

The goods-producing industries are conspicuously absent from the rapidly rising group, but there are a few exceptions. Employment in oil and natural gas extraction more than doubled over the decade, and in the mining of metals other than gold the rate was almost as great. Less spectacular but nevertheless rapid growth was displayed by the construction industry and by the industries manufacturing chemicals, petroleum and coal products, and non-metallic mineral products.

The differences between the rates of growth of the goods-producing and service-producing industries stand out clearly in Table 10. One consequence of the rapid expansion of the service-producing industries has been a marked increase in the number of jobs for women, with the result that the economy has experienced little difficulty in absorbing the large additions to the female labour force of the past five or ten years. Indeed it is probably safe to assume that the increase in job opportunities has itself been an important factor in drawing women into the labour market. The number of women working in retail and wholesale trade grew by more than forty percent from 1950 to 1959. In finance, insurance, and related industries the increase was over fifty percent, and in the service group proper it was more than sixty percent. In government and community service alone female employment practically doubled.

IV. Employment Changes in Recent Years

Let us look at the more recent changes in employment. The most significant features of the last few years have been the continued rapid growth of the labour force and the relatively moderate expansion of employment following the 1957-1958 recession. Table 11 indicates more precisely what has been happening to employment. In this table I have compared the actual changes from the first half of 1957 to the first half of 1960 with the changes that would have taken place if employment had grown in each industrial group at the average rate of the last ten years. The first half of 1957 was roughly the period just before aggregate employment started to turn down in the last recession and the 1957-1960 changes give an indication, therefore, of the extent of recovery following the recession.

Table 11

Changes in Employment from the First Half of 1957 to the First Half of 1960

	Actual Change (thousands)	Change that would have occurred at Average 1950- 1959 Rates (thousands)
Goods-Producing Industries	-160	20
Agriculture	-80	-80
Non-Agricultural Industries	-80	100
Service-Producing Industries	380	350
Total, All Industries	220	370

In broad outline the picture is clear. The goods-producing industries contracted their working forces in the 1957-58 recession and during the subsequent period of recovery failed to expand sufficiently to regain the ground that was lost. Agricultural employment, of course, has been declining steadily for a long time and this decline merely continued. Other primary industries, particularly forestry, experienced substantial reductions. In manufacturing the reduction was in sharp contrast to the increase that would have occurred if the industry had expanded at the average 1950-59 rate. The same is true of construction. The service-producing industries, on the other hand, continued to expand