

Seasonal movements in the statistics of unemployment and of unfilled vacancies

Changes from month to month in the statistics of unemployment and of unfilled vacancies are caused in part by seasonal factors. The extent to which the changes are seasonal cannot be determined precisely, but, in so far as the seasonal fluctuations conform to a broadly similar pattern from year to year, it is possible, on the experience of several years, to assess what can be described as *normal* seasonal movements. This article describes the methods which have been used experimentally for some years by the Ministry of Labour to calculate estimates of normal seasonal movements in the statistics of registered wholly unemployed persons and of unfilled vacancies; the current estimates for these series are appended in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4.

General limitations of calculated seasonal movements

The use of estimates of normal seasonal movements in the interpretation of current data assumes that the experience of recent years provides a reasonably satisfactory indication of the seasonal fluctuations to be expected under present conditions. Seasonal movements estimated in this way, however, are average movements, and it is not to be expected that they will coincide exactly with the actual movements in any particular year. There are variations, in both time and extent, in the influence of seasonal factors from year to year; for example, weather conditions in two successive years are never quite the same, and harvests are frequently described as early or late and good or poor. Any estimates are, of course, subject to margins of error. Moreover, the seasonal fluctuations are influenced by current economic conditions. A radical change in the level of economic activity or in the structure of industry can change the whole patterns of seasonal fluctuations in the statistics of unemployment and of unfilled vacancies. When using estimates of normal seasonal movements, therefore, full account must be taken of their inherent limitations.

If a series of statistics of this kind is adjusted by removing the normal effect of seasonal factors, the adjusted series still contains the effect of seasonal abnormalities, such as extreme weather conditions. In addition, the adjusted series is affected by random fluctuations in the demand for, and supply of, labour which are not in any way associated with seasonal factors. Adjustment of a series by eliminating the normal effects of seasonal factors does not therefore, necessarily reveal the underlying trend, although it may make it more readily discernible.

Special factors affecting unemployment and vacancy statistics

The relationships between the dates on which the counts of unemployed persons and unfilled vacancies are taken and moveable holidays and the ends of school terms may sometimes be of special significance. The effect which variations in the intervals between Easter and, to a lesser extent, Whitsuntide and the dates of counts have on the unemployment and vacancy statistics at those dates can be appreciable, but it is difficult to measure. Boys and girls now leave school at the end of a term and so large numbers first register for employment in January, April and August. The unemployment and vacancy statistics for these months especially are therefore affected by the numbers leaving

school, and these numbers vary from year to year. In these months, moreover, the numbers of young persons registered as unemployed and also the numbers of unfilled vacancies for young persons vary substantially from day to day.

The much larger numbers of young persons who will enter the employment field on leaving school from 1961 onwards raise a special difficulty in this context. Past experience clearly cannot provide so reliable a guide to the seasonal changes which may occur in the unemployment and vacancy statistics for young people during the forthcoming period as it might have done in the absence of this population bulge. Moreover, on theoretical grounds, methods of estimating seasonal movements using twelve-month moving averages are much less appropriate for *school leavers*.

For these reasons the estimates given in the appended Tables 1 and 2 are for registered wholly unemployed persons other than school leavers. For this purpose, a school leaver means a registered unemployed person under 18 years of age who has not yet been in insured employment. Statistics of wholly unemployed persons, excluding school leavers, for the period January, 1949 to February, 1960, have not been published previously and are given in Table 5. These statistics will be published monthly in future issues of the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*. The statistics of unfilled vacancies for young persons are influenced by the number of young persons entering the employment field, but it is not possible to exclude vacancies for school leavers from the statistics. The estimates for young persons given in Tables 3 and 4 are thus less reliable than those for adults.

Method of calculation

The method of calculating the estimates of normal seasonal movements in each series of statistics is, briefly:—

- (a) To calculate, for each individual month in a period of years, a centred moving average of the figures in the series over a twelve-month period⁽¹⁾;
- (b) to measure the absolute deviations of the actual figures in the series from the corresponding moving averages;
- (c) to average the deviations for corresponding calendar months over a period of years⁽²⁾ (for example, to average all the January deviations); and finally
- (d) to obtain the difference between the average deviations for successive months.

