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Volume Title: Postwar Productivity Trends in the United States, 1948-1969

Volume Author/Editor: John W. Kendrick

Volume Publisher: UMI

Volume ISBN: 0-87014-240-2

Volume URL: <http://www.nber.org/books/kend73-1>

Publication Date: 1973

Chapter Title: Front matter, Postwar Productivity Trends in the United States, 1948-1969

Chapter Author: John W. Kendrick

Chapter URL: <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c3570>

Chapter pages in book: (p. -24 - 0)



**Postwar Productivity Trends
in the United States,
1948-1969**

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH
NUMBER 98, GENERAL SERIES

Postwar Productivity Trends in the United States, 1948-1969

by

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The George Washington University

ASSISTED by MAUDE R. PECH



NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH
NEW YORK
1973

Distributed by Columbia University Press
New York and London

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Library of Congress card no. 72-188341

ISBN: 0-87014-240-2

Printed in the United States of America

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*(Resolution adopted October 25, 1926 and revised February 6, 1933,
February 24, 1941, and April 20, 1968)*

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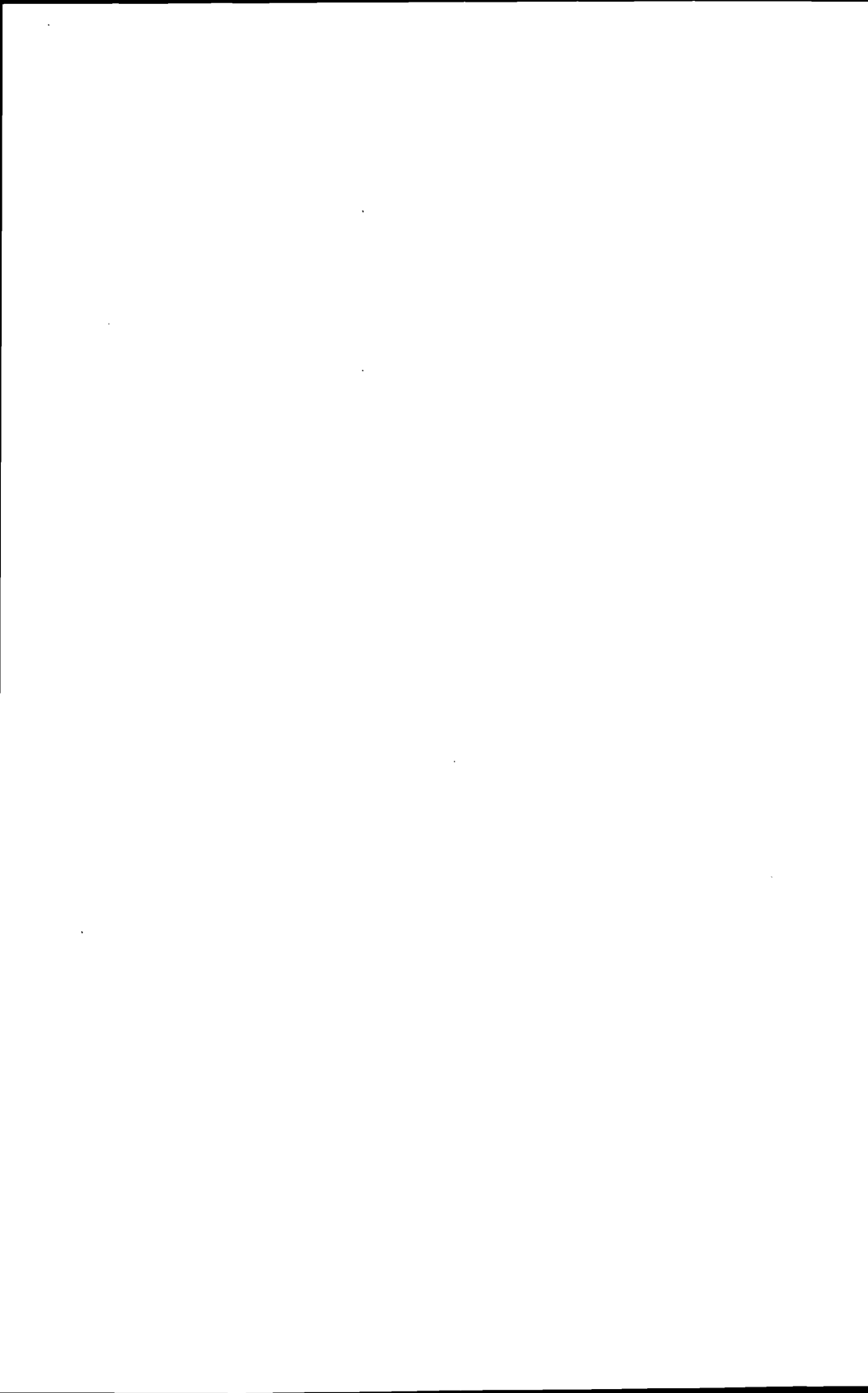
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It was Solomon Fabricant who, while Director of Research, invited me in 1965 to prepare a sequel to my earlier volume, *Productivity Trends in the United States*. Wide use had been made of the output, input, and productivity estimates contained in that monograph, and Fabricant felt the estimates and analysis should be updated and revised as necessary, with special attention paid to the post-World War II period.

