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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

JUNE 1977

DES MOINES, IOWA STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

A Labor Market Information Publication of the

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JOB SERVICE

Developed by the Job Market Information Unit
Research and Statistics Department

affiliated with the

Employment and Training Administration
U. S. Department of Labor

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

This quarterly publication is designed to disseminate information on the characteristics of the insured unemployed to manpower planners, officials and other users of labor market information concerned with the problems of the unemployed. An unemployment insurance (U. I.) claimant is an individual who has been determined monetarily eligible for benefit payments under one or more of the Federal or State U.I. programs and whose benefit year or compensation, by reason of an extended duration period, has not ended and who has not exhausted his benefit right. Additional claimant groups include those receiving benefit payments under Federal U.I. programs. The publication is concerned primarily with those under the state U.I. programs.

Since this publication is directed toward planners we would appreciate any suggestions you may have that would be useful in providing the most useful and complete information available. Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the:

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

Data for Quarter Ending March 31, 1977

General Economic Conditions

Employment in the Des Moines Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area ^{1/} during the first quarter of 1977 fluctuated seasonally but stayed well above the year ago levels. Frigid temperatures closed down construction almost completely in January. No factory layoffs were attributed to energy shortages here, but some secondary effects of closings in the eastern half of the nation were noted.

Hiring was relatively good in manufacturing in January after major contract settlements. However, the employment level in manufacturing establishments remains slightly below the year ago total. Major improvements have been in the nonmanufacturing employment segment, primarily in retail sales and service. Government has gained some during the quarter and construction employment increased in March as temperatures improved.

Unemployment is traditionally highest during January and February with a tapering off from March to June. The influx of graduates and summer workers into the labor force during June boosts unemployment levels. This year unemployment went from a total of 7,800 in January to 7,400 in February and 6,400 in March--a drop of almost 20% (January to March), while the unemployment rate fell from 4.9% in January to 4.6% in February and 4.0% in March. This follows closely the trend for Iowa-statewide.

Unemployment is expected to decline during the next quarter at least until June when the students and graduates start their job searching.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of insured unemployed peaked during February at 3,357. By March there were 206 fewer claimants, but the March total was still 150 higher than the January total of 3001. From February to March, male claimants decreased 6.6% while female claimants dropped only 4.3%. Male claimants made up almost 80% of the total. During the quarter about 98% of claimants were white, 60% were 34 years of age or younger.

During this quarter, a little more than one-third of the claimants were last attached to the construction industry. Retail trade and manufacturing attachments accounted about equally for the next two largest groups of claimants; service industry attachment was the fourth largest group.

^{1/} The Des Moines, Iowa SMSA is defined as Polk and Warren Counties.

Occupational information is available for those claimants who have registered with the local Job Service office. Structural work was the occupational attachment most often listed, followed by miscellaneous industrial and clerical/sales. The majority of claimants in each occupational group were men except for clerical/sales occupations. Claims for job insurance were of longest duration for those with contract construction attachment, and the miscellaneous industrial occupational attachment.

Nonwhite claimants were only 1.6% of the total in March. Most of these were last attached to construction or service industries, and most were under 35 years of age.

Outlook

The outlook for the coming months is for a steady decline in the number of insured unemployed, at least until June. By industrial attachment, the sharpest decrease will probably be in contract construction. Claimants from manufacturing, retail sales and service industries are expected to decline to a lesser extent.

TECHNICAL NOTES

The data presented in this report represents characteristics of unemployment insurance (U.I.) claimants who filed U.I. claims for benefits covering the survey week containing the 12th of the month. An unemployment insurance (U.I.) claimant is an individual who has been determined monetarily eligible for benefit payments under the Iowa unemployment insurance program and whose benefit year or compensation, by reason of an extended duration period, has not ended and who has not exhausted his benefit right.

SUPPORTING STATISTICAL TABLES

Tables 1-6 contain data on the insured unemployed who are residents of the Des Moines, Iowa Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (Polk and Warren Counties) for the Second Quarter (January, February and March) for Fiscal Year 1977. Data were compiled as part of a cooperative program with the Employment and Training Administration, U. S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 1. Sex and Race of the Insured Unemployed, Des Moines SMSA 1/

ITEM	Number			Net Change		Percent Change	
	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan.- Mar. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan.- Mar. 1977
TOTAL.....	3,151	3,357	3,001	-206	150	- 6.1	5.0
SEX							
Male.....	2,511	2,688	2,392	-177	119	- 6.6	5.0
Female.....	640	669	609	- 29	31	- 4.3	5.1
RACE							
White.....	3,102	3,297	2,935	-195	167	- 5.9	5.7
Nonwhite.....	49	60	66	- 11	- 17	-18.3	-25.8
MEN CLAIMANTS							
White.....	2,328	2,647	2,347	-319	- 19	-12.1	-0.8
Nonwhite.....	34	41	45	- 7	- 11	-17.1	-24.4
WOMEN CLAIMANTS							
White.....	625	650	558	- 25	37	- 3.8	6.3
Nonwhite.....	15	19	21	- 4	- 6	-21.1	-28.6

