 of all types as against 1941 the previous month. Since mid-February, a sharp drop has been noted in all types of claims actions.

FORECAST CHEERFUL

Although many factors could change it, an April forecast of about 4300 additional wage and salary workers has been made. An increase of 1215 in manufacturing has already been partly accomplished; construction reports indicated further gain of about 2000. Supply has been and will continue to be adequate for known demand.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* FEB. '61	Prior Periods** JAN. '61	FEB. '60	Anticipated APRIL '61
Total Labor Force	545,290	546,810	521,520	547,540
Unemployment - Total	29,750	31,900	24,500	28,200
Female	7,500	8,000	6,250	7,000
Idled by Disputes	650	650	80	XXX
Employment - Total 2/	514,890	514,260	496,940	519,340
Agricultural	5,800	5,830	5,850	5,970
Nonagricultural	509,090	508,430	491,090	513,370
Manufacturing	93,450	93,150	95,750	94,670
Construction	52,700	51,640	40,800	54,700
Trades	129,960	131,040	126,370	130,940
Government	40,120	40,250	39,300	40,190
Other Nonmfg.	192,860	192,350	188,870	192,870
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	443,620	442,980	426,740	447,900

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor

* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Feb.* 1961	Jan.** 1961	Feb.** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Feb.* 1961	Jan.** 1961	Feb.** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Feb.* 1961	Jan.** 1961	Feb.** 1960
Manufacturing Total	$106.14	$107.12	$101.91	41.3	41.2	40.6	$2.57	$2.60	$2.51
Durable Goods	100.28	100.61	97.77	41.1	40.9	40.4	2.44	2.46	2.42
Nondur. Goods	112.88	114.40	107.16	41.5	41.6	40.9	2.72	2.75	2.62

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. **Revised.

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

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Vol. XVI, No.12
A P R I L 1961

HIGHLIGHTS

A trend toward improved labor market conditions in the area indicated in February took very definite shape in March.

ile manufacturing broke even with last month, nonmanufacturing's gains netted area nonfarm employment total a comfortable increase estimated at approximately 3300. Farm employment indicated very little change from last month. Retail sales employment took a spurt for Easter buying and construction reports showed a further pickup in total.

Mid-March unemployment was estimated at 3350 below February, a drop of 11.3%. Insured unemployment for the sample week in March was 9.6% less than in February. Initial claims for unemployment benefits dropped sharply from mid-January to March.

utlook to May is for further gain in employment, both in nonfarm and in seasonal agricultural workers. Manufacturing, construction and sales are expected to lead in nonfarm gains. Supply has been ample.

NONFARM TOTAL
PICKS UP 3300

The estimate of 512,330 nonfarm employment in the area at mid-March was 3290 above February, 4400 (0.9%) above January and 18,600 (3.8%) higher than March 1960. Women wage and salary workers, estimated at 139,750 as of March, netted gain over February of 1.0%. The current estimate is 4470 (3.3%) higher than a year ago. Farm employment is very little above its usual nonseasonal level.

Although estimated total for manufacturing did not change between February and March, there were variations among individual industries. Nine of the groups reported gains of from 10 in textiles and electrical machinery to 305 in primary metals. Six groups reported losses ranging from 5 in lumber & wood products to 190 in chemicals, the latter because of a temporary plant shutdown. Both fabricated metal products and nonelectric machinery dropped a little more than 100 each from February to March but both were more than 200 ahead of their January totals. Other changes had no particular significance.

Extra help for retail sales at Easter accounted for most of the estimated gain of 1400 in sales employment. Construction reports indicated about 900 added workers. Trucking & warehousing increased instead of dropping as expected. No losses worth commenting on were indicated in nonmanufacturing.

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN

The estimate of 26,400 unemployed as of mid-March, a numerical drop of 5500 since January, represents 4.8% of the total labor force as compared with 5.8% in January and 5.5% in February. In March '60, it constituted 4.5% of the labor force. Insured unemployment at 10,030 for the sample week in March was 9.4% below the Febuary total of 11,071. 1254 initial claims were filed in the current sample week, a drop of 361 (22.5%) under February.

Net increase of approximately 3500 to May is forecast from March employer reports, of which 750 is in manufacturing.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* MARCH	Prior Periods** FEB. '61	MARCH '60	Anticipated MAY '61
Total Labor Force	545,230	545,240	523,030	546,570
Unemployment - Total	26,400	29,750	23,500	24,500
Female	7,250	7,500	6,250	7,000
Idled by disputes	650	650	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	518,180	514,840	499,530	522,070
Agricultural	5,850	5,800	5,800	6,250
Nonagricultural	512,330	509,040	493,730	515,820
Manufacturing	93,050	93,050	95,550	93,800
Construction	53,700	52,700	41,720	54,800
Trades	131,690	130,310	127,880	132,550
Government	40,370	40,120	39,770	40,330
Other nonmfg.	193,520	192,860	188,810	194,340
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	446,760	443,570	529,300	450,250

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Mar.* 1961	Feb.** 1961	Mar.** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Mar.* 1961	Feb.** 1961	Mar.** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Mar.* 1961	Feb.** 1961	Mar.** 1960
Manufacturing Total	$105.88	$104.96	$103.07	41.2	41.0	40.9	$2.57	$2.56	$2.52
Durable Goods	101.43	100.53	99.96	41.4	41.2	40.8	2.45	2.44	2.45
Nondurable Goods	111.11	110.16	106.86	41.0	40.8	41.1	2.71	2.70	2.60

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

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Vol. XVII, No. 1
MAY 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Although net increase in the area'a estimated employment total from March to April was small, it served to stablize a trend toward improved labor market conditions which began in February. The mid-April estimate of unemployment was 1,000 below that of March.

Manufacturing netted a gain estimated at 200, nonmanufacturing 270 and agriculture 70. Changes within individual industrial groups were of relatively minor significance, indicating a fairly normal state of affairs in the area. Total for retail trade was unchanged from the mid-March estimate and wholesale trade and constructions were up very slightly.

Insured unemployment has dropped sharply since February and initial claims are far low the level of the first of the year.

Outlook to June appears to be normal for the season. Current employer reports indicate some gains to partly offset closing of schools for the summer.

NONFARM TOTAL
SHOWS SMALL GAIN

Mid-April's estimate of 512,800 total nonfarm employment in the area is only 470 (0.1%) above the previous month, with women workers gaining in about the same proportion. However, the total is 13,270 or 2.7% above April 1960 and 4,870 (1.0%) above January 1961. Farm employment showed very little change over the past 30 days, being close to its nonseasonal level.

In manufacturing, the biggest change was a drop of 190 in nonelectric machinery. A number of employers in this group reported gains. Loss of 110 in food processing was seasonal and temporary. The chemicals group regained 185 when a shut-down plant reopened. Net gain of 125 in stone, clay & glass was a direct result of the booming skyscraper construction now under way. Both primary metals and fabricated metal products were up slightly in total.

Changes in the nonmanufacturing groups in the past 30 days were very insignificant. Although individual groups varied, retail trade showed no net change in total, judging from reports received by the TEC. The reports from wholesalers, however, indicated a small increase in total which was scattered throughout the whole industry.

CLAIMS TOTAL
DROP SHARPLY

With unemployment estimated at 25,400 as of mid-April - 1000 below March - decline in unemployment since January has reached 20.4% in the area. Currently it constitutes 4.7% of the labor force. Insured unemployment for the April sample week, totaling 9305, was 7.2% below the same week in March and approximately 16% below February. Although initial claims for the April week were slightly higher than for March, they appear to have leveled off.

Although closing of schools for vacation is expected to bring a small decrease in total employment to June, manufacturing reports indicate stated demand estimated at 500 to June. Supply has been ample.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* APRIL	Prior Periods** MAR. '61	APR. '60	Anticipated JUNE '61
Total Labor Force	545,020	545,230	525,830	544,055
Unemployment - Total	25,400	26,400	20,300	26,900
Female	7,250	7,250	6,000	7,500
Idled by disputes	900	650	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	518,720	518,180	505,530	517,160
Agricultural	5,920	5,800	6,000	5,970
Nonagricultural	512,800	512,330	499,530	511,190
Manufacturing	93,250	93,050	95,950	93,790
Construction	53,800	53,700	44,080	53,550
Trades	131,900	131,690	129,560	132,080
Government	40,380	40,370	40,320	38,040
Other nonmfg.	193,470	193,520	189,620	193,730
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	447,230	446,760	435,030	445,620

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Apr.* 1961	Mar.** 1961	Apr** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Apr.* 1961	Mar.** 1961	Apr.** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Apr.* 1961	Mar.** 1961	Apr.** 1960
Manufacturing Total	$103.68	$104.19	$103.63	41.8	40.7	40.8	$2.60	$2.56	$2.54
Durable Goods	103.99	102.09	100.78	42.1	41.5	40.8	2.47	2.46	2.47
Nondurable Goods	113.44	107.06	106.49	41.4	39.8	40.8	2.74	2.69	2.61

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work.

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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director | 3104 Main Street, Phone CA 5-1711 | Vol.XVII, No. 2, JUNE 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

The area's mid-May nonfarm employment total remained practically unchanged from the April estimate while women wage and salary workers showed a gain. Manufacturing reports indicated a substantial increase in durable goods employment and a lesser drop in the nondurable goods group.

Construction, trucking & warehousing and wholesale trade were all down to some extent and net change in retail trade was negligible. Total nonmanufacturing netted a loss.

The mid-May estimate of unemployment was again 1,000 below the previous month. Insured unemployment dropped almost 10% and initial claims were down slightly.

Current forecast to July is for a small loss in nonfarm total, a normal trend for the time of year. The ample supply has, of course, been increased by the customary quota of students hunting for either regular or temporary jobs.

EMPLOYMENT TOTAL
ALMOST UNCHANGED

Estimated nonfarm employment was practically unchanged between April and mid-May, with manufacturing indicating a net gain of 600 and nonmanufacturing a loss of 700. Seasonal farm activity increased slightly. Women workers were up an estimated 550, mostly in retail trade. Over the 12-month period, total area wage and salary workers have gained an estimated 8910 (2.0%) and women 3660 or 2.7%.

Although current manufacturing total is still below last year's estimate and the nondurable goods group dropped 300 under April, durable goods has not only picked up 600 over April but shows an estimated 400 gain over May '60. All durable goods groups indicated a net gain except lumber & wood products, which remained unchanged. Sizeable increases were shown in primary and fabricated metals and in the nonelectric machinery groups. Almost half of the nondurable loss was in seasonal food processing, mainly rice and cottonseed milling. Construction dropped slightly because of weather and force reductions on some major industrial jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN

The mid-May estimate of 24,400 unemployed is 3.9% below that of April. Insured unemployment totaled 8,345 for the May sample week, 960 (9.7%) less than the previous month, and initial claims were 1,295 as compared with 1,371 in April. Extended benefits claimants in the May sample week were at a satisfactorily low 2,332.

JULY FORECAST LOWER

Closing of schools and more seasonal warehouse cuts are due to bring July nonfarm total down in spite of almost 900 demand estimated for trades, 260 in construction and 530 in service industries. Manufacturing reports indicated net gain of 335, with 115 in primary metals, 130 in fabricated metal products, 150in food processing and 110 in chemicals. Of course, much depends on the outcome of labor disputes existing in the area. Supply is ample.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* MAY	Prior Periods** APR. '61	MAY '60	Anticipated JULY '61
Total Labor Force	543,960	545,120	530,020	544,040
Unemployment - Total	24,400	25,400	20,400	25,500
Female	7,250	7,250	6,000	7,500
Idled by disputes	780	900	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	518,780	518,820	509,620	518,540
Agricultural	5,980	5,920	6,250	6,150
Nonagricultural	512,800	512,900	503,370	512,390
Manufacturing	93,950	93,350	96,050	94,290
Construction	53,440	53,800	48,480	53,700
Trades	131,610	131,900	129,500	132,500
Government	40,480	40,380	39,700	38,160
Other nonmfg.	193,320	193,470	189,640	193,740
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	447,230	447,330	438,320	446,820

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.

* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.
A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS MAY* 1961	APR.** 1961	MAY** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS MAY* 1961	APR.** 1961	MAY** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS MAY* 1961	APR.** 1961	MAY** 1960
Manufacturing Total	$109.88	$109.62	$107.27	42.1	42.0	42.4	$2.61	$2.61	$2.53
Durable Goods	108.38	106.93	105.90	43.7	42.6	43.4	2.48	2.51	2.44
Nondurable Goods	111.38	113.16	109.03	40.8	41.3	41.3	2.73	2.74	2.64

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work.
* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. ** Revised.

HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

3104 Main Street
Phone CA 5-1711

Vol. XVII, No. 3
JULY 1961

HIGHLIGHTS

The general trend of area nonfarm employment continues to follow a more or less normal course. From May to mid-June, manufacturing indicated a net gain; durable ods was up and nondurable total down. Construction bogged down a little further in wet weather and trucking & warehousing indicated further small seasonal cuts.

Retail trade had a pre-summer boost, as did some of the personal services group. But to cut it all down to size - a normal procedure -- closing of schools with release of service-worker personnel brought the area nonfarm total down to a net loss of 200.

Rise in unemployment to mid-June is also normal to the season, with schools out. There was little change in either initial 'aims or insured unemployment in June as ompared with May.

Forecast to August is for a small net increase in nonfarm total, with ample supply available for demand.

MANUFACTURING
GAINS 500

Although mid-June nonfarm estimated total employment was down very slightly because of the closing of schools, manufacturing reports indicated gains which netted an estimated 500 increase in total. Four industry groups were responsible for the change. In durable goods, which picked up 600, lumber & wood products increased by 130, primary metals by 195 and the heavy machinery group, 290. Nondurable goods' loss was 100 and the largest contribution thereto was a seasonal drop of 135 in the apparel group. Eight other groups indicated gains and five losses but all were relatively small and insignificant.

UNEMPLOYMENT
INCREASES SEASONALLY

A rise of 3100 in unemployment to mid-June is normal to the season, with school vacations on. Many students in this area do their job-hunting in May before school is out and thereby avoid being among the unemployed. The total of 8454 insured unemployment in the June sample week was only 109 higher than for the same week in May and initial claims in the two sample weeks varied almost not at all. Claimants for extended benefits increased approximately 500 between mid-May and mid-June.

AUGUST FORECAST
IS FOR 1170 GAIN

Gain estimated at 1170 net in nonfarm total is currently forecast to August, with 760 of it in manufacturing. Aside from return of several hundred chemical workers recently involved in a labor dispute, the largest single contributor is expected to be primary metals, where stated demand in the group netted 220. Construction reports indicated some slight reduction in total because of near-completion of some major industrial projects. Retail reports have been rather optimistic and some employment increase is expected in that quarter. Supply has been quite ample for all demands in both quantity and quality.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* JUNE '61	Prior Periods** MAY '61	JUNE '60	Anticipated AUG. '61
Total Labor Force	547,040	543,760	535,490	545,920
Unemployment - Total	27,500	24,400	25,500	26,000
Female	8,000	7,250	6,500	7,500
Idled by disputes	1,040	780	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	518,500	518,580	509,990	519,920
Agricultural	6,100	5,980	5,950	6,350
Nonagricultural	512,400	512,600	504,040	513,570
Manufacturing	94,250	93,750	96,350	95,010
Construction	52,650	53,440	51,600	52,050
Trades	132,590	131,610	129,370	133,300
Government	38,450	40,480	37,115	38,480
Other nonmfg.	194,460	193,320	189,605	194,730
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	446,830	447,030	438,880	448,000

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.
A more detailed industrial break will be furnished on request.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

(TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS JUNE* 1961	MAY** 1961	JUNE** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS JUNE* 1961	MAY** 1961	JUNE** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS JUNE* 1961	MAY** 1961	JUNE** 1960
Manufacturing Total	$110.83	$110.24	$103.98	42.3	42.4	41.1	$2.62	$2.60	$2.53
Durable Goods	107.57	108.81	101.26	43.2	43.7	41.5	2.49	2.49	2.44
Nondurable Goods	114.39	111.79	107.59	41.0	40.8	40.6	2.79	2.74	2.65

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work.

* Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. **Revised.

HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson, District Director — 3104 Main Street, Phone CA 5-1711 — Vol. XVII, No. 4, AUGUST 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Over-all pattern of estimated area nonfarm employment in the 30 days ending at mid-July was almost an exact duplicate of the previous month: total netted a very small loss with manufacturing up and nonmanufacturing down. Women workers gained. Only a very small number of persons remained involved in labor disputes.

Durable goods manufacturing total dropped slightly from June to mid-July while nondurable gained substantially. Bad weather brought construction down again. A moderate gain was indicated in trades and seasonal increases were reported in service industries. Farm employment was down.

Mid-July estimate of unemployment rose above that of June because of seasonal influences. Insured unemployment showed a very small increase over June while those claiming extended benefits dropped from mid-June to July.

A sharp rise in nonfarm total is expected to September. Area supply remains ample.

LITTLE CHANGE
IN NONFARM TOTAL

With nonmanufacturing netting a loss estimated at 890 - all in construction and transportation services - a 700 gain indicated in manufacturing cut the over-all nonfarm loss down to less that 200 under June. Employer reports indicated an estimated 625 increase in women workers.

Except for chemicals, with a strike ended, oilfield machinery indicated the largest manufacturing gain - 310. Next was shipbuilding with an estimated 150, then food processing and apparel & finished products with 105 each. Primary metals reports indicated a net loss of 165 and fabricated metal products an estimated 300. The latter loss was due in part to seasonal factors in can manufacture. Construction reports indicated a 30-day loss estimated at 2400 because of rain. Apparently the summer slump of other years in retail trade is now just a memory, thanks to the burgeoning growth of shopping centers.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP SLIGHTLY

Unemployment at mid-July was estimated at 800 above June. Insured unemployment was 8672 for the July sample week as compared to 8454 in June. 1240 initial claims were filed in the July week and 1282 in June. Extended insured unemployment dropped to 2692 in July from 2828 in June. This 30-day period saw an increase in the number of persons waiting 7 days or more after separation from the job to file a claim.

OUTLOOK IS GOOD

With schools in session again and Sharpstown Center scheduled for mid-September opening, plus possible added construction workers, current forecast is for 6540 increase in nonfarm total over the next 60 days. Because of sizeable gains by manufacturing in the past few months, stated demand is less except in primary metals. Retail reports forecast gains throughout the group as a whole. Supply has been ample and will be increased from now on by fall and holiday seasonal jobseekers.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* JULY 1961	Prior Periods** JULY '61	JULY '60	Anticipated SEPT. '61
Total Labor Force	546,620	547,140	535,690	549,050
Unemployment - Total	28,300	27,500	25,100	24,000
Women	8,250	8,000	6,750	8,000
Idled by disputes	110	1,040	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	518,210	518,600	510,590	525,050
Agricultural	5,900	6,100	5.975	6,200
Nonagricultural	512,310	512,500	504,615	518,850
Manufacturing	95,050	94,350	97,050	95,210
Construction	50,250	52,650	50,625	52,400
Trades	133,020	132,590	128,935	134,970
Government	38,620	38,450	37,220	41,040
Other nonmfg.	195,370	194,460	190,785	195,230
Nonagri. wage & salary	446,740	446,930	439,385	453,260

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS JULY* 1961	JUNE** 1961	JULY** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS JULY* 1961	JUNE** 1961	JULY** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS JULY* 1961	JUNE** 1961	JULY** 1960
Manufacturing - Total	$111.67	$110.04	$104.70	42.3	42.0	40.9	$2.64	$2.62	$2.56
Durable Goods	109.98	107.32	99.80	43.3	43.1	40.9	2.54	2.49	2.44
Nondurable Goods	113.85	113.27	109.75	41.1	40.6	40.8	2.77	2.79	2.69

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work. TEC-BLS co-operative program.
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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	110 So. Main	GR3-3301
Baytown	J. S. Durham	117 E. Texas	JU2-6919

HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVII, No. 5
SEPTEMBER 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

From July to August, labor market conditions in the area followed, by and large, a normal seasonal pattern. Retail stores got ready for fall business and some new ·es were opened. Construction changed little; trucking & warehousing was down slightly. Manufacturing reports indicated a net gain, mostly because of the primary metals group with little else of significance. Total of farm workers was approximately the same as in July. All labor disputes were settled except for one or two too small to count.

Unemployment dropped an estimated 2400. Insured unemployment has continued to decrease and initial claims were also below the previous month. There were also fewer claimants for extended unemployment benefits.

·utlook in the immediate area to October appears to be excellent, with a substantial increase in nonfarm total indicated by employer reports. The area was very fortunate, by comparison, in the amount and type of damage inflicted by Hurricane Carla. Supply remains ample for demands.

AUGUST NONFARM
TOTAL UP 4360

Nonfarm wage and salary employment gained an estimated 4360 (1.0%) in total from July to August. Women workers were up 3260 (2.3%). Current total is 3.0% above August 1960.

The August manufacturing estimate was 500 above July and 1800 above June but still 1100 below one year ago. Both in the current month and a year ago, durable goods registered gains while nondurable employers reported losses. However, current variations had little significance except for a gain of almost 400 in primary metals. Reports from retail trade indicated the addition of an estimated 1250, with just over 200 among wholesalers. Construction netted a 300 gain while trucking & warehousing lost about the same number. Some school workers were back to prepare for re-opening of schools.

UNEMPLOYMENT
DOWN 2400

Unemployment dropped an estimated 2400 to 25,900, or 4.7% of the total labor force. Insured unemployment dropped from 8672 in the July sample week to 7739 in August. Initial claims totaled 1048 for this same week in August as compared with 1240 in July. Claimants for extended unemployment benefits dropped from 2692 in July to 2326 as of mid-August.

OCTOBER
GAIN FORECAST

To October, pre-holiday buying and the opening of the huge new Sharpstown Center should bring a very substantial employment increase in retail trade. Trucking & warehousing reports forecast seasonal increases though this may be cut because of crop loss from Hurricane Carla. Manufacturing is currently scheduled for a small loss and construction total is due for a further drop. Net gain in total is estimated at just over 2000 and supply is expected to be ample for all demand.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* AUG. 1961	Prior Periods** JULY '61	AUG. '60	Anticipated OCT. '61
Total Labor Force	549,080	547,220	535,720	549,700
Unemployment - Total	25,900	28,300	25,900	24,500
Women	8,000	8,250	6,500	8,000
Idled by disputes	0	110	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	523,180	518,810	509,820	525,200
Agricultural	5,910	5,900	5,970	5,800
Nonagricultural	517,270	512,910	503,850	519,400
Manufacturing	96,150	95,650	97,250	95,700
Construction	50,550	50,250	49,650	49,300
Trades	134,480	133,020	129,430	137,890
Government	40,950	38,620	37,550	41,030
Other nonmfg.	195,140	195,370	189,970	195,480
Nonagri. wage & salary	451,700	447,340	438,565	453,830

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS AUG.* 1961	JULY** 1961	AUG.** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS AUG.* 1961	JULY** 1961	AUG.** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS AUG.* 1961	JULY** 1961	AUG.** 1960
Manufacturing - Total	$112.73	$111.41	$103.98	42.7	42.2	41.1	$2.64	$2.64	$2.53
Durable Goods	109.62	109.04	101.99	43.5	43.1	41.8	2.52	2.53	2.44
Nondurable Goods	116.06	113.85	106.39	41.6	41.1	40.3	2.79	2.77	2.64

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work. TEC-BLS co-operative program.
* Preliminary - Subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports. **Revised.

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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	110 So. Main	GR 3-3301
Baytown	J. S. Durham	117 E. Texas	JU 2-6919

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVII, No. 6
OCTOBER 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Area nonfarm wage and salary total dropped to mid-September, largely because of the late unlamented hurricane Carla. The loss was mainly of short duration, with most activities returning to more or less normal at least by the following week. Brunt of the storm, employmentwise, was felt by trucking & warehousing, construction and shipbuilding. Farm work came to a standstill and many crops were lost.

Retail trade was given a substantial employment boost by the opening of Sharpstown Center.

Unemployment dropped slightly below the August estimate, with insured unemployment down 7.3% in the past 30 days. Carla had little effect on claims activity.

Current forecast to November is for a net increase of approximately 8300 in nonfarm total, with more than half of it scheduled in retail trade for holiday business. Supply has been ample for demands in the current period and is expected to remain so throughout the year's end.

EMPLOYMENT LOSS
IS TEMPORARY

The mid-September area nonfarm employment estimate, based on employer reports received by the TEC, showed a drop of about 3300 (0.7%) under August. Employment reporting was not at its best during this reporting week. Most work stoppages were from a couple of days to a week. At the Port and in surrounding areas where water was a factor, it is thought that temporary layoffs were probably much greater than available reports indicated.

While trucking & warehousing, shipbuilding and construction felt the storm's effect most, part of the construction drop was a result of scheduled industrial job completions. Shipbuilding was down an estimated 570. Stone, clay & glass and fabricated metal products both were down slightly as an indirect result of the hurricane. Release of vacation extras plus planned cutbacks brought petroleum refining down 270. Sharpstown Center's opening, plus Jubilee City and others contributed to a gain estimated at 1250 in retail trade.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS
4.6% OF LABOR FORCE

Mid-September estimate of 25,300 unemployed represents 4.6% of the labor force and a drop of 10.6% since July. Although the current estimate is 11.5% above a year ago, insured unemployment for the September sample week was, for the first time in many months, very slightly below the same week a year ago - the total was 7171 as against 7739 in August and 7262 in September 1960. Extended insured unemployment was 2142 for the current sample week, a decline of 184 since mid-August.

SHARP UPTURN DUE
IN NOVEMBER

A net increase of about 8300 in nonfarm total is estimated to November, with 640 in manufacturing, 2260 in transportation services, 900 in construction, 4700 in trade. Long-range effect of the hurricane on seasonal warehousing is yet unknown.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* SEPT. 1961	Prior Periods** AUG. '61	SEPT. '60	Anticipated NOV. '61
Total Labor Force	545,330	549,380	534,990	551,445
Unemployment - Total	25,300	25,900	22,700	23,000
Women	8,000	8,000	6,750	7,500
Idled by disputes	0	110	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	520,030	523,480	511,490	528,445
Agricultural	5,750	5,910	6,900	5,850
Nonagricultural	514,280	517,270	504,590	522,595
Manufacturing	95,250	96,450	96,350	95,890
Construction	48,800	50,550	47,350	49,700
Trades	135,850	134,480	130,360	140,550
Government	40,910	40,950	39,950	41,025
Other nonmfg.	193,470	195,140	190,580	195,430
Nonagri. wage & salary	448,710	452,000	439,200	457,025

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS SEPT.* 1961	AUG.** 1961	SEPT.** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS SEPT.* 1961	AUG.** 1961	SEPT.** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS SEPT.* 1961	AUG.** 1961	SEPT.** 1960
Manufacturing - Total	$104.25	$111.41	$104.55	38.9	42.2	41.0	$2.68	$2.64	$2.55
Durable Goods	98.43	110.31	100.70	38.6	43.6	41.1	2.55	2.53	2.45
Nondurable Goods	111.22	113.00	109.20	39.3	40.5	40.9	2.83	2.79	2.67

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work. TEC-BLS co-operative program.
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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVII, No. 7
NOVEMBER 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

At mid-October, area nonfarm employment had recouped most of its losses resulting from the hurricane which were reflected in the September estimates. Manufacturing indicated a substantial net gain, as did retail trade. Trucking & warehousing was up above last month but below August and construction dropped again, even before the current labor dispute began.