The calculations are directed to estimating normal movements and so figures for months or periods which are clearly exceptional are ignored. The average deviation for each month of the year, obtained at stage (c), measures the *average* effect of seasonal factors on the level of unemployment or unfilled vacancy statistics during the relevant month, and is regarded as the normal seasonal deviation for that month. The difference between the normal deviations for successive months, obtained at stage (d), is regarded as the normal seasonal change between the two months.

⁽¹⁾ This involves taking the arithmetic mean of the monthly averages for two overlapping periods of twelve months. For example the centred moving average for January 1949 is calculated by taking the mean of the monthly averages for the two periods July 1948—June 1949 and August 1948—July 1949.

⁽²⁾ When the twelve average monthly deviations so derived, do not cancel one another out in total, they are modified so that their sum approximates to zero.

Seasonal movements in unemployment

The figures given in Tables 1 and 2 relate to the numbers of persons, other than school leavers, registered as wholly unemployed in Great Britain; no account is taken of the numbers of persons temporarily stopped for seasonal or other reasons. Under relatively stable economic conditions, the number of temporarily stopped workers tends to decrease during the holiday months of July and August and then begins to rise again, but the extent of this seasonal movement is not statistically significant. The estimated seasonal movements in unemployment are based on data for the period from July, 1948, onwards. They are given for males and females, separately and in total, for each of the following sectors and for all industry: agriculture, forestry and fishing (Order I); all manufacturing industries (Orders III to XVI inclusive); construction (Order XVII); transport and communication (Order XIX); distributive trades (Order XX); catering, hotels, etc. (Minimum List Heading 884); all other industries and services (Orders II, XVIII, XXI, XXII, XXIII (excluding M.L.H. 884) and XXIV and persons of 18 years of age and over not classified by industry). The *all industry* figures are obtained by aggregating the sector estimates. The calculations of the estimates for the various industrial sectors have been based on data classified according to the *Standard Industrial Classification* before the recent revision. The introduction in 1959 of the revised *Standard Industrial Classification* (1958 edition) has no effect, of course, on the figures relating to the total numbers of unemployed; the revisions of the content of the various sectors of industry have only a slight effect on the validity of the estimates for those sectors in the interpretation of either current or recent data.

The estimates are given in two forms:—

Table 1. Normal monthly seasonal *deviations* of the numbers of persons wholly unemployed in Great Britain (excluding school leavers).

Table 2. Normal monthly seasonal *changes* in the numbers of persons wholly unemployed in Great Britain (excluding school leavers).

The normal seasonal *deviation* for a month is the average amount by which the actual figure for the month is greater (if positive) or less (if negative) than the corresponding centred 12-month moving average.

The normal seasonal *change* between successive months is the difference between the two normal seasonal deviations and is the estimate of the average change from the first to the second month due to seasonal factors.

It is generally preferable, for reasons of clarity, to refer to the normal seasonal *change* between two months rather than to the deviation for a single month, particularly when this has a negative value.

Seasonal movements in unfilled vacancies

The figures given in Tables 3 and 4 relate to the numbers of unfilled vacancies. They are based on information for the period beginning March, 1952. For the purposes of these calculations, it has thus been assumed that the seasonal movements in the figures during the period from March 1952 to May 1956 were not affected to a marked extent by the operation of the Notification of Vacancies Order. This Order required all engagements within its scope to be made through an employment exchange or scheduled employment agency. As the frequency of statistical returns of vacancies was changed early in 1957 from 13 to 12 times a year, a notional series of monthly figures has been compiled for the period 1952–1957 by interpolation. Interest in the industrial analysis of the

unfilled vacancy figures is much less than in that of the unemployment statistics and so the estimates relating to unfilled vacancies are given only for the whole field of industrial employment; separate estimates are given for vacancies for adult men, for adult women and for young persons under 18 years of age.

These estimates are also given in two forms:—

Table 3. Normal monthly seasonal *deviations* in the numbers of unfilled vacancies in Great Britain.

Table 4. Normal monthly seasonal *changes* in the numbers of unfilled vacancies in Great Britain.

Annual revision of estimated seasonal movements

Revised estimates of normal seasonal movements for current use are made each year, taking information for the past year into account. The figures relating to unemployment given in Tables 1 and 2 are derived from deviations from moving averages during the 10-year period 1949–1958. When unemployment statistics up to June 1960 are available, revised estimates will be calculated, based on deviations during the 10-year period 1950–1959. The estimates are thus 10-year moving averages of deviations of the monthly unemployment statistics from centred 12-month moving averages. For vacancy statistics, the base period will be lengthened each year until it is the same as that used for unemployment statistics.

