

III: Employment

11. The number of applicants on the live registers of the employment exchanges rose from 14.2 lakhs at the end of 1959 to 16.1 lakhs by the end of 1960—an increase of 1.9 lakhs as compared to 2.4 lakhs in 1959. During the year, the number of vacancies notified went up from 4.2 lakhs in 1959 to 5.2 lakhs and the number of placements also rose from 2.7 lakhs to 3.1 lakhs. The following table gives the occupational preferences of persons registered with employment exchanges at the end of December 1960:

Occupational Preferences of Applicants on Live Registers

	Persons	
	'000 Nos.	Per cent
1. Professional, technical and related workers	70.4	4.4
2. Administrative, executive and managerial workers	3.2	0.2
3. Clerical, sales and related workers	92.8	5.8
4. Agricultural, dairy and related workers	8.7	0.5
5. Miners, quarrymen and related workers	3.0	0.2
6. Workers in transport and communications	36.0	2.2
7. Craftsmen and production process workers	112.7	7.0
8. Service workers (e.g. cooks, chowkidars, sweepers, etc.)	70.4	4.4
9. Labourers with work experience not elsewhere classified	91.2	5.7
10. Persons without professional or vocational training and/or persons without previous work experience	1,117.7	69.6
TOTAL	1,606.2	100.0

It will be seen that of those seeking employment over two-thirds were persons without professional or vocational training and/or without previous work experience.

12. Another classification of applicants on live registers shows that at the end of 1960, the number of educated applicants was 5.1 lakhs—i.e. a little less than one-third of the total of 16.1 lakhs. Among the educated unemployed registered with the employment exchanges, nearly four-fifths were matriculates and the rest under-graduates and graduates.

13. Average daily employment in cotton mills in the first nine months of 1960 increased from 7.60 lakhs in January-September, 1959 to 7.69 lakhs. Data in respect of coal mining also indicate an increase in employment. Many of the new and rapidly expanding industries particularly engineering industries like automobiles, machine tools and electrical machinery and appliances, heavy chemicals, rayon, dyes, paper and paper board, cement, glass and ceramic products etc., show a substantial increase in employment during the year. Road building, residential construction, small scale industries and expansion of social services like education and health would also have had their impact on the volume of employment.

14. Employment under the Central Government (excluding the railways which employ about 1·2 million persons) has, for instance, gone up from 648,000 in 1955 to 754,000 by mid-1960. At the end of 1959, the total numbers employed by the Central and State Governments (excluding the railways), quasi-government organisations, public sector projects and local bodies, has been estimated at 5 million as compared to 4·28 million at the end of 1958 and 3·5 million in March 1956. The figures compiled by the Development Wing of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in respect of selected industrial units covering about one-sixth of the total factory employment show an annual increase of 6 to 8 per cent. in employment in these industries since 1956. Altogether, the increases that have taken place in agricultural and in industrial production as also in construction activity and in social services over the last few years have, undoubtedly, enlarged the demand for labour—whether of the self-employed or of those engaged to work on payment of wages. Nevertheless, the studies made in the Planning Commission suggest that the creation of new employment opportunities during the Second Plan period has, on the whole, lagged behind the increases in labour force. The answer to this problem has, of course, to be found through larger investment, supplemented suitably by local works.