1/ Data are for the week including the 12th of the month. Data were compiled as part of a cooperative program with the Employment and Training Administration, U. S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 2. Industry Attachment of the Insured Unemployed, Des Moines SMSA 1/

Industry Attachment	Number			Net Change		Percent Change	
	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan.- Mar. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan.- Mar. 1977
TOTAL.....	3,151	3,357	3,001	- 206	150	- 6.1	5.0
Contract Construction.....	1,119	1,154	1,016	- 35	103	- 3.0	10.1
Manufacturing.....	517	655	597	- 138	- 80	- 21.1	- 13.4
Durable Goods.....	315	388	333	- 73	- 18	- 18.8	- 5.4
Lumber & Furniture.....	31	18	9	13	22	72.2	2.4
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.....	114	183	166	- 69	- 52	- 37.7	- 31.3
Primary & Fabricated Metals....	60	70	59	- 10	1	- 14.3	1.7
Machinery.....	92	93	81	- 1	11	- 1.1	13.6
Other Durable Goods.....	18	24	18	- 6	0	- 25.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods.....	202	267	264	- 65	- 62	- 24.3	- 23.5
Food and Kindred Products.....	55	68	74	- 13	- 19	- 19.1	- 25.7
Printing & Publishing.....	83	100	95	- 17	- 12	- 17.0	- 12.6
Other Nondurable Goods.....	64	99	95	- 35	- 31	- 35.4	- 32.6
Public Utilities.....	168	170	150	- 2	18	- 1.2	12.0
Wholesale and Retail Trade.....	673	659	579	14	94	2.1	16.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate....	94	96	93	- 2	1	- 2.1	1.1
Services and Mining.....	353	379	337	- 26	16	- 6.9	4.7
State & Local Government.....	69	78	84	- 9	- 15	- 11.5	- 17.9
Information Not Available.....	158	166	145	- 8	13	- 4.8	9.0

1/ Data are for the week including the 12th of the month. Data were compiled as part of a cooperative program with the Employment and Training Administration, U. S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 3. Occupational Attachment of the Insured Unemployed 1/

Occupational Attachment	Number			Net Change		Percent Change	
	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.-	Jan.-	Feb.-	Jan.-
	1977	1977	1977	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.
TOTAL.....	3,151	3,357	3,001	- 206	150	- 6.1	5.0
Prof./Tech./Managerial.....	91	87	80	4	11	4.6	13.8
Clerical/Sales.....	160	166	160	- 6	0	- 3.6	0
Service.....	88	85	71	3	17	3.5	23.9
Farming/Fishing/Forestry.....	9	10	11	- 1	- 2	- 10.0	18.2
Industrial Categories:							
By Type of Work							
Processing.....	10	14	14	- 4	- 4	- 28.6	- 28.6
Machine Trades.....	58	59	52	- 1	6	- 1.7	11.5
Bench Work.....	44	55	45	- 11	- 1	- 20.0	- 2.2
Structural Work.....	223	226	208	- 3	15	- 1.3	7.2
Miscellaneous.....	179	204	197	- 25	- 18	- 12.3	- 9.1
By Complexity 2/							
High.....	46	60	61	- 14	- 15	- 23.3	- 24.6
Medium.....	68	67	60	1	8	1.5	13.3
Low.....	400	431	395	- 31	5	- 7.2	1.3
Information Not Available.....	2,289	2,451	2,163	- 162	126	- 6.6	5.8
MEN CLAIMANTS.....	2,511	2,688	2,392	- 177	119	- 6.6	5.0
Prof./Tech./Managerial.....	53	52	53	1	0	1.9	0
Clerical/Sales.....	43	49	43	- 6	0	- 12.2	0
Service.....	50	50	43	0	7	0	16.3
Farming/Fishing/Forestry.....	9	10	11	- 1	- 2	- 10.0	- 18.2
Industrial Categories:							
By Type of Work							
Processing.....	8	11	12	- 3	- 4	- 27.3	33.3
Machine Trades.....	54	56	48	- 2	6	- 3.6	12.5
Bench Work.....	33	40	34	- 7	- 1	- 17.5	- 2.9
Structural Work.....	220	223	206	- 3	14	- 1.3	6.8
Miscellaneous.....	168	193	184	- 25	- 16	- 13.1	- 8.7
By Complexity 2/							
High.....	46	60	60	- 14	- 14	- 23.3	- 23.3
Medium.....	66	66	59	0	7	0	11.9
Low.....	371	397	365	- 26	6	- 6.5	1.6
Information Not Available.....	1,873	2,004	1,758	- 131	115	- 6.5	6.5