Unemployment was estimated at 9.1% less than at mid-September and at approximately the same figure as in October 1960. All types of claims actions were well below the previous month.

Since no settlement of the construction labor dispute is currently in sight, its effect on total employment to mid-December is hard to forecast. Aside from that, outlook to December is excellent, with October reports from retail merchants predicting the usual December employment upswing. Some holiday hiring has already begun. Supply has been quite ample and it promises to remain so.

EMPLOYMENT GAIN
ESTIMATED AT 2420

Nonfarm employment at mid-October was estimated at 2290 (0.5%) above September but still 500 below August. A very small increase in seasonal farm work was indicated but the normal high point was never hit. An estimated 145,500 women wage & salary workers is a 1950 (1.4%) gain over September's estimate and 6670 (4.8%) higher than one year ago. Current total of all wage and salary workers is 2.6% above 1960.

Manufacturing reports indicated a gain of 600 net over the past 30 days. Shipyard employment bounced back with a 440 gain and nonelectric machinery showed an increase of 225. Petroleum refining was down 140. No other reported changes were of any particular significance.

Although transportation & allied services were estimated at 1120 above September, the industry is feeling long-range effects of the recent hurricane. Construction's drop of 1400 since mid-September leaves its total at an estimated 3150 below August. Retail trade reports indicated an increase estimated at 1100, partly seasonal, partly new outlets. Public schools employment is well above last year's total.

UNEMPLOYMENT 4.2%
OF LABOR FORCE

The mid-October unemployment estimate of 23,000 is 2300 below September and represents 4.2% of the labor force. This is in comparison with 22,900 (4.3% of the labor force) in October 1960. Insured unemployment for the October sample week totaled 6231 as against 7171 in September and 7289 one year ago. Initial claims totaled 899 in the October week - 186 fewer than in the previous month. Extended unemployment benefit claims dropped from 2142 to 1783.

TRADES OPTIMISTIC

Based on October reports, net increase in total to December is estimated at 8310, of which 8210 is in retail trade, 1140 in government, 900 in trucking & warehousing and a drop of about 550 in manufacturing. Construction is due a 1400 loss, at least.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* OCT. 1961	Prior Periods** SEPT. '61	Prior Periods** OCT. '60	Anticipated DEC. '61
Total Labor Force	545,950	545,830	534,640	553,730
Unemployment - Total	23,000	25,300	22,900	22,500
Women	8,000	8,000	6,800	7,500
Idled by disputes	0	0	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	522,950	520,530	511,740	531,230
Agricultural	5,880	5,750	6,250	5,850
Nonagricultural	517,070	514,780	505,490	525,380
Manufacturing	96,350	95,750	95,750	95,800
Construction	47,400	48,800	48,010	46,000
Trades	137,030	135,850	131,880	145,220
Government	42,020	40,910	39,720	43,230
Other nonmfg.	194,270	193,470	190,130	195,130
Nonagri. wage & salary	451,500	449,210	440,045	459,810

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised. 2/Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.

* * * * * *

GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OCT.* 1961	SEPT.** 1961	OCT.** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS OCT.* 1961	SEPT.** 1961	OCT.** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS OCT.* 1961	SEPT.** 1961	OCT.** 1960
Manufacturing Total	$113.79	$100.98	$105.57	42.3	37.4	41.4	$2.69	$2.70	$2.55
Durable Goods	112.92	92.42	101.75	43.1	36.1	41.7	2.62	2.56	2.44
Nondurable Goods	115.51	111.15	109.47	41.4	39.0	41.0	2.79	2.85	2.67

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work. TEC-BLS co-operative program.
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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVII, No. 8
DECEMBER 1961

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Area nonfarm total employment plummeted an estimated 4000 to mid-November as a result of the strike of common laborers in construction. Manufacturing also dropped, partly because of the strike. Trucking & warehousing and retail trade both showed nice gains. More women workers have been added as holiday hiring began to get under way. Farm employment indicated little change.

In spite of the sharp employment drop, unemployment indicated a comparatively moderate increase over October's low. Insured unemployment for the November sample week was less than 500 higher than in the previous month and initial claims rose by only about 300.

Following the usual December peak, January employment will be due to drop. However, November employer reports indicated that it should be slightly higher than the current total. Supply remains ample, having been increased as usual by housewives and others entering the labor force for holiday work.

STRIKE EFFECT
IS MARKED

The recent labor dispute in construction brought approximately 300 million dollars worth of area construction to a halt. The resultant drop of an estimated 6600 in the industry's employment netted a net loss of 4000 (0.9%) in nonfarm total under October. November estimate of 146,900 women wage and salary workers is 1400 (1.0%) above October.

Largest factor in manufacturing's estimated 400 loss was a 280 drop in fabricated metal products which partly resulted from the strike. Primary metals dropped 150 and food processing showed a seasonal cutback. Employer reports indicated a further increase of 250 in nonelectric machinery. The strike apparently had little effect on retail trade employmentwise or otherwise. November reports indicated an over-all gain estimated at 1400. Port activity fared better than was expected and an increase of better than 1200 was estimated in transportation & allied services. Other changes were insignificant.

UNEMPLOYMENT
IS UP 1800

While the mid-November unemployment estimate was 1800 above October, it was 500 below September and 2000 less than a year ago. Insured unemployment for the November sample week totaled 6710 - a 479 increase over October but 461 (6.4%) lower than for the same week in September and 1206 (15.2%) fewer than in November 1960. Initial claims totaled 1207 against 899 for the October sample week and 1683 the same week a year ago. Extended insured unemployment dropped to 1692 from 2142.

OUTLOOK IS GOOD

Following the usual after-Christmas drop in trades and government, area nonfarm total to January is currently forecast at about 1500 above the current figure. Construction is expected to regain some 3500. Other changes indicated are minor. Demand has been quite adequately met and supply to January should be equally ample.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* NOV. 1961	Prior Periods** OCT. '61	NOV. '60	Anticipated JAN. 1962
Total Labor Force	546,510	546,250	542,390	546,000
Unemployment - Total	24,800	23,000	26,800	25,300
Women	7,750	8,000	7,000	8,000
Idled by disputes	2,000	0	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	519,710	523,250	515,590	520,700
Agricultural	5,840	5,880	5,900	5,840
Nonagricultural	513,870	517,370	509,690	514,680
Manufacturing	96,250	96,650	94,750	95,920
Construction	40,800	47,400	50,620	44,300
Trades	138,480	137,030	132,220	136,180
Government	41,780	42,020	40,160	41,970
Other nonmfg.	196,560	194,270	191,940	196,990
Nonagri. wage & salary	447,800	451,800	444,240	449,290

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Nov.* '61	Oct.** '61	Nov.** '60	Nov.* '61	Oct.** '61	Nov.** '60	Nov.* '61	Oct.** '61	Nov.** '60
Manufacturing - Total	$111.11	$115.78	$103.89	41.0	43.2	40.9	$2.71	$2.68	$2.54
Durable Goods	108.38	115.44	100.43	42.5	44.4	41.5	2.55	2.60	2.42
Nondur. Goods	114.46	116.34	108.27	39.2	41.7	40.4	2.92	2.79	2.68

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work. TEC-BLS co-operative program.

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DIRECTORY OF EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION OFFICES

Office	Manager	Location	Telephone
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Comm. & Prof.	Gladys Mullins	2918 San Jacinto St.	CA 5-1711
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Northwest	W. F. Thomas	1806 Woodvine	OV 6-5581
Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	110 So. Main	GR 3-3301
Baytown	J. S. Durham	117 E. Texas	JU 2-6919

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVII, No. 9
JANUARY 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

With November's construction labor dispute ended, area employment at mid-December was about back to its normal seasonal pattern.

Retail trade reports indicated that this industry enjoyed its usual holiday peak and reports from construction employers indicated partial recovery from the November loss. Manufacturing was down slightly although most industry changes were insignificant.

The sharp drop in unemployment followed settlement of the labor dispute, an overall decline in claimants and a normal seasonal trend.

Forecast trend of employment to February is for an entirely normal post - holiday drop, almost all in trades and government totals. Some small net gains are forecast in manufacturing and construction.

Current labor supply has been quite ample both as to quantity and, largely, quality. This situation is expected to remain unchanged for some time.

DECEMBER NONFARM
ESTIMATE UP 11,320

With trades' employment increase between November and December estimated at approximately 6800 and construction at 3500, area nonfarm wage and salary total at mid-December registered a gain of 11,320. Women workers were estimated at approximately 151,200, up 4325 from November. Increase in construction reflected in employer reports received by the TEC did not make up for the loss indicated in November. The Houston post office was scheduled to put on about a thousand helpers for the Christmas rush and a small gain was evidenced in transportation & allied services.

Manufacturing total was down 100 under November. The only numerically significant change was a gain of 120 in the fabricated metal products group. Petroleum refining dropped again, with further cuts due.

16.5% DROP ESTIMATED
IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Mid-December estimate of 20,700 unemployed is 4100 (16.5%) below November, representing 3.8% of the labor force. Insured unemployment for the December sample week was 6489, a drop of 3.3% under November's 6710, and 3042 (31.9%) less than in December 1960. Initial claims for all types of unemployment benefits dropped from the 1207 of the November sample week to 902, a 25.3% decline over the 30-day period. Extended insured unemployment changed very little from November, but the total of 1686 is 21.3% below two months ago.

NORMAL DROP IS
FORECAST TO FEBRUARY

A normal drop in nonfarm total, currently estimated at just over 7700, is expected to February. Cutback of 8,900 in retail trade was estimated from December employment reports. Chief demand in manufacturing is 200 in oilfield machinery, 70 in primary metals, 50 in stone, clay & glass. Refineries predicted a loss of 120.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* DEC. 1961	Prior Periods** NOV. '61	DEC. '60	Anticipated FEB. 1962
Total Labor Force	551,530	546,310	547,100	545,620
Unemployment - Total	20,700	24,800	24,900	23,000
Women	7,500	8,000	7,500	8,500
Idled by disputes	0	2,000	250	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	530,830	519,510	521,950	522,620
Agricultural	5,840	5,840	5,750	5,850
Nonagricultural	524,990	513,670	516,200	516,770
Manufacturing	95,950	96,050	93,650	96,010
Construction	44,300	40,800	51,230	45,300
Trades	145,300	138,480	139,025	136,420
Government	43,040	41,780	40,180	42,540
Other nonmfg.	196,400	196,560	192,115	196,500
Nonagri. wage & salary	458,920	447,600	450,750	451,200

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Dec.* 1961	Nov.** 1961	Dec.** 1960	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Dec.* 1961	Nov.** 1961	Dec.** 1960	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Dec.* 1961	Nov.** 1961	Dec.** 1960
Manufacturing - Total	$112.41	$110.51	$104.19	42.1	41.7	40.7	$2.67	$2.65	$2.56
Durable Goods	109.06	107.87	99.88	42.6	42.3	40.6	2.56	2.55	2.46
Nondur. Goods	116.48	113.70	108.94	41.6	40.9	40.8	2.80	2.78	2.67

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for holidays and overtime, and for late-shift work. TEC-BLS co-operative program.

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Baytown	J. S. Durham	117 E. Texas	JU 2-6919

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVII, No. 10
FEBRUARY 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Although retail trade's post-holiday cutback was a little sharper than usual for January, trend of area nonfarm employment was quite normal during the past 30 days. Mid-January estimated nonfarm total was more than 12,000 below the December high, but it was well above a year ago.

Manufacturing was slightly below both November and December but it topped the estimate for January '61 by 3.8%. Construction total dropped during the bad weather and trucking & warehousing was also down.

The sharp rise in estimated unemployment is perfectly normal for the season; it is currently 23.8% below a year ago. Insured unemployment and initial claims were both higher than in December, but these, too, are far below the same period last year.

Forecast to March, based on December employer reports, is for a substantial net increase in nonfarm total. Unemployment is expected to drop proportionately.

Supply during January was augmented as usual by "holiday extras" who have remained in the open labor market in hopes of regular employment.

NONFARM TOTAL TAKES
SEASONAL DROP

The area's estimated January wage & salary total was 12,170 (2.7%) below December and 4870 (1.1%) above January '61. Women workers, estimated at 142,485, were down 8755 (5.8%) under December's holiday peak and 3390 (2.4%) higher than a year ago. Farm total was about the same.

Manufacturing reports indicated a net loss of 500 under December but a gain of 3400 over January '61. Over the 12-month period, primary metals has chalked up a 1485 gain and oilfield machinery one of 1795. The latter group indicated an increase of almost 200 in the past 30 days. Petroleum refining reports confirmed the employment cut anticipated last month.

Post-season cuts in retail trade brought that industry's total to about the September level but some 3750 above the estimate of a year ago. Construction reports indicated that employment was down about 1000 while the "big freeze" held up some types of work. Federal employment dropped with release of the post office's Christmas extras.

UNEMPLOYMENT
UP SEASONALLY

Unemployment, estimated at 24,300 at mid-January, was 3600 above December but 500 below November and 7600 less than a year ago. Insured unemployment for the January sample week totaled 7146 as compared with 6489 in December and 10580 for the same period last year. Initial claims for the current sample week totaled 1288 as compared with 1941 a year ago.

OUTLOOK OPTIMISTIC
TO MARCH

January reports indicated a net employment increase estimated at 3760 to March. Manufacturing had stated demand totaling 550, construction an estimated 1200, trade 500, transportation services 840. A drop is anticipated in unemployment and supply is expected to remain ample for demands.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* JAN. 1962	Prior Periods** DEC. '61	JAN. '61	Anticipated MAR. 1962
Total Labor Force	542,550	551,130	545,310	543,030
Unemployment - Total	24,300	20,700	31,900	21,000
Women	8,500	7,500	8,000	8,000
Idled by disputes	0	0	650	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	518,250	530,430	512,760	522,030
Agricultural	5,830	5,840	5,830	5,850
Nonagricultural	512,420	524,590	506,930	516,180
Manufacturing	95,050	95,550	91,650	92,030
Construction	43,300	44,300	51,640	44,500
Trades	135,530	145,300	131,040	136,020
Government	42,250	43,040	40,250	42,390
Other nonmfg.	196,290	196,400	192,350	197,840
Nonagri. wage & salary	446,350	458,520	441,480	450,110

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households.
** All employment estimates revised on new benchmark.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Jan.* 1962	Dec.** 1961	Jan.** 1961	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Jan.* 1962	Dec.** 1961	Jan.** 1961	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Jan.* 1962	Dec.** 1961	Jan.** 1961
Manufacturing Total	$111.25	$112.94	$107.12	40.9	42.3	41.2	$2.72	$2.67	$2.60
Durable Goods	105.97	109.48	100.61	40.6	42.6	40.9	2.61	2.57	2.46
Non-dur. Goods	117.71	117.60	114.40	41.3	42.0	41.6	2.85	2.80	2.75

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

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DIRECTORY OF EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION OFFICES

OFFICE	MANAGER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Professional	John E. Davis	Rm. 840, Tennessee Bldg.	CA 5-1711
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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	110 South Main	GR 3-3301
Baytown	J. S. Durham	117 E. Texas	JU 2-6919

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVII, No. 11
MARCH 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

The area's estimated nonfarm employment total was up 1300 over January and unemployment down by 1700. Farm employment showed little change.

February reports from nonmanufacturing employers indicated net gains in all major industry groups except construction.

Manufacturing's net increase over January was estimated at 300, with individual industries about evenly divided as to gains and losses.

Drop in estimated unemployment at mid-February paralleled a decline in all types of claims actions over the past 30 days.

Employer reports were optimistic in their outlook to April. Based on them, current forecast is for an estimated net increase of just under 3900 in nonfarm total. Farm employment is also due for some seasonal increase by mid-April. Supply has been ample in most respects.

FEBRUARY NONFARM
ESTIMATE UP 0.3%

An additional 1300 wage & salary workers at mid-February represented an 0.3% gain over January and 4980 (1.1%) over a year ago. Women workers were estimated at some 650 - 0.5% - higher than a month ago and 4700 (3.4%) above February 19, 1961.

Two heavy industries - fabricated metal products and nonelectric machinery - were the major contributors to manufacturing's estimated net gain of 300. In both groups gains were well spread across the board. The current increase in machinery (largely oilfield) puts its total 1775 ahead of a year ago. Shipbuilding dropped sharply but apparently only temporarily. No other groups' variations were of any particular significance or size.

At mid-month, construction was down again, 1000 below January. A small increase in trades employment over the past 30 days follows the pattern of mounting gains in 1962 sales as compared with 1961 figures. Transportation services indicated a gain of 600, mostly in trucking & warehousing.

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN

Following the normal January post-holiday high in unemployment, the estimate dropped 1700 to 22,600, representing 4.2% of the total labor force. Insured unemployment in the February sample week totaled 6940, a drop of 2.9% under January and of 37.3% below February 1961. Initial claims filed in the current sample week - 1079 - were 209 (16.2%) less than in January and 33.2% fewer than the 1615 of February '61. Extended insured unemployment dropped to 1546 from 1736 in January.

GAINS FOR APRIL

Of the 3900 increase forecast in nonfarm total to April, 660 is in manufacturing and 3210 in nonmanufacturing. Largest demand was stated by fabricated metal products, machinery and chemicals in manufacturing, and in construction, trucking and warehousing, retail trade and the service industries group in nonmanufacturing. An ample supply is anticipated.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* FEB. 1962	Prior Periods** JAN. '62	FEB. '61	Anticipated APRIL 1962
Total Labor Force	542,245	542,550	544,340	544,640
Unemployment - Total	22,600	24,300	29,750	21,000
Women	8,000	8,500	7,500	8,000
Idled by disputes	125	0	650	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	519,520	518,250	513,940	523,640
Agricultural	5,800	5,830	5,800	6,050
Nonagricultural	513,720	512,420	508,140	517,590
Manufacturing	95,350	95,050	92,150	96,010
Construction	42,300	43,300	52,700	43,300
Trades	136,130	135,530	130,310	136,880
Government	42,370	42,250	40,120	42,450
Other nonmfg.	197,570	196,290	192,860	198,950
Nonagri. wage & salary	447,650	446,350	442,670	451,520

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. ** Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Feb.* 1962	Jan.** 1962	Feb.** 1961	Feb.* 1962	Jan.** 1962	Feb.** 1961	Feb.* 1962	Jan.** 1962	Feb.** 1961
Manufacturing Total	$110.92	$111.52	$104.96	41.7	40.7	41.0	$2.66	$2.74	$2.56
Durable Goods	109.13	106.39	100.53	42.3	40.3	41.2	2.58	2.64	2.44
Non-Durable Goods	113.70	118.53	110.16	40.9	41.3	40.8	2.78	2.87	2.70

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.

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Baytown	J. S. Durham	117 E. Texas	JU 2-6919

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVII, No. 12
APRIL 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Employment in the Houston area shows a small increase in March over the preceding February and January as well as a gain over March of a year ago. Also on the bright side, unemployment dropped substantially, 14 percent from March of last year, 6.6 percent from January. However, some industries present a spotted employment picture, among them the Oil Industry. Estimated total employment is 519,525.

MODEST GAINS IN MARCH EMPLOYMENT

March nonfarm employment gains were modest, 255 over February, 1155 over January, and 1145 over March, 1961. However, employer-estimated gains for the future are quite optimistic. Gains of 6775 for May and 9410 for July are expected.

'anufacture of durable goods was a bright spot, showing employment gains of 200 over February, 300 over January, and 3000 over March, 1961. Future gains of 1450 for May and 1490 for July are predicted.

In the nonmanufacturing group, Trades Industries are humming, up 5050 over March, 1961, 610 over February and 1210 over January. But these gains are obscured by drastic fluctuations in Contract Construction and a sizeable and consistent drop in Transportation and Allied Services.

Employment in the manufacture of non-durable goods dropped somewhat from the previous two months and from March, 1961. However, members of these industries are optimistic for the future and predict substantial gains for May and July. Drops in two key industries, Chemicals and Allied Products, and Products of Petroleum and Coal were substantial.

In Manufacture of Durable Goods, substantial gains in Machinery and in Stone, Clay and Glass Products were responsible for a favorable showing. Fabricated Metal Products made some recovery from previous setbacks with substantial future increases predicted.

FEWER UNEMPLOYED NOW

Unemployment in the area is estimated at 22,700 for the sample week, a drop of 1700 from February, 1600 from January, and down 3700 from a year ago. Insured unemployment reflects this trend, March, 6756, February, 6940, and January, 7146. A year ago, the total for the sample week was more than 10,000. The unemployed make up 4.2% of the labor force. Initial claims show similar reductions.

FULLER EMPLOYMENT PREDICTED

Based on estimates of employers, employment should show a net increase of almost 6800 to May and 9400 to July. All segments of industry are expected to improve with Nonmanufacturing taking the lead. Here most of the impetus will come from Contract Construction, Retail Trade, and Business and Personal Services.

Generally, there is a fairly good balance between labor supply and demand. There is a strong tendency for employers to ask for more skilled and better trained workers. The demand is also great for highly skilled professional workers. With the coming of NASA, this trend is likely to increase.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* MAR. 1962	Prior Periods** FEB. '62	MAR. '61	Anticipated MAY 1962
Total Labor Force	542,225	543,645	544,830	550,100
Unemployment - Total	22,700	24,400	26,400	22,000
Women	8,100	8,500	7,250	7,000
Employment - Total 2/	519,525	519,120	517,780	528,100
Agricultural	5,950	5,800	5,850	7,750
Nonagricultural	513,575	513,320	511,930	520,350
Manufacturing	92,500	92,600	90,300	94,900
Construction	37,600	38,200	48,120	38,900
Trades	121,410	120,800	116,360	123,045
Government	42,370	42,370	40,370	42,450
Other nonmfg.	219,695	219,350	216,780	221,055
Nonagri. wage and salary	447,505	447,250	446,360	454,280

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. ** Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Mar.* 1962	Feb.** 1962	Mar.** 1961	Mar.* 1962	Feb.** 1962	Mar.** 1961	Mar.* 1962	Feb.** 1962	Mar.** 1961
Manufacturing									
Total	$110.77	$111.30	$104.19	41.8	42.0	40.7	$2.65	$2.65	$2.56
Durable Goods	109.59	108.54	102.09	41.8	42.4	41.5	2.55	2.56	2 [illegible]
Non-Durable Goods	116.48	115.37	107.06	41.9	41.5	39.8	2.78	2.78	2.69

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. *Preliminary, subject to revision.
** Revised.

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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. VIII, No. 1
M A Y 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

Increase in employment coupled with a decrease in unemployment keynote the Houston-Baytown area labor market. Compared with a year ago, employment is up approximately 6600 and unemployment is down 5600. Present estimated total employment is 524,935. Prime movers in the rising employment are in nonmanufacturing service industries (except household), 3280; retail trade, up 5630. In durable goods: machinery, up 2440; primary metals up 1020. Government shows a rise of 1660. Many other industries had substantial rises.

This powerful employment upsurge easily absorbed heavy loss of 9000 in the contract construction industries (big building construction is practically finished) plus a drop of 880 in products of petroleum.

These gratifying figures are, in most part a reflection of the good economic picture presented by the area. Almost all business indicators show gains over a year ago. Very few gains are spectacular—it is their overall consistency which is impressive.

APRIL NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT STRONG

Compared with March, all of the April increase in employment came in the nonmanufacturing industries. In both durable and nondurable goods, gains and losses balanced exactly; this unusual condition apparently will change for the better in June and August. However, in the case of nondurable goods, only very minor improvement is indicated. In this category, employment in products of petroleum has stabilized. There are 40 fewer employees in April than there were in March. The drop in a year was 880. Automation and reorganization are believed to be powerful factors in the year's decrease. June is expected to go up by 80 with August showing a minor rise of 65 over April.

CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT
RISE EXPECTED

Indications are that the largest contributor to the expected increase in employment for June and August will be agriculture. Durable goods is expected to contribute about 1400 for June and hold this figure for August. Nonmanufacturing is expected to go up by 1355 in June and then to lose some of the rise, showing in August a 700 increase over April.

Unemployment will probably go contrary to the downward trend, but this rise will be caused mostly by students and some teachers entering the labor force for the summer. An anticipated rise in employment in both agricultural and nonagricultural industries should provide jobs for many of these. This unfavorable employment condition should be temporary.

NO MANPOWER SHORTAGE

There are no indications of a manpower shortage. Of course there is always a demand for more capable, better trained skilled workers.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* APRIL 1962	Prior Periods** MAR. '62	APR. '61	Anticipated JUNE 1962
Total Labor Force	544,735	542,225	545,120	552,435
Unemployment - Total	19,800	22,700	25,400	23,000
Women	7,000	8,100	7,250	7,000
Employment - Total 2/				
Agricultural	6,750	5,950	5,920	8,500
Nonagricultural	518,185	513,575	512,900	520,935
Manufacturing	92,400	92,400	90,500	93,795
Construction	39,500	37,600	48,500	43,200
Trades	122,785	121,410	116,570	123,855
Government	42,040	42,370	40,380	39,120
Other nonmfg.	221,460	219,695	216,450	220,965
Nonagri. wage and salary	452,115	447,505	447,330	454,865

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. ** Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Apr.* 1962	Mar.** 1962	Apr. 1961	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Apr.* 1962	Mar.** 1962	Apr. 1961	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Apr* 1962	Mar.** 1962	Apr. 1961
Manufacturing-Total	$111.57	$110.77	$109.62	42.1	41.8	42.0	$2.65	$2.65	$2.61
Durable Goods	106.85	106.59	106.93	41.9	41.8	42.6	2.55	2.55	2.51
Nondurable Goods	117.59	116.20	113.16	42.3	41.8	41.3	2.78	2.78	2.74

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. * Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised

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DIRECTORY OF EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION OFFICES

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Professional	John E. Davis	Room 840, Tennessee Bldg.	CA 5-1711
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Clerical & Sales	Gladys Mullins	2918 San Jacinto St.	CA 5-1711
Farm & Labor	Sam C. Jarvis	2620 Polk	CA 5-1711
Northwest	B. A. Larsen	1806 Woodvine	OV 6-5581
Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	110 South Main	GR 3-3301
Baytown	F. Johnson	117. E. Texas	JU 2-6919
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol.XVIII No. #2
J U N E 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

An increase in employment over last month of approximately 3,700 jobs with unemployed jobseekers constituting only 3.6% of the total work force are two significant factors in this area. Other highlights are: the good showing in nonmanufacturing industries which strongly overcame the sizeable drop in manufacturing; the entry into the labor force of students and teachers for the summer; and the influence of the ever-exciting NASA. There are an estimated 19,750 unemployed. Estimated total employment is 528,750. To this figure, nonmanufacturing contributes 363,280 and manufacturing about one-fourth as much, 91,600. Statistics from almost all economic barometers indicate a continuation of the broad, steady growth the area has experienced over the past year.

