The mineral extractive industry, aside from oil and natural gas, produced materials valued at nearly 12 million dollars in 1937, mostly in the form of building materials.

The Fishing Industry: Landings of fresh fish in Los Angeles County in 1938 totalled nearly 377 million pounds or about 31% of the total poundage for the state as a whole. Much of this tonnage was absorbed by the local market for home consumption, but a considerable portion was diverted to the fish canning industry, which employed over 3200 workers according to the last census figures.

The Tourist Trade: This intangible factor is assuming a continually increasing importance in the economic life of Los Angeles. Vast throngs of tourists flock to this area each year expending large amounts of money for shelter, goods and services. The ingress of tourists into the area is capable of fairly accurate check as a result of registration of incoming automobiles at the ports of entry into the state, tourist registration (not compulsory but extensively done) at the All Year Club of Southern California, a tourist information bureau, and a reasonably accurate check of hotel registrations made by the same organization. An estimated total of 1,638,834 tourists visited the Los Angeles and Southern California area during 1938, and the number thus far in 1939 is stated to be running well ahead of 1938 because of the Golden Gate Exposition now exhibiting in San Francisco. It will be readily seen that the provision of shelter and services for these throngs of visitors provides employment for thousands in the trade and service classifications.

The great distance of Southern California from the major centers of United States population has proven no undue handicap to tourist traffic. Southern California is situated close to most of the great mountain and scenic attractions of the western United States and its very distance insures a tourist trade with better than average financial means. Intensive advertising of the scenic beauties and vacation advantages of the Southern California area has been a paramount activity of several promotional groups in Los Angeles.

Retired Persons: For years past California has been the haven for those seeking retirement. Its excellent year-round climate and unsurpassed facilities for recreation make the area most appealing to persons with pensions and other types of fixed annual incomes. Another factor which makes the area appealing to persons seeking retirement, particularly those with moderate incomes, is the low living costs which derive from the climatic conditions. There are no heavy winter fuel and clothing costs to contend with. Again, the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys afford opportunity to the low-income retired, to own small acreage plots which may be devoted to citrus growth, poultry farms or year-round truck crops.

In addition to the retired group must be added the semi-retired persons whose income is insufficient to maintain living costs and who must thereby supplement their incomes with full or part time employment. The effect of this group on the Los Angeles labor market is pronounced and will be more fully discussed in connection with employment conditions in Los Angeles. Suffice it to state here, that the numbers of persons in this category are by no means insignificant.

It is to be anticipated that both the retired and semi-retired families will increase in the future for several reasons: the increase throughout the country of persons in the older age groups, the liberal old age pensions paid in California, and the progressive increase in the number of persons benefitting from the operations of the Social Security Act, are three reasons why this increase may be expected. However, as stated on Page 5, this increase in the numbers of immigrant retired persons will probably never attain the volume which characterized the decade 1920-1930 because of depressed economic conditions elsewhere in the country and the intensified efforts of local authorities to discourage indigents from coming to the state.

2. Primary Sources of Employment

The following table lists the gainfully employed persons in Los Angeles County in 1930 by types of industry, and serves as an indication of the importance of these various types of activity to the economic life of Los Angeles.