

that of manufacturing industries as a whole. During the latter part of the period 1953 to 1959, export markets began to decline for 4 of the 5 industries.

In contrast to the fortunes of the export and import-competing industries, the six domestic industries experienced continuing prosperity between 1953 and 1959.

The most significant finding of the study to date is that wage pressures have had a decidedly minor direct upward impact on factory prices in most of the 22 industries under review, despite rather large increases in average hourly earnings. During the 1953-59 period, average hourly earnings increases in most of the industries ranged between 25 and 35 per cent. Several industries experienced increases in average hourly earnings of less than 20 per cent and several had increases of more than 35 per cent. The import-competing industries tended to experience smaller increases in wages than did the export and domestic industries. The largest increases in average hourly earnings occurred in the domestic industries.

In translating these wage advances into wage costs per unit of physical output, we found that in 9 industries out of the 22 studied, (7 of them in the hard-pressed import-competing sector) unit wage costs actually declined between 1953 and 1959. In two of the import-competing industries the declines amounted to some 23 per cent and 26 per cent below 1953 levels. In none of the remaining four import-competing industries did the increase in unit wage costs over