I was encouraged to accept this assignment by the fact that Maude R. Pech was once again available to give me major assistance in preparing the estimates. By the time of her retirement in early 1969, Mrs. Pech had completed the extensive computations required to revise and extend the estimates contained in the earlier work, and I had written up the appendix notes on sources and methods. I am happy once again to recognize Mrs. Pech's contribution on the title page of the volume.

During the subsequent year and one-quarter I concentrated on analyzing the economy and industry productivity movements and relationships with associated variables, and on writing up the findings. In the statistical analysis, I was aided by my research assistants at The George Washington University: Yvonne Lethem, Ralph R. Young, and Hiwhoa Moon. At the National Bureau, Elizabeth Simpson Wehle helped in the final stages of manuscript preparation, Irving Forman did the chart work, and Hedy D. Jellinek edited the manuscript.

I was pleased to be able to draw on the analysis of cyclical productivity movements done by Anthony Cluff for a doctoral dissertation prepared under my direction at The George Washington University for a section of Chapter 4; and on estimates of output per man-hour and related variables for 395 manufacturing industries, 1954-63, based on Census Bureau production indexes and related data, prepared by Henry Linsert for a thesis under my

direction, which I used in a section of Chapter 5. I was assisted in the estimates of productivity in the transport sector by Ramon Knauerhase and Raymond Sheppach of the University of Connecticut.

Helpful comments on the preliminary draft of the manuscript were made by the members of the staff reading committee: Solomon Fabricant, Lawrence Miller, and Ishaq Nadiri. Robert Lipsey, Vice President-Research of the National Bureau, within whose province the project fell, was particularly helpful in his comments and suggestions during the latter phases of the study. I am also indebted to the NBER Board of Directors' reading committee, whose members were Otto Eckstein, Nathaniel Goldfinger, and David L. Grove.

This study has been financed from grants to the National Bureau by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Alex C. Walker Educational and Charitable Foundation for studies of productivity, employment, and price levels. We are most grateful for this support.

Our work on this volume has been made easier by the publication since 1962 of estimates by the Office of Business Economics¹ of real product originating in major industry groups of the economy. But government statistical agencies do not yet publish estimates of real capital stocks and inputs, man-hours worked, and partial and total factor productivity for the corresponding industry groupings—although now the Bureau of Labor Statistics does publish annual and quarterly real product-per-man-hour estimates for the private economy by three major sectors.

If complete industry estimates of inputs and productivity, as well as of real product, are eventually published on a regular basis by the federal statistical agencies, the need for yet another sequel to *Productivity Trends* will be obviated. We are glad to work ourselves out of specific jobs, in the best tradition of the National Bureau, by performing developmental work in economic statistics and encouraging governmental agencies to take over and maintain new series which have been proved feasible and useful. Since there is more than enough pioneering work in the realm of economic statistics and analysis remaining to be done, unemployment is but a remote worry for the economic researchers at NBER, and for the profession at large.

John W. Kendrick

¹Under a reorganization effective January 1, 1972, the OBE has been redesignated the Bureau of Economic Analysis in a new Social and Economic Statistics Administration. However, for the sake of continuity, it is referred to as OBE throughout this volume.

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