



# Statistical Brief

## Where the Jobs Were Job Creation in the Late 1980's

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) shows that 41.5 million persons age 16 and over experienced a *job accession* over a 28-month period between the end of 1986 and the beginning of 1989. That means they went from not having a wage or salary job one month to having one the next. Fifty-five percent of those who had an accession over that period were women.

Not all these accessions represent new jobs, however. Many of these persons, for instance, switched jobs with others or returned to work after a layoff. In addition, many of the jobs lasted a short amount of time. Nevertheless, this brief reveals who was entering jobs in this 28-month period and what kind of jobs were available.

### Most persons entering jobs are young adults.

Young adults age 16 to 24 accounted for 42 percent of persons with job accessions; next came the 25 to 34 and 35 to 54 age groups, at 25 percent each. Younger persons have a greater tendency to move into and out of jobs, as well as into and out of the job market entirely.

### Jobs are concentrated in a handful of industries and occupations.

Nearly one-half of all persons who moved into a job over the period

entered a position in the retail trade and professional and related services industries. Hospitals, schools, doctor's offices, and libraries are examples of the places where jobs in the professional and related services industry are located.

Jobs were concentrated in just a few occupational fields. Just over one-half of the jobs persons moved into were service (excluding protective service), sales, or administrative support or clerical jobs. The nature of jobs in many of these fields is varied. The service field, for instance, consists of positions such as janitors, food counter workers, and child care workers. Sales jobs range from cashiers and sales clerks to real estate agents and stock brokers.

Administrative support and clerical occupations consist of positions such as computer equipment operators, postal clerks, and receptionists.

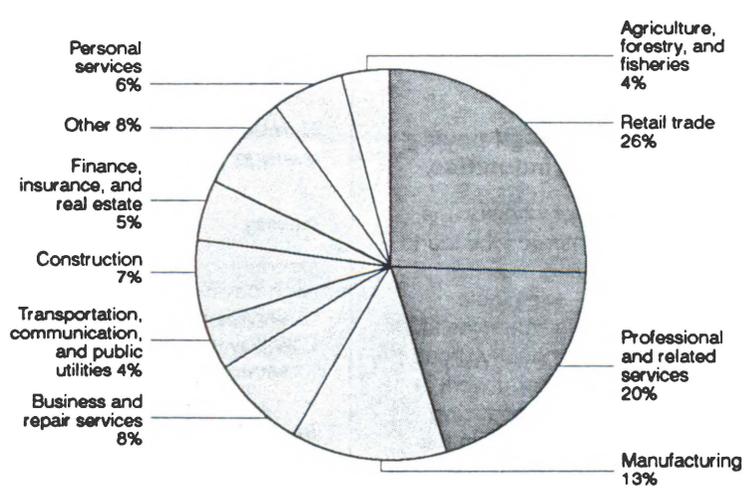
### Type of job persons move into varies with age.

Teenagers were more likely to move into jobs in certain industries than were other adults. For instance, 43 percent of all 16-to-19-year olds entered the retail trade industry, compared with 25 percent of persons age 20 to 24, 22 percent of those age 25 to 34, and 18 percent of those 35 years of age and older.

As with industries, the fields entered varied with age. Teenagers were concentrated in service (28 percent)

### Almost One-Half Entered Jobs in the Retail Trade and Professional and Related Services Industries

Distribution of persons with job accessions, by industry of first accession: 1987 to 1989



Note: Figures do not add to 100 percent because of rounding.



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**Composition of Broad Industry Groups**

**Goods-Producing Industries**

- Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries
- Mining
- Construction
- Manufacturing

**High-Paying Service-Producing Industries**

- Transportation, communication, and public utilities
- Wholesale trade
- Finance, insurance, and real estate
- Professional and related services
- Public administration

**Low-Paying Service-Producing Industries**

- Retail trade
- Business and repair services
- Personal services
- Entertainment and recreation services

pay differs between these broad industry groups. The remaining 24 percent found work in the goods-producing industries.

**Those entering jobs earn less than average.**

According to the Current Population Survey, men (age 25 to 54) employed full-time, year-round in 1988 earned \$32,452; women earned \$20,828. How do these yearly earnings compare to those of persons age 25 to 54 who entered jobs in the late 1980's? Assuming nonhourly-paid workers entering their first job during the period would have worked 52 weeks a year, SIPP shows that their yearly earnings were \$25,480 for men and \$13,676 for women. Assuming hourly-paid workers took jobs in which they would have worked 40 hours per week for 50 weeks, their average yearly earnings were \$16,120 for men and \$11,100 for women.

**More Information:**

*Job Creation During the Late 1980's: Dynamic Aspects of Employment Growth*, Current Population

Reports, Series P-70, No. 27. For sale by U.S. Government Printing Office. Stock No. 803-044-00015-5, \$1.75.

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and sales occupations (19 percent); the comparable figures for adults age 35 and over were 14 and 13 percent, respectively. Older adults were more likely to enter higher-paying occupations, such as executive, administrative, and managerial positions; professional specialty positions; and technical positions (20 percent of persons age 35 and over, 16 percent of 20-to-24-year olds, and 3 percent of teens).

**Many enter jobs in high-paying service-producing industries.**

Overall, 34 percent of workers age 16 and over who entered jobs found work in a "high-paying" service-producing industry. (See table above for the specific industries that comprise this broad industry group.) However, 42 percent found work in a "low-paying" service-producing industry. Just as all the jobs in the high-paying service-producing industries aren't necessarily high paying, not all the jobs in the low-paying service-producing industries are low paying. The chart on the right, though, shows that average

**Wages and Earnings Vary by Broad Industry Group**

Number of hourly-paid workers (age 25 to 54) entering jobs and average wages (workers in thousands): 1987 to 1989

Industry	Men		Women	
	Workers	Wage	Workers	Wage
Goods-producing	2,917	\$8.85	1,347	\$5.70
High-paying service-producing	1,125	\$7.61	3,606	\$6.29
Low-paying service-producing	1,269	\$6.62	4,114	\$4.84

Number of nonhourly-paid workers (age 25 to 54) entering jobs and average weekly earnings (workers in thousands): 1987 to 1989

Industry	Men		Women	
	Workers	Earnings	Workers	Earnings
Goods-producing	764	\$552	186	(B)
High-paying service-producing	1,153	\$518	1,410	\$307
Low-paying service-producing	694	\$374	851	\$196

(B) Base less than 200,000.

Note: The number of workers includes only first job entered over the period; all wage and earnings figures refer to pay at time of first job accession. The average earnings for all workers age 16 and over entering jobs were \$5.63/hr. for hourly-paid workers and \$336 weekly for nonhourly-paid workers.