

REPORTS AND INQUIRIES

The Active Population of the U.S.S.R.

The following analysis of the active population in the U.S.S.R. is based on material published in a recent issue of the journal of the Central Statistical Administration of the U.S.S.R.¹ In it the figures of the 1959 census are compared with those for 1939 in order to bring out some of the changes that have taken place in the last 20 years in the structure of the labour force.

According to the 1959 census, the active population of the U.S.S.R. comprises 99,130,000 persons, representing 47.5 per cent. of the total population. At the previous census in 1939 this proportion was only 46.2 per cent. Over the 20-year period the corresponding proportions for men and women rose respectively from 54.7 to 54.8 per cent. and from 38.4 to 41.5 per cent.

Of the persons who do not form part of the active population, the majority is made up of dependants, i.e. children, old people and able-bodied individuals employed at home on housework or the care of children; they total 85,422,000 and account for 40.9 per cent. of the total population (see table I).

TABLE I. POPULATION OF THE U.S.S.R. BY SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD

Category	Number in thousands	As percentage of total population
Persons in employment :		
Employees ¹	62,961	30.2
Kolkhoz workers	32,280	15.5
Independent farmers and handicraft workers	266	0.1
Members of the armed forces	3,623	1.7
Total	99,130	47.5
Family workers ²	9,865	4.7
Dependants ³	85,422	40.9
Pensioners ⁴	12,423	6.0
Scholarship holders	1,718	0.8
Miscellaneous ⁵	269	0.1
Grand total	208,827	100.0

¹ Including members of production co-operatives. ² Members of the families of kolkhoz workers, salaried employees or wage earners who work on the personal plot of the breadwinner. ³ Children, old people and able-bodied persons engaged at home on housework or the care of children. ⁴ Pensioners living mainly on their retirement pensions. ⁵ Persons whose source of livelihood is not covered by the above categories or was not stated at the time of the census.

¹ *Vestnik Statistiki* (Moscow), No. 12, 1960, pp. 2-21.

Persons engaged in seasonal work and a proportion of the pensioners who worked for part of the year only were reckoned as part of the active population.

An analysis by economic sector and by sex is given in table II. It shows that women constitute a high proportion of the active population (48 per cent.).

TABLE II. ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYMENT BY MAIN
ECONOMIC SECTORS AND BY SEX ¹

Sector	Number in employment (thousands)	Percentage of active population	Percentage composition by sex	
			Men	Women
<i>Material production :</i>	80,862	81.6	53	47
Industry, construction, trans- port and telecommunica- tions	36,575	36.9	61	39
Agriculture	38,426	38.8	46	54
Commerce, catering, distribu- tion of raw materials and finished products, etc. . .	5,861	5.9	40	60
<i>Non-material production</i> (teach- ing, scientific research, health, public administra- tion and finance, housing services and social services)	14,453	14.6	36	64
<i>Armed forces</i>	3,623	3.6	100	0
<i>Other and not classified.</i> . . .	192	0.2	70	30
All sectors	99,130	100.0	52	48

¹ Not including those members of the families of kolkhoz workers or wage earners who work on the personal plot of land of the breadwinner.

It is interesting to compare the percentages of the active population engaged in different sectors in 1939 with the figures produced by the 1959 census (table III). This comparison brings out the development of industry, construction, transport and telecommunications (up from 30.1 to 36.9 per cent.). The proportion engaged in "non-material production" (mainly education, health and research) rose from 10.1 to 14.6 per cent. On the other hand, mechanisation has led to a fall in the number employed in farming.

Of the 99,130,000 persons in the active population, 78,635,000 (or 79.3 per cent.) are manual workers and 20,495,000 (or 20.7 per cent.) are white-collar workers (table IV) ; 54 per cent. of the non-manual jobs are filled by women. The percentage of women is particularly high in the medical profession (287,000 women doctors or 76 per cent.), and among engineers (268,000 women or 32 per cent.) and primary and middle school teachers (73 per cent.).

TABLE III. DISTRIBUTION OF THE EMPLOYED BY SECTOR,
1939 AND 1959

Sector	Percentage of active population	
	1939	1959
<i>Material production :</i>	85.6	81.6
Industry, construction, transport and telecommunications	30.1	36.9
Agriculture	50.1	38.8
Commerce, catering, distribution of raw materials and finished products, etc. .	5.4	5.9
<i>Non-material production :</i>	10.1	14.6
Teaching, scientific research, health . . .	5.9	9.9
Other services	4.2	4.7
<i>Armed forces and unclassified</i>	4.3	3.8
All sectors . . .	100.0	100.0

TABLE IV. PROPORTION OF MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS ¹
IN TOTAL ACTIVE POPULATION, BY SEX

Nature of work	Total active population		Men		Women	
	Thousands	Percentage	Thousands	Percentage	Thousands	Percentage
Persons mainly engaged in manual work .	78,635	79.3	42,085	81.7	36,550	76.8
Persons engaged in non-manual work	20,495	20.7	9,440	18.3	11,055	23.2
Total . . .	99,130	100.0	51,525	100.0	47,605	100.0

¹ Members of the armed forces are classified according to their occupation before being called up.