PRIME MOVER - NONMANUFACTURING

In nonmanufacturing, net job changes to May show: From April up 3,565, from March up 8,275, and from May of last year up 7,650. Contract construction for the same periods went up 3,300, up 5,200, but down 5,340 from a year ago; retail trade went up 1,125, up 2,425 and up a powerful 6,785; and services except private household, up 1,100, up 1,690 and up 4,050.

MANUFACTURING LAGS

The manufacturing industries lost ground. At the bottom of the decline were the nondurables, down 600 from April, down 700 from March, and down 1,200 from May of last year. Contributing most to the decrease were food and kindred products, down 290, down 350, down 410 respectively for the same three periods; and chemicals and allied products, down 180, down 250 but up 140 over a year ago. Drops in the products of petroleum and coal were small.

UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Estimates show little change in the level of unemployment. Job applications indicate that by occupation, there has been little change in the last three months. Initial claims 871 for the week including the 19th were down 47 from April, 93 from March and 424 from a year ago. Active applications increased 1675 from April to May, but show a 612 decrease from March to May. With students and teachers entering the labor force, employment is expected to rise to about 23,000.

The effect of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is not important concerning numbers employed; however, long range predictions of what NASA will bring to this area seem almost fantastic. Among other things, Houston is expected to become an important electronics industry center.

LABOR SUPPLY AND DEMAND

There is considerable demand for workers in specialized fields. Mathematicians, physics majors, engineers and other professional people are in demand. Employers seem to be choosing employees carefully in an attempt to secure efficiency of production. This in part explains the anomaly of plenty of jobs available coexisting with thousands of persons wanting work. Nevertheless, supply and demand appear to be in reasonably good balance.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current*	Prior Periods**		Anticipated
	MAY 1962	APRIL '62	MAY '61	JULY 1962
Total Labor Force	548,500	544,775	542,580	559,170
Unemployment - Total	19,750	19,940	24,400	23,000
Women	7,050	7,100	7,250	7,000
Employment - Total 2/	528,750	524,835	518,180	536,170
Agricultural	7,800	6,750	5,980	7,700
Nonagricultural	520,950	518,085	512,200	528,470
Manufacturing	91,600	92,300	91,000	92,640
Construction	42,800	39,500	48,140	47,200
Trades	123,465	122,785	116,280	123,960
Government	41,320	42,040	40,480	41,265
Other Nonmfg.	221,765	221,460	216,300	223,405
Nonagri. wage and salary	454,880	452,015	446,630	462,400

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. ** Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

Industry	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	May* 1962	Apr.** 1962	May 1961	May* 1962	Apr.** 1962	May 1961	May* 1962	Apr.** 1962	May 1961
Manufacturing									
Total	$111.99	$112.25	$110.24	42.1	42.2	42.4	$2.66	$2.66	$ 2.60
Durable Goods	107.78	108.45	108.81	42.1	42.2	43.7	2.56	2.57	2.49
Nondurable Goods	117.60	118.02	111.79	42.0	42.3	40.8	2.80	2.79	2.74

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. *Preliminary, subject to revision.
** Revised.

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT

TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVIII, No. 3
J U L Y 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

HIGHLIGHTS

An expanding labor force, increased employment, a normal rise in unemployment and forecasts for an October employment drop are highlights of the month. A big rise in construction employment carried total employment up with it in June. But predictions for this mercurial industry are for a heavy drop in August and a heavier one in October. As a result, total employment should show a small rise to 425 in August, but should drop by 4525 from June to October. This change in construction appears to be largely seasonal, sharply accentuated by the high point reached in June.

There are an estimated 22,300 unemployed, 4.0 percent of the labor force. Estimated employment stands at 533,400. In nonmanufacturing, another big seasonal change is evident. State and local government employment dropped almost 1,000 from May to June because of school vacation, but the loss will be regained plus about 100 with resumption of school. Withdrawal of students and others from the labor force is expected to reduce unemployment to about 20,000 in August.

CONSTRUCTION DROP
TO BREAK TREND

The estimated employment trend for months up to and through June has been rising with fair consistency, but apparently the heavy drop in construction will interrupt this trend. Only other segment of industry in the nonmanufacturing classification to show any predicted sizeable drop is trade -where estimates are for a drop of 525 for October. Even here, there is a predicted increase from June to August. Other industries predict increases, some of them sizeable. But these increases are swamped by the heavy drop of 5150 in construction predicted for October. Business indicators including construction are for continued good economic health in the area. Building permits are running ahead of last year's; news of planned construction fills the newspapers. Other indicators for the area are predominantly favorable.

MANUFACTURING NORMAL

Manufacturing employment is following a normal pattern, according to estimates. Nondurable goods shows a fair increase of 295 predicted from June to August subsiding to a minor increase of only 75 for October. Durable goods employment should increase 190 to August but should lose 485 to October.

Industries predicted to have rising employment are medical and professional services up 800 to August, up 660 to October; local government will rise, up 480 and 1165 for the same respective periods. National Aeronautics and Space Administration employment, now at 1660 is expected to rise to 2000 in the next two months and to 2400 in the next four.

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS STEADY

June initial claims for unemployment insurance were fairly steady at 897 for the sample week of June 19th, up 28 from May, down 21 from April. As is indicated by the ratio of unemployed to the employed, labor supply and demand are in reasonably good balance.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current*	Prior Periods**		Anticipated
	JUNE 1962	MAY '62	JUNE '61	AUGUST 1962
Total Labor Force	555,730	548,500	546,640	556,490
Unemployment - Total	22,300	19,750	27,500	20,000
Women	7,880	7,050	7,250	7,040
Idled by disputes	0	0	1,040	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	533,430	528,750	518,100	536,490
Agricultural	8,600	7,800	6,100	9,000
Nonagricultural	524,830	520,950	512,000	527,490
Manufacturing	92,400	91,600	91,500	92,885
Construction	46,800	42,800	47,350	43,300
Trades	123,540	123,465	117,260	123,090
Government	40,415	41,320	38,450	40,895
Other Nonmfg.	221,675	221,765	217,440	227,320
Nonagri. wage and salary	458,760	454,880	446,430	461,420

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. ** Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	June* 1962	May ** 1962	June 1961	June* 1962	May** 1962	June 1961	June* 1962	May ** 1962	June 1961
Manufacturing- Total	$112.83	$112.25	$110.04	42.1	42.2	42.0	$2.68	$2.66	$2.62
Durable Goods	108.97	108.45	107.32	42.4	42.2	43.1	2.57	2.57	2.49
Non-Durable Goods	117.88	117.32	113.27	41.8	42.2	40.6	2.82	2.78	2.79

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. * Preliminary, subject to revision.
** Revised

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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	110 South Main	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVIII, No. 4
AUGUST 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

EMPLOYMENT UP, UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN . . .
AND THE FUTURE LOOKS GOOD TOO

Houston-Baytown area employment estimates indicate conditions are good. Contrasts between now and last year are striking. The estimated gain in employment is 15,900, nough to populate a fair sized city. Unemployment, a shade below 4 per cent, is at a level some economists feel is almost ideal. It is below the national average. And while predictions for the next few months are not spectacular, they indicate continuing healthy growth. Reduction in the number of unemployed from June to July appears to be influenced by withdrawal of many students and other summer workers from the labor force, and the fact that many others got the jobs they were seeking.

NONMANUFACTURING AGAIN CARRIES THE LOAD
BUT MANUFACTURING MAKES GAINS

Nonmanufacturing employment has improved in he later months of this year, indicating a consistent upward trend. Earlier statistics show a few breaks in this upward movement. This group accounts for approximately eighty percent of total employment. It includes retail and wholesale trade, business and professional services and construction industries. High employment here is a key indicator of the strong economic conditions of the area. Evidence is that conditions are good. Employment gains of about 5,500 to September with a lesser gain of 3,160 from July to November are predicted. Most of the gain will occur in Contract Construction where a gain to September of 3,000 is predicted. Some of the September gain, in retail trade, is seasonal, September being the back-to-school month. Employment in the big industry of production of crude petroleum and natural gas shows a weak rise of 40 to September and a very small decline of 5 to November.

Finance, insurance and real estate will experience employment declines of 220 to September and 315 to November, according to estimates of businessmen in this industry which employed an estimated total of 24,390 workers in July. Wholesale trade with about 32,300 employees should experience a very slight rise of 30 to September with a small decline of 95 to November. Employment in government is expected to rise almost 1000 to September as NASA builds up its personnel. Effect of NASA on related industrial employment is not strongly evident. However, by nature of its objectives, NASA extends its influence into almost every facet of industry. Reopening of school is also a seasonal factor in government employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN 6,300 from 1961

Unemployment, now estimated at 22,000, jumped from May to June, but has slanted downward gradually. An abrupt drop is expected in September with reopening of school. Compared with last year's figures, the unemployment picture is bright indeed; over the year an estimated 6,300 decline has occurred. Initial claims for unemployment insurance stand at 1,097, an increase of 200 from June.

By occupation there has been little change in unemployment characteristics. Clerks and salespeople now comprise about 31 percent of the total unemployed. In May they formed about 27 percent of those looking for work. Numbers of unemployed in other occupations changed little in relation to the total number of job seekers.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* JULY 1962	Prior Periods** JUNE '62	JULY '61	Anticipated SEPT. 1962
Total Labor Force	557,630	556,030	546,820	564,490
Unemployment - Total	22,000	22,300	28,300	19,000
Women	7,700	7,800	8.250	6,900
Idled by disputes	0	0	110	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	535,630	533,730	518,410	545,490
Agricultural	6,705	8,600	5,900	11,100
Nonagricultural	528,925	525,130	512,510	534,390
Manufacturing	93,600	92,700	92,900	93,430
Construction	47,920	46,800	44,950	50,935
Trades	124,220	123,540	117,690	124,705
Government	41,040	40,415	38,620	42,420
Other Nonmfg.	222,145	221,675	218,350	222,900
Nonagri. wage and salary	462,855	459,060	446,940	468,320

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. ** Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	July* 1962	June** 1962	July 1961	July* 1962	June** 1962	July 1961	July* 1962	June** 1962	July 1961
Manufacturing - Total	$116.72	$112.56	$111.41	42.6	42.0	42.2	$2.74	$2.68	$2 [illegible]
Durable Goods	112.56	108.20	109.04	42.8	42.1	43.1	2.63	2.57	2.[illegible]
Non-Durable Goods	122.11	118.16	113.85	42.4	41.9	41.1	2.88	2.82	2.77

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. * Preliminary, subject to revision.
** Revised

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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. XVIII, No. 5
SEPTEMBER 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT BOTH UP

Unemployment in this area rose to 4.1 per cent of an expanded labor force in August. Total employment was up from July by 3000 with nonmanufacturing, manufacturing, and agricultural employment showing gains. Nonmanufacturing employment was up only 20 over July. Moderate gains in trucking and warehousing, trade, and government were largely offset by declining construction employment. Retail trade employment estimates continued upward but construction dropped 2 per cent. Supported substantially by gains in fabricated metal products, manufacturing appeared a little stronger than preceding months.

Look for a continued decrease in employment to October in construction. Agricultural employment will follow a downward pattern as fall harvesting is completed. Indications are for a decrease in unemployment as the labor force is reduced to normal after its summer seasonal peak. Retail trade continues upward and gains will be registered in government.

EMPLOYMENT TO DECLINE

Indications for October are for a drop of 10,920 in total employment. The upward trend in nonmanufacturing employment since February of this year is expected to be reversed by a drop of 5380 from the current level. Leading this decline will be construction which also was down 1020 from July to August. Current estimates are that this decline will continue with October employment a sizeable 6625 below the August level. A slight downward trend to October will occur in mining, transportation and warehousing, and personal services. This decline is partially offset by gains in retail trade and government.

Retail trade anticipates an increase of 1920 to October as retail sales continue at a high level and pre-holiday buying begins. With the opening of school in September, government is also expected to increase by 565 to October.

A slight decline which is expected in manufacturing to October is due chiefly to an estimated drop of 320 in fabricated metal products. Manufacturing employment, up 500 from July, has shown small gains for the past three months. However, reports indicate that this trend will be reversed when durable goods manufacturing industries drop 625 to October. Fabricated metal products, up 255 over July, is slated to drop 320 to October. Most of the other industries in this group are to be down very slightly.

Agricultural employment follows the downward trend with a decline of approximately 4700 as local rice and cotton harvesting close.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP FROM JULY

Unemployment rose by 1000 in August, but, with the reopening of school in September, a drop of the same amount is forecast for October. The current unemployment rate is 4.1 percent of the total labor force as compared to 4.7 per cent a year ago. Initial claims were down slightly, from 1097 in July to 1074 in August.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* AUG. 1962	Prior Periods ** JULY '62	AUG. '61	Anticipated OCT. 1962
Total Labor Force	561,430	557,430	548,780	549,510
Unemployment - Total	23,000	22,000	25,900	22,000
Women	8,130	7,800	8,000	7,700
Idled by disputes	0	0	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	538,430	535,430	522,880	527,510
Agricultural	8,685	6,705	5,910	3,965
Nonagricultural	529,745	528,725	516,970	523,545
Manufacturing	93,900	93,400	93,500	93,125
Construction	46,860	47,920	45,250	40,235
Trades	124,905	124,220	119,150	126,805
Government	41,145	41,040	40,950	41,710
Other Nonmfg.	222,935	222,145	218,120	221,670
Nonagri. wage and salary	463,675	462,655	451,400	457,475

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. ** Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Aug.* 1962	July** 1962	Aug. 1961	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Aug.* 1962	July** 1962	Aug. 1961	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Aug.* 1962	July** 1962	Aug. 1961
Manufacturing - Total	$111.51	$115.60	$111.41	42.4	42.5	42.2	$2.63	$2.72	$2.64
Durable Goods	109.48	110.50	110.31	42.6	42.5	43.6	2.57	2.60	2.53
Non-Durable Goods	115.06	121.55	113.00	42.3	42.5	40.5	2.72	2.86	[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. * Preliminary, subject to revision.
** Revised

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. VIII No. 6
OCTOBER 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

The nine-month uptrend in total employment in the Houston-Baytown area was broken in September by significant decreases in manufacturing, non-manufacturing, and farm employment. At the same time, unemployment dropped markedly. These concurrent changes combined to reduce the total labor force 1.9 percent below the August level. It still stood at 2.4 percent above a year ago. The outlook for the next two months calls for a moderate gain in employment and a slight reduction in unemployment.

EMPLOYMENT DIPS SHARPLY

After increasing for nine consecutive months total employment marked up a decline greater than expected from the mid-August level. A net loss of 10,165 reduced area employment by 1.9 percent.

s compared to September a year ago, the number of persons employed by manufacturing firms had decreased by 2.4 percent. Factory employment lost 2900 in the current per od, down 3.2 percent from the August level. The sharpest decrease, 1735, was recorded by firms manufacturing products of petroleum. Chemicals and machinery manufacturers followed, losing 850 and 495 respectively. Strikes in the chemicals and petroleum industries accounted for most of their losses. A moderate gain in foods was negated by small losses in transportation, printing and publishing, paper and allied products, primary metals, and lumber and wood products.

Non-manufacturing employment lost 3930. Construction dropped sharply, losing 2360 as a number of major projects neared completion. Moderate gains in retail and wholesale trade were over-shadowed by losses in transportation and services.

Agricultural employment dropped 3335 from August with the early completion of cotton harvesting in this area. It stood at 20.2 percent below September of last year.

EMPLOYMENT TO ADVANCE

Employment of wage and salary workers is expected to increase by 4245 during the next 60 days. The most significant gain to November is expected in retail trade with lesser gains in services, government, and manufacturing. Gains in stone, clay and glass, primary metals, and machinery should hold up manufacturing employment in spite of expected seasonal declines in furniture and fixtures, fabricated metal products, and transportation equipment.

UNEMPLOYMENT TO FLUCTUATE

The present unemployment level of 3.9 percent of the total labor force, adhering closely to the forecasts made in July, is well below the 4.4 percent registered in August and stands even with July. The withdrawal from the labor force of summer job seekers and temporary re-entrant employees combined to reduce unemployment. Following the unemployment trend, insured unemployment and active applications on file declined to the current period.

Unemployment is expected to edge upward in October due to a number of recent layoffs. Anticipated gains to November are expected to bring unemployment back to a level comparable to September.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* SEPT. 1962	Prior Periods** AUG. '62	SEPT. '61	Anticipated NOV. 1962
Total Labor Force	551,800	562,730	545,230	552,500
Unemployment - Total	21,600	24,700	25,300	21,200
Women	7,700	7,900	8,000	7,700
Idled by disputes	2,335	0	0	xxx
Employment - Total 2/	527,865	538,030	519,930	531,300
Agricultural	5,350	8,685	5,750	4,540
Nonagricultural	522,515	529,345	514,180	526,760
Manufacturing	90,600	93,500	92,800	91,430
Construction	44,500	46,860	43,500	43,900
Trades	125,190	124,905	120,510	128,080
Government	41,080	41,145	40,880	41,660
Other Nonmfg.	221,145	222,935	216,490	221,690
Nonagri. wage and salary	456,445	463,275	448,610	460,690

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor
* Preliminary, subject to revision. 2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. **Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Sept.* 1962	Aug.** 1962	Sept. 1961	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Sept.* 1962	July** 1962	Sept. 1961	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Sept.* 1962	Aug. 1962	Sept. 1961
Manufacturing Total	$113.48	$110.88	$100.98	42.5	42.0	37.4	$2.67	$2.64	$2.70
Durable Goods	110.66	107.10	92.42	42.4	42.0	36.1	2.61	2.55	2.56
Non-Dur. Goods	118.28	116.20	111.15	42.7	42.1	39.0	2.77	2.76	2.[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. * Preliminary, subject to revision.
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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. VIII No. 7
NOVEMBER 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Total employment in the Houston-Baytown area continued to decline during October. Non-agricultural employment edged downward 0.4 per cent. Farm employment remained stable, edging upward slightly. Unemployment registered a stable condition at mid-October with an estimated 3.9 per cent of the local labor force unemployed.

EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES DOWNWARD

Following the trend begun in September, total employment declined again during the past 30 days. For the first time, manufacturing employment was below the corresponding period of last year, standing at 4.2 per cent below October, 1961. Seasonal lay-offs in stone, clay and glass, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery and transportation equipment helped push manufacturing employment to its present low level. Most of the rice milling and food packing firms reported seasonal losses which account for the decline in the food industry. Chemicals and petroleum refining continue to inch downward. Local strikes in these two industries have significantly affected employment.

NON-MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT DIPS

Despite fair gains in wholesale and retail trade and federal and local government, non-manufacturing employment declined 765 during the past 30 days. Construction lost an estimated 1400 with the completion of most of the larger projects. Although a number of new contracts are pending, construction is slated for additional declines during the next 60 days as the winter season ensues. With the decline of cotton moving, rice and fertilizer hauling, transportation was down 110 from September. Services declined 695 as hotels and laundries reduced employment for the winter season.

Trades gained an estimated 500 during the Current month. Wholesale trade was up 120 for the seasonal increase in business. Retail trade gained 380 as some of the major retail outlets began early staffing for the Christmas season. Increased employment by local post offices, city governments and county tax offices pushed government employment up by 270 over September.

OUTLOOK TO DECEMBER

Manufacturing employment is expected to continue its decline during the coming 60 days with the most significant losses occurring in fabricated metal products and transportation equipment. Further temporary lay-offs are possibly forthcoming in this industry as well as in stone, clay and glass and primary metals. Much of this decline will be seasonal and a stronger showing should be forthcoming early next spring. Additional lay-offs in chemicals and petroleum refining are likely, however.

Contract construction and transportation will continue their downward trends. A sharp increase in retail trade, coupled with moderate gains in wholesale trade and government, should swell total employment by 1 per cent in December and reduce unemployment slightly for the same period.

Local labor supply will remain adequate.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ OCT. 1962	Prior Periods 4/ SEPT.'62	Prior Periods 4/ OCT. '61	Anticipated DEC. 1962
Total Labor Force	549,850	552,000	545,550	551,500
Unemployment - Total	21,200	21,600	23,000	20,000
Women	7,500	7,700	8,000	7,100
Idled by disputes	2,335	2,335	0	xxx
Employment - Total 3/	526,315	528,065	522,550	531,500
Agricultural	5,465	5,350	5,880	5,430
Nonagricultural	520,850	522,715	516,670	526,070
Manufacturing	89,700	90,800	93,600	89,050
Construction	43,100	44,500	42,100	40,000
Trades	125,690	125,190	121,700	134,140
Government	41,350	41,080	42,020	42,150
Other Nonmfg.	221,010	221,145	217,250	220,730
Nonagri. wage and salary	454,780	456,645	451,100	460,000

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Oct.2/ 1962	Sept.3/ 1962	Oct. 1961	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Oct.2/ 1962	Sept.3/ 1962	Oct. 1961	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Oct.2/ 1962	Sept.3/ 1962	Oct. 1961
Manufacturing									
Total	$111.04	$115.24	$115.78	41.9	43.0	43.2	$2.65	$2.68	$2.68
Durable Goods	108.62	111.80	115.44	42.1	43.0	44.4	2.58	2.60	2.60
Non-Dur. Goods	114.82	119.97	116.34	41.6	43.0	41.7	2.76	2.79	2.79

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

Homer H. Jackson
District Director

Vol. VIII No. 7
DECEMBER 1962

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Total employment in the Houston-Baytown area eased downward again in November. Declining employment in manufacturing accounted for 33 percent of the total drop. Normal seasonal gains in retail trade were obscured by a plunge in construction employment.

Unemployment jumped 4.2 percent during the past 30 days.

Forecasts indicate a continued decline in employment to mid-January.

Unemployment, expected to diminish in December, will push upward to a peak in January.

EMPLOYMENT EBBS

Following the trend begun in September, total employment eased downward by 0.8 percent to November. For the third consecutive month manufacturing employment was below the corresponding period last year. The sharpest decrease was recorded in primary metals where significant seasonal lay-offs have occurred. Substantial declines, largely attributed to production of seasonal items, were also recorded in stone, clay and glass, transportation equipment and food. Most of the rice milling, food packing, bakery and dairy products establishments reported normal seasonal reductions in labor force. Chemicals and petroleum refining followed their long range trend of diminishing employment.

Nonmanufacturing employment dropped an estimated 2815 workers during the past 60 days. Major gains in wholesale and retail trade, medical services and government were obscured by a plunge of 4500 in contract construction. Completion of major projects and the advent of unfavorable weather were chief factors in the construction slide. Transportation employment also dwindled as cotton moving, rice and fertilizer hauling declined.

Farm employment remained stable during the past 30 days. Good weather for harvesting and marketing of local vegetable crops has prevailed.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP

The present unemployment level of 4.0 per cent of the total labor force is 2.3 percent above the September level but significantly below November, 1961. Initial claims in the November sample week totaled 1552 as compared to 1252 in October and 1162 in September.

OUTLOOK TO JANUARY

Wage and salary employment is expected to drop sharply to mid-January. Fabricated metal products, food and petroleum refining are expected to lead in the descent of factory employment. Continued low employment in construction and the release of seasonal employees in retail trade will contribute heavily to the drop.

LABOR DEMAND AND SUPPLY

The current demand for workers is heaviest in retail trade and government. The local labor supply, which is already adequate, will swell to a peak in January, then taper off to March.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ NOV. 1962	Prior Periods 4/ OCT. '62	NOV. '61	Anticipated JAN. 1963
Total Labor Force	548,300	549,650	545,810	542,230
Unemployment - Total	22,100	21,200	24,800	24,000
Women	7,300	7,500	8,000	8,500
Idled by disputes	2,300	2,335	2,000	
Employment - Total 3/	523,900	526,115	519,010	518,230
Agricultural	5,400	5,465	5,840	5,400
Nonagricultural	518,500	520,650	513,170	512,830
Manufacturing	89,400	89,500	93,200	88,700
Construction	40,000	43,100	35,500	38,000
Trades	126,660	125,690	123,150	123,590
Government	41,530	41,350	41,780	41,510
Other Nonmfg.	220,910	221,010	219,540	221,030
Nonagri. wage and salary	452,430	454,580	447,100	446,760

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Nov.2/ 1962	Oct.3/ 1962	Nov. 1961	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Nov.2/ 1962	Oct.3/ 1962	Nov. 1961	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Nov.2/ 1962	Oct.3/ 1962	Nov. 1961
Manufacturing Total	$112.56	$110.77	$110.51	42.0	41.8	41.7	$2.68	$2.65	$2.65
Durable Goods	108.00	108.62	107.87	41.7	42.1	42.3	2.59	2.58	2.55
Non-Dur. Goods	119.43	114.54	113.70	42.5	41.5	40.9	2.81	2.76	2.76

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Vol. VIII No. 8
JANUARY 1963

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

Summary Employment in the Houston-Baytown area soared 1.7 percent to a new peak in December. Manufacturing employment continued its plunge. Nonmanufacturing employment reached an all time high.

Reversing the normal trend for this period, unemployment rose during the past thirty days.

Forecasts indicate a sharp decline in employment to February. Unemployment will spiral in January and remain high in February.

Manufacturing Declines Accelerate Manufacturing employment continued its plunge, eliminating 700 jobs during the past month. The accelerated decline was largely concentrated in durables. Firms manufacturing machinery, other than electrical, dropped 400 in a plunge indicated to be of short duration. Fabricated metal products was down 150. Indications are that employment in this industry will continue to edge downward to February. Small declines in furniture and fixtures, stone, clay and glass, electrical machinery and equipment, and transportation equipment are not expected to be indicative of trends. Full recovery by February is indicated. Nondurables, down 100 from November, are expected to plunge during the next sixty days. Declines will be concentrated in food and petroleum products.