Limitations of the method

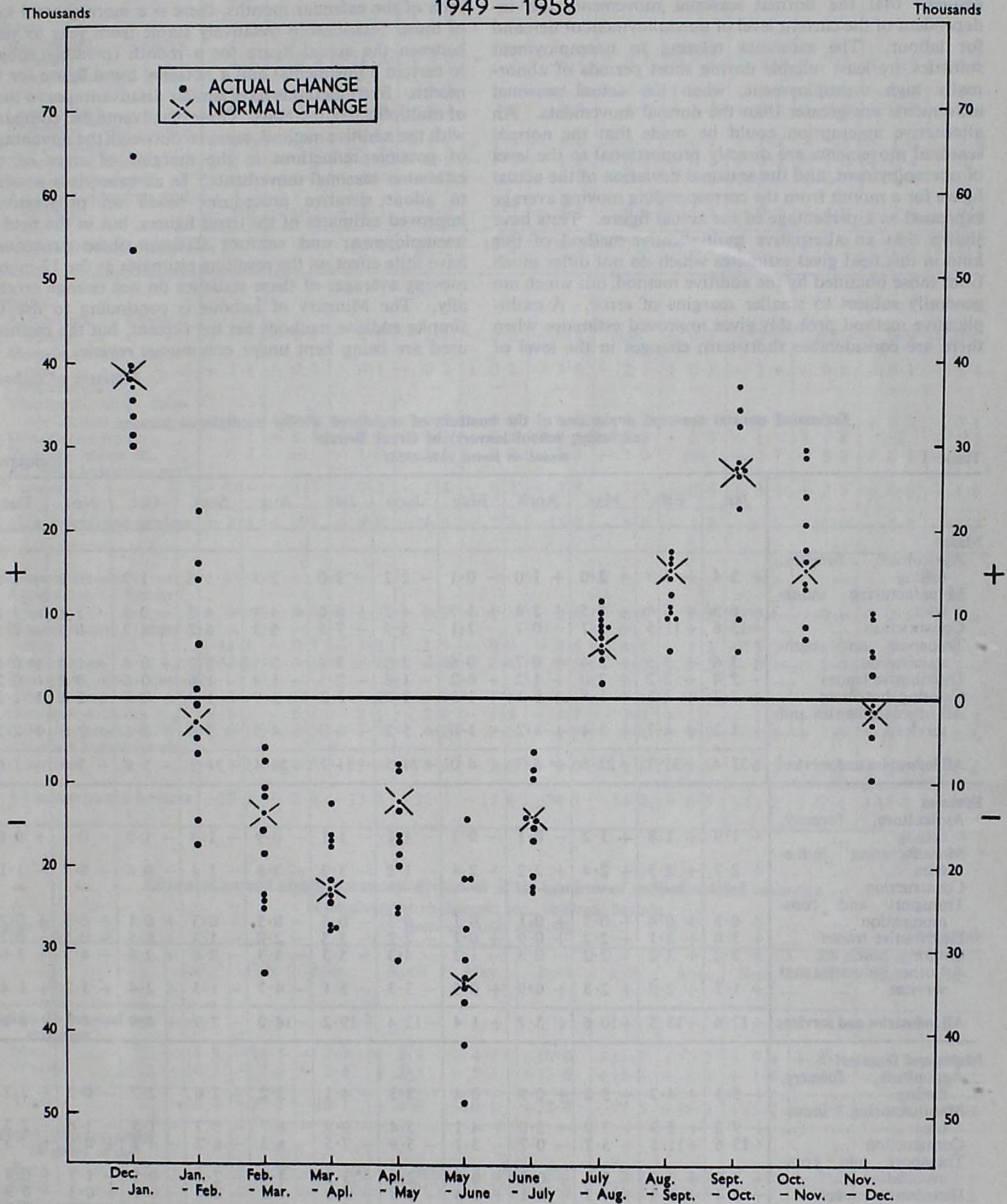
The calculation of these estimates of normal seasonal movements has been based on a period in which the numbers of registered wholly unemployed persons and of unfilled vacancies varied within relatively narrow ranges without very pronounced trends. This is one reason why the estimates given in the appended tables are expressed in absolute terms rather than in the form of percentages. One important feature of this method of estimating the effect of seasonal factors is that the results can be expressed very simply in the form of normal monthly changes, as in Tables 2 and 4. This is most useful in assessing the significance of month to month changes in these fields. Expressing the estimated seasonal movements in absolute form has other important advantages, in that simple addition of the sector estimates gives estimates for all industry and estimates for males and for females can also be added together. This form of expressing the estimates can, however, give rise to difficulties in some circumstances. If, for example, the number wholly unemployed is relatively low in January, as it was in 1956, there may be insufficient scope for the estimated normal seasonal reduction in unemployment in the first half of the year to occur, because the register at any date always includes substantial numbers of persons who are moving from job to job. Similarly, substantial numbers of unfilled vacancies represent continuous demands for labour to replace workers moving from job to job and for workers whose particular skills or qualifications are in short supply. Consequently, in periods of low demand for labour, such as the autumn of 1958, normal seasonal reductions in the numbers of unfilled vacancies are unlikely to occur.