TABLE 3. Occupational Attachment of the Insured Unemployed 1/ (cont'd)

Occupational Attachment	Number			Net Change		Percent Change	
	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan.- Mar. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan. Mar. 1977
WOMEN CLAIMANTS	640	669	609	- 29	31	- 4.3	5.1
Prof./Tech./Managerial.....	38	35	27	3	11	8.6	40.7
Clerical/Sales.....	117	117	117	0	0	0	0
Service.....	38	35	28	3	10	8.6	35.7
Farming/Fishing/Forestry.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Categories:.....							
By Type of Work							
Processing.....	2	3	2	- 1	0	- 33.3	0
Machine Trades.....	4	3	4	1	0	33.3	0
Bench Work.....	11	15	11	- 4	0	- 26.7	0
Structural Work.....	3	3	2	0	1	0	50.0
Miscellaneous.....	11	11	13	0	- 2	0	- 15.4
By Complexity 2/							
High.....	0	0	1	0	- 1	0	-100.0
Medium.....	2	1	1	1	1	100.0	100.0
Low.....	29	34	30	- 5	- 1	- 14.7	- 3.3
Information Not Available.....	416	447	405	- 31	11	- 2.5	2.7

1/ Data are for the week including the 12th of the month. Data were compiled as part of a cooperative program with the Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

2/ Only industrial occupational categories are arranged by degree of complexity. Indicated groups are classified on the basis of the fourth digit of the occupation code.

TABLE 4. Duration of Unemployment of the Insured Unemployed in Des Moines SMSA by Sex and Race ^{1/}

Duration by Sex and Race	Number			Net Change		Percent Change	
	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan.- Mar. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan. Mar. 1977
TOTAL.....	3,151	3,357	3,001	-206	150	- 6.1	5.0
1-4 Weeks.....	303	521	817	-218	-514	-41.8	-62.9
5-14 Weeks.....	2,083	2,056	1,465	27	618	1.3	42.2
15 Weeks and Over.....	765	780	719	- 15	46	- 1.9	6.4
SEX BY WEEKS UNEMPLOYED							
Men Claimants.....	2,511	2,688	2,392	-177	119	- 6.6	5.0
1-4 Weeks.....	245	425	723	-180	-478	-42.4	-66.1
5-14 Weeks.....	1,718	1,719	1,167	- 1	551	- 0.1	47.2
15 Weeks and Over.....	548	544	502	4	46	0.7	9.2
Women Claimants.....	640	669	609	- 29	31	- 4.3	5.1
1-4 Weeks.....	58	96	94	- 38	- 36	-39.6	-38.3
5-14 Weeks.....	365	337	298	28	67	8.3	22.5
15 Weeks and Over.....	217	236	217	- 19	0	- 8.1	0
RACE BY WEEKS UNEMPLOYED							
White Claimants.....	3,102	3,297	2,935	-195	167	- 5.9	5.7
1-4 Weeks.....	300	518	810	-218	-510	-42.1	-63.0
5-14 Weeks.....	2,061	2,022	1,426	39	635	1.9	44.5
15 Weeks and Over.....	741	757	699	- 16	42	- 2.1	6.0
Nonwhite Claimants.....	49	60	66	- 11	- 17	-18.3	-25.8
1-4 Weeks.....	3	3	7	0	- 4	0.0	-57.1
5-14 Weeks.....	22	34	39	- 12	- 17	-35.3	-43.6
15 Weeks and Over.....	24	23	20	1	4	4.3	20.0

^{1/} Data are for the week including the 12th of the month. Data were compiled as part of a cooperative program with the Employment and Training Administration, U. S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 5. Age by Sex and Race of the Insured Unemployed in Des Moines SMSA 1/