Nonmanufacturing Spirals Upward Nonmanufacturing employment, up 9,600 from November, soared to an all time high. Contract construction remained steady with a healthy future indicated. A substantial gain of 360 in transportation, communications, and utilities was concentrated in water transportation. Motor freight edged downward while utilities inched upward. Retail trade soared by 8,300 to a new seasonal peak for this period. Gains were largely concentrated in retail merchandise and apparel stores. Finance, insurance and real estate remained stable. Slight gains in finance were offset by equal losses reported by credit agencies and insurance carriers and brokers. Business services edged upward in December, but gains in medical and professional services were more marked. Government employment continued upward, gaining 670 in December.

Unemployment Rises Reversing the normal trend for this period and the forecast thirty days ago, the number of unemployed continued to rise in December. Unemployment rose an estimated 800 to 4.1 percent of the total labor force. This situation was reflected in the sharp increase in insured unemployment in December which stood at 2.5 percent of the insured labor force. Increased unemployment is largely attributed to declining factory employment.

February Forecast Total employment will plunge 2.3 percent by February with 10,000 fewer people employed than in December. Factory employment is expected to continue its decline. The most significant losses will occur in fabricated metal products, food, and petroleum products. Trades will be down an estimated 11,000 in February.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ DEC. 1962	Prior Periods 4/ NOV. '62	DEC. '61	Anticipated FEB. 1963
Total Labor Force	557,970	548,200	551,130	545,770
Unemployment - Total	22,900	22,100	20,700	23,000
Women	7,600	7,300	7,500	7,700
Idled by disputes	2,300	2,300	0	
Employment - Total 3/	532,770	523,800	530,430	522,770
Agricultural	5,500	5,400	5,840	5,500
Nonagricultural	527,270	518,400	524,590	517,270
Manufacturing	88,600	89,300	93,200	88,200
Construction	40,000	40,000	39,000	41,000
Trades	135,000	126,660	129,970	124,000
Government	42,200	45,130	43,040	42,000
Other Nonmfg.	221,470	217,310	219,380	222,070
Nonagri. wage and salary	461,200	452,330	458,520	451,200

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Dec. 2/ 1962	Nov. 3/ 1962	Dec. 1961	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Dec. 2/ 1962	Nov. 3/ 1962	Dec. 1961	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Dec. 2/ 1962	Nov. 3/ 1962	Dec. 1961
Manufacturing Total	$112.41	$112.14	$112.94	42.1	42.0	42.3	$2.67	$2.67	$2.67
Durable Goods	109.25	108.58	109.48	41.7	41.6	42.6	2.62	2.61	2.[illegible]
Non-Dur. Goods	117.00	117.30	117.60	42.7	42.5	42.0	2.74	2.76	2.[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK
HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
Vol. VIII No. 9
FEBRUARY 1963
Skills and Abilities ... Call ... As Near as Your TEC Office

January Highlights A seasonal decline in employment, augmented by a major strike and accompanied by an increase in the number of jobless, highlighted January's labor picture in the Houston-Baytown area. The total labor force remained almost unchanged from 30 days ago. Forecasts indicate a rise in employment to March with a proportionate decline in the number of jobless.

Employment Records Seasonal Decline Total employment plunged 13,800 in January, dropping 2.4 per cent below the December level. The release, by retail trade units, of temporary workers hired to handle the annual Christmas rush accounted for 7200 of the loss. A strike in water transportation and its effect on related industries resulted in a drop of 5900 in transportation and allied services employment. Manufacturers released 700 during the past thirty days. Small declines in mining, utilities, and federal government were off-set by gains in business services.

Agricultural employment has remained stable during the past 30 days. Vegetable farmers have been replanting the past few weeks while rice and cotton farmers are preparing and fertilizing their fields in preparation for planting.

Factory employment continued its downward trend during the month. The most significant declines were reported by firms manufacturing fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment, and petroleum products. Some decrease was also recorded by the furniture and fixtures, paper and chemicals industries. A strike involving a total of 2300 continues to affect employment in chemicals and petroleum refining. Increasing automation to streamline operations and reduce overhead has been a major factor in the decline of total factory employment in this area. The stone, clay and glass industry, gaining 200, marked up the only significant increase this month.

Unemployment Rises Sharply Unemployment in the Houston area rose sharply to a seasonal peak in January. Present unemployment of 32,700 is 5.6 per cent of the total labor force. The release of December temporary workers in retail trade, new graduates entering the labor market, effects of the strike in water transportation, and declining factory employment have all contributed to the increase in unemployment. Initial claims in the January sample week totaled 2078 as compared to 1069 in December, reflecting increased joblessness of permanent workers.

March Forecast A significant rise in employment during the next sixty days is evident. Settlement of the longshoremen's strike in late January and rising employment in contract construction and agriculture will contribute significantly to the upward trend. Factory employment is forecast to edge upward with most of the gain concentrated in the primary metals industry.

Labor Surplus Increases The present high level of unemployment has markedly increased the available labor supply which was already adequate. During January, there were 2.4 new applications for each job opening received as compared to 1.7 in November. Anticipated demand will be centered in construction.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ JAN. 1963	Prior Periods 4/ DEC. '62	Prior Periods 4/ JAN. '62	Anticipated MAR. 1963
Total Labor Force	583,800	583,900	556,600	580,000
Unemployment - Total	32,700	24,000	24,900	30,100
Women	10,800	7,900	8,200	9,900
Idled by disputes	7,300	2,300	0	
Employment - Total 3/	543,800	557,600	531,700	549,900
Agricultural	5,500	5,500	5,800	5,800
Nonagricultural	538,300	552,100	525,900	544,100
Manufacturing	89,700	90,400	94,500	90,200
Construction	40,000	40,000	40,700	41,000
Trades	129,800	137,000	123,700	128,550
Government	46,800	47,000	42,500	46,900
Other Nonmfg.	232,000	237,700	224,500	237,450
Nonagri. wage and salary	465,700	479,500	459,800	471,500

1/ Estimates by TEC in co-operation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Jan. 2/ 1963	Dec. 3/ 1962	Jan. 1962	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Jan. 2/ 1963	Dec. 3/ 1962	Jan. 1962	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Jan. 2/ 1963	Dec. 3/ 1962	Jan. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$112.72	$114.33	$111.52	41.9	42.5	40.7	$2.69	$2.69	$2.[illegible]
Durable Goods	108.05	109.52	106.08	41.4	41.8	40.3	2.61	2.62	2.[illegible]
Non-Dur. Goods	118.58	118.28	118.12	42.5	42.7	41.3	2.79	2.77	2.86

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. VIII No. 10
MARCH 1963

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

February Summary The total labor force in the Houston-Baytown Area registered a seasonal decline in February. Total employment advanced 4900 during this period. Unemployment plunged 5100 during the past thirty days. The forecast to April indicates a continuation of the trends of ising employment and declining unemployment.

Labor Force Drops Seasonally Late withdrawal from the labor market of students and housewives, who were hired temporarily in December but continued to seek further employment, dropped the total labor force in this area by 5400 during the past thirty days.

Employment Advances Total employment to mid-February rose by 4900, up 1.1 per cent above January. Following closely December's forecast, manufacturing employment edged downward 400 with signifi- ant losses occurring in Fabricated Metal Products, Petroleum Refining and Food. Nonmanufacturing employment gained 5300.

Employment by manufacturers of Durable Goods remained stable during the past thirty days with both significant gains and losses recorded. Lumber & Wood Products and Furniture & Fixtures remained stable the period. Stone, Clay & Glass edged downward by 50. A net 100 was gained during the month by Primary Metals. Fabricated Metal Products took a plunge of 300. This decline is seasonal and immediate recovery is predicted to begin. A seasonal reduction in production schedules dropped Electric Machinery & Equipment by 50 during the current period. Employment by manufacturers of Transportation Equipment jumped an estimated 400 to meet increased production.

Nonfactory wage and salary employment advanced 5300 in February. Mining took a seasonal dip of 300. Transportation gains, up 5500, were concentrated in Water Transportation and Trucking & Warehousing. Although the Water Transportation industry has not fully recovered from the longshoremen's strike, it gained an estimated 3500 to mid-February. A gain of 1400 in Trucking & Warehousing was largely attributed to the movement of cotton, seed rice and fertilizer. Retail Trade registered a seasonal net loss of 300. A sag of 600 in General Merchandise & Apparel was partially off-set by gains in Lumber & Building Materials and Autos. Finance, Insurance & Real Estate edged upward by 100 with slight gains registered by both Banks and Insurance Carriers. A drop of 400 in Business Services was due to the release of approximately 600 employees hired for temporary work in January. A jump of 500 in Medical & Professional Services was concentrated in Educational Services and County Government.

Unemployment Recedes The current unemployment estimate of 27,600 is 4.8 per cent of the total labor force of 577,900. Withdrawal from the labor market of December temporary workers, settlement of the strike in Water Transportation which resulted in increased activity in related industries, and ebbing claims activity have all contributed to the decrease of 5100 in unemployment.

Forecast To April Total employment is expected to expand by 0.5 per cent by April. Only a slight lag in manufacturing employment is foreseen. Nonfactory wage and salary employment will climb an estimated 2600 with gains centered in Construction, Retail Trade and Agriculture.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Feb. 1963	Prior Periods 4/ Jan. '63	Prior Periods 4/ Feb. '62	Anticipated April 1963
Total Labor Force	577,900	583,300	561,100	577,700
Unemployment - Total	27,600	32,700	25,200	26,000
Women	9,100	10,800	8,300	8,600
Idled by Disputes	2,100	7,300	100	
Employment - Total 3/	548,200	543,300	535,800	551,700
Agricultural	5,500	5,500	5,800	6,500
Nonagricultural	542,700	537,800	530,000	545,200
Manufacturing	88,800	89,200	94,300	88,700
Construction	40,000	40,000	39,600	41,000
Trades	129,500	129,800	124,700	130,800
Government	47,000	46,800	42,700	47,000
Other Nonmfg.	237,400	232,000	228,700	237,700
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	470,100	465,200	463,400	472,600

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Feb.2/ 1963	Jan.3/ 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb.2/ 1963	Jan.3/ 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb.2/ 1963	Jan.3/ 1963	Feb. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$108.36	$110.27	$111.72	41.2	41.3	42.0	$2.63	$2.67	$2.66
Durable Goods	103.79	103.68	108.97	40.7	40.5	42.4	2.55	2.56	2.57
Non-Dur. Goods	113.70	118.44	114.96	41.8	42.3	41.5	2.72	2.80	2.[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Vol. III No. 11
APRIL 1963

March Summary The total labor force expanded, employment accelerated and unemployment dwindled in the Houston-Baytown Area. Up 18,000 above March, 1962, The current labor force estimate registered a gain of 3.2 per cent for the year. Employment gains were predominant in Transportation and Retail Trade. Unemployment dropped by 1,500 this month.

Employment is expected to continue its upward trend during the next sixty days. Unemployment indicators point to continuance of the downward trend.

Employment Expands Employment advanced 5,500 to mid-March, gaining one percent since February. Manufacturing eased forward by 100 but stood 6.2 per cent below the year ago level. Nonmanufacturing industries added 5,000. Gains were predominant in Transportation and Retail Trade; however, significant increases were also scored in Contract Construction, Business & Personal Services and Medical & Professional Services. Farm employers added 400 workers.

Manufacturing Breaks Trend Breaking a six month trend of declining employment, manufacturing eased forward by 100 in March. Employment in Durable Goods edged forward by 200. Stone, Clay & Glass ebbed by 50, Other Durables by 100. Increased production schedules boosted Primary Metals 200. New contracts by manufacturers of Fabricated Metal Products spurred employment to 150 above the February level. A loss of 100 by Nondurables partially offset the gain in Durables. Chemicals again moved forward, gaining 50 in March. Stepped up production by local firms began in January, halting the long standing trend of declining employment in this industry. Apparel & Finished Products dropped the 50 gained in February to return to the January level. Petroleum Refining dipped by 100 during March. Employment in this industry has steadily declined since October, 1961.

Nonfactory Employment Advances Nonmanufacturing industries added 5,000 wage and salary workers in March. Contract Construction pushed upward by 500. Current major projects include schools, apartment houses, domed sports stadium and Manned Spacecraft Center facilities. Slight increases in Local Transit and Trucking combined with a significant increase in Water Transport to swell Transportation employment 1,750. Utilities moved up 50. Retail Trade expanded by 1,700. Lumber & Building Materials, General Merchandise & Apparel, Food and Eating Places reported gains. Business & Personal Services and Medical & Professional Services rose by 500 each.

Forecast To May Employment of wage and salary workers is expected to increase by 4300 during the next sixty days. Little change in manufacturing employment is foreseen. Nonfactory gains will be centered in Contract Construction, Retail Trade, Services and Federal Government. Farm employment is expected to increase by 1600 during the next two months. Present unemployment of 26,100—4.5 per cent of the total labor force—is expected to drop to 24,000 in May.

Labor Demand and Supply The demand for skilled draftsmen is still high and experienced applicants in short supply. The supply of highly technical personnel has been good but demand is increasing. No difficulties have been encountered in direct recruitment for the staffing of new shopping centers.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Mar. 1963	Prior Periods 4/ Feb. '63	Prior Periods 4/ Mar. '62	Anticipated May 1963
Total Labor Force	581,900	577,900	563,900	583,600
Unemployment - Total	26,100	27,600	23,600	24,000
Women	8,600	9,100	7,800	7,700
Idled by Disputes	2,100	2,100	0	
Employment - Total 3/	553,700	548,200	540,300	559,600
Agricultural	5,900	5,500	5,900	7,500
Nonagricultural	547,800	542,700	534,400	552,100
Manufacturing	88,900	88,800	94,400	89,100
Construction	40,500	40,000	40,500	44,000
Trades	131,200	129,500	125,600	131,400
Government	47,000	47,000	42,900	47,100
Other Nonmfg.	240,200	237,400	231,000	240,500
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	475,200	470,100	467,000	479,500

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Mar.2/ 1963	Feb.3/ 1963	Mar. 1962	Mar.2/ 1963	Feb.3/ 1963	Mar. 1962	Mar.2/ 1963	Feb.3/ 1963	Mar. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$110.81	$108.36	$111.19	41.5	41.2	41.8	$2.67	$2.63	$2.66
Durable Goods	104.96	103.53	107.84	41.0	40.6	41.8	2.56	2.55	2.58
Non-Dur. Goods	117.88	113.97	115.79	42.1	41.9	41.8	2.80	2.72	2.77

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 1
M A Y 1963

Labor Picture Improves Pushing above December's peak Yule season count, total employment in Harris County reached an all time high at mid-April. Brisk activity in Primary Metals and Fabricated Metal Products moved Manufacturing forward. Significant gains in Contract Construction and Retail Trade lifted nonfactory wage and salary employment to a record level. Unemployment dropped to 3.8 percent of the total labor force.

Manufacturing Sets New Trend After breaking a six month decline in March, Manufacturing gained an additional 400 in April. All of the net rise occurred in Durable Goods, being centered in Primary Metals and Fabricated Metal Products. Increasing construction activity has been of significant profit to these industries. Lumber & Wood Products and Electric Machinery remained stable in April. Furniture & Fixtures, Transportation Equipment and Other Durable Goods registered small seasonal declines. Major gains in Primary Metals and Fabricated Metal Products were augmented by small increases in Stone, Clay & Glass and Machinery (except electrical). Nondurable Goods remained stable during the past thirty days. Another small decline in Chemicals was balanced out by increased employment in Food and Apparel.

Nonfactory Employment Advances Nonfactory wage and salary employment rose by 3500 in April with gains concentrated in Contract Construction and Trade. Construction pushed upward by 2000. This year's total nonresidential contract awards in Harris County is well in excess of last year's total for the same period. Wholesale Trade edged forward by 300 with indications for this trend to continue during the next few months. Retail Trade added a net 700 workers in April. Sizeable increases in Lumber & Building Materials and General Merchandise & Apparel were partially off-set by seasonal declines in Food, Eating Establishments, and Miscellaneous Trade. Both Business & Personal Services and Medical & Professional Services eased forward this month. Additional employes in post offices, health institutions and city administrations combined to boost Government. Water Transportation registered the only decline for the period as movement of cotton, rice and fertilizer abated.

Agriculture Expands Agricultural employers added 1000 workers in the current period. Ideal weather conditions prevailed during the harvest of greens, green onions, radishes and cabbage. Tomato tying and pruning and cultivation of okra, cotton and corn were under way.

Unemployment Declines Unemployment dropped 3800 during the past thirty days. The current estimate, 22,300, is 3.8 percent of the total labor force. Insured unemployment for the April sample week dropped 16 percent below the same week in March and was 20 percent below February.

Forecast To June Total employment is expected to continue upward during the next thirty days and sag slightly below the current level from May to June. Closing of schools in June will plunge nonfactory wage and salary employment below the current estimate. The loss of about 5000 in Government plus a small seasonal drop in Transportation will over balance estimated gains in Construction, Services, and Agriculture.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ April 1963	Prior Periods 4/ March '63	Prior Periods 4/ April '62	Anticipated June 1963
Total Labor Force	583,200	582,200	567,600	582,000
Unemployment - Total	22,300	26,100	20,700	24,500
Women	7,400	8,600	6,800	8,100
Idled By Disputes	2,000	2,100	0	
Employment - Total 3/	558,900	554,000	546,900	557,500
Agricultural	6,900	5,900	6,700	8,400
Nonagricultural	552,000	548,100	540,200	549,100
Manufacturing	89,600	89,200	94,300	90,000
Construction	42,500	40,500	42,400	44,000
Trades	132,200	131,200	126,700	132,100
Government	47,200	47,000	43,100	42,300
Other Nonmfg.	240,500	240,200	233,700	240,700
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	479,400	475,500	472,000	476,500

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON--BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Apr. 2/ 1963	Mar. 3/ 1963	Apr. 1962	Apr. 2/ 1963	Mar. 3/ 1963	Apr. 1962	Apr. 2/ 1963	Mar. 3/ 1963	Apr. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$111.07	$110.54	$112.25	41.6	41.4	42.2	$2.67	$2.67	$2.66
Durable Goods	104.60	104.60	107.78	40.7	40.7	42.1	2.57	2.57	2.5[illegible]
Non-Dur. Goods	119.13	118.16	117.59	42.7	42.2	42.3	2.79	2.80	2.78

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 2
JUNE 1963

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

May Highlights An employment surge of wage and salary workers pushed the total labor force to a new peak of 591,000 in May. Brisk activity in Stone, Clay & Glass, Primary Metals, and Fabricated Metal Products lifted factory employment to 90,500, its highest level this year. Mount-g employment in Contract Construction, Retail Trade, and Services combined to set a new record in nonmanufacturing.

A significant rise in new and reentrants into the labor market caused a small rise in unemployment. The current estimate of 22,400 is 3.8% of the labor force.

Employment to July looks good in this area. The seasonal summer influx of students and school personnel will result in a small drop in nonfarm total and some increase in unemployment.

Manufacturing Up ·end Continues Outstripping prior expectations, manufacturing employment sped upward by 1200 in May. Increased output in Stone, Clay & Glass, Primary Metals, and Fabricated Metal Products to meet demands of the briskly active construction industry has been a key factor in Durables this month. Lumber & Wood Products and Electric Machinery & Equipment have held constant. Furniture & Fixtures, Nonelectric Machinery, Transportation Equipment, and Other Durables sagged in May. Nondurable gains centered in Food with meat, milk and soft drink firms showing advances.

Nonfactory Employment Advances Nonfactory wage and salary employment jumped by 6800 in May to set a new high. Advances were primarily centered in Construction, Retail Trade, and Services. The spiral of 3500 in Construction was dominant. Total contract awards in Harris County continued to swell in excess of last year's total for the same time. A gain of 700 in Retail Trade was concentrated in Food. Services advanced by 1200 as the summer season approached when employment swells to a peak in personal service industries. Activity was heaviest in laundries, cleaning establishments and professional organizations. Government added an estimated 400 workers in post offices, health institutions and city governments. All groups of firms in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate reported increases. Most of the workers in Water Transportation who were idled in April when movement of cotton, rice and fertilizer abated were recalled in May. Wholesale Trade was the only industry in this category to falter in May. A temporary lag in demand for electronic parts and equipment was reflected by both manufacturers and distributors of these products.

Forecast to July Employment of nonfactory wage and salary workers is expected to sag temporarily in June, July and August as a result of closed schools. The drop will be softened by increases in Construction and Services. Light gains in factory employment are forecast to July for Stone, Clay & Glass, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metal Products, and Food. Fabricated Metal Products will sag significantly by September when construction will be on the decline. Farm employment will lag in June before rising sharply to August for the cotton and rice harvest.

Labor Supply and Demand Labor supply has been ample except for highly technical skills. Demand is increasing for professional and service workers.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ May 1963	Prior Periods 4/ Apr. '63	May '62	Anticipated July 1963
Total Labor Force	591,500	582,900	572,700	590,500
Unemployment - Total	22,400	22,300	20,600	24,100
Women	7,400	7,400	6,800	8,000
Idled By Disputes	1,900	2,000	0	
Employment - Total 3/	567,200	558,600	552,100	566,400
Agricultural	7,500	6,900	7,800	7,000
Nonagricultural	559,700	551,700	544,300	559,400
Manufacturing	90,500	89,300	93,700	91,300
Construction	46,000	42,500	45,300	48,500
Trades	132,900	132,200	126,900	132,800
Government	47,600	47,200	43,300	42,700
Other Nonmfg.	242,700	240,500	235,100	244,100
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	487,100	479,100	475,300	486,800

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	May 2/ 1963	Apr 3/ 1963	May 1962	May 2/ 1963	Apr 3/ 1963	May 1962	May 2/ 1963	Apr 3/ 1963	May 1962
Manufacturing Total	$114.33	$111.37	$112.67	42.5	41.4	42.2	$2.69	$2.69	$2.67
Durable Goods	110.50	105.56	108.88	42.5	40.6	42.2	2.60	2.60	2.58
Nondurable Goods	118.85	118.30	117.17	42.6	42.4	42.3	2.79	2.79	2.77

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 3
J U L Y 1963

June Summary A sharp increase in unemployment, coupled with an unusual rise in employment, pushed the area's labor force upward by 8100 in June. Manufacturing employment surged ahead by 1300 with gains centered in Primary Metals, Fabricated Metal Products, and Machinery. The release of 5000 service personnel by the county's schools was more than off-set by moderate increases in Contract Construction, Trades, Services, and Federal Government.

Little change in total employment to July and August is foreseen.

Unemployment Rises Seasonally A sharp increase of 5400 in unemployment is normal for this season of the year when some 5000 unemployed new and re-entrant workers enter the labor force. The current estimate of 27,800 unemployed persons is 4.6% of the total labor force.

Manufacturing Surges Ahead Although a slight gain in manufacturing employment had been forecast for June, the sudden surge of 1300 during the past thirty days was unexpected. Primary Metals added 250 workers, most of whom were employed by steel works, pipe and tube mills, and steel castings foundries. Fabricated Metal Products reflected an increase of 350 in this period. Heaviest increases were reported by manufacturers of metal cans, fabricated structural steel, boilers, sheet metal products, and steel containers. Reported gains by manufacturers of oilfield machinery and equipment and missile parts boosted Machinery employment by 250. A gain of 200 in Food centered in dairy product, soft drink, coffee, and bakery firms. Furniture & Fixtures, Stone, Clay & Glass, Transportation Equipment, Chemicals, and Petroleum Refining eased forward in June.

Nonmanufacturing Nets Small Gain Reversing previous trends for this season of the year, nonmanufacturing industries netted a gain of 500 in June. Moderate increases in Contract Construction, Trades, Services, and Federal Government were largely off-set by a sharp seasonal drop in State Government. Construction reflected a rise of 1500 from gains reported by general building contractors, contractors other than building, and special trades contractors. A gain of 500 in Wholesale Trade was concentrated in groceries and machinery, equipment and supplies. Retail Trade recorded a net rise of 1100 with both gains and losses registered. Building materials, automobile dealers and service stations, and eating establishments combined for an increase of 600. These were general and keyed to the summer increase in activity in these businesses. General merchandise & apparel, coupled with furniture & fixtures, sagged by 300. Insurance & Real Estate continued upward, gaining 100 each. Business & Personal Services rose by 600 with moderate general increases reported in all groups. Miscellaneous professional services inched up by 100 with reported increases centered in engineering and architectural firms. A loss of 4100 in State & Local Government was tied to the release of some 5000 school service personnel in the area. The loss was softened slightly by increases in city and county employment for the administration of summer recreation and youth programs.

Outlook To August Slight gains in nonmanufacturing industries will be largely off-set by a sag in factory employment. Fabricated Metal Products will register the most significant decline. Unemployment will abate slightly to July and August as summer job seekers find employment.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ June 1963	Prior Periods 4/ May '63	June '62	Anticipated Aug. '63
Total Labor Force	599,400	591,300	575,400	597,000
Unemployment - Total	27,800	22,400	22,900	26,800
Women	9,200	7,400	7,600	8,800
Idled By Disputes	1,900	1,900	0	
Employment - Total 3/	569,700	567,000	552,500	570,200
Agricultural	8,400	7,500	8,600	8,900
Nonagricultural	561,300	559,500	543,900	561,300
Manufacturing	91,600	90,300	94,700	91,100
Construction	47,500	46,000	47,200	47,600
Trades	134,500	132,900	126,700	134,700
Government	44,000	47,600	39,800 4/	44,000
Other Nonmfg.	243,700	242,700	235,500	243,900
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	488,700	486,900	474,200	488,700

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	June 2/ 1963	May 3/ 1963	June 1962	June 2/ 1963	May 3/ 1963	June 1962	June 2/ 1963	May 3/ 1963	June 1962
Manufacturing Total	$117.00	$114.90	$112.56	42.7	42.4	42.0	$2.74	$2.71	$2.68
Durable Goods	114.11	110.93	108.20	42.9	42.5	42.1	2.66	2.61	2.57
Non-durable Goods	120.28	120.13	117.60	42.5	42.3	42.0	2.83	2.84	2.80

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 4
AUGUST 1963

Skills and Abilities on Call . . . As Near as Your TEC Office

<u>July Summary</u> July brought no change in the area's total labor force. Employment gain during the month equalled unemployment decline to maintain the status quo. Job increases were most significant in contract construction and service industries. Over 2000 of June's new and re-entrants into the labor market joined the ranks of the working force.

Agriculture, in the season between cultivation and harvest of cotton and rice, idled 1600 seasonal farm workers.