Movements from one month to the next in the figures of unemployment and unfilled vacancies may be considered to have three components:—the trend movement, the normal seasonal monthly change and a residual movement. The last is the result of abnormal short-term influences of all kinds. As the estimated normal seasonal changes are subject to margins of error and the residual movement can be substantial, it is often difficult to perceive the current underlying trend. The diagram below shows

WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED IN GREAT BRITAIN (EXCLUDING SCHOOL LEAVERS)

MONTHLY CHANGES IN DEVIATIONS FROM MOVING AVERAGES

1949 — 1958



the distribution, about the normal estimates, of the actual monthly changes in the deviations from the centred moving averages of the total numbers of wholly unemployed, excluding school leavers, in the period 1949-1958. This illustrates the definite seasonal pattern of the monthly changes in the deviations and the extent of the random variations in the residual movements.

The additive method of calculation used by the Ministry assumes that the normal seasonal movements are independent of the current level of unemployment or demand for labour. The estimates relating to unemployment statistics are least reliable during short periods of abnormally high unemployment, when the actual seasonal movements are greater than the normal movements. An alternative assumption could be made that the normal seasonal movements are directly proportional to the level of unemployment, and the seasonal deviation of the actual figure for a month from the corresponding moving average expressed as a percentage of the actual figure. Tests have shown that an alternative multiplicative method of this kind in this field gives estimates which do not differ much from those obtained by the additive method, but which are generally subject to smaller margins of error. A multiplicative method probably gives improved estimates when there are considerable short-term changes in the level of

unemployment; but the method has some disadvantages. Deviations expressed in percentage form cannot be translated so readily into monthly changes. Sector estimates cannot be combined so readily to obtain estimates for all industry, nor can estimates in percentage form for males and for females be added together.

Improved estimates would probably be obtained if less simple assumptions were made—for example, that for each of the calendar months, there is a more general kind of linear relationship (relatively stable from year to year) between the actual figure for a month (possibly subject to certain adjustments) and a notional trend figure for the month. Such methods have similar disadvantages to those of multiplicative methods. These disadvantages, compared with the additive method, seem to outweigh the advantages of possible reductions in the margins of error of the estimated seasonal movements. In all cases, it is possible to adopt iterative procedures based on progressively improved estimates of the trend figures, but in the field of unemployment and vacancy statistics these procedures have little effect on the resulting estimates as the 12-month moving averages of these statistics do not change erratically. The Ministry of Labour is continuing to use the simpler additive methods for the present, but the methods used are being kept under continuous review.

Ministry of Labour.

Estimated normal seasonal *deviations* of the numbers of registered wholly unemployed persons (excluding school leavers) in Great Britain

