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**Nonfarm Employment Off 230,000 In July**  
 Washington—Nonfarm employment declined another 230,000 between mid-June and mid-July while unemployment passed the 4,000,000 mark, according to estimates released by the Bureau of the Census.  
 The recent decline in the number of jobholders, occurring in all industry divisions with the exception of construction, brought the total employment figure down below the level of a year ago for nonagricultural industries.  
 With a rise in unemployment of about 3,000,000 between June and July the total number of jobless men and women was nearly 2,000,000 greater than in July, 1948. While new and continued claims for unemployment benefit payments have declined somewhat, the Census Bureau report said the drop has not been large enough to reveal any significant change in the general unemployment situation.  
 Employment in the construction industry picked up by 70,000 during the month but the total number in the month the total number of workers on the job remained somewhat below the level of a year ago. Another increase was scored by the automobile group which added 20,000 workers to attain near-peak employment.  
 Partly reflecting a seasonal fall, the trade industries reduced their employment by 100,000 in July, substantially more than the June-July decline last year. Trade employment is now more than 290,000 below July, 1948. The mining, transportation, service and government industry divisions also released workers during the month. The summer reduction in school employees was the major reason for the decline in the latter.  
 The largest decrease during the month took place in the manufacturing industries, which dropped another 110,000 employees between June and July. These industries now employ 1,200,000 fewer workers than a year ago, and 1,700,000 less than at the postwar peak in September, 1948. Declines were largely concentrated in the durable goods division, which has been dropping steadily since last fall. July employment in these heavy industries was about 850,000 under the year-ago level.  
 Most of the metal-working industries continued to lay off workers as a result of a lack of orders. The iron and steel group released over 40,000 employees in July, with the machinery industries accounting for a similar number.  
 The soft-goods division indicated a small rise in employment during the month, largely reflecting seasonal gains in the food processing, apparel and leather groups.  
 The textile group declined by another 45,000, as a small pickup in the woolen and worsted industry was more than offset by reductions in cotton, silk and rayon and hosiery mills. There were numerous reports in these industries of extensive payless vacations, temporary plant shut-downs, and lack of orders. New orders for the fall

**32 Jobless Areas On Critical List**  
 Washington—Twenty-two critical employment areas were designated by the Labor Department in addition to the 10 named a month ago.  
 Announcing the action, the department stressed that it did not mean that the employment situation had worsened.  
 A spokesman reported that the new areas mostly were smaller communities which "probably" should have been included on the original list, and that there had been "no critical change" in the first 10 designated areas.  
 The department said that Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor, had extended the list to include small as well as larger areas at the request of the White House. John R. Steelman, Presidential assistant, is in charge of channeling government construction and procurement contracts into areas where unemployment is "critical."  
 The new areas listed by Mr. Tobin had a total of 146,000 jobless workers in July, compared with 210,000 in the first ten. The new areas are:  
 Jasper, Ala.; Ansonia, Bristol, Danielson, Meridan and New Britain, Conn.; Cairo, Crab Orchard, Centralia and Mount Vernon, Ill.; Terre Haute and Vincennes, Ind.; Biddeford, Sanford, Me.; Cumberland, Md.; Lawrence and Fall River, Mass.; Jackson, Port Huron and the Upper Peninsula copper area, Mich.; Manchester, N. H.;

Pottsville, Pa., and Burlington, Vt.  
 Those on the original list were Bridgeport and Waterbury, Conn.; New Bedford and Worcester, Mass.; Muskegon, Mich.; Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Utica-Rome, N. Y.; Providence, R. I., and Knoxville, Tenn.  
 The department pointed out that most of the thirty-two areas now listed as critical were in coal-mining, textile and metal-working centers. Little hope of increased employment was seen for most.

**WRITE FOR THIS RECORD: IT'S WORTH LISTENING TO**  
 Washington, Aug 29.—Phonograph records of a speech by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) on the importance of the 1950 elections are available at Labor's League for Education.  
 The speech — 25 minutes in length—was made July 19 at a meeting of state and local LLPE leaders in Washington. Any union wanting one of the records may obtain it by writing to: Radio Dept., Labor's League for Political Education, 1525 H Street, N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

**AFL ELECTRICAL WORKERS WIN 20-CENT WAGE BOOST**  
 Albany, N. Y.—The wage scale for union electricians in the Albany area has been increased 20 cents an hour. Under a 1-year contract signed by Local 724, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, and the Electrical Contractors Association of Albany, the new rate, retroactive to July 1, is \$2.50 an hour. About 225 electricians are affected.


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