The trend of rising employment should continue to August and September. Agricultural jobs will rise sharply with harvest of cotton and rice underway. Over 4000 seasonal workers are normally employed at the height of the harvest season.

<u>Unemployment Dips</u> The current estimate of 25,200 unemployed people 4.2% of the total labor force. During July, approximately 500 long term unemployed and 2100 of June's new and re-entrants into the labor force found jobs. Insured unemployment continued its steady decline.

<u>Nonmanufacturing On Rise</u> Gains were consistent in all the seasonally affected nonmanufacturing industries during July to add 3900 workers. Contract construction added 1100 with heavy construction reflecting the most increase. Trucking & warehousing added 500 for vacation relief and the beginning of the rice season. Moderate general increases for vacation relief and peak summer business added 1100 workers to services. Employment by NASA, local health institutions and city & county administrations boosted government by 500 during the month.

<u>Manufacturing Gain Small</u> Manufacturing employment registered a small advance of 300 in July. Job gains centered in primary metals and nonelectric machinery. Heaviest increases were reported by steel works, pipe & tube mills and oil-field machinery & equipment manufacturers. Contracts for missile parts have augmented employment in these industries to some degree.

<u>Outlook To September</u> The trend of rising employment should continue to August and September. An increase in chemicals and petroleum refining, the result of settlement on August 6th of the 353 day labor dispute in these industries, will be partially off-set by steady declines in primary metals, fabricated metal products and transportation equipment. The opening of schools in September and staffing of retail trade establishments in November for the Christmas shopping season will significantly boost nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment in those periods.

<u>Labor Supply And Demand</u> Labor supply in the Houston area has been ample except for chronically short technical skills. The shortage of qualified air conditioning, heating and plumbing engineers remained the same. Electrical engineers specializing in power distribution were scarce as were mechanical and chemical engineers with petro-chemical background. Draftsmen also ranked high on the shortage list, particularly in structural, piping and electrical fields. There is still a need for system engineers and analysts and computer programmers. Demands for persons with advanced degrees in social work, natural science, business administration and accounting have been increasing.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ July 1963	Prior Periods 4/ June '63	July '62	Anticipated Sept. '63
Total Labor Force	599,300	599,300	577,100	604,000
Unemployment - Total	25,200	27,800	22,900	23,200
Women	8,400	9,200	7,600	7,700
Idled By Disputes	1,900	1,900	0	
Employment - Total 3/	572,200	569,600	554,200	580,800
Agricultural	6,800	8,400	6,700	10,000
Nonagricultural	565,400	561,200	547,500	570,800
Manufacturing	91,800	91,500	95,400	93,400
Construction	48,600	47,500	48,100	48,500
Trades	134,800	134,500	127,000	134,700
Government	44,500	44,000	40,300 4/	50,800
Other Nonmfg.	245,700	243,700	236,700	243,400
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	492,800	488,600	477,100	498,200

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	July 2/ 1963	June 3/ 1963	July 1962	July 2/ 1963	June 3/ 1963	July 1962	July 2/ 1963	June 3/ 1963	July 1962
Manufacturing Total	$117.98	$117.39	$115.60	42.9	43.0	42.5	$2.75	$2.73	$2.72
Durable Goods	115.51	115.18	110.93	43.1	43.3	42.5	2.68	2.66	2.61
Non-durable Goods	120.56	119.85	121.13	42.6	42.5	42.5	2.83	2.82	2.85

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 5
SEPTEMBER 1963

Area Employment Rises

Houston area employment continued to expand in August. Two factors were primarily responsible—job gain in agriculture for the harvest of cotton and settlement of a local labor-management dispute in the chemical and petroleum refining industries.

No change of significance occurred in unemployment or the total labor force.

Manufacturing Makes Net Gain

The effect of some 1900 strikers returning to work in the chemical and petroleum refining industries was partially offset by job losses in the durable goods category. A sharp decline occurred in fabricated metal products. At this season local sheet metal works, pipe mills, boiler shops and manufacturers of metal containers retool and repair equipment while production schedules are slow. The only noteworthy increase in durables occurred in transportation equipment as activities of shipbuilding firms increased. Food & kindred products gained during August with rice mills, beverage firms and cotton seed oil mills reporting increases.

Nonfactory Jobs Drop

Nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment registered a sag of 400 during the month. Job losses were noted in water transportation, wholesale trade, general merchandise and apparel firms, food stores and nonprofit & professional services. Many of these jobs had been of a temporary nature, primarily for vacation relief. Construction and city government eased forward. Most of the construction increase was reported by special trades contractors, particularly painting, electrical and plumbing firms. Population expansion necessitated additional city help.

Unemployment Remains Steady

Unemployment remained at the July level, 4.2% of the total labor force. Insured unemployment continued the downward trend which began in February. For the first time this year the per cent of insured unemployment to insured labor force dropped below the year ago level.

Outlook To October

Continued gains in total employment are expected during the August to October period. All of the increases are expected to take place in nonmanufacturing industries with trade and government making significant advances. Reopening of the public schools in September will cause a sharp increase in State & local government employment. Back to school and fall sales and the opening of new retail outlets are expected to provide an upturn in both wholesale and retail trade. Minor seasonal declines are expected in banking and services. An anticipated layoff of approximately 100 workers in mining is scheduled for September.

Reports from factory employers show continued job losses to be forthcoming during the next two months. Most of the decline is again expected in heavy goods with stone, clay & glass, primary metals, fabricated metal products, nonelectric machinery and transportation equipment trimming employment. Little change in employment by manufacturers of nondurable goods is indicated. Minor declines in food, chemicals and petroleum refining should be substantially off-set by gains in apparel & finished products.

Normally, the local labor supply diminishes and demand increases during September and October. But no shortages are anticipated.

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/	Prior Periods 4/		Anticipated
	Aug. 1963	July 1963	Aug. 1962	Oct. 1963
Total Labor Force	599,200	599,300	583,700	600,400
Unemployment - Total	25,100	25,200	25,800	23,000
Women	8,400	8,400	8,500	7,900
Idled by Disputes	0	1,900	0	
Employment - Total 3/	574,100	572,200	557,900	577,400
Agricultural	7,700	6,800	8,700	6,100
Nonagricultural	566,400	565,400	549,200	571,300
Manufacturing	93,200	91,800	95,700	92,400
Construction	48,800	48,600	47,000	48,900
Trades	134,400	134,800	127,500	135,000
Government	44,600	44,500	40,800 4/	51,500
Other Nonmfg.	245,400	245,700	238,200	243,500
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	493,800	492,800	478,100	498,700

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor .
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Aug. 2/ 1963	July 3/ 1963	Aug. 1962	Aug. 2/ 1963	July 3/ 1963	Aug. 1962	Aug. 2/ 1963	July 3/ 1963	Aug. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$114.40	$116.72	$112.73	41.6	42.6	42.7	$2.75	$2.74	$2.64
Durable Goods	114.75	115.34	110.34	42.5	43.2	43.1	2.70	2.67	2.56
Non-durable Goods	118.93	118.58	115.78	40.4	41.9	42.1	2.82	2.83	2.75

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 6
OCTOBER 1963

<u>September Summary</u> The area's total civilian labor force continued the upward trend in September. Opening of schools for the fall semester and the resultant gain in state & local government jobs accounted for most of the rise. Manufacturing lost part of August's job gain. Unemployment dropped sharply during the month.

No change of significance is anticipated in Houston's working force during the next sixty days. Job gains in nonmanufacturing industries, chiefly in retail trade, should be overbalanced by losses in manufacturing and agriculture. A moderate increase in the number of jobless is expected to equal the net loss in wage and salary employment.

<u>Manufacturing Registers Loss</u> Manufacturing industries registered a job loss of 600 in September. Most of the decline centered in durable goods factories. Firms manufacturing primary metals, fabricated metal products and machinery reported significant losses. Lumber & wood products and stone, clay & glass also edged downward during the month. In easing downward by 100, the nondurable goods category presented a mixed picture during the month. Losses in chemicals and petroleum refining were largely off-set by gains in food & kindred products and apparel & finished products. Rice mills, beverage firms and cotton seed oil mills again reported sizeable increases. The only significant job losses reported in the food industry were by meat packing firms. Apparel & finished goods gains were centered in bag factories.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Rises Sharply</u> With the opening of schools in September for the fall semester, non manufacturing wage and salary employment rose by 4800 during the month. Most of the increase centered in state & local government. A sharp increase in school enrollment required substantial increases in staff and service personnel by a number of local school districts in the county. A major shift from educational services employment to state & local government occurred the first of September when the University of Houston became a state institution. Minor job gains in water transportation and retail food stores were overbalanced by small losses in utilities, wholesale trade and finance, insurance & real estate.

<u>Unemployment Down</u> The current unemployment estimate of 23,100 represents 3.8 per cent of the total labor force of 601,000. August's jobless total of 25,100 was 4.2 per cent of the total labor force. The decline was largely due to withdrawal from the labor market by summer's new and re-entrant workers. The trend of declining insured unemployment which began in February continued during September.

<u>Outlook To November</u> No change is anticipated in the total labor force to November. A small job loss and a proportionate unemployment increase should hold the labor force at the present level. Job gains in retail trade for the Christmas shopping season will be overbalanced by losses in manufacturing and agriculture. The most significant manufacturing declines are anticipated in fabricated metal products, machinery and food & kindred products. Minor gains are expected in medical & professional services and government. Employer estimates of job decline to mid-January are much softer than usual in construction, transportation and retail trade.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Sept. 1963	Prior Periods 4/ Aug. 1963	Sept. 1962	Anticipated Nov. 1963
Total Labor Force	601,000	599,300	577,400	601,000
Unemployment - Total	23,100	25,100	22,600	23,600
Women	7,600	8,400	7,500	7,800
Idled by Disputes	0	0	2,300	
Employment - Total 3/	577,900	574,200	552,500	577,400
Agricultural	7,200	7,700	5,400	5,900
Nonagricultural	570,700	566,500	547,100	571,500
Manufacturing	92,700	93,300	92,600	91,800
Construction	48,700	48,800	46,000	48,800
Trades	134,500	134,400	127,400	136,000
Government	51,500	44,600	44,500	51,700
Other Nonmfg.	243,300	245,400	236,600	243,200
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	498,100	493,900	475,400	498,900

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Sept. 2/ 1963	Aug. 3/ 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. 2/ 1963	Aug. 3/ 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. 2/ 1963	Aug. 3/ 1963	Sept. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$115.92	$112.75	$115.24	42.0	41.3	43.0	$2.76	$2.73	$2.68
Durable Goods	112.56	112.94	112.23	42.0	42.3	43.0	2.68	2.67	2.
Non-durable Goods	119.99	112.56	119.54	42.1	40.2	43.0	2.85	2.80	2.78

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON

MARKET

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 7
NOVEMBER 1963

<u>October Summary</u> Reversing the prior trend of a swelling work force, the area's total labor force dropped by 3000 during the past month.

Unemployment dipped to the lowest level of this year.

Both farm and factory employment declined.

The forecast for mid-December calls for a sharp increase in the total labor force. Job gains in trade are expected to be significant. A moderate increase in the number of jobless is also anticipated.

<u>Unemployment Decreases</u> Unemployment declined by 1100 during this period. Hard core unemployment edged downward approximately 300, but most of the net decline resulted from a sharper dip in new and re-entrant workers as students and housewives continued to leave the labor market after mid-September. The present jobless total of 22,000 is 3.7% of the total labor force. This rate was 3.8% last month and 3.9% last year.

<u>Employment Dips</u> Total employment dipped by 1900 during October. The most significant job loss occurred in agriculture. At mid-October the dry weather was seriously affecting dairy farmers and cattle ranchers. Many were feeding hay at this early date and others had sold part of their herd because of the drought.

<u>Manufacturing Down</u> Manufacturing firms, down for the second consecutive month, registered a job loss of 900 during the month. There were net declines in both hard and soft goods. Significant decreases in primary metals, fabricated metal products and food & kindred products were attributed to seasons of low production schedules and should be of a temporary nature. The decline in chemicals and petroleum refining was largely the result of permanent staff reductions.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Edges Upward</u> Nonfactory wage and salary employment edged upward by 500 during October. A significant gain of 500 in retail trade was concentrated in general merchandise & apparel. Minor gains in wholesale trade, medical & professional services and government were off-set by job declines in contract construction, trucking & warehousing and water transportation. These declines were attributed to a drop in heavy construction and an ebb in the movement of cotton and rice.

<u>Outlook To December</u> Manufacturing employment is expected to continue the downward trend during the next two months. Further temporary declines are expected to be most significant in fabricated metal products, machinery, other durable goods and food & kindred products. A partial recovery is anticipated in primary metals during this period.

A sharp rise to December in nonfactory wage and salary employment is forecast. Trade is slated for a seasonal jump during the Christmas shopping season with minor gains in medical & professional services and government to add to the total. Both employment and unemployment usually rise during this period.

No shortage of labor supply is expected during this period of peak employment.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Oct. 1963	Prior Periods 4/ Sept. 1963	Oct. 1962	Anticipated Dec. 1963
Total Labor Force	598,000	601,000	576,700	603,400
Unemployment - Total	22,000	23,100	22,300	23,500
Women	7,200	7,600	7,400	7,800
Idled by Disputes	0	0	2,300	0
Employment - Total 3/	576,000	577,900	552,100	579,900
Agricultural	5,700	7,200	5,500	5,400
Nonagricultural	570,300	570,700	546,600	574,500
Manufacturing	91,800	92,700	91,400	91,300
Construction	48,500	48,700	45,000	48,600
Trades	135,100	134,500	127,800	139,400
Government	51,800	51,500	45,500	52,000
Other Nonmfg.	243,100	243,300	236,900	243,200
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	497,700	498,100	474,400	501,900

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Oct.2/ 1963	Sept.3/ 1963	Oct. 1962	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Oct.2/ 1963	Sept.3/ 1963	Oct. 1962	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Oct.2/ 1963	Sept.3/ 1963	Oct. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$115.23	$116.62	$112.63	41.9	42.1	42.5	$2.75	$2.77	$2.65
Durable Goods	112.78	113.90	117.71	42.4	42.5	43.3	2.66	2.68	2.[illegible]
Non-Durable Goods	117.83	119.68	114.13	41.2	41.7	41.5	2.86	2.87	2.[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 8
DECEMBER 1963

November Summary The Houston area labor force moved ahead by 1700 in November. Adhering to previous trends for this season of the year, the area's job total declined for the second consecutive month. The upward trend in Nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment continued. ;anufacturing set a downward trend during this period.

Unemployment rose by 2100 in November.

The normal January and February slump in Trades should be softened by expected minor increases in Manufacturing, Contract Construction, Transportation, Medical and Professional Services and Government. Unemployment normally rises to a yearly peak in January, then tapers downward to March.

Manufacturing Sets Downward Trend Manufacturing employment, down for three consecutive months, registered a job loss of 500 in November. Both Durables and Nondurables declined. Losses were heaviest in Primary Metals, Machinery and Chemicals. Completion of contracts was reported as the major factor in declining job totals in the Durables category. The trend of permanent staff reductions through the process of early retirement continued in the Chemical and Oil Refining industries.

Nonmanufacturing Upswing Continues Nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment eased forward by 400 in this period. Job gains in Mining, Utilities, Trade and Government were sufficient to over-balance moderate losses in Construction and Personal Services. These declines were largely attributed to an ebb in residential construction and laundry business. An increase of 100 in Mining during November was largely due to accelerated gas production. Job gain in Trades resulted from the "fall sales" season, pre-Christmas employment and new outlets in the General Merchandise & Apparel industry. Government edged forward by 200 with post offices, educational institutions and city administrations reporting increases.

Unemployment Registers Seasonal Rise The November estimate of 24,100 unemployed was 4.0 per cent of the total labor force. The normal surge of re-entrant workers who seek temporary employment during November and December, when retail sales are heavy, was a major factor in boosting unemployment during the past month. Insured unemployment as a per cent of the State insured labor force rose from 1.7 to 1.8. Initial claims in the November sample week totaled 1230 compared to 1053 in October.

Labor Supply And Demand There were 1.7 new applications for each job opening available in the area offices during November. There were 74 openings in clearance outside this area. A large portion of the clearance total consisted of openings for skilled draftsmen---structural, mechanical, electrical and design. The heaviest demand for workers in the month was for retail sales people in local department stores.

Outlook To January Trade is slated for a seasonal jump during the late Christmas shopping season with moderate gains in Medical Services and Government. Forecasts carry the downward trend in manufacturing through December.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Nov. 1963	Prior Periods 4/ Oct. 1963	Nov. 1962	Anticipated Jan. 1964
Total Labor Force	599,700	598,000	573,700	600,000
Unemployment - Total	24,100	22,000	23,200	25,000
Women	8,000	7,200	7,700	8,300
Idled by Disputes	0	0	2,300	0
Employment - Total 3/	575,600	576,000	548,200	575,000
Agricultural	5,400	5,700	5,400	5,350
Nonagricultural	570,200	570,300	542,800	569,650
Manufacturing	91,300	91,800	91,200	91,400
Construction	48,100	48,500	40,000	48,300
Trades	135,700	135,100	128,700	134,600
Government	52,000	51,800	46,000	52,100
Other Nonmfg.	243,100	243,100	236,900	243,250
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	497,600	497,700	470,400	497,050

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Nov. 2/ 1963	Oct. 3/ 1963	Nov. 1962	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Nov. 2/ 1963	Oct. 3/ 1963	Nov. 1962	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Nov. 2/ 1963	Oct. 3/ 1963	Nov. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$113.85	$113.84	$112.56	41.4	41.7	42.0	$2.75	$2.73	$2.
Durable Goods	109.15	110.83	108.58	41.5	42.3	41.6	2.63	2.63	2.61
Non-Durable Goods	119.07	117.55	116.88	41.2	41.1	42.5	2.89	2.89	2.75

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 9
JANUARY 1964

<u>December Summary</u> Houston area employment ended a record year with an expansion surge of 3000 in December. Most of the job gain occurred in seasonally affected nonmanufacturing industries.

There was a slight decline in manufacturing jobs during the month with both Durables and Nondurables easing downward.

Unemployment dipped by 1200 over the 30 day span.

Temporary seasonal declines over the next 60 days are forecast for nonmanufacturing wage and salary total. Most of the job loss is expected in Contract Construction and Retail Trade. A resultant rise in the number of unemployed is anticipated. Forecasts indicate a reversal of the four month downward trend in manufacturing job total.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Advances</u> Nonmanufacturing industries presented a mixed picture in adding 3100 jobs to the area's total in December. Retail Trade scored the largest advance—4800. Job gains centered in General Merchandise & Apparel establishments. A gain of 400 in Federal Government was primarily due to post office extras hired to help during the Christmas mailing rush. The early onset of hard freezes was the chief factor in a drop of 1400 in Contract Construction. All categories of Transportation & Allied Services sagged, dropping 500 from the job total. Hotels, personal services and repair services indicated losses which reduced Business & Personal Service jobs by 300. All of these losses in nonfactory wage and salary jobs were considered normal for the winter season.

<u>Manufacturing Declines</u> Manufacturing dropped 200 jobs this period with both hard and soft goods easing downward. Job declines in Fabricated Metal Products, Food and Petroleum Refining more than off-set minor advances in Machinery (except electric) and Printing & Publishing.

<u>Outlook To February</u> Manufacturing is expected to reverse the downward trend during the January-February period. All of the increase is indicated to occur in the Durables group with Primary Metals and Machinery (except electric) making minor advances. Nonmanufacturing forecasts indicate significant drops in Contract Construction, Retail Trade and Federal Government to February.

Unemployment is expected to rise by approximately 3500 during the next 60 day period.

<u>Unemployment Drops Seasonally</u> Unemployment dropped abruptly in December when holiday demands rose and many job seekers found temporary work. The current idle worker total of 22,900 represents 3.8% of the total labor force of 601,500. This rate was 4.0% in November and 4.1% a year ago.

<u>Labor Supply And Demand</u> There were only 1.4 new applications for each job opening available in the area offices during December. This ratio was 1.7 last month. Except for the chronically short occupations, labor supply is still adequate in this area. The highest demand for occupations in short supply is probably for experienced draftsmen in the electrical and mechanical design fields.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Dec. 1963	Prior Periods 4/ Nov. 1963	Prior Periods 4/ Dec. 1962	Anticipated Feb. 1964
Total Labor Force	601,500	599,700	583,900	598,900
Unemployment - Total	22,900	24,100	24,000	26,500
Women	7,600	8,000	7,900	8,800
Idled by Disputes	0	0	2,300	0
Employment - Total 3/	578,600	575,600	557,600	572,400
Agricultural	5,500	5,400	5,500	5,500
Nonagricultural	573,100	570,200	552,100	566,900
Manufacturing	91,100	91,300	90,400	91,300
Construction	46,700	48,100	40,000	46,200
Trades	140,500	135,700	137,000	134,200
Government	52,400	52,000	47,000	52,100
Other Nonmfg.	242,400	243,100	237,700	243,100
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	500,500	497,600	497,500	494,300

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Dec. 2/ 1963	Nov. 3/ 1963	Dec. 1962	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Dec. 2/ 1963	Nov. 3/ 1963	Dec. 1962	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Dec. 2/ 1963	Nov. 3/ 1963	Dec. 1962
Manufacturing Total	$115.09	$114.13	$114.33	41.7	41.5	42.5	$2.76	$2.75	$2.69
Durable Goods	109.82	110.20	109.52	41.6	41.9	41.8	2.64	2.63	2.[illegible]
Non-Durable Goods	121.09	118.37	118.28	41.9	41.1	42.7	2.89	2.88	2.[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 10
FEBRUARY 1964

<u>February Summary</u> The past thirty days brought very little change in the area's labor picture. Both Manufacturing and Nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment eased ahead during the month.

Unemployment registered a slight decline.

Little change is expected in the total labor force during the next two month period. Employment gains of 4000 are expected with unemployment diminishing by almost this amount.

<u>Manufacturing Employment Up</u> Manufacturing employment was up by 200 for the month. A gain of 400 in Durable Goods was cut in half by a drop of 200 in Nondurables. Increases were recorded in Furniture & Fixtures, Stone, Clay & Glass, Machinery and Other Durable Goods. Prospects for a long range active pace in the construction industry was a major factor in boosting employment in Stone, Clay & Glass by 250. The expanding electronics industry supporting the Manned Spacecraft Center augmented by increases by other instrument manufacturers were primary factors in the rise of Other Durables. Employment in Fabricated Metal Products plunged by 250 in February. A seasonal reduction in production schedules is normal during January and February for firms in this industry.

Employment reductions by manufacturers of Food & Kindred Products dropped Nondurables by 200 from January to February. Meat packing, dairy products and beverage firms all showed declines. Bakeries and rice mills were also down.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Eases Ahead</u> Nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment eased forward by 700 during the month. Moderate gains occurred in Construction, Transportation, Medical Services and State & Local Government. Transportation gains were largely attributed to the movement of cotton, seed rice and fertilizer. Part of the gain in Government was seasonal. Utilities and Trades were the only losers in February. Trades are normally down in February, a low sales month, following January's inventory period.

<u>Unemployed Total Down</u> Unemployment edged downward by 400 in February. The month's jobless estimate of 26,000 was 4.3 per cent of the total labor force. The unemployed total included some of the 500 late January graduates who entered the labor market.

<u>Outlook To April</u> Little change is expected in the total labor force during the next two month period. Employment gains of 4000 are expected with unemployment diminishing by almost this amount.

Manufacturing employment is expected to edge downward during the next sixty days. Most of the anticipated drop of 400 in Nondurable Goods is expected in Food as some firms continue the seasonal termination of temporary workers. Nondurable losses should be partially off-set by some job gain in Durables.

Nonmanufacturing wage and salary increases are expected to be sizable in Construction, Trades and Services.

Unemployment should drop significantly during the next sixty days. April's expected jobless total of 22,100 would represent approximately 3.7% of the total labor force.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Feb. 1964	Prior Periods 4/ Jan. 1964	Feb. 1963	Anticipated Apr. 1964
Total Labor Force	600,900	600,400	585,200	601,000
Unemployment - Total	26,000	26,400	27,600	22,100
Women	8,700	8,700	9,200	7,400
Idled by Disputes	0	0	2,100	0
Employment - Total 3/	574,900	574,000	555,500	578,900
Agricultural	5,500	5,500	5,500	6,500
Nonagricultural	569,400	568,500	550,000	572,400
Manufacturing	94,100	93,900	91,500	93,800
Construction	46,500	45,900	40,400	47,700
Trades	131,200	131,600	128,200	131,900
Government	52,700	52,500	47,700	52,900
Other Nonmanufacturing	244,900	244,600	242,200	246,100
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	493,000	492,100	475,800	495,600

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Feb.2/ 1964	Jan.3/ 1964	Feb. 1963	Feb.2/ 1964	Jan.3/ 1964	Feb. 1963	Feb.2/ 1964	Jan. 3/ 1964	Feb. 1963
Manufacturing Total	$115.08	$113.99	$108.36	42.0	41.3	41.2	$2.74	$2.76	$2.63
Durable Goods	113.32	109.45	103.53	42.6	41.3	40.6	2.66	2.65	2.[illegible]
Non-Durable Goods	117.42	119.36	113.97	41.2	41.3	41.9	2.85	2.89	2.72

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised

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DIRECTORY OF EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION OFFICES

OFFICE	MANAGER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Professional	John E. Davis	Room 840, Chamber of Commerce Bldg.	CA 5-1711
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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XIX NO. 12
APRIL 1964

April Summary An upward trend was noted in the area's labor picture. Nondurable Goods down slightly, manufacturing of durable goods steady, and non-manufacturing edged upward.

Unemployment was down by 2200.

Non Manufacturing Up Non manufacturing employment was up by 3800 over February. This gain was supported strongly by Contract Construction which was up by 2200. Small increases occurred in Retail Trade, up 1100, and Business and Personal Services, up 400. Federal Government employment was down 100, while State and Local Government remained static over this period, but up 200 from January. Mining registered a slight increase. Transportation and allied services dropped by 250, utilities down slightly.

Manufacturing Employment Steady Fabricated Metals Products registered the largest gain of 200, followed by machinery production which gained 100. The production of electrical machinery and equipment, primary metals, furniture and fixtures, held at last month's level, while Lumber and Wood Products, Stone, Clay and Glass, and Transportation Equipment were down slightly. The losses normally experienced during seasonal reductions in production schedules during January and February were minimal this year.

Agricultural employment remained stable during the past sixty days and it is anticipated that only a small increase in employment may be expected in the next sixty days.