(based on period 1949-1958) Thousands

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Males												
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	+ 3.4	+ 2.9	+ 2.0	+ 1.0	- 0.1	- 2.2	- 3.0	- 2.3	- 1.6	- 1.7	- 0.1	+ 1.5
Manufacturing industries	+ 6.5	+ 6.4	+ 5.5	+ 2.8	+ 1.7	- 4.2	- 6.0	- 4.9	- 4.3	- 0.9	- 1.1	- 1.2
Construction	+13.6	+11.5	+ 5.7	- 0.7	- 3.1	- 5.9	- 7.5	- 6.3	- 6.2	- 4.2	+ 0.5	+ 2.5
Transport and communication	+ 3.6	+ 3.5	+ 2.4	+ 0.7	- 0.6	- 2.5	- 3.4	- 3.5	- 2.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	+ 0.6
Distributive trades	+ 2.4	+ 2.2	+ 2.0	+ 1.2	+ 0.2	- 1.6	- 2.5	- 1.9	- 1.6	- 0.6	- 0.2	- 0.2
Catering, hotels etc.	+ 2.7	+ 2.5	+ 1.8	+ 0.1	- 1.1	- 2.9	- 3.3	- 3.0	- 1.9	+ 0.8	+ 2.2	+ 2.2
All other industries and services	+ 5.2	+ 4.7	+ 3.4	+ 1.2	- 1.0	- 5.2	- 6.0	- 4.5	- 3.6	+ 0.4	+ 2.8	+ 2.2
All industries and services	+37.4	+33.7	+22.8	+ 6.3	- 4.0	-24.5	-31.7	-26.4	-21.3	- 5.8	+ 5.5	+ 7.6
Females												
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	+ 1.9	+ 1.8	+ 1.2	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 1.1	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 0.1	+ 0.8
Manufacturing industries	+ 2.7	+ 2.5	+ 2.4	+ 2.2	+ 2.4	- 1.2	- 3.9	- 3.8	- 1.4	- 0.6	- 0.7	- 1.1
Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transport and communication	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.5	- 0.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Distributive trades	+ 3.0	+ 3.1	+ 2.2	+ 0.9	+ 0.1	- 2.2	- 3.3	- 2.8	- 1.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	- 0.7
Catering, hotels etc.	+ 3.2	+ 3.2	+ 2.2	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 4.3	- 5.3	- 5.3	- 2.6	+ 2.6	+ 4.7	+ 3.6
All other industries and services	+ 1.5	+ 2.5	+ 2.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.5	- 3.3	- 5.1	- 4.7	- 1.3	+ 2.4	+ 3.2	+ 1.4
All industries and services	+12.6	+13.5	+10.6	+ 3.7	+ 1.4	-12.4	-19.2	-18.0	- 7.9	+ 4.0	+ 7.9	+ 4.2
Males and females												
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	+ 5.3	+ 4.7	+ 3.2	+ 0.9	- 0.4	- 3.3	- 4.1	- 3.2	- 2.6	- 2.7	- 0.2	+ 2.3
Manufacturing industries	+ 9.2	+ 8.9	+ 7.9	+ 5.0	+ 4.1	- 5.4	- 9.9	- 8.7	- 5.7	- 1.5	- 1.8	- 2.3
Construction	+13.6	+11.5	+ 5.7	- 0.7	- 3.1	- 5.9	- 7.5	- 6.3	- 6.2	- 4.2	+ 0.5	+ 2.5
Transport and communication	+ 3.9	+ 3.9	+ 2.7	+ 0.8	- 0.7	- 2.8	- 3.9	- 4.0	- 2.4	+ 0.5	+ 1.7	+ 0.8
Distributive trades	+ 5.4	+ 5.3	+ 4.2	+ 2.1	+ 0.3	- 3.8	- 5.8	- 4.7	- 2.9	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.9
Catering, hotels etc.	+ 5.9	+ 5.7	+ 4.0	- 0.2	- 2.3	- 7.2	- 8.6	- 8.3	- 4.5	+ 3.4	+ 6.9	+ 5.8
All other industries and services	+ 6.7	+ 7.2	+ 5.7	+ 2.1	- 0.5	- 8.5	-11.1	- 9.2	- 4.9	+ 2.8	+ 6.0	+ 3.6
All industries and services	+50.0	+47.2	+33.4	+10.0	- 2.6	-36.9	-50.9	-44.4	-29.2	- 1.8	+13.4	+11.8

**Estimated normal monthly seasonal changes in the numbers of registered wholly unemployed persons
(other than school leavers) in Great Britain**

(based on period 1949-1958)

