

# Fifty years of career information: *The Occupational Outlook*, vol. 1, no. 1



Volume 1, number 1 of this publication was issued in February 1957. Its purpose: to supplement and update information in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. According to introductory text, *The Occupational Outlook* provided counselors with “current information on employment trends and outlook, based primarily on the continuous research and statistical programs of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.” (*Quarterly* became part of the magazine’s title beginning with volume 2, number 3.)

Back then, the publication was a collective effort. Four other U.S. Department of Labor agencies and the Veterans Administration assisted the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the development of early issues. In contrast, today’s *Occupational Outlook Quarterly* content is produced entirely by BLS.

The following excerpts are from the debut issue. Some topics are familiar: the need for skilled workers, an analysis of worker traits, and the growing importance of education. But the articles also show how much work has changed over the past 5 decades. They describe a time when office technology was just developing; job growth was spurred by the manufacture of TVs, a relatively new invention; and women’s forays into scientific professions were novel.

## *Employment Outlook for Chemists*

Employment opportunities for women chemists were favorable in 1956. Furthermore, there has been a recent trend for employers to eliminate salary and other employment differences between men and women chemists of comparable education and experience who are doing similar work.

## *Estimates of Worker Trait Requirements for 4,000 Jobs*

Estimates of Worker Trait Requirements for 4,000 Jobs, a recent publication of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Employment Security, presents a new approach to the old counseling and placement problem of relating worker qualifications or characteristics to job requirements. The publication provides estimates of the interests, temperaments, aptitudes, training times, and physical capacities required for a wide variety of specific jobs. These estimated requirements are based on the judgments of experienced technicians in occupational analysis. Definitions in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles served as the basic source of job information for rating purposes.

## *Employment Outlook for Electronics Manufacturing Occupations*

In 1956, the bulk of sales of electronics products to consumers consisted of television and radio sets, and it is likely that they will be the principal consumer products of the industry in the 1960's. However, the increased use of other electronics products already in use and the development of new products will greatly expand the output of consumer electronics items. Some products which are expected to provide substantial future sales for the electronics industry are automobile equipment; cooking equipment; refrigerators; air conditioners and heaters; intercom and high fidelity systems; and lighting.

### *Now Available*

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IN AMERICAN  
INDUSTRY—FINAL REPORT ON A 1953-1954  
SURVEY

Report on the Nation's industrial research and development. Part I, based on a sample of 11,600 companies, contains estimates of research and development costs and personnel. Part II, based on interviews with officials of 200 large corporations, deals with factors influencing the level of company expenditures for research and development.

For sale... Price 70 cents.

## *Employment Outlook for Clerical Occupations*

[I]ndustry has begun to make a determined attack on the problem of clerical costs and is introducing new equipment designed to handle a rising volume of work without a corresponding increase in the number of clerks required. A few large insurance companies, banks, and industrial firms had already installed electronic data processing equipment by 1956 and thereby reduced their need for clerks in many routine operations... However, electronic data-processing machines are expensive and complicated and it will doubtless take a number of years before they are widely used, even in the very large organizations able to buy and effectively use them.

## *The Creative Manpower Shortage*

Summary of an address by Rocco C. Siciliano, Assistant Secretary of Labor, at the 1956 National Convention of the American Statistical Association

When we use terms like "creative manpower" we are trying to emphasize our critical need for better qualified personnel in our labor force. Our emphasis on quality arises from the very heavy

demands made on our economy in this unparalleled period of change. We have, on the one hand, a significant period of technological advance where we are actually crossing new thresholds in the sciences. Accompanying this technological advance is an equally unprecedented period of international stress. To help us move through this great period of change we must have quality, creativeness, and leadership in increasing proportions of our work force.

### *Now Available*

#### REPORTS ON THE OLDER WORKER

These reports cover the results of an extensive program of fact finding and demonstration projects conducted on a coordinated basis by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Employment Security, and the Women's Bureau. They cover the following:

Job Performance and Age: A Study in Measurement... Price 45 cents.

Pension Costs in Relation to the Hiring of Older Workers... Price 25 cents.

Counseling and Placement Services for Older Workers... Price 50 cents.

Older Worker Adjustment to Labor Market Practices: An Analysis of Experience in Seven Major Labor Markets... Price \$1.25.

## *Now Available*

EMPLOYMENT AFTER COLLEGE: REPORT ON  
WOMEN GRADUATES, CLASS OF 1955

Results of a mail questionnaire survey conducted by the Women's Section of the National Vocational Guidance Association and the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor. The survey showed what these women were doing in the winter of 1955-56, how much they were earning, and the relationship between their jobs and their college majors.

For sale... Price 25 cents.

## *Employment Outlook for Registered Professional Nurses*

A shortage of professional nurses, which has existed since the 1940's, was still very much in evidence in 1956 when it was estimated that 70,000 additional nurses were needed. In consequence, practically no age limitations were being placed upon qualified professional nurses seeking to reenter the labor market. Furthermore, a number of hospitals, which were faced with serious shortages of nurses, established child-care centers, organized special transportation facilities, and created part-time jobs to facilitate the reemployment of inactive nurses.

## *What Good is a High School Diploma?*

The contribution of education to the lives of young people cannot be measured in dollars alone. Everyone knows that many intangible values and satisfactions stem from one's increased knowledge and the full development of one's abilities. Nevertheless, the economic values of schooling cannot be ignored by young persons planning their vocational careers... [T]he reader must, of course, remember that persons who stay in school and graduate, on the whole, represent the more able group and that differences in earnings are affected by differences in abilities. However, the fact that a high school education is a requirement for many good jobs warrants serious consideration on the part of students with sufficient abilities to benefit from additional schooling.