Non-Durable Goods Down Total employment was down 400 from February. Only Food and Kindred Products reflected an employment gain of 250. Textile Mill Products, Apparel and Finished Products, Paper Products, and Chemicals and Allied Products remained at last month's employment levels. Printing and Publishing employment was down slightly.

Unemployment Total Down Unemployment slid down 2200 in March which was 2600 less than January 1964. This month's jobless estimate of 23,800 was 3.9% of the total labor force.

Outlook to May Minor employment increases are expected in the total labor market for the next two months period. Employment gains are estimated at 3000 with proportionate reductions in unemployment anticipated.

Manufacturing employment is expected to edge upward slightly during the next two months. Additional gains are anticipated in all areas with the possible exceptions of Electrical Machinery and Transportation Equipment.

Non-manufacturing employment is expected to rise by 3000 in the next two months, primarily from gains in Construction, Trades and Services.

Unemployment should continue to ease downward during the next sixty days. May's estimated jobless total of 23500 would represent approximately 3.8% of the total labor force.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ March 1964	Prior Periods 4/ Feb. 1964	Mar. 1963	Anticipated May 1964
Total Labor Force	602,300	601,000	586,100	605,300
Unemployment - Total	23,800	26,000	26,100	23,500
Women	8,600	8,700	8,600	8,600
Idled by Disputes	0	0	2,100	
Employment - Total 3/	578,500	575,000	557,900	581,800
Agricultural	5,600	5,500	5,500	5,700
Nonagricultural	572,900	569,500	552,400	576,100
Manufacturing	93,800	94,200	92,100	93,850
Construction	48,700	46,500	40,900	51,000
Trades	132,300	131,200	130,000	132,400
Government	52,600	52,700	47,700	52,400
Other Nonmfg.	245,500	244,900	241,700	246,450
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	496,500	493,100	478,200	499,700

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Mar. 2/ 1964	Feb. 3/ 1964	Mar. 1963	Mar. 2/ 1964	Feb. 3/ 1964	Mar. 1963	Mar. 2/ 1964	Feb. 3/ 1964	Mar. 1963
Manufacturing Total	$117.30	$115.50	$110.54	42.5	42.0	41.4	$2.76	$2.75	$2.67
Durable Goods	114.91	113.42	104.60	43.2	42.8	40.7	2.66	2.65	2. [illegible]
Non-Durable Goods	119.81	117.55	118.16	41.6	41.1	42.2	2.88	2.86	2.80

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 1.
M A Y 1 9 6 4

__April Summary__ There was favorable improvement in the Area's total labor picture in the past 30 days. Employment was up by 4900, Non-manufacturing and manufacturing registering gains; non durables decreased slightly.

Unemployment declined by 4900. Employment is forecast to rise slowly but will be offset in June by the addition of high school and college graduates and students to the labor force. Unemployment is expected to increase.

__Manufacturing Employment Up__ Manufacturing added 700 jobs during the month. Durables gained 900 which was offset by a 200 loss in non-durables. Gains were reflected in Primary Metals, up 250, Fabricated Metal Products and Transportation Equipment, up 300 each. Lumber and Wood Products, Furniture and Fixtures along with Electrical Machinery and Equipment holding firm. Stone, Clay and Glass Products declined slightly.

Non-durables declined by 200, primarily in Printing and Publishing which was down 150, attributed to the closing of the Houston Press. Also down was Products of Petroleum and Coal by 100. Apparel and Finished Products gained 50. Food and Kindred Products, Textile Mills, Paper and Allied Products and Chemicals held steady.

__Non-Manufacturing__ Non-Manufacturing posted the largest employment gain. Lead by Contract Construction, up by 2900, followed by transportation and Allied Services up 550. Wholesale Trade, Business and Personal Services which were up 300 and 350 respectively. State and Local Government were off by 400 while Federal Government and Utilities registered minor gains of 50 each. Retail trade declined by 1000 due primarily to seasonal adjustment after the Easter sales season.

__Contract Construction Up__ Contract Construction, now a pace-setter, which has increased by 5100 over February and nearly 10,000 higher than April last year will continue upward. Planned and programmed construction for this area slated to start this year is estimated to be in excess of 60 million dollars.

__Unemployment Down__ Unemployment decreased by 4900 in April. This month's jobless estimate of 18,900 was 3.1% of the total labor force. Initial claims were down from 864 in March to 792 in April.

Only minor changes are expected in the total labor force until June. It is anticipated that the total labor force will move upward by 3700 in June when graduates and students appear on the labor market. Total employment is expected to decline by 900 and unemployment will increase by approximately 4600.

Forecasts indicate that total manufacturing will move cautiously upward to June. Non-manufacturing will decline slightly, but gains are predicted for Business and Medical Services and durables. Major losses will occur in State and Local Government employment. Non durables, Wholesale and Retail Trade to remain at current levels.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Apr. 1964	Prior Periods 4/ Mar. 1964	Apr. 1963	Anticipated June 1964
Total Labor Force	602,700	602,700	587,400	606,400
Unemployment - Total	18,900	23,800	22,300	23,500
Women	8,700	8,600	7,400	9,500
Idled by Disputes	0	0	2,000	0
Employment - Total 3/	583,800	578,900	563,100	582,900
Agricultural	6,500	5,600	6,900	8,000
Nonagricultural	577,300	573,300	556,200	574,900
Manufacturing	94,900	94,200	92,500	95,250
Construction	51,600	48,700	42,500	53,450
Trades	131,600	130,900	131,100	131,600
Government	52,250	52,600	47,900	47,650
Other Nonmfg.	246,950	246,900	242,200	246,950
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	500,900	496,900	481,200	498,500

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Apr. 2/ 1964	Mar. 3/ 1964	Apr. 1963	Apr. 2/ 1964	Mar. 3/ 1964	Apr. 1963	Apr. 2/ 1964	Mar. 3/ 1964	Apr. 1963
Manufacturing Total	$118.96	$117.15	$111.37	43.1	42.1	41.4	$2.76	$2.75	$2.69
Durable Goods	117.65	115.88	105.56	43.9	43.4	40.6	2.68	2.67	2.60
Non-Durable Gds.	121.54	119.97	118.30	42.2	41.8	42.4	2.88	2.87	2.79

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 2
J U N E 1 9 6 4

<u>June Summary</u> The upward employment trends continue at a reduced pace. Manufacture of Durables up slightly; Nondurables holding steady, with Nondurables buoyant.

nemployment was up 1500 over April.

<u>Total Employment Up</u> Total employment for May was estimated at 585,600, up 2000 in the past thirty days, 6700 in the past sixty and up 14,600 from the year ago figure. Manufacture of Durables showed a gain of 400 over last month and 1200 over March and May, 1963. Nondurables held generally firm, up 100, with minor gains in selected industries but off 200 from March and up 700 from one year ago. Nonmanufacturing continued to move slowly forward, up by 500 in the last thirty days, 3800 from March and 11,300 from May a year ago.

<u>anufacture of Durables</u> Manufacturing employment was estimated at 95,200 in May, up 500 over April and up 1900 over the same period in 1963. The manufacture of Fabricated Metal products showed the largest increase of 450 over April. Smaller increases of 150 were posted by the manufacture of Machinery and a gain of 100 was noted in the manufacture of Primary Metals. A significant loss occurred in the manufacture of Transportation Equipment, down 250 from April. Minor losses were reflected in the manufacture of Other Durables, down by 50 from April and March posting, but up 150 from last year's figure.

Nondurables displayed a mixed trend with some losers and some minor gains but up over all by 100 in the past 30 days, down 200 from March and up 700 from May, 1963.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Slows</u> Nonmanufacturing continues to move upward but at a reduced rate of climb. The pace has slowed to register a gain of 500 over the past thirty days, 3800 over March and 11,300 above May last year. Contract Construction again posted the major gain of 600 over April, 3500 over March and 6200 over a year ago. Retail Trade was up by 300 followed by gains of 250 in Business & Personal Services. A seasonal adjustment loss was sustained in Transportation & Allied Services, down 900.

<u>Unemployment Total Up</u> Unemployment moved up by 1500 over April, down 3400 from March and down 2000 from last year. This month's jobless estimate of 20,400 represents 3.4 per cent of the total labor force of 606,000.

Agricultural employment was up over last month by 1000 and equal to last year's employment.

<u>Outlook To June September</u> It is anticipated that the rise in unemployment will increase during June and July. However, the anticipated rise in unemployment will be cushioned by predicted employment gains in most industries over the next sixty days.

Manufacturing is expected to move cautiously forward in June with promising gains by September. Nonmanufacturing is anticipated to drop considerably in June, recovering in July and making major gains in September.

An increase in Unemployment is anticipated in June which is expected to diminish considerably by September. The supply of workers will be expanded by new entrants.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ May 1964	Prior Periods 4/ Apr. 1964	May 1963	Anticipated July 1964
Total Labor Force	606,000	602,500	595,300	606,500
Unemployment - Total	20,400	18,900	22,400	24,000
Women	6,800	6,300	7,400	8,000
Idled by Disputes	0	0	1,900	0
Employment - Total 3/	585,600	583,600	571,000	582,500
Agricultural	7,500	6,500	7,500	6,800
Nonagricultural	578,100	577,100	563,500	575,700
Manufacturing	95,200	94,700	93,300	95,500
Construction	52,200	51,600	46,000	52,500
Trades	132,000	131,600	131,600	132,700
Government	52,200	52,250	48,600	47,700
Other Nonmfg.	246,500	246,950	244,000	247,300
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	501,700	500,700	488,500	499,300

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	May 2/ 1964	Apr. 3/ 1964	May 1963	May 2/ 1964	Apr. 3/ 1964	May 1963	May 2/ 1964	Apr. 3/ 1964	May 1963
Manufacturing Total	$120.37	$119.66	$114.90	43.3	43.2	42.4	$2.78	$2.77	$2.[illegible]
Durable Goods	118.90	118.36	110.93	44.2	44.0	42.5	2.69	2.69	2.[illegible]
Non-Durable Gds.	121.67	122.22	120.13	42.1	42.0	42.3	2.89	2.91	2.84

1/ Figures cover production workers only. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 3
JULY 1964

June Highlights An expanding labor force, a surge in manufacturing employment and a normal seasonal increase in unemployment are highlights of the month in the area's labor market.

Little change is expected in total employment to July and August. An anticipated rise of 1500 in wage and salary employment should be substantially reduced by declining agricultural employment.

Manufacturing Surges Ahead Manufacturing employment surged forward by 1300 during June, adding vigor to the upward trend which began in February. Manufacturers of Durable Goods added 1000 workers with half the rise reflected in Fabricated Metal Products. Heavy increases were reported by firms manufacturing metal cans, fabricated structural steel, boilers, sheet metal products and steel containers. More moderate employment increases were shown in Stone, Clay & Glass, Machinery, Lumber & Wood Products, Primary Metals and Other Durables. Most of the rise in Durables was attributed to increased production. A moderate portion resulted from employment for temporary summer relief and plant clean-up.

Nondurables presented a mixed picture in edging ahead by 300. Food & Kindred Products gained 350 with bakeries, coffee and meat packing firms reporting the heaviest increases. Small gains were made in Chemicals, Petroleum Refining and Other Nondurables. A slight rise in Paper Products was for temporary summer relief only. Apparel and Printing took summer seasonal slumps.

Nonmanufacturing Dips Seasonally A sharp seasonal slump in Local Government caused nonmanufacturing employment to register a drop of 1900 in June. Healthy gains were general in other industries. Mining added 300 jobs during the month, a portion considered to be seasonal summer help. Construction reflected a rise of 100 from gains reported by general building contractors. Transportation & Allied Services moved forward by 300. Gains centered in Water Transportation. Utilities eased ahead by 100. A rise of 400 in Wholesale Trade was concentrated in firms handling food and machinery, equipment & supplies. Retail Trade registered a net rise of 1000. Gains were general, except in General Merchandise & Apparel which suffered a normal summer sag, and keyed to the summer increase in activity in these businesses. Employment gains were general in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate, adding 200 to total employment in this group. Services rose by 500. Modest increases were reported in all Business & Personal Service groups and Medical Services. A loss of 4800 in State & Local Government was tied to the release of over 5000 school service personnel in the area. The loss was softened by increases in city and county employment for the administration of summer recreation and youth programs.

Unemployment Rises Seasonally The current estimate of 25,300 unemployed is 4.1% of the total labor force. The increase of 4900 over May is normal for this season of the year when some 5000 unemployed new and re-entrant workers enter the labor force. From May to June there was a moderate decline in insured unemployment. Both insured unemployment and initial claims are substantially below the year ago level. Insured unemployment as a per cent of the State insured labor force is currently 1.4 compared to 1.9 in June, 1963.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ June 1964	Prior Periods 4/ May 1964	June 1963	Anticipated Aug. 1964
Total Labor Force	611900	606200	602500	610500
Unemployment - Total	25300	20400	27800	23000
Women	8900	6800	9200	7700
Idled by Disputes	0	0	1900	0
Employment - Total 3/	586600	585800	572800	587400
Agricultural	8300	7500	8400	7600
Nonagricultural	578300	578300	564400	579800
Manufacturing	96700	95400	94500	97000
Construction	52300	52200	47500	52600
Trades	133400	132000	132800	134000
Government	47400	52200	44400	47500
Other Nonmfg.	248500	246500	245200	248700
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	501300	501700	489400	502800

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	June 2/ 1964	May 3/ 1964	June 1963	June 2/ 1964	May 3/ 1964	June 1963	June 2/ 1964	May 3/ 1964	June 1963
Manufacturing Total	$119.94	$119.94	$117.39	43.3	43.3	43.0	$2.77	$2.77	$2.73
Durable Goods	118.28	118.63	115.18	43.3	44.1	43.3	2.67	2.69	2.66
Non-Dur. Goods	121.93	121.96	119.85	41.9	42.2	42.5	2.91	2.89	[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT

OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 4
AUGUST 1964

As Near as Your TEC Office

<u>July Summary</u> The trend of rising employment in the area continued in July. Wage and salary employment advances were significant in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries.

Agricultural employment of seasonal workers dropped sharply from June to July.

The jobless total plumged to 3.9% of the total labor force.

An estimated 500 of the area's temporary summer job seekers had withdrawn from the labor market by mid-July.

Forecasts indicate employment will continue the upward trend to September.

<u>Manufacturing Gains</u> Manufacturing employment moved ahead by 700 in July. Durable goods manufacturers added 700 to the job total. Increases centered in Fabricated Metal Products, Machinery and Transportation Equipment. Heaviest gains were reported by producers of metal cans and boilers. New contracts as well as seasonal inventory increases were factors in over all employment totals in these industries.

Nondurables inched ahead by 200 during the month. Most of the gain was registered in Printing & Publishing where employment of seasonal summer help was heaviest.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Advances</u> Gains were consistent in all of the seasonally affected nonmanufacturing industries during July, adding 2000 to the area's job total. Contract construction was up 800. Most of the increase was reflected in heavy construction. Wholesale trade edged forward by 500. Job gains were highest in firms handling food and machinery. Reported seasonal increases were general in Services, boosting employment by 400 in this group.

<u>Agricultural Total Dips Seasonally</u> Area employment of seasonal agriculture workers dropped by 1500 from June to July. This is a period of low seasonal employment between cultivation and harvest of cotton and rice.

<u>Unemployment Dips</u> The idle worker total dropped by 1700 during the month. The current estimate of 23,600 unemployed is 3.9% of the total labor force of 611,600. This ratio was 4.1% last month and 4.2% one year ago. July claims data indicated that approximately 1900 of June's new and re-entrants into the labor force either found jobs or withdrew from the labor market. But it was reflected that the long term unemployed total increased by 200.

<u>Outlook to September</u> Forecasts indicate the trend of rising employment should continue to September with a proportionate decline in jobless total. Unemployment is expected to drop significantly in September when schools reopen. Employment of seasonal workers in agriculture should increase to August and September for the harvest of cotton and rice.

<u>Labor Supply And Demand</u> Labor supply has been ample in this area except for highly specialized technical and professional skills. There is still a strong demand for qualified engineers, both experienced and as trainees, in all fields. Experienced draftsmen are also in great demand. The shortage of social workers with advanced degrees continues.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ July 1964	Prior Periods 4/ June 1964	July 1963	Anticipated Sept. 1964
Total Labor Force	611600	612100	603900	616000
Unemployment - Total	23600	25300	25200	21700
Women	7900	8900	8400	7200
Idled by Disputes	0	0	1900	0
Employment - Total 3/	588000	586800	576800	594300
Agricultural	6800	8300	6800	7200
Nonagricultural	581200	578500	570000	587100
Manufacturing	97600	96900	94800	97600
Construction	53100	52300	48600	53000
Trades	133900	133400	133200	134600
Government	47500	47400	45900	52700
Other Nonmfg.	249100	284500	247500	249200
Nonagri. Wage and Salary	504200	501500	493600	510100

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	July 2/ 1964	June 3/ 1964	July 1963	July 2/ 1964	June 3/ 1964	July 1963	July 2/ 1964	June 3/ 1964	July 1963
Manufacturing Total	$123.48	$121.01	$116.72	44.1	43.4	42.6	$2.80	$2.79	$2.74
Durable Goods	122.66	120.42	115.34	45.6	44.6	43.2	2.69	2.70	[illegible]
Non-Dur. Goods	123.77	121.64	118.58	42.1	41.8	41.9	2.94	2.91	2.83

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOUSTON

MARKET

EMPLOYMENT

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 5
SEPTEMBER 1964

<u>August Summary</u> The expansion trend in area employment continued in August. Advances centered in nonmanufacturing industries and agriculture. Burdened by labor disputes, manufacturing employment eased downward.

ie idle worker total decreased sharply during the past thirty days.

Current indications are for continuation of the rising employment trend to October. Gains are expected to be centered in nonmanufacturing industries.

<u>Unemployment Drops</u> Unemployment plunged by 3200 this month. The current estimate of 20,400 unemployed is 3.3% of the total labor force of 612,100. This is the lowest rate recorded for this area since April of this year when a 3.1% rate was reported.

›st of the newly employed came from July's idle worker group. Insured unemployment, initial claims and benefit exhaustions registered significant declines in August. These indicators point to a trend of decreasing long term unemployment in the area.

<u>Manufacturing Reverses Upward Trend</u> Burdened by strikes, manufacturing employment eased downward by 100 in August to reverse the upward trend which began in May. A drop of 500 was recorded in durable goods where the strikes occurred. With 110 workers out on strike, Primary Metals sagged by 150. A three day strike of approximately 700 employees resulted in a loss of 609 in total employment in the Machinery industry. Moderate gains in job totals were registered in Furniture & Fixtures and Fabricated Metal Products. All other industrial groups in the durables category remained fairly stable during August.

An employment expansion of 400 in nondurables was concentrated in Food & Kindred Products where rice mills and beverage firms reported the largest increases.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Total Expands</u> The upward trend in nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment continued in August. Of the 2200 added to the job total, heavy construction accounted for 600. Wholesale trade eased forward by 300. Increases were largely centered in firms handling food and machinery, equipment & supplies. Seasonal employment advance by these classes of firms is normal during the summer when construction and services activity are at a peak. Retail trade moved ahead by 800 this month, largely on the basis of gains reported by department stores and food firms. Increases were noted by most of the large department stores which were preparing for "back to school" sales. Minor increases were also registered in mining, services and state & local government.

<u>Agriculture Rises Seasonally</u> Seasonal employment of agricultural wage and salary workers added 900 to the area's current employment total. These workers were employed in the harvest of cotton and rice which was under way at mid-August.

<u>Outlook To October</u> The trend of total employment increases is expected to continue to October. Substantial gains in local government when schools open in September and in trade during the fall shopping season should be only partially off-set by sizeable declines in construction and agriculture.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Aug. 1964	Prior Periods 4/ July 1964	Aug. 1963	Anticipated Oct. 1964
Total Labor Force	612100	611500	604100	613000
Unemployment - Total	20400	23600	25100	18900
Women	6800	7900	8400	6300
Idled by Disputes	800	0	0	0
Employment - Total 3/	590900	587900	579000	594100
Agricultural	7700	6800	7700	5700
Nonagricultural	583200	581100	571300	588400
Manufacturing	97400	97500	96200	97000
Construction	53700	53100	48800	53000
Trades	135000	133900	133000	136100
Government	47700	47500	45100	52600
Other Nonmanufacturing	249400	249100	248200	249700
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	506200	504100	494900	510400

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Aug.2/ 1964	Jul.3/ 1964	Aug. 1963	Aug.2/ 1964	Jul.3/ 1964	Aug. 1963	Aug.2/ 1964	Jul.3/ 1964	Aug. 1963
Manufacturing Total	$120.10	$123.32	$112.75	43.2	44.2	41.3	$2.78	$2.79	$2.73
Durable Goods	118.64	122.40	112.94	44.6	45.5	42.3	2.66	2.69	2.67
Non-Dur.Goods	121.60	124.95	112.56	41.5	42.5	40.2	2.93	2.94	2.[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOUSTON

MARKET

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 6
OCTOBER 1964

<u>September Summary</u> The area's total labor force continued the upward trend in September. Opening of schools for the fall semester and the resultant rise in State & Local Government total accounted for a large portion of this month's employment gain. Manufacturing made a strong re- ery after settlement of the labor-management disputes which broke its employment expansion trend in August.

Unemployment plunged sharply again in September to set a new low for the year in idle worker total. The current estimate of 17700 unemployed is 2.9 per cent of the total labor force by 615,800.

Some decline is anticipated in the total labor force to November. Seasonal employment declines are expected by manufacturers of Primary Metals and Food & Kindred Products. Heavy construction losses in the winter months due to inclement weather are expected. mployment is expected to rise moderately as employment drops.

<u>Manufacturing Recovers</u> Hampered by strikes, manufacturing broke its employment expansion trend in August but made a strong recovery in September after settlement of its labor-management disputes. All the gain this month occurred in the durables group when 800 strikers returned to work. Machinery surged forward by 850, Other employment fluctuations in the durables group were downward in this period but not significant in total

Since last year employment in the durables industries has steadily increased with all classes expanding except Lumber & Wood Products. Primary Metals, Fabricated Metal Products and Machinery have been responsible for much of the growth of 3100.

Food & Kindred Products has added 200 to the employed total since August. Some of the growth in this group is considered to be of a seasonal nature.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Expands Seasonally</u> Nonfactory wage and salary employment has surged ahead by 6500 since August. Opening of schools for the fall semester expanding State & Local Government by 4900 this month. School enrollment continued to forge upward this fall requiring more staff and service personnel. Trade accounts for 1000 of the gain this period. Expansions, new shopping centers and increased sales volumes have expanded Trade by nearly 3000 above last year. Construction continued strong this period adding 1000 to total employment. The increase in non-residential construction has more than off-set this year's lag in residential building.

<u>Outlook to November</u> Some loss is anticipated in the total labor force to November. Seasonal gains in Retail Trade for the Christmas shopping season are expected to be more than off-set by declines in Construction, Primary Metals and Food & Kindred Products. At this season manufacturers of Primary Metals retool and repair equipment while production schedules are low. Declines in Food & Kindred Products are expected to center in bakeries and beverage firms.

<u>Labor Demand And Supply</u> Labor supply has been ample except for openings requiring special qualifications. There is a shortage of engineers in all fields and social workers with degrees.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Sept. 1964	Prior Periods 4/ Aug. 1964	Sept.1963	Anticipated Oct. 1964
Total Labor Force	612400	612400	604700	614500
Unemployment - Total	17700	20400	23100	19600
Women	5900	6800	7600	6500
Idled by Disputes	0	800	0	
Employment - Total 3/	598100	591200	581600	594900
Agricultural	6900	7700	7200	5300
Nonagricultural	591200	583500	574400	589600
Manufacturing	98300	97700	95600	97800
Construction	54700	53700	48200	52000
Trades	135900	135000	133000	137000
Government	52600	47700	52000	52700
Other Nonmanufacturing	249700	249400	245600	250100
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	513600	506500	498000	511600

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Sep.2/ 1964	Aug.3/ 1964	Sept. 1963	Sep.2/ 1964	Aug.3/ 1964	Sep. 1963	Sep.2/ 1964	Aug.3/ 1964	Sep. 1963
Manufacturing Total	$120.34	$114.70	$116.62	43.6	42.8	42.1	$2.76	$2.68	$2.77
Durable Goods	121.66	116.87	113.90	44.4	44.1	42.5	2.74	2.65	[illegible]
Non-Dur.Goods	118.43	111.65	119.68	42.6	41.2	41.7	2.78	2.71	2.84

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
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Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
[illegible] and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 7
NOVEMBER 1 9 6 4

[illegible] As Near as Your TEC Office

<u>October Summary</u> The total labor force in Harris county expanded by 1000 during the past thirty days.

The winter's seasonal increase in unemployment began this month with 500 added to the number of unemployed workers. The present jobless total of 18,200 is 3.0% of the total labor force of 616,700. This rate was 2.9% in September and 3.6% last year.

Total employment inched forward by 400 in October on the strength of gains in Construction, Transportation and Trade.

A significant job loss of 1400 occurred in agriculture when rice harvest was finished.

<u>Manufacturing Dips</u> Manufacturing employment registered a drop of 500 during the month with all of the loss occurring in the nondurables category. Industry employment fluctuations in the durables [illegible] up left total employment unchanged from last month. Minor gains in Furniture & Fixtures, Machinery, Electric Machinery & Equipment and Transportation Equipment were offset by small declines in Stone, Clay & Glass, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metal Products and Other Durables.

Apparel & Finished Products was the only industry in the nondurables group to show an increase in October. General production increases boosted employment in this category by 50. Food & Kindred Products registered the heaviest decline—down 250 from last month. Some of this decline resulted from a strike. Chemicals, Petroleum Refining and Other Nondurables were down 100 each. Paper & Allied Products and Printing & Publishing inched downward by 50 each. Most of the decline in factory employment was seasonal.

<u>Nonmanufacturing On Rise</u> Nonfactory wage and salary employment surged upward by 1800 during October. Construction added 300 this period. Gains were modest but general in building and heavy construction while special trades employment was down slightly. Employment gains in Trucking & Warehousing and Water Transportation for the fertilizer season boosted employment in this category by 600. Wholesale Trade moved ahead by 300 and Retail Trade by 600. Gains were chiefly centered in General Merchandise & Apparel firms.

<u>Insured Unemployment Down</u> Insured unemployment during the October sample week dropped to 4714 from 4777 in September. There was no appreciable change in initial claims this period.

<u>Outlook to December</u> Little change is expected in manufacturing employment during the next sixty days. Some advance is anticipated in Primary Metals and Machinery to February. Retail Trade is slated to expand seasonally during the Christmas shopping season. Local post offices normally add about 300 workers during the seasonal mailing rush. Declines in both Construction and Trade employment in January and February are normally heavy with a proportionate increase in unemployment.