Table 2

Thousands

	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.	Mar. to April	April to May	May to June	June to July	July to Aug.	Aug. to Sept.	Sept to Oct.	Oct. to Nov.	Nov. to Dec.
Males												
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	+ 1.9	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 1.1	- 2.1	- 0.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	- 0.1	+ 1.6	+ 1.6
Manufacturing indus- tries	+ 7.7	- 0.1	- 0.9	- 2.7	- 1.1	- 5.9	- 1.8	+ 1.1	+ 0.6	+ 3.4	- 0.2	- 0.1
Construction	+11.1	- 2.1	- 5.8	- 6.4	- 2.4	- 2.8	- 1.6	+ 1.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.0	+ 4.7	+ 2.0
Transport and com- munication	+ 3.0	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 1.7	- 1.3	- 1.9	- 0.9	- 0.1	+ 1.4	+ 2.5	+ 1.0	- 0.8
Distributive trades ...	+ 2.6	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.8	- 1.0	- 1.8	- 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	+ 0.4	nil
Catering, hotels etc. ...	+ 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 1.7	- 1.2	- 1.8	- 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 1.1	+ 2.7	+ 1.4	nil
All other industries and services	+ 3.0	- 0.5	- 1.3	- 2.2	- 2.2	- 4.2	- 0.8	+ 1.5	+ 0.9	+ 4.0	+ 2.4	- 0.6
All industries and services	+29.8	- 3.7	-10.9	-16.5	-10.3	-20.5	- 7.2	+ 5.3	+ 5.1	+15.5	+11.3	+ 2.1
Females												
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	+ 1.1	- 0.1	- 0.6	- 1.3	- 0.2	- 0.8	nil	+ 0.2	- 0.1	nil	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
Manufacturing indus- tries	+ 3.8	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 3.6	- 2.7	+ 0.1	+ 2.4	+ 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.4
Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transport and com- munication	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	nil	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Distributive trades ...	+ 3.7	+ 0.1	- 0.9	- 1.3	- 0.8	- 2.3	- 1.1	+ 0.5	+ 1.5	+ 1.8	nil	- 1.2
Catering, hotels etc. ...	- 0.4	nil	- 1.0	- 2.5	- 0.9	- 3.1	- 1.0	nil	+ 2.7	+ 5.2	+ 2.1	- 1.1
All other industries and services	+ 0.1	+ 1.0	- 0.2	- 1.4	- 0.4	- 3.8	- 1.8	+ 0.4	+ 3.4	+ 3.7	+ 0.8	- 1.8
All industries and services	+ 8.4	+ 0.9	- 2.9	- 6.9	- 2.3	-13.8	- 6.8	+ 1.2	+10.1	+11.9	+ 3.9	- 3.7
Males and females												
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	+ 3.0	- 0.6	- 1.5	- 2.3	- 1.3	- 2.9	- 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	- 0.1	+ 2.5	+ 2.5
Manufacturing indus- tries	+11.5	- 0.3	- 1.0	- 2.9	- 0.9	- 9.5	- 4.5	+ 1.2	+ 3.0	+ 4.2	- 0.3	- 0.5
Construction	+11.1	- 2.1	- 5.8	- 6.4	- 2.4	- 2.8	- 1.6	+ 1.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.0	+ 4.7	+ 2.0
Transport and com- munication	+ 3.1	nil	- 1.2	- 1.9	- 1.5	- 2.1	- 1.1	- 0.1	+ 1.6	+ 2.9	+ 1.2	- 0.9
Distributive trades ...	+ 6.3	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 2.1	- 1.8	- 4.1	- 2.0	+ 1.1	+ 1.8	+ 2.8	+ 0.4	- 1.2
Catering, hotels etc. ...	+ 0.1	- 0.2	- 1.7	- 4.2	- 2.1	- 4.9	- 1.4	+ 0.3	+ 3.8	+ 7.9	+ 3.5	- 1.1
All other industries and services	+ 3.1	+ 0.5	- 1.5	- 3.6	- 2.6	- 8.0	- 2.6	+ 1.9	+ 4.3	+ 7.7	+ 3.2	- 2.4
All industries and services	+38.2	- 2.8	-13.8	-23.4	-12.6	-34.3	-14.0	+ 6.5	+15.2	+27.4	+15.2	- 1.6

**Estimated normal monthly seasonal deviations of the numbers of unfilled notified vacancies
at employment exchanges, etc., in Great Britain**

(based on period 1952-58)

