CAN WE GUARANTEE JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED?**

I. MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT


The authors contend that the official definition of unemployment is poorly designed to measure the number of people who are available for work. They argue that due to the limited supply of jobs, a job rationing ideology has developed as evidenced by social security regulations and welfare restrictions. They cite data from interviews and the National Longitudinal Study of Work Experience to show a systematic understatement of interest in work on the part of the unemployed.


A nontechnical description of the methods by which the government measures the number of people who are employed, unemployed or underemployed. The report defines the various labor force terms, discusses the sampling techniques employed in the Current Population Survey and the meaning of statistics on insured unemployment.


This article describes the new procedures for estimating unemployment in states and local areas which it is hoped will provide data which is more accurate and more comparable from state to state. The new system makes three major changes: it more precisely specifies procedures for estimating employment and unemployment in noncovered industries; it classifies the labor force by place of residence rather than place of work; and it places more emphasis on data collected from an enlarged Current Population Survey.

* Preceded by Helen Fairbanks, Librarian, Industrial Relations Section.

** Items from this list should be ordered directly from the publisher. Addresses are given in connection with each reference.
2. CAUSES AND IMPACT OF CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT

Doeringer, Peter B. and Michael J. Fiore. “Unemployment and the dual labor market.” Public Interest (Box 342, Old Chelsea, New York, N.Y. 10011), Winter, 1975, pp. 67-79. $3.00.

The authors find that “conventional” explanations of unemployment and the nature of the labor market are inadequate to explain the consistently high rate of unemployment. They postulate a dual labor market consisting of a primary sector which contains the better-paying, steady, and preferred jobs, and a secondary sector which is marked by low-paying, unskilled, dead-end jobs with frequent layoffs and which are most commonly filled by young workers and minority group workers. They recommend policies for dealing with unemployment in the secondary sector.

Fearn, Robert M. “Cyclical, seasonal, and structural factors in area unemployment rates.” Industrial and Labor Relations Review (New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853), April, 1975, pp. 424-431. $2.75.

The author analyzes observed changes in area unemployment rates over time in 142 major labor markets and concludes that most of the changes are due to cyclical and seasonal factors rather than from structural factors. He discusses the policy implications for federally funded programs which are related to unemployment rates.

Feldstein, Martin. “The economics of the new unemployment.” Public Interest (Box 342, Old Chelsea, New York, N.Y. 10011), Fall, 1973, pp. 3-42. $3.00.

The author describes the characteristics and causes of the current unemployment and suggests policies aimed at increasing the stability of employment among young workers, reducing cyclical and seasonal fluctuations in labor demand, and restructuring the unemployment compensation system to reduce the long duration between jobs.


This year-end review of the employment situation attributes the sharp rise in unemployment to cutbacks in manufacturing and construction. Blue-collar workers were more affected than white-collar and service workers with women, teenagers and Negroes having the highest unemployment rates.


A series of papers addressed to principle that society has a responsibility to provide employment for everyone willing to work. The three papers in the first section discuss the historical development of the full employment concept. A review of labor supply concepts and theoretical approaches
to planning comprise the second section. In the final section, "Strategic policy problems," eight studies consider such issues as inflation and fiscal policies, a living wage, income maintenance, education, and the special problems of women and minority groups.


The authors estimate the impact of a continuing recession on sixteen demographic groups differentiated by age, sex and race. They consider the policy implications of their finding that those who will experience the greatest loss of employment (teenagers and women) already bear the greatest handicaps in the job market.


This report describes the economic situation and outlook, analyzes the causes of recent inflation and rising unemployment, and assesses the impact of inflation and unemployment. The report concludes that there should be no "trade-off" between the goal of reducing unemployment and the goal of containing inflation.

3. The Public Employment Program


A critical analysis of the Public Employment Program which finds evidence to indicate that, in the long run, such programs do not greatly increase the net employment of state and local governments and do not employ large numbers of unskilled, disadvantaged workers. The authors conclude that, given these qualifications, the PEP type programs will expand employment demands in the private sector.


This volume consists of ten studies of experience under the Public Employment Program (PEP) which was initiated under the Emergency Employment Act of 1971 and provided Federal funds to state and local governments for hiring the unemployed. An introductory chapter by the editors summarizes the number and kinds of jobs performed, the characteristics of the participants, and assesses the results of the two-year program.

Brief discussion of the legislation passed by Congress in December 1974 to provide for short-term, “meaningful” public service jobs for the unemployed.


This interim report of the Commission established by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act reviews the structural manpower problems which result in serious malfunctioning of the labor market. They consider policies for: 1) job creation in the form of public service employment and public works; 2) unemployment insurance; and 3) the funding of these programs.


The Task Force rejects the view that a low level of unemployment is unattainable and questions reliance on the unemployment-inflation trade-off as a basis for policy decisions. They call for an increase in Federal funds for manpower programs to help persons with severe employment problems, including minority groups, and make recommendations for expanding and improving Federal manpower programs.

Pleeter, Saul. “Will public service employment do the job?” Business Horizons (Graduate School of Business, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401), April, 1975. pp. 41-47. $2.00.

The author considers the effectiveness of the Federal Public Employment Program of 1972-1973 as an income maintenance scheme for the unemployed disadvantaged worker and as a countercyclical measure.


Sixteen case studies of actual public service job programs which constitute the basis for the overall evaluation of the Levitan and Taggart study listed above.