<u>Labor Supply And Demand</u> Demand continues to be strong for experienced and trainee engineers—electrical, mechanical and civil. Demand continues to exceed the supply of experienced draftsmen. There is also a healthy demand for qualified chemists and chemical engineers. Trainees in these fields are being sought to an increasing degree.

	Current 2/ Oct. 1964	Prior Periods 4/ Sept.1964	Oct.1963	Anticipated Dec. 1964
Total Labor Force	616700	615700	603200	620500
Unemployment - Total	18200	17700	22000	19000
Women	6100	5900	7200	6300
Idled by Disputes	100	0	0	
Employment - Total 3/	598400	598000	581200	601500
Agricultural -	5500	6900	5700	5300
Nonagricultural	592900	591100	575500	596200
Manufacturing	97700	98200	94700	97800
Construction	55000	54700	48000	53000
Trades	136800	135900	133600	141800
Government	52500	52600	52300	52800
Other Nonmanufacturing	250900	249700	246900	250800
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	514800	513500	497600	518100

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Oct.2/ 1964	Sep.3/ 1964	Oct. 1963	Oct.2/ 1964	Sep.3/ 1964	Oct. 1963	Oct.2/ 1964	Sep.3/ 1964	Oct. 1963
Manufacturing Total	$119.82	$124.39	$113.84	43.1	43.8	41.7	$2.78	$2.84	$2.73
Durable Goods	118.80	121.83	110.83	44.0	44.3	42.3	2.70	2.75	2.[illegible]
Non-Dur.Goods	121.09	128.14	117.55	41.9	43.0	41.1	2.89	2.98	2.[illegible]

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-0341

HOUSTON

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 7
DECEMBER 1964

<u>November Summary</u> The Houston area labor force made a modest advance of 2400 from October to November. The most significant development occurring during this period was a rise of 2,600 in the number of unemployed while total employment maintained a stable level. This situation resulted from a combination of two factors—an increase in the number of insured unemployed and a normal increase in re-entrant temporary job seekers for the pre-Christmas shopping season.

<u>Employment Stable</u> For the first time since 1960, total employment in this area did not decline appreciably during the month of November. Major contributors to the stability of the area's economy this month were above average construction and retail sales levels. Although total employment has remained stable during the month, some modest changes were noted within both factory and nonfactory industry groups.

<u>Manufacturing Decline Slows</u> The decline in factory employment experienced in October came to a near standstill this month. Ups and downs were balanced in durables leaving the employment level unchanged from thirty days ago. Job losses attributed to seasonal production declines in furniture & fixtures and primary metals, were balanced by production increases in machinery and transportation equipment. Nondurables were on the ebb again, down 100 from last month, because of modest general cut backs in employment by firms manufacturing petroleum products.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Employment Steady</u> Nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment, up by only 200, held steady in November with major fluctuations occurring in contract construction and retail trade. Contract construction, which dropped 1000 in November, made the only major employment decline. General building construction gains were over-shadowed by seasonal dips in both heavy and special trades construction. Retail trade moved ahead by 1000 this month. Employment gains centered in general merchandise & apparel as local department and clothing stores were staffing for the Christmas shopping season.

<u>Unemployment Rises</u> Unemployment has risen steadily since September's low was registered. The November estimate of 20,800 unemployed was 3.4 per cent of the total civilian labor force of 619,400. Insured unemployment as a per cent of the State insured labor force rose one-tenth of one per cent this month.

<u>Forecast To January</u> A seasonal decline is expected in the area's total labor force in January. Unemployment is expected to reach a peak in January as nonfactory wage and salary employment drop to a seasonal low. Heavy declines normally occur in construction and retail trade at this time with no significant job gains in other industries to alleviate the loss. However, the unemployed total is expected to remain well below the level reached in January of this year.

EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current 2/ Nov. 1964	Prior Periods 4/ Oct. 1964	Nov. 1963	Anticipated Jan. 1965
Total Labor Force	619400	617000	604600	616000
Unemployment - Total	20800	18200	24100	23400
Women	6900	6100	8000	7800
Idled by Disputes	0	100	0	
Employment - Total 3/	598600	598700	580500	592600
Agricultural	5300	5500	5500	5300
Nonagricultural	593300	593200	575000	587300
Manufacturing	97600	97700	94100	98000
Construction	54000	55000	47600	50000
Trades	137800	136800	134200	135400
Government	52900	52800	52500	53100
Other Nonmanufacturing	251000	250900	246600	250800
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	515200	515100	497100	509200

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics in private households. 4/ Revised.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Nov.2/ 1964	Oct.3/ 1964	Nov. 1963	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Nov.2/ 1964	Oct.3/ 1964	Nov. 1963	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Nov.2/ 1964	Oct.3/ 1964	Nov. 1963
Manufacturing Total	$119.28	$119.11	$114.13	42.6	43.0	41.5	$2.80	$2.77	$2.75
Durable Goods	116.10	117.92	110.20	43.0	44.0	41.9	2.70	2.68	2.63
Non-Dur.Goods	123.06	120.64	118.37	42.0	41.6	41.1	2.93	2.90	2.88

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work. 2/ Preliminary, subject to revision. 3/ Revised.

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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-1711

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 8
JANUARY 1965

December Summary — Total labor force in the Houston area expanded by 1000 during the past thirty days. Largely on the strength of seasonal gains in retail trade, employment had reached an all time high at mid-December. Unemployment dropped to the lowest level recorded since December 1955. Temporary seasonal declines in employment are forecast for the next two month period.

Manufacturing Eases Ahead — Manufacturing employment made a modest gain of 300 during the month with both durables and nondurables easing ahead. Durables netted a small advance of 100 on the strength of slight production increases in primary metals and electric machinery & equipment. Fabricated metal products edged downward seasonally during the month to register the only noteworthy decline in the durables category. Moderate advances in printing & publishing and chemicals were sufficient to boost employment in nondurables by 200. Food was the only group in this category to decline during the month. Seasonal production lags by beverage firms caused employment to drop by 100 in the food industry.

Nonmanufacturing Advances Seasonally — Nonmanufacturing industries presented a mixed picture in adding 4100 to the area's employed total in December. Retail trade scored a seasonal surge of 5200. Gains were centered in general merchandise and apparel establishments for the peak shopping season. Construction plunged by 2000 because of weather conditions and completed contracts. Transportation moved up by 300 when port activity accellerated this month. Federal government advanced by 400. Most of this increase was considered to be seasonal and temporary. Mining and wholesale trade inched forward by 100 each on the basis of small general gains reported.

Unemployment Rate At 14 Year Low — Unemployment dropped to the lowest level recorded since December, 1955 when only 2.6 per cent of the area's labor force were unemployed. This December's estimate of 17,400 idle workers represented 2.8 per cent of the total civilian labor force of 620,800.

Forecast To February — Total employment is expected to drop sharply to February with most of the change occurring in the seasonally affected nonmanufacturing industries. Retail trade and construction are slated for significant losses with small declines anticipated in transportation, wholesale trade and federal government. Unemployment is expected to rise by approximately 3000 during the next sixty day period before beginning a downward trend.

Labor Supply And Demand — The supply of available workers has remained adequate in this area to meet existing demands but for a few exceptions. Demand exceeds the supply of well qualified engineers and draftsmen. Nurses are always in short supply.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current * Dec. 1964	Prior Periods ** Nov. 1964	Dec. 1963	Anticipated Feb. 1965
Total Labor Force	620800	619800	607500	615500
Unemployment - Total	17400	20800	22900	20400
Women	5800	6900	7600	6800
Idled by Disputes	0	0	0	
Employment - Total 2/	603400	599000	584600	595100
Agricultural	5300	5300	5500	5300
Nonagricultural	598100	593700	579100	589800
Manufacturing	100800	100500	96500	100700
Construction	58600	60600	52700	58000
Trades	162600	157300	159600	155400
Government	533000	52900	52900	53000
Other Nonmanufacturing	222800	222400	217400	222700
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	520000	515600	501200	511700

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Dec. 2/ 1964	Nov. 3/ 1964	Dec. 1963	Dec. 2/ 1964	Nov. 3/ 1964	Dec. 1963	Dec. 2/ 1964	Nov. 3/ 1964	Dec. 1963
Manufacturing Total	$120.83	$119.99	$115.37	43.0	42.7	41.8	$2.81	$2.81	$2.76
Durable Goods	118.16	117.18	109.82	43.6	43.4	41.6	2.71	2.70	2.64
Non-Dur. Goods	124.07	123.61	121.38	42.2	41.9	42.0	2.94	2.95	2.89

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 9
FEBRUARY 1965

<u>January Summary</u> Withdrawal from the labor market of year end seasonal workers in nonmanufacturing industries caused the total labor force in Harris county to shrink by 8,500 from mid-December to mid-January. Total employment plunged 18,200 below December's record total. Most of the employment decline centered in contract construction, transportation & allied services and retail trade. Unemployment was 3.5 per cent of the total labor force—a new low for the month of January in this area.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Declines Seasonally</u> Total employment in nonmanufacturing industries plunged 18,300 below December's level. Most of the decline centered in contract construction, transportation & allied services and retail trade. Contract construction was down 3,600 from December. This situation was normal in the industry, occurring at that season of the year when many firms were at a point of low employment between completed contracts and the beginning of new ones. Winter weather was also a factor in reducing employment in this industry. Transportation & allied services plunged by 6,500 during the month. Approximately 5,500 of these were workers idled by labor-management dispute. By mid-January 1,000 workers in related industries were unemployed, many as a direct result of the strike. Retail trade employment followed a normal seasonal pattern in declining 7,800 this month. Most of the drop occurred in general merchandise and apparel segments of the retail industry.

<u>Manufacturing Rise Sets Trend</u> Manufacturing employment edged ahead for the third consecutive month to set a trend of employment expansion in this category. Durables industries added 300 workers this month; nondurables were down 100. Most of the employment increase centered in transportation equipment and miscellaneous durables and was largely attributed to new contracts in these groups. Employment fluctuations were minor in the nondurables category during the month. Petroleum products was down 100 from thirty days ago. This decline was considered to be permanent employment reduction through attrition.

<u>Unemployment Up Seasonally</u> Unemployment, which dropped in December to the lowest level recorded since 1955, had risen by 4,200 at mid-January. The estimate of 21,600 unemployed was 3.5 per cent of the total civilian labor force. This rate was a new low for the month of January in this area.

<u>Forecast To March</u> Employer forecasts indicate a moderate rise in employment to March. Gains in factory employment are expected in primary metals, fabricated metal products and machinery. Seasonal production increases and new contracts account for most of the anticipated gain. Employment indicators point to a steady growth in nonfactory employment to March. Gains are expected to be substantial in contract construction and retail trade.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current * Jan. 1965	Prior Periods ** Dec. 1964	Jan. 1964	Anticipated Mar. 1965
Total Labor Force	611800	620300	596400	612700
Unemployment, Total	21600	17400	26400	19500
Women	7100	5800	8800	6500
Idled by Disputes	5500	0	0	
Employment, Total 2/	584700	602900	570000	593200
Agricultural	5200	5300	5500	5300
Nonagricultural	579500	597600	564500	587900
Manufacturing	104300	104100	98500	104600
Construction	48400	52000	46300	49200
Trades	156500	164300	152100	157300
Government	54300	54500	53000	54400
Other Nonmanufacturing	216000	222700	214600	222400
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	501800	519500	488500	510200

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Jan.2/ 1965	Dec. 3/ 1964	Jan. 1964	Jan.2/ 1965	Dec.3/ 1964	Jan. 1964	Jan.2/ 1965	Dec.3/ 1964	Jan. 1964
Manufacturing Total	$119.43	$121.41	$113.99	42.5	42.9	41.3	$2.81	$2.83	$2.76
Durable Goods	116.69	118.64	109.45	43.3	43.3	41.3	2.72	2.74	2.65
Non-Dur.Goods	123.35	123.94	119.36	42.3	42.3	41.3	2.93	2.93	2.89

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-0341

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 10
MARCH 1965

or Call . . . . As Near as Your TEC Office

<u>February Summary</u> The past thirty days brought only minor changes in the area's labor picture. The total labor force sagged by 900 as the number of women in the labor market declined seasonally. Total employment also edged downward by 900. The number of unemployed workers remained unchanged from January.

<u>Manufacturing Continues Rise</u> The upward trend in factory employment, which began in November, continued to mid-February. All the gain of 500 occurred in the durables category. Modest increases were registered in stone, clay & glass, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery and miscellaneous durables. New contracts and increased inventories of finished products were chiefly responsible for employment gains of 150 each in primary metals and machinery. Miscellaneous durables rose by 100 and stone, clay & glass and fabricated metal products by 50 each on the strength of small production increases. No employment declines were registered by any of the industry groups in durables.

Employment fluctuations in the nondurables category were modest during the past thirty days. Gains in apparel & finished products, printing & publishing, chemicals and miscellaneous nondurables were balanced by losses in food & kindred products, textiles, paper & allied products and petroleum products. Seasonal employment reductions by beverage firms and indirect effects of the longshoremen's strike accounted for a decline of 100 in food & kindred products. Textiles, paper & allied products and petroleum products were below January's employment levels by 50 each. Employment gains of 50 in apparel & finished products, 100 in printing & publishing and 50 each in chemicals and miscellaneous nondurables were all attributed to modest production increases.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Down in February</u> Nonmanufacturing dipped again in February. Moderate declines in contract construction, transportation & allied services and trade contributed to the loss of 1400. Contract construction was down by 400 in February. This was a temporary seasonal decline. Water transportation dropped by 700 as the longshoremen's strike continued to take its toll of workers. Trucking & warehousing, because of the dock strike, was 300 below January's employment level. Trade employment experienced a normal drop of 500 in February, a low sales month, following January's inventory period. Utilities and finance were the only segments in the nonmanufacturing group to register gains in February. These were a modest 100 each.

<u>Forecast To April</u> The area's total labor force is expected to swell by 3700 during the next sixty days. Employment should rise by 12,300 during this period. Settlement of the dock strike on March 5, 1965 will add 5500 to the employed total in March. Almost half the additional gain of 6800 to mid-April is expected to come from the present idle worker group. Most of the employment advance to April is anticipated in nonmanufacturing industries. Transportation & allied services, construction, trade and agriculture should rise significantly.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current * Feb. 1965	Prior Periods ** Jan. 1965	Feb. 1964	Anticipated Apr. 1965
Total Labor Force	611100	612000	599500	614800
Unemployment, Total	21600	21600	26000	18500
Women	7000	7100	8700	6100
Idled by Disputes	5500	5500	0	
Employment, Total 2/	584000	584900	573500	596300
Agricultural	5200	5200	5500	6200
Nonagricultural	578800	579700	568000	590100
Manufacturing	105000	104500	99200	105300
Construction	48000	48400	47000	50200
Trades	156000	156500	152000	157300
Government	54300	54300	53400	54400
Other Nonmanufacturing	215500	216000	216400	222900
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	501100	502000	492000	512100

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U.S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Feb.2/ 1965	Jan. 3/ 1965	Feb. 1964	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Feb.2/ 1965	Jan.3/ 1965	Feb. 1964	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Feb.2/ 1965	Jan.3/ 1965	Feb. 1964
Manufacturing									
Total	$119.28	$120.12	$115.50	42.6	42.9	42.0	$2.80	$2.80	$2.75
Durable Goods	118.48	118.16	113.42	43.4	43.6	42.8	2.73	2.71	2.65
Non-Dur.Goods	121.06	122.35	177.55	41.6	41.9	41.1	2.91	2.92	2.86

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 11
APRIL 1 9 6 5

Millions on Call . . . . As Near as Your TEC Office

<u>March Summary</u> Although there have been only minor changes in the area's total labor force since January, recent fluctuations in both employment and unemployment have been significant. Settlement in early March of a major strike in the water transportation industry and a seasonal spring increase in general business activity combined to produce an employment gain of 8300 during the month. Unemployment dipped to 18,700, down 2900 from January and February. Employment is expected to continue upward, gaining 6600 to May. Indications are that unemployment will drop below 3 per cent of the total labor force during this period.

<u>Manufacturing Reverses Trend</u> The upward trend in factory employment from November to February was broken during the current month. A labor dispute involving 1000 workers in the fabricated metal products industry began in late February. Gains in other industry groups were sufficient to keep total factory employment at a level of only 200 below February and 300 above January. On the basis of production increases advances were registered in stone, clay & glass, primary metals, machinery, and food and kindred products.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Employment Rises</u> Spurred by settlement of the water transportation strike, nonmanufacturing employment was rapidly recovering by mid-March from a two month slump. In addition to the return of 5500 idle workers in water transportation, rail and trucking employment rose significantly to boost the advance in transportation & allied services to 6700 for the month. Modest gains were also registered in mining, construction, utilities, finance, medical services and local government.

<u>Unemployment Drops</u> Unemployment dipped to 18,700 at mid-March, down 2900 from January and February. This estimate was only 3.1 per cent of the total labor force of 612,000. In January and February the unemployed total of 21,600 was 3.5 per cent of the total labor force.

<u>Outlook To May</u> Forecasts indicate an addition of 4000 people to the local labor force during the next sixty days. By mid-May, 6600 more people than are presently employed are expected to be working. Most of the anticipated gain of 1100 in manufacturing employment hinges on settlement of a labor dispute in the fabricated metal products industry which has idled 1000 workers. Other outstanding employment increases expected during this period are 2600 in contract construction and 700 in retail trade. Agriculture is expected to employ an additional 1900 during the next two months for cultivation of cotton, irrigation of rice and harvesting of vegetables.

<u>Labor Supply And Demand</u> Although the labor supply dropped sharply during the past thirty days, it is still ample for demand except for a few specialized occupations. For some time demand has exceeded the local supply of engineers—electrical, mechanical, chemical and civil. Also in short supply are experienced draftsmen and electronic technicians.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* Mar. 1965	Prior Periods ** Feb. 1965	Mar. 1964	Anticipated May 1965
Total Labor Force	612000	611100	599500	616000
Unemployment, Total	18700	21600	23800	17100
Women	6100	7000	7900	5600
Idled by Disputes	1000	5500	0	
Employment, Total 2/	592300	584000	575700	598900
Agricultural	5300	5200	5600	7200
Nonagricultural	587000	578800	570100	591700
Manufacturing	104800	105000	99400	105900
Construction	49000	48000	47800	51600
Trades	156000	156000	152500	156800
Government	54400	54300	53500	54300
Other Nonmanufacturing	222800	215500	216900	223100

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U.S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Mar.2/ 1965	Feb.3/ 1965	Mar. 1964	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Mar.2/ 1965	Feb.3/ 1965	Mar. 1964	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Mar.2/ 1965	Feb.3/ 1965	Mar. 1964
Manufacturing									
Total	$119.99	$119.28	$117.15	42.7	42.6	42.6	$2.81	$2.80	$2.75
Durable Goods	118.86	118.48	115.88	43.7	43.4	43.4	2.72	2.73	2.67
Non-Dur.Goods	121.60	120.64	119.97	41.5	41.6	41.8	2.93	2.90	2.87

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XX NO. 12
MAY 1965

... Call .... As Near as Your TEC Office

<u>April Summary</u> Unemployment shrank rapidly during the past thirty days as the area's economy moved firmly forward. Employment gains were primarily centered in fabricated metal products, contract construction, trades, services, and agriculture.

<u>Unemployment At New Low</u> Unemployment dropped to a record low at mid-April. The estimate of 15,200 unemployed was only 2.5 per cent of the total labor force of 611,800. This estimate was 3500 below March's idle worker total and 3700 below April of last year.

<u>Employment Advances</u> Total employment in the Houston area made a firm advance of 4400 during the past month. Gains of 1400 in manufacturing, 2300 in nonmanufacturing and 700 in agriculture were registered.

Manufacturing gains were largely centered in the durables category. Although 1000 workers idled by a labor dispute since late February returned to work, fabricated metal products made an over-all advance of only 850 this period. Minor gains were registered in lumber and wood products, furniture and fixtures, machinery, and transportation equipment. Stone, clay and glass edged downward by 100 this month. A modest increase of 300 in nondurables employment centered in gains of 100 each in printing and publishing, chemicals, and miscellaneous nondurables.

April's modest gain of 2300 in nonmanufacturing industries centered in contract construction, trade, and services. The construction industry added 1100 workers this month. All phases of activities in this industry were on the upswing, although total employment in the industry is running slightly behind last year's total for the same period. Easter and spring sales staffing boosted general merchandise and apparel by 400. Auto outlets and service stations gained an estimated 200. New firms helped boost wholesale trade by 200 this month. Opening of a new entertainment center and increased hospital staffing were the chief factors in swelling services employment by 600.

<u>Outlook To June</u> The area's total labor force is expected to increase by 4700 to June when new graduates and summer job seekers enter the labor market. Unemployment is expected to rise by 6000 during the two month period. Most of these will be new and re-entrant workers. Total employment normally edges downward in June when the area's schools close their regular session. State and local government is forecast to drop by 4800 at that time. Modest gains are forecast during the period for construction, trade, and services. Manufacturing employment is expected to gain 800 during the next two months. Seasonal production increases are in the offing for fabricated metal products and machinery. Chemicals and petroleum refining should edge ahead when temporary summer help is employed.

The supply of available workers, which is presently narrow, will increase sharply in June.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* Apr. 1965	Prior Periods** Mar. 1965	Apr. 1964	Anticipated June 1965
Total Labor Force	611800	611900	601000	616500
Unemployment, Total	15200	18700	18900	21200
Women	5000	6100	6300	7000
Idled by Disputes	0	1000	0	
Employment, Total 2/	596600	592200	582100	595300
Agricultural	6000	5300	6500	7500
Nonagricultural	590600	586900	575600	587800
Manufacturing	106100	104700	99900	106900
Construction	50100	49000	50800	50400
Trades	156800	156000	153500	157200
Government	54300	54400	53100	49600
Other Nonmanufacturing	223300	222800	218300	223700

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U.S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS Apr. 2/ 1965	Mar. 3/ 1965	Apr. 1964	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS Apr. 2/ 1965	Mar. 3/ 1965	Apr. 1964	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS Apr. 2/ 1965	Mar. 3/ 1965	Apr. 1964
Manufacturing									
Total	$120.77	$120.41	$119.66	41.5	42.7	43.2	$2.91	$2.82	$2.77
Durable Goods	117.85	120.01	118.36	42.7	43.8	44.0	2.76	2.74	2.69
Non-Dur.Goods	124.20	121.72	121.96	42.1	41.4	42.0	2.95	2.94	2.91

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings averages include premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary, subject to revision.
3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XXI NO. 1
JUNE 1965

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

<u>May Summary</u> Modest improvements occurred in the Houston area's labor picture during the past month. An estimated 2600 workers joined the total labor force to boost employment by 2300 and unemployment by 300. Employment gains were significant in agriculture and contract construction.

Unemployment continued to remain at a low level. The mid-May estimate was 15,500, 300 more than April but 3200 less than one year ago. This estimate, as a per cent of the total labor force, was only 2.5, the same as for April.

Seasonal changes are expected to reflect major variations on the local labor scene in June and July. As a result of area school's summer recess,total nonmanufacturing employment is expected to edge downward by 1900. Indicators point to a healthy gain of 1100 in factory employment during the coming two-month period. Agriculture, at a period between cultivation and harvest, will decline. With new graduates and many from the school administrative, custodial, and student personnel seeking summer work, unemployment is expected to rise to 18,600 at Mid-July.

<u>Agriculture Advances</u> Agricultural employment expanded by 1000 during the month. Planting and cultivation of spring row-crops, cotton, corn, rice, and vegetables were at high levels. At mid-May, vegetable farmers were harvesting green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, and squash, all of which were bringing good prices.

<u>Manufacturing Improves</u> Employment in the manufacture of durable goods continued to reflect its slow but persistent upward trend. The estimated increase of 200 over April recognizes the limited improvement, but a near twenty-fold rise in the past twelve months over the April-May increase is indicative of the consistent growth of employment in these industries. Only the manufacture of transportation equipment together with furniture and fixtures showed modest and somewhat seasonal declines. The remaining industries habitually reflected minor gains to sustaining no losses in employment. A minor improvement of 100 in the production of non-durables was posted in the foods and kindred products and in the manufacture of chemicals and allied products. Loss of 200 was noted in printing and publishing while a loss of 50 was sustained in the manufacture of apparel and finished products.

<u>Outlook to July</u> An increase of 1600 in the area's labor force is anticipated by July along with a complimentary rise of 3100 in workers seeking employment. Total employment may be expected to be below that of May by some 1500. This reduction in employment follows the normal summer season's rise in employables entering the labor market. Moderate increases to July may be expected in contract construction, and retail trade with seasonal increases in transportation and allied industries when grain, rice and cotton start moving into trade channels.

The supply of available workers should permit selectivity except in highly technical areas.

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* May 1965	Prior Periods** Apr. 1965	Apr. 1964	Anticipated July 1965
Total Labor Force	614400	611800	605900	616000
Unemployment, Total	15500	15200	20400	18600
Women	5100	5000	6800	6100
Idled by Disputes	0	0	0	
Employment, Total 2/	598900	596600	585500	597400
Agricultural	7000	6000	7500	6300
Nonagricultural	591900	590600	578000	591100
Manufacturing	106400	106100	100700	107500
Construction	51000	50100	52000	51500
Trades	156600	156800	153400	157700
Government	54500	54300	53100	49800
Other Nonmanufacturing	223400	223300	218800	224600
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	514000	512700	501000	512600

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON-BAYTOWN LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	May 2/ 1965	Apr. 3/ 1965	May 1964	May 2/ 1965	Apr. 3/ 1965	May 1964	May 2/ 1965	Apr. 3/ 1965	May 1964
Total Mfg.	$121.69	$120.98	$119.94	43.0	42.6	43.3	$2.83	$2.84	$2.77
Durable Goods	121.00	118.25	118.63	44.0	43.0	44.1	2.75	2.75	2.69
Non-dur.Gds.	123.02	124.62	121.96	41.7	42.1	42.2	2.95	2.96	2.89

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average includes premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.
3/ Revised.

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HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL XXI NO. 2
JULY 1965

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

June Summary

A continuing total labor force expansion coupled with an upward surge in manufacturing employment and agriculture along with the anticipated normal seasonal increase in unemployment and a decline in non-manufacturing employment constitute the highlights of the month in the area's labor market.

The total labor force was swelled by an estimated 4900 workers. Manufacturing employment increased by 1400 and agricultural workers increased by an estimated 1000. Non-manufacturing employment took its annual dip and contract construction held steady.