Table 3

Thousands

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Adults 18 years of age and over												
Men	-15.9	-14.5	- 7.7	+ 1.3	+ 4.9	+10.0	+11.7	+10.1	+ 9.4	+ 4.8	- 3.5	-10.3
Women	-10.5	- 7.6	- 2.4	+ 3.3	+ 5.2	+13.8	+15.8	+ 8.2	+ 1.8	- 4.0	- 9.6	-14.2
Total	-26.4	-22.1	-10.1	+ 4.6	+10.1	+23.8	+27.5	+18.3	+11.2	+ 0.8	-13.1	-24.5
Young persons under 18 years of age												
Boys	- 4.8	- 6.9	- 1.3 ⁽¹⁾	+ 1.4 ⁽¹⁾	- 2.1 ⁽¹⁾	+ 3.1	+ 9.9	+ 8.0	- 2.2	- 3.4	- 2.3	+ 0.8
Girls	- 5.1	- 7.1	- 2.5 ⁽¹⁾	+ 2.7 ⁽¹⁾	- 1.2 ⁽¹⁾	+ 4.8	+11.4	+ 8.4	- 2.7	- 4.8	- 3.4	- 0.2
Total	- 9.9	-14.0	- 3.8 ⁽¹⁾	+ 4.1 ⁽¹⁾	- 3.3 ⁽¹⁾	+ 7.9	+21.3	+16.4	- 4.9	- 8.2	- 5.7	+ 0.6
Total	-36.3	-36.1	-13.9 ⁽¹⁾	+ 8.7 ⁽¹⁾	+ 6.8 ⁽¹⁾	+31.7	+48.8	+34.7	+ 6.3	- 7.4	-18.8	-23.9

⁽¹⁾ These estimates are less reliable when Easter is in March or after mid-April.

**Estimated normal monthly seasonal changes in the numbers of unfilled notified vacancies
at employment exchanges, etc., in Great Britain**

(based on period 1952-58)

Table 4

Thousands

	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.	Mar. to April	April to May	May to June	June to July	July to Aug.	Aug. to Sept.	Sept. to Oct.	Oct. to Nov.	Nov. to Dec.
Adults 18 years of age and over												
Men	- 5.6	+ 1.4	+ 6.8	+ 9.0	+ 3.6	+ 5.1	+ 1.7	- 1.6	- 0.7	- 4.6	- 8.3	- 6.8
Women	+ 3.7	+ 2.9	+ 5.2	+ 5.7	+ 1.9	+ 8.6	+ 2.0	- 7.6	- 6.4	- 5.8	- 5.6	- 4.6
Total	- 1.9	+ 4.3	+12.0	+14.7	+ 5.5	+13.7	+ 3.7	- 9.2	- 7.1	-10.4	-13.9	-11.4
Young persons under 18 years of age												
Boys	- 5.6	- 2.1	+ 5.6 ⁽¹⁾	+ 2.7 ⁽¹⁾	- 3.5 ⁽¹⁾	+ 5.2 ⁽¹⁾	+ 6.8	- 1.9	-10.2	- 1.2	+ 1.1	+ 3.1
Girls	- 4.9	- 2.0	+ 4.6 ⁽¹⁾	+ 5.2 ⁽¹⁾	- 3.9 ⁽¹⁾	+ 6.0 ⁽¹⁾	+ 6.6	- 3.0	-11.1	- 2.1	+ 1.4	+ 3.2
Total	-10.5	- 4.1	+10.2⁽¹⁾	+ 7.9⁽¹⁾	- 7.4⁽¹⁾	+11.2⁽¹⁾	+13.4	- 4.9	-21.3	- 3.3	+ 2.5	+ 6.3
Total	-12.4	+ 0.2	+22.2⁽¹⁾	+22.6⁽¹⁾	- 1.9⁽¹⁾	+24.9⁽¹⁾	+17.1	-14.1	-28.4	-13.7	-11.4	- 5.1

⁽¹⁾ These estimates are less reliable when Easter is in March or after mid-April.

Numbers of wholly unemployed persons in Great Britain excluding school leavers (that is boys and girls under 18 years of age who had, at the respective dates, no previous insurable employment).