Finally, a comparison of the breakdown of the active population by type of employment in 1959 with the figures for 1939 shows the advance in production methods and equipment and the substantial increase in the number of skilled workers, technicians and engineers (table V).

TABLE V. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ACTIVE POPULATION, 1939 AND 1959

(Figures for the area within the frontiers of the U.S.S.R. at the date of the census)

Type of employment ¹	Thousands		1959 compared with 1939 (1939 = 100)
	1939	1959	
<i>Persons mainly employed in manual work :</i>			
Prime movers, lifting machinery and conveyors	585.5	1,721.0	294
Mining	589.0	1,187.1	202
Operators of coal-cutting machines	9.2	29.1	318
Metallurgy	4,358.5	9,304.0	213
Forgemen, foundry workers, etc.	23.3	60.8	260
Turners	433.6	928.2	214
Welders	109.9	445.6	405
Fitters, tool makers, etc.	1,433.5	3,440.9	240
Milling-machine operators	65.2	194.7	298
Fitters and electrical fitters	438.0	1,289.7	294
Chemicals	209.5	394.9	188
Minerals	240.0	538.5	224
Logging	808.6	751.0	93
Woodworking	989.9	1,406.8	142
Machine operators	90.7	189.5	209
Joiners	488.7	778.4	159
Pattern makers	20.3	38.1	187
Paper	22.1	36.5	166
Printing	163.1	212.0	130
Textiles	1,059.8	1,130.1	107
Spinners	115.5	127.9	111
Weavers	213.7	251.9	118
Clothing	728.3	1,302.3	179
Leather	196.2	145.2	74
Footwear	510.9	372.2	73
Foodstuffs	692.8	815.4	118
Construction	2,478.7	5,094.2	206
Drivers of excavators	9.0	124.0	1,400
Drivers of other machines	1.7	116.5	7,000
Carpenters	1,273.5	2,092.0	164
Plasterers	147.4	518.9	352
Bricklayers	176.1	723.5	411
Painters	176.2	430.0	244
Agriculture	34,763.7	33,893.1	97
Tractor drivers	857.5	2,036.0	237
Combine-harvester drivers	131.2	353.3	269
Forestry	114.5	230.7	202
Fish breeding and fisheries	185.4	127.6	69
Railways	939.0	1,664.1	177
Drivers of steam and diesel locomotives	164.5	314.6	191
Drivers of electric locomotives	8.1	78.4	974
Shipping and inland waterways	160.3	244.3	152
Engineers and stokers	29.3	47.2	161

¹ The terms "prime movers", "mining", "metallurgy", etc., used in this occupational breakdown, are intended to designate the occupations characteristic of the activities in question.

TABLE V (cont.)

Type of employment	Thousands		1959 compared with 1939 (1939=100)
	1939	1959	
<i>Persons mainly employed in manual work (cont.):</i>			
Road and urban transport	800.9	3,395.1	424
Drivers	725.0	3,174.2	438
Tram, trolleybus and under-ground railway drivers	19.9	37.4	187
Other transport	2,714.8	2,721.9	100
Postal services	181.2	242.9	134
Public catering	577.8	783.6	136
Communal services	4,556.2	5,024.9	110
Caretakers and attendants	2,125.8	2,030.3	96
Cleaners, etc.	1,514.8	1,732.9	114
Ambulance men, hospital and crèche attendants	428.7	894.9	209
Storekeepers, weighers, checkers, deliverymen	722.5	904.7	125
Other manual workers	1,047.0	2,462.1	235
<i>Persons employed in non-manual work :</i>			
Executives of state administrative bodies and social organisations	445.2	392.1	88
Executives in industry, construction, agriculture, transport and telecommunications	757.0	955.2	126
Engineers and technicians	1,656.5	4,205.9	254
Engineers ¹	247.3	834.3	337
Agronomists, animal breeders, veterinary surgeons and forestry experts	294.9	477.2	162
Agronomists and animal breeders	176.8	278.5	158
Veterinary surgeons	20.0	44.9	224
Medical personnel	679.6	1,702.5	251
Senior physicians and heads of medical institutions	16.5	44.0	266
Physicians	122.3	337.9	276
Dentists	14.0	31.7	227
Teaching and scientific staffs	1,553.1	2,835.6	183
Scientists and university teachers	111.6	316.4	284
Teachers in intermediate and primary schools	1,206.4	2,022.8	168
Writers, journalists, etc.	58.0	104.1	179
Cultural workers	285.0	462.3	162
Artistes	143.3	190.6	133
Jurists	62.4	78.7	126
Telecommunications	265.4	476.4	180
Radio operators	15.9	60.5	381
Telegraphists	54.2	71.2	131
Telephonists	105.3	175.3	166

¹ Not including engineers in management.

TABLE V (concl.)

Type of employment	Thousands		1959 compared with 1939 (1939=100)
	1939	1959	
<i>Persons employed in non-manual work (concl.) :</i>			
Commercial and distribution workers (including managers)	1,626.1	2,268.2	139
Sales and related staffs	715.0	1,166.3	163
Planning staffs, book-keepers, cashiers, inspectors, etc.	3,102.0	3,501.9	113
Clerical employees	489.4	535.9	110
Salaried staff in communal undertakings and services	202.5	277.1	137
Commercial agents and dispatchers	176.4	146.0	83