As had been anticipated, unemployment was estimated to be up 4400 over May, standing at 19900 which is 5400 less jobless than for the same period last year. This estimate as a percent of the total labor force was 3.2%, reflecting a 0.7% gain from May. It is expected that unemployment will decline modestly to September before beginning a slight seasonal increase in October.

Manufacturing Moves Forward

It is estimated that employment in the manufacture of durable goods moved upward by the addition of 900 workers while the employment in the manufacture of non-durables was boosted up by the addition of 500 new employees. These employment gains were generally distributed equally across the manufacturing codes. The sole employment loser in the non-durables was noted in printing and publishing which was down by 150 due to completion of contracts.

Seasonal Decline in Non-manufacturing

Non-manufacturing employment, as anticipated, was down 2400 from May. This decrease was caused primarily by some 4900 local school workers being released for the summer. However, notable gains were made by retail trade, up 700, wholesale trade, up 500, transportation, up 500, business and personal services, up 400. Medical and professional services was down 100 while Federal Government, contract construction, communications and agricultural services held firm.

Agricultural employment benefited from a seasonal gain of 1000. These were mostly workers hired for preharvest cultivation of cotton, irrigation and top-dressing of rice and harvest of vegetables. Excellent yields and good prices were reported for tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and green beans.

Outlook to August

A small decrease in the total labor force of approximately 600 is forecast for August. This small decrease in the total labor force may be modified to some extent by predicted gains in the manufacture of durables and non-durables. Non-manufacturing employment may be expected to gain appreciably. It is anticipated that some 2600 employees will be gained in retail trade, contract construction, transportation and Government. Unemployment is forecast to decline slightly to August but will probably begin its seasonal ascent by October.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* June '65	Prior Periods** May 1965	June 1964	Anticipated August 1965
Total Labor Force	619100	614200	612400	618500
Unemployment, Total	19900	15500	25300	16300
Women	6600	5100	8400	5400
Idled by Disputes	0	0	0	
Employment, Total 2/	599200	598700	587100	602200
Agricultural	8000	7000	8300	7500
Nonagricultural	591200	591700	578800	594700
Manufacturing	107700	106400	102200	108300
Construction	51000	51000	53300	51400
Trades	156800	156600	154800	158200
Government	49600	54500	48400	49700
Other Nonmanufacturing	226100	223200	220100	227100
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	512800	513800	501800	516000

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. **Revised.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS June2/ 1965	May3/ 1965	June 1964	AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS June2/ 1965	May3/ 1965	June 1964	AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS June2/ 1965	May3/ 1965	June 1964
Total Mfg.	$120.98	$121.12	$121.09	42.6	42.8	43.4	2.84	2.83	2.79
Durable Goods	117.78	119.57	120.42	43.3	43.8	44.6	2.72	2.73	2.70
Non-dur.Gds.	125.52	123.14	121.64	41.7	41.6	41.8	3.01	2.96	2.91

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average includes premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.
3/ Revised.

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DIRECTORY OF EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION OFFICES

OFFICE	MANAGER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Industrial	W. A. Winborn	705 Prairie	CA 5-1711
Professional	John E. Davis	Room 840 Chamber of Commerce Bldg.	CA 5-1711
Service	C. Harling	415 Louisiana	CA 5-1711
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Farm, Labor & Domestic	Sam C. Jarvis	1806 Polk	CA 5-1711
Northwest	B. A. Larsen	1806 Woodvine	OV 6-8611
Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-0341

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT
TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XXI NO. 3
AUGUST 1965

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

July Summary

There was an anticipated decline in total employment as well as a corresponding minor increase in unemployment during July. Employment in manufacturing reflected an increase with non-manufacturing registering losses. The carpenters' labor dispute, involving some 5000 workers, during the first two weeks of July contributed significantly to the loss in non-manufacturing.

Unemployment remains at a fairly low level with an estimated 20,200 jobless in mid-July. The July estimate was up 300 from June but 3400 below the figure for the same period last year. The current estimate as a percent of the total civilian labor force was 3.3% of an estimated total labor force of 621,400, up 0.1% from June and 0.8% from May, but down 0.6% from July 1964.

Employment for July and August may be expected to reflect minor increases with major gains not occurring until September. Manufacturing of durables and non-durables employment will probably move upward at a slow pace. Pre-school sales will raise the number of employees in retail trade by an estimated 1000. New residential construction permits were off from one year ago, but non-residential construction continued to move forward. Employment in construction should increase during the forecast period. Agricultural employment peaked in late June and early July as the rice harvest began 2-3 weeks earlier than normal. The early harvest accelerated the manning of processing and handling facilities.

Manufacturing Continues to Improve

Manufacturing employment continues its upward trend. It is estimated that employment in the manufacture of durables has risen by 800 over June, 2100 over May and by 4200 in the past year. Non-durables reflected worker gains of 400, 1000 and 1400 for the same periods. Noteworthy gains were noted in the manufacture of machinery.

Non-Manufacturing Off

Non-manufacturing lost an estimated 3500 workers in the past 30 days and off 5900 from May. These substantial drops were caused primarily by the carpenters' strike and the clearing up of the backlog of materials at the port with transportation losing 200 workers. Utilities expanded their employment slightly as did wholesale trade. Finance, insurance and real estate improved but business and professional services inched downward. Federal, state and local government employment increased slightly.

Outlook to September

Non-manufacturing employment, following its usual yearly cycle, is predicted to add approximately 12,000 to its payrolls by mid-September. This increase includes 5000 carpenters returning to their jobs and approximately 5000 going on the school system's employed list. About 1000 additional workers will join the retail trade employed ranks. Manufacturing of durables and non-durables should register small gains through September. The unemployed will decline to September and will rise to November.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* July '65	Prior Periods** June 1965	July 1964	Anticipated Sept.'65
Total Labor Force	621400	619600	613700	625000
Unemployment, Total	20200	19900	23600	17100
Women	6700	6000	7900	5700
Idled by Disputes	5000	0	0	
Employment, Total 2/	596200	599700	590100	607900
Agricultural	6500	8000	6800	6500
Nonagricultural	589700	591700	583300	601400
Manufacturing	109400	108200	103600	109700
Construction	45900	51000	54500	51300
Trades	159200	156800	155600	160200
Government	49800	49600	48600	55000
Other Nonmanufacturing	225400	226100	221000	225200
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	511000	513300	505700	522900

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	July 2/ 1965	June 3/ 1965	July 1964	July 2/ 1965	June 3/ 1965	July 1964	July 2/ 1965	June 3/ 1965	July 1964
Total Mfg.	$122.27	$121.98	$123.32	42.9	42.8	44.2	$2.85	$2.85	$2.79
Durable Goods	118.48	118.48	122.40	43.4	43.4	45.5	2.73	2.73	2.69
Non-dur.Goods	127.75	126.12	124.95	42.3	41.9	42.5	3.02	3.01	2.94

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average includes premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.
3/ Revised.

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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-0341

HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XXI No. 4
SEPTEMBER 1965

<u>Current Situation and Developments</u> The total labor force continues to expand. Manufacturing employment showed a small gain while nonmanufacturing employment posted sizeable gains from July to August. Unemployment declined significantly from last month. A high employment rate coupled with business expansion constitute the noteworthy items for the past 30 days.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary, all industries was up by 2400 net. The 5000 carpenters on strike returned to their jobs on 16th July. Manufacturing added 100 workers, as nonmanufacturing placed an estimated 2300 on the payroll. Contract construction, enjoying favorable weather, paced the list of employment gainers with 900.

<u>August Unemployed Lowest Since 1957</u> Unemployment for August was the lowest for the month since 1957, standing at an estimated 18,300 against 20,200 for July. This estimate as a percent of the total labor force was 2.9, a drop of 1900 from the unemployed rolls within the 30-day period.

<u>Durables Move Up</u> Employment in the manufacture of durable goods improved by an estimated 500 workers. Furniture and fixtures, electrical machinery and equipment added some 150 workers each with gains also going to the manufacture of machinery, lumber and wood products and other durables. Losses of an estimated 500 were sustained by the manufacturers of nondurable goods. Only apparel and finished products and paper and allied products reflected gains, each gained 50.

<u>Nonmanufacturing Moves Ahead</u> Nonmanufacturing added some 2300 workers with wholesale trade adding about 600, while retail trade declined by the same number. Contract construction employment was up by 900. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate was up by 200, as transportation, business and personal services gained 100 each. Utilities, communications, agricultural services and mining held firm.

<u>Agricultural Workers Added</u> Seasonal employment in agriculture gained approximately 1000 during the period. These workers were primarily utilized in the harvesting of cotton, rice, grains and the preparation of land beds for winter vegetables. Exceptionally good weather conditions have existed during the harvest season.

<u>Outlook To October</u> A further reduction in unemployment is anticipated through October with a seasonal rise following. The labor force will continue to expand. Manufacture of durables is forecast to remain static with nondurables rising slightly through October and remaining reasonably firm to December. Nonmanufacturing is predicted to move upward through October with no anticipated decrease through December.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* Aug. '65	Prior Periods** July 1965	Aug. 1964	Anticipated Oct. '65
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	623500	621200	614000	625000
Unemployment, Total	18300	20200	20400	17300
Women	6000	6700	6800	5700
Idled by Disputes	500	5000	800	
Employment, Total 2/	604700	596000	592800	607700
Agricultural	7500	6500	7700	5300
Nonagricultural	597200	589500	585100	602400
Manufacturing	109300	109200	103600	109300
Construction	51850	45900	54700	52350
Trades	159300	159200	156600	159600
Government	50300	49800	48800	55200
Other nonmanufacturing	226450	225400	221400	225950
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	518200	510800	507500	523400

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Aug. 2/ 1965	July 3/ 1965	Aug. 1964	Aug. 2/ 1965	July 3/ 1965	Aug. 1964	Aug. 2/ 1965	July 3/ 1965	Aug. 1964
Total Mfg.	121.41	122.27	118.56	42.9	42.9	42.8	2.83	2.85	2.77
Durable Goods	117.34	117.39	116.87	43.3	43.0	44.1	2.71	2.73	2.65
Non-dur.Goods	126.78	128.53	121.13	42.4	42.7	41.2	2.99	3.01	2.94

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average includes premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.
3/ Revised.

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Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-0341

HOUSTON
LABOR MARKET
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XXI No. 5
OCTOBER 1965

Skills and Abilities on Call .... As Near as Your TEC Office

<u>September Summary</u> Total employment in the Houston area marked up an overall increase of 4100 from mid-August and totaled 608,600 in mid-September. All of this gain occurred in the nonfarm sector as farm employment declined moderately.

Unemployment showed a significant decline during the past thirty days. Much of this decrease can be attributed to the continuing improvement of general economic conditions in the area. During this period the idle-worker total dropped an estimated 3500 to 14,800 in September. Unemployment, as a percentage of the total civilian labor force, stood at 2.4 per cent in September as compared with 2.9 per cent in August.

Seasonal factors are expected to contribute to the downturn in employment levels anticipated during the September to November period.

<u>Total Employment Rises Seasonally</u> Manufacturing employment recorded a moderate reduction of 800 between August and September. All of this overall decline occurred among durable industries as employment in the soft goods category remained unchanged. Much of the payroll reduction of 200 in the fabricated metals industry was centered among producers of metal cans. Losses in ship and boat building and repairing firms prompted most of the decrease of 150 sustained in transportation equipment. Smaller losses were also noted in stone, clay and glass, primary metals, and machinery. Employment in food and kindred products and paper and allied products moved upward over the month. On the other hand, these gains were off-set by equal declines in printing and publishing and petroleum refining. Release of students working summer relief at local refineries contributed significantly to the decline sustained in petroleum refining.

Within nonmanufacturing, the most significant employment increase from August occurred in State and local government as the public schools reopened for the fall semester. The sale of back-to-school and fall merchandise generated employment gains in retail trade.

Agricultural employment moved downward over the month as the harvest of cotton and rice passed its peak.

<u>Outlook To November</u> Seasonal factors are expected to contribute to the downturn in employment levels anticipated during the September to November period. Virtually all of the decline in nonfarm employment is forecast to occur among nonmanufacturing industries. Seasonal gains are anticipated in retail trade and government, but they will be more than offset by decreases in contract construction and services. Manufacturing employment should remain near the September level. Anticipated gains in fabricated metal products and non electric machinery are expected to be off-set by a decline in primary metal products. In addition, some decrease in farm employment is expected to be noted. The availability of workers is anticipated to be adequate to meet the normal requirements during the forecast period.

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

	Current* Sept.'65	Prior Periods** Aug.1965	Sept.1964	Anticipated Nov.'65
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	623600	623300	615200	626400
Unemployment, Total	14800	18300	17700	20300
Women	4900	6000	5900	6700
Idled by Disputes	200	500	0	
Employment, Total 2/	608600	604500	597500	606100
Agricultural	6200	7500	6900	5500
Nonagricultural	602400	597000	590600	600600
Manufacturing	108300	109100	104000	108200
Construction	52150	51850	54500	49600
Trades	159800	159300	157100	161000
Government	55500	50300	53800	55700
Other nonmanufacturing	226050	226450	221200	226100
Nonagri. Wage & Salary	523100	518000	513000	521600

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Sept.2/ 1965	Aug. 3/ 1965	Sept. 1964	Sept.2/ 1965	Aug. 3/ 1965	Sept. 1964	Sept.2/ 1965	Aug. 3/ 1965	Sept. 1964
Total Mfg.	$125.13	$123.70	$124.39	43.0	43.1	43.8	$2.91	$2.87	$2.84
Durable Goods	121.39	119.78	121.83	43.2	43.4	44.3	2.81	2.76	2.75
Non dur.Gds.	130.11	128.23	128.14	42.8	42.6	43.0	3.04	3.01	2.98

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average includes premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.
3/ Revised.

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Farm, Labor & Domestic	Sam C. Jarvis	1806 Polk	CA 5-1711
Northwest	B. A. Larsen	1806 Woodvine	OV 6-8611
Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-0341

HOUSTON LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS AND OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XXI No. 6
NOV 1965

October Summary The Houston area total employment moved upward by mid-October to an estimated 609,900, reflecting an over all gain of 1300 from the 608,600 in September. Employment, due to seasonal variations, has failed to date to reflect anticipated losses except in agricultural employment. Nonmanufacturing employment increases contributed the large share of the gain. Manufacturing employment posted a slight increase over September but down a substantial 3200 from August and 3100 less for the same period a year ago. The unemployment estimate of 15,100 represents a low 2.4% of the total labor force which is estimated at 625,000. Favorable weather conditions have contributed to sustaining economic expansion in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries and has resulted in maintaining a high level of employment.

Wage and Salary Workers Increase Wage and salary workers for all industries, manufacturing and nonmanufacturing increased by an estimated 2100. Manufacturing employment registered a very small over all increase of 100 with employment in foods and kindred products and chemicals posting gains in nondurables with the remaining industries showing small losses or holding firm. The single industry reflecting a gain in employment in the manufacturing of durables was in the fabrication of metal products which reflected a gain of 200 employees. This single gain was offset by the loss of workers in other industries that resulted in a balance with September and down 700 from August. From a year ago, manufacturing employment was up 4700.

Nonmanufacturing wage and salary employment was estimated to have gained 2000 workers over September. The largest gain was reflected in retail trade, up 900, as a large number of retailers hired their Christmas help early. This early hiring has assisted materially in maintaining high employment. Wholesale trade employment also moved upward with the addition of 200 workers over September and August but was up 1000 over the same period last year. Transportation and allied services put 600 additional workers on the payroll as cotton and other farm commodities moved into the commercial markets. Good weather conditions have permitted uninterrupted outside activity and contract construction placed an additional 300 workers on jobs.

Agricultural employment declined seasonally by 1100.

Outlook to December The total labor force is forecast to continue its upward trend through December, unemployment will increase also. Employment in the manufacturing of durables and nondurables should improve moderately. Employment in nonmanufacturing is predicted to continue to move upward, particularly in retail trade, through the Christmas shopping season, declining in January and with additional declines in February.

Inventory personnel normally hired for annual inventory in January will minimize employee loss in the retail trades. The availability of workers is expected to be adequate to meet normal employer demands during the forecast period.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

Item	Current* Oct. '65	Prior Periods** Sept. 1965	Oct. 1964	Anticipated Dec. 1965
Total Labor Force	625000	623600	615800	630000
Unemployment, Total	15100	14800	18200	14900
Women	5000	4900	6100	5000
Idled by Disputes	0	200	100	
Employment, Total 2/	609900	608600	597500	615100
Agricultural	5100	6200	5500	5000
Nonagricultural	604800	602400	592000	610100
Manufacturing	108400	108300	103500	108700
Construction	52450	52150	54200	51050
Trades	161000	159800	158100	166900
Government	55500	55500	54000	55900
Other nonmanufacturing	227450	226650	222200	227550
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	525200	523100	513900	530500

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVRG. WEEKLY HOURS			AVRG. HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Oct. 2/ 1965	Sept. 3/ 1965	Oct. 1964	Oct. 2/ 1965	Sept. 3/ 1965	Oct. 1964	Oct. 2/ 1965	Sept. 3/ 1965	Oct. 1964
Total Mfg.	$124.84	$125.71	$119.11	42.9	43.2	43.0	$2.91	$2.91	$2.77
Durable Goods	123.23	121.95	117.92	43.7	43.4	44.0	2.82	2.81	2.68
Non dur.Gds.	126.96	129.68	120.64	41.9	42.8	41.6	3.03	3.03	2.90

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average includes premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary - subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.
3/ Revised.

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Service	C. Harling	2918 San Jacinto	CA 5-1711
Clerical & Sales	Gladys Mullins	3rd. Floor, Chamber of Commerce Bldg. 910 Walker	CA 5-1711
Farm, Labor & Domestic	Sam C. Jarvis	1806 Polk	CA 5-1711
Northwest	B. A. Larsen	1806 Woodvine	OV 6-8611
Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-0341

HOUSTON

LABOR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS and OUTLOOK

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

VOL. XXI No. 7
December 1965

Skills and Abilities on Call ..... As Near as Your TEC Office

November Summary In mid-November the total civilian labor force was estimated to be 626,800, a rise of 2000 over October and up 7800 from the same period last year. Total employment continued to rise to an estimated 610,900 at mid-month. This is an increase of 1200 in the past 30 days and was up 12,700 from November 1964. Nonmanufacturing, led by retail and wholesale trade, contributed heavily to the general increase. Consumer demands for Christmas merchandise is reported to be at an extremely high level and will probably result with retail and wholesame trade enjoying consumer splurging at the highest level ever seen. Expected reductions in employment between the "Back to school" buying and the Christmas buying season did not reflect the anticipated employment reductions. Sustained consumer buying coupled with the earlier than usual hiring of Christmas help has materially assisted in maintaining a high level of employment. Manufacturing employment has continued its slow but persistent increases. While the rate of increase has not been as spectacular as has been noted in nonmanufacturing, it is noted that in the past year some 4600 have been employed in the manufacturing industries, with the manufacturing of durables adding 3600 and nondurables 1000. In the total manufacturing industries both durables and nondurables modest gains of 400 additional workers were posted in the past 30 days and 300 over the past 60 days.

Unemployment is estimated to be 15,900 at mid-November, an increase of 800 since mid-October but unemployment is down 4900 or 23.6% from the same period last year. As a percentage of the total civilian labor force of 626,800 and 15,900 unemployed gives the very low unemployed rate of 2.5%. It is predicted that unemployment will increase to January and February and should decline beginning in March.

Employment Trends Employment in the manufacturing of durables and nondurables is expected to reflect small gains. There will naturally be some industries that will show losses but on balance there should be some minor gains. Workers employed in nonmanufacturing will decline by an estimated 3700 to January and only 900 by March. However, it is to be noted that personnel requirements to take annual inventories may cause a reduction in losses forecast. Weather conditions in the Houston area at this time of the year normally force a reduction in construction and other outdoor activity. There have been no noticeable reflections of changes in employment patterns.

Unemployment Trends The number of jobless will increase by an estimated 1100 to January and should peak during January or February and begin to decline in March. The opening of the Youth Opportunity Center should not impact heavily on the reduction of the hard core unemployed. However, the training of this particular age group should, in the long run, assist in reducing the number of the hard core unemployed. The ratio of new applications to job openings in October was 1.0, in November the ratio was 1.1, which indicates that the jobs are available in the area. An adjustment in employer employment standards may be one solution in further reducing the number of jobless earnestly seeking employment.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

Item	Current* Nov. '65	Prior Periods** Oct. 1965	Nov. 1964	Anticipated Jan.1966
Total Civilian Labor Force	626800	624800	619000	624500
Unemployment - Total	15900	15100	20800	17000
Female	5300	5000	6900	5700
Idled by Disputes	0	0	0	
Employment - Total 2/	610900	609700	598200	607500
Agricultural	5000	5100	5300	5100
Nonagricultural	605900	604600	592900	602400
Manufacturing	108600	108200	103800	108900
Construction	52550	52450	53800	50500
Trades	162400	161000	159000	160600
Government	55700	55500	54100	55600
Other Nonmanufacturing	226650	227450	222200	226800
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	526300	525000	514800	522900

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	Average Weekly Earnings			Avrg. Weekly Hours			Avrg. Hourly Earnings		
	Nov.2/ 1965	Oct.3/ 1965	Nov. 1964	Nov.2/ 1965	Oct.3/ 1965	Nov. 1964	Nov.2/ 1965	Oct.3/ 1965	Nov. 1964
Total Mfg.	$124.82	$124.41	$119.99	42.6	42.9	42.7	$2.93	$2.90	$2.81
Durable Goods	120.40	122.36	117.18	43.0	43.7	43.4	2.80	2.80	2.70
Non dur.Gds.	130.82	126.65	123.61	42.2	41.8	41.9	3.10	3.03	2.95

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average includes premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary - Subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.
3/ Revised.

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Clerical & Sales	Gladys Mullins	3rd. Floor, Chamber of Commerce Bldg. 910 Walker	CA 5-1711
Farm, Labor & Domestic	Sam C. Jarvis	1806 Polk	CA 5-1711
Northwest	B. A. Larsen	1806 Woodvine	OV 6-8611
Pasadena	D. L. Lewis	1724 South Richey	GR 3-3301
Claims	J. S. Durham	701 Bell	CA 5-0341
Youth Opportunity Center	John E. Davis	2800 Travis	JA 4-7481

HOMER H. JACKSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

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SUMMARY In mid-December the total civilian labor force was estimated at 631,600, an increase of 4,800 from mid-November. Employment reached an all-time high at 618,000--up 7,100 from the previous month and an increase of 15,100 over the same period last year. Unemployment at 13,600, or 2.2% of the total labor force, was 2,300 below the number jobless in November.

Sustained economic growth in virtually all industries coupled with consumer demands and a generally optimistic view toward the future contributed materially to the upturn in employment during the past year. The reservoir of well educated and highly skilled personnel has become somewhat smaller during this period and manpower shortages are appearing in increasing numbers in a variety of technical and scientific skills.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS The hiring of Christmas help in retail trade establishments which began in early November continued into December. However, it is noted that the number of personnel hired for the shopping season exceeded previous years by a substantial margin. Merchants expected sales to be some 10% better than last year and from early reports, these expectations will be met or exceeded. Minor gains were also reflected in wholesale trade employment. Seasonal increases were also noted in government employment. The Federal government augmented the regular Post Office department with additional workers and the county and city tax offices hired additional personnel for the tax collection period. Transportation and allied services eased downward as the movement of cotton to and from the compresses and the transportation of grains to storage elevators declined. Unseasonably warm weather with only minor interference caused by rainfall permitted contract construction employment to remain virtually unchanged from the November level. Farm activities, due to favorable weather, decreased only slightly.

UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS Unemployment rose from October to November by 800 but spiraled downward by 2,300 from November to December. Unemployment is forecast to increase by 4,000 to February. This sizable increase is attributable to the release of personnel who were hired for the Christmas season and contemplated seasonal reductions in contract construction and agriculture.

LABOR SUPPLY AND DEMAND The very low level of unemployment in the Houston Standard Metropolitian Statistical Area finds the number of workers available sufficient to meet general needs. However, the widening gap between the qualifications of workers available and the selection standards of the jobs to be filled is presenting manning and staffing problems in an increasing number of occupations. Shortages exist in many of the professional and skilled catagories and in some semiskilled fields. Those job seekers who possess only limited skills or training will continue to find it difficult to find employment.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES AND FORECAST 1/

Item	Current* Dec. '65	Prior Periods** Nov. 1965	Prior Periods** Dec. 1964	Anticipated Feb. 1966
Total Civilian Labor Force	631600	626800	620300	626400
Unemployment - Total	13600	15900	17400	17800
Female	4500	5300	5800	5900
Idled by Disputes	0	0	0	
Employment - Total 2/	618000	610900	602900	608600
Agricultural	4800	5000	5300	4800
Nonagricultural	613200	605900	597600	603800
Manufacturing	108400	108600	104100	108700
Construction	52500	52550	52000	49900
Trades	169500	162400	164300	162100
Government	56400	55700	54500	56400
Other Nonmanufacturing	226400	226650	222700	226700
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	533500	526300	519500	524100

1/ Estimates by TEC in cooperation with BLS and BES, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary, subject to revision. ** Revised.
2/ Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed unpaid family workers, and domestics in private households.

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GROSS AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS, HOUSTON LABOR MARKET AREA 1/

	Average Weekly Earnings			Avrg. Weekly Hours			Avrg. Hourly Earnings		
	Dec.2/ 1965	Nov.3/ 1965	Dec. 1964	Dec.2/ 1965	Nov.3/ 1965	Dec. 1964	Dec.2/ 1965	Nov.3/ 1965	Dec. 1964
Total Mfg.	$125.42	$124.10	$121.41	43.1	42.5	42.9	$2.91	$2.92	$2.83
Durable Goods	122.76	118.71	118.64	44.0	42.7	43.3	2.79	2.78	2.74
Non dur.Gds.	129.36	130.71	123.94	42.0	42.3	42.3	3.08	3.09	2.93

1/ Figures cover only production workers. Earnings average includes premium pay for overtime and holidays, and for late-shift work.
2/ Preliminary - Subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.
3/ Revised.

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DIRECTORY OF EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION OFFICES

OFFICE	MANAGER	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Industrial	W. A. Winborn	705 Prairie	CA 5-1711
Professional	James H. Kelly	Room 250, Chamber of Commerce Bldg. 910 Walker	CA 5-1711
Service	C. Harling	2918 San Jacinto	CA 5-1711
Clerical & Sales	Gladys Mullins	3rd. Floor, Chamber of Commerce Bldg. 910 Walker	CA 5-1711
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