Table 5

Thousands

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Males												
1949 ...	270.3	258.1	245.2	231.0	219.0	193.6	180.6	185.5	192.5	213.9	228.9	233.4
1950 ...	254.4	258.5	240.5	223.8	212.4	194.9	188.7	188.7	187.5	200.0	197.2	200.8
1951 ...	220.2	197.8	177.6	158.8	136.8	120.4	114.9	119.2	124.6	139.0	151.8	158.3
1952 ...	189.0	198.4	192.6	186.1	180.0	169.4	169.8	183.3	187.3	208.4	223.9	232.9
1953 ...	260.8	247.1	223.7	214.5	197.8	178.2	167.8	172.7	172.3	185.3	195.7	199.4
1954 ...	227.9	244.4	212.6	189.6	174.4	147.4	135.7	141.0	141.0	152.2	159.3	157.2
1955 ...	180.6	169.4	162.3	140.3	124.1	115.6	107.2	110.4	114.0	126.7	136.8	134.3
1956 ...	162.0	166.1	158.5	146.3	134.9	125.7	127.1	137.2	141.8	150.1	160.9	176.5
1957 ...	233.5	246.5	230.1	216.7	199.1	169.6	160.1	170.0	175.5	182.5	207.9	224.0
1958 ...	262.7	279.2	284.4	285.7	274.0	263.1	258.4	271.1	285.8	316.7	341.8	342.6
1959 ...	392.3	398.4	360.6	340.0	314.2	276.5	268.2	273.2	272.4	287.6	301.0	297.0
1960 ...	317.0	306.7										
Females												
1949 ...	88.9	91.4	85.8	74.5	72.3	61.4	53.3	57.6	63.4	76.8	86.5	88.2
1950 ...	102.7	101.4	96.6	86.3	88.2	76.0	69.6	73.2	79.5	93.6	97.7	92.2
1951 ...	95.6	93.6	88.9	84.2	70.9	62.2	57.3	59.3	73.9	92.8	100.7	100.1
1952 ...	117.3	124.2	134.2	128.5	136.4	125.2	117.9	119.8	129.2	137.8	143.6	133.2
1953 ...	142.1	137.7	132.4	121.0	116.2	96.3	85.0	86.7	99.1	109.9	113.7	109.1
1954 ...	115.9	117.4	112.2	103.4	97.7	77.8	69.4	69.0	78.7	88.6	91.5	87.0
1955 ...	91.3	94.3	87.6	78.5	72.8	63.9	55.3	57.5	63.5	73.3	77.1	70.6
1956 ...	81.5	79.4	78.5	77.2	71.7	63.1	62.1	65.0	77.7	86.9	90.4	90.3
1957 ...	102.1	108.2	103.8	95.4	91.2	76.1	66.4	68.9	76.8	81.7	91.9	94.4
1958 ...	102.0	110.6	109.5	109.5	111.0	102.9	98.1	100.7	113.8	127.6	136.9	134.4
1959 ...	138.9	141.8	135.3	131.7	124.1	106.3	98.3	98.6	102.0	111.7	114.1	109.4
1960 ...	115.4	118.9										
Total Males and Females												
1949 ...	359.2	349.5	331.0	305.5	291.2	255.0	233.9	243.0	255.9	290.7	315.4	321.6
1950 ...	357.1	359.9	337.1	310.1	300.6	270.9	258.4	262.0	267.0	293.5	294.9	293.1
1951 ...	315.8	291.3	266.5	243.0	207.7	182.7	172.2	178.5	198.5	231.8	252.5	258.5
1952 ...	306.3	322.5	326.9	314.7	316.4	294.6	287.6	303.1	316.5	346.2	367.5	366.0
1953 ...	402.8	384.8	356.1	335.5	314.1	274.5	252.7	259.4	271.4	295.2	309.4	308.5
1954 ...	343.8	361.8	324.8	293.0	272.1	225.2	205.1	210.0	219.7	240.8	250.8	244.2
1955 ...	271.9	263.7	249.9	218.7	197.0	179.5	162.5	167.9	177.4	200.0	214.0	204.8
1956 ...	243.5	245.6	237.0	223.6	206.6	188.8	189.2	202.2	219.5	237.0	251.3	266.8
1957 ...	335.6	354.7	333.8	312.0	290.3	245.8	226.5	238.8	252.4	264.1	299.8	318.3
1958 ...	364.7	389.7	393.9	395.2	385.0	366.0	356.6	371.7	399.6	444.3	478.8	476.9
1959 ...	531.2	540.2	496.0	471.7	438.3	382.8	366.5	371.8	374.4	399.4	415.0	406.4
1960 ...	432.4	425.6										