Age, Sex and Race	Number			Net Change		Percent Change	
	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.-	Jan.-	Feb.-	Jan.-
	1977	1977	1977	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.
TOTAL.....	3,151	3,357	3,001	-206	150	- 6.1	5.0
Under 22.....	540	581	459	- 41	81	- 7.1	17.6
22-24.....	497	529	464	- 32	33	- 6.0	7.1
25-34.....	870	925	839	- 55	31	- 5.9	3.7
35-44.....	499	547	494	- 48	5	- 8.8	0.0
45-54.....	454	485	455	- 31	- 1	- 6.4	- 0.2
55-59.....	155	150	155	5	0	3.3	0.0
60-64.....	106	107	93	- 1	13	- 0.9	14.0
65 and Over.....	30	33	42	- 3	- 12	- 9.1	-28.6
6 MEN CLAIMANTS.....	2,511	2,688	2,392	-177	119	- 6.6	5.0
Under 22.....	452	475	369	- 23	83	- 4.8	22.5
22-24.....	391	429	374	- 38	17	- 8.9	4.5
25-34.....	720	772	695	- 52	25	- 6.7	3.6
35-44.....	388	429	393	- 41	- 5	- 9.6	- 1.3
45-54.....	345	367	338	- 22	7	- 6.0	2.1
55-59.....	117	115	119	2	- 2	- 0.1	- 1.7
60-64.....	79	79	70	0	9	0.0	12.9
65 and Over.....	19	22	34	- 3	- 15	-13.6	-44.1
WOMEN CLAIMANTS.....	640	669	609	- 29	31	- 4.3	5.1
Under 22.....	88	106	90	- 18	- 2	-17.0	- 2.2
22-24.....	106	100	90	6	16	6.0	17.8
25-34.....	150	153	144	- 3	6	- 2.0	4.2
35-44.....	111	118	101	- 7	10	- 5.9	9.9
45-54.....	109	118	117	- 9	- 8	- 7.6	- 6.8
55-59.....	38	35	36	3	2	8.6	5.6
60-64.....	27	28	23	- 1	4	- 3.6	17.4
65 and Over.....	11	11	8	0	3	0.0	37.5
WHITE CLAIMANTS.....	3,102	3,297	2,935	-195	167	- 5.9	5.7
Under 22.....	531	572	449	- 41	82	- 7.2	18.3
22-24.....	491	520	453	- 29	38	- 5.6	8.4
25-34.....	855	905	819	- 50	36	- 5.5	4.4
35-44.....	488	536	483	- 48	5	- 9.0	1.0

TABLE 5. Age by Sex and Race of the Insured Unemployed in Des Moines SMSA 1/ (cont'd)

Age, Sex and Race	Number			Net Change		Percent Change	
	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan.- Mar. 1977	Feb.- Mar. 1977	Jan.- Mar. 1977
WHITE CLAIMANTS (cont'd)							
45-54.....	448	477	444	- 29	4	- 6.1	0.9
55-59.....	154	149	154	5	0	3.4	0.0
60-64.....	105	105	91	0	14	0	15.4
65 and Over.....	30	33	42	- 3	- 12	- 9.1	-28.6
NONWHITE CLAIMANTS.....							
Under 22.....	49	60	66	- 11	- 17	-18.3	-25.8
22-24.....	9	9	10	0	- 1	0	-10.0
25-34.....	6	9	11	- 3	- 5	-33.3	-45.5
35-44.....	15	20	20	- 5	- 5	-25.0	-25.0
45-54.....	11	11	11	0	0	0	0.0
55-59.....	6	8	11	- 2	- 5	-25.0	-45.5
60-64.....	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0
65 and Over.....	1	2	2	- 1	- 1	-50.0	-50.0
65 and Over.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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1/ Data are for the week including the 12th of the month. Data were compiled as part of a cooperative program with the Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

TABLE 6. Selected Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed by Industry and Occupation, Des Moines SMSA 1/

MONTH: MARCH 1977

INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION	TOTAL	NON- WHITE	MALE	Age Group		Weeks Claimed	
				UNDER 25	OVER 54	UNDER 5	OVER 14
INDUSTRY:							
TOTAL.....	3,151	49	2,511	1,037	291	303	765
Contract Construction.....	1,119	13	1,102	287	115	97	250
Manufacturing.....	517	9	418	163	42	49	128
Durable Goods.....	315	6	276	95	27	24	72
Nondurable Goods.....	202	3	142	69	15	25	57
Public Utilities.....	168	2	137	44	9	9	33
Wholesale and Retail Trade.....	673	4	440	277	63	90	185
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate...	94	1	36	36	15	10	30
Services and Mining.....	353	12	201	113	40	41	95
State and Local Government.....	69	3	42	15	6	2	23
Information Not Available.....	158	5	128	97	1	1	19
OCCUPATION:							
TOTAL.....	3,151	49	2,511	1,037	291	303	765
Prof./Tech./Managerial.....	91	2	52	22	9	11	20
Clerical/Sales.....	160	4	44	58	19	15	51
Service.....	88	2	49	42	7	13	24
Farming/Fishing/Forestry.....	9	0	9	6	1	0	2
Industrial Categories:							
By Type of Work							
Processing.....	10	0	7	3	0	1	1
Machine Trades.....	58	3	54	19	3	10	10
Bench Work.....	44	2	34	14	1	3	15
Structural Work.....	223	2	221	72	15	17	53
Miscellaneous.....	179	4	169	65	6	9	62
By Complexity							
High.....	46	1	47	7	2	8	14
Medium.....	68	0	66	24	6	5	15
Low.....	400	10	370	140	16	28	113
Information Not Available.....	2,289	30	1,873	738	233	224	527

1/ Data is for the week including the 12th of the month.

