

Manufacturing: Estimated February employment in manufacturing was 3,200 jobs, showing no change from January, but 100 lower than February 1961. Shellfish canneries entered the closed season on February 15 and will remain shut down until May. Logging and lumber activities, already begun, should pick up as the weather improves.

Transportation-Communication-Public Utilities: Employment in this industry group was estimated to be 7,200 jobs in February, unchanged from last month but 500 above February 1961. The year-to-year growth was shared by communications, trucking and warehousing, and air transportation.

Trade: Trade employment, estimated at 7,700 jobs in mid-February, was 100 lower than January, but 300 above a year ago. The small seasonal decline occurred in eating and drinking places, but growth since last year was distributed through most parts of wholesale and retail trade.

Finance-Insurance-Real Estate: Employment was estimated at 1,600 jobs for February with no change since last month, but 100 above February 1961. A small year-to-year decrease in real estate was more than offset by growth in finance and insurance.

Service and Miscellaneous: The February employment in the service industries was estimated to be 5,500 jobs, down 100 from January but 500 higher than in February 1961. The largest numerical job increase since a year ago occurred in business services.

Government: Government employment for February 1962 was 22,400, down 100 from last month but 200 above a year ago. The small month-to-month decline was due to seasonal job reductions in Federal government. The increase from a year ago was the result of State and local government employment advances which more than offset substantial cutbacks in Federal government employment.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average weekly earnings in February 1962 declined seasonally since last month in all industries except mining and finance-insurance-real estate. The largest drop was in wholesale trade. Retail trade, food processing, and contract construction shared the next position with reduced average weekly hours being mainly responsible for the movement. Average weekly earnings were higher than February 1961 in all the industries except wholesale trade and contract construction. Reduced average weekly hours were responsible for these drops in earnings, as it will be noted that there was an over-the-year increase in average hourly earnings in every industry reported on the chart.

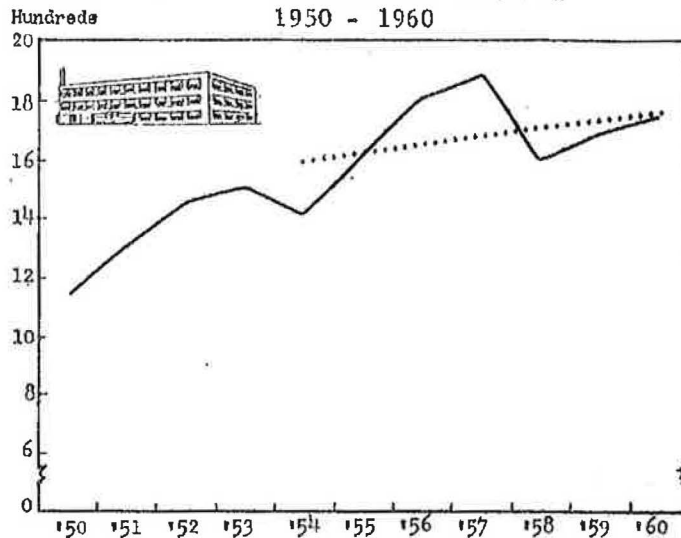
SPECIAL STUDY

General Merchandise and Apparel

Employment: In the 12 month period ending December 1960, average monthly insured employment in Alaska's general merchandise and apparel establishments was 1,753 persons. This is 59 jobs higher than in 1959, but substantially below the peak of 1,895 reached in 1957. Responding to recession conditions in other parts of the economy, employment in the industry dropped off in 1958. Although the number of jobs increased in both 1959 and 1960, the 1957 level was not regained. Generally, employment in the industry has followed an upward trend within a cyclical pattern of ups and downs that corresponds closely to overall economic conditions in the State. From a straight line fitted to the post Korean War historical data, 1954-1960, it was estimated that there has been an average increase of 30 jobs per year. With continued population

expansion, industry growth prospects are good. However, there have been and will continue to be changes in the internal composition of industry establishments. As has been true elsewhere in the United States, the country store and trading post are being replaced with supermarkets and large department stores. A concomitant development is the emergence on an increasing scale of merchandising specialty shops.

AVERAGE STATE INSURED EMPLOYMENT
GENERAL MERCHANDISE INDUSTRY
1950 - 1960



Payroll: Total 1960 payrolls of firms engaged in the general merchandise and apparel business were \$7.9 million, which is an average of \$.7 million per month. This is an increase from the \$7.5 paid out in wages and salaries by employers in 1959, but below the \$8.3 million payroll of 1957. Movement in the level of payrolls has con-

formed closely to increases or decreases in employment. However, wages and salaries have had a moderate but steady rise. Evidence of this may be derived from the historical employment and payroll figures for insured workers. In 1960, the average monthly wage of general merchandise and apparel workers was estimated to be \$375, compared to \$283 in 1950. With the exception of two years, 1955 and 1958, average monthly wages have increased from the year before through the 1950-1960 period.

PAYROLL FOR STATE INSURED EMPLOYMENT
GENERAL MERCHANDISE INDUSTRY
1950 - 1960

