

**Characteristics of the Civilian Labour Force 1946-67.**—The civilian non-institutional population averaged 13,874,000 in 1967 compared with 8,779,000 in 1946, an increase of 58.0 p.c., and during the same period the labour force increased 59.3 p.c. to 7,694,000. As a result, the proportion of the population 14 years of age or over in the labour force rose from 55.0 p.c. to 55.5 p.c. During the period under review, the Canadian participation rate oscillated between a low of 52.9 p.c. in 1954 and 1955 and a high of 55.5 p.c. in 1967.

An important development in the past two decades has been the steadily declining male participation rate. Such factors as changes in the age composition of the population, an increase in the number of young people deferring their entry into the labour market by remaining in school longer and a greater tendency for workers to retire from the labour force at an earlier age contributed to the drop in the male labour force participation rate from 85.1 p.c. to 77.5 p.c. between 1946 and 1967. These same factors also affected female participation, but to a lesser degree. Of greater significance has been the tendency for women to re-enter or remain in the labour market after marriage. For example, between 1959 and 1967 the labour force participation rate for married women increased from 18.0 p.c. to 28.3 p.c. In 1967, married women constituted 53.3 p.c. of the female labour force and the proportion of women 14 years of age or over in the labour force rose from 23.4 p.c. in 1953 to 33.8 p.c. in 1967. The increased participation of married women was reflected in the participation rates for the groups 25-44 and 45-64 years of age. In the postwar period, the proportion of women 25-44 years of age in the labour force rose from 23.1 p.c. to 35.7 p.c. and those 45-64 years of age from 17.2 p.c. to 35.1 p.c.

Associated with the large entry of women into the labour market has been the increase in job opportunities in the service-producing industries. In 1946, the goods-producing industries and the service-producing industries accounted for about 60 p.c. and 40 p.c., respectively, of total employment; by 1967 these proportions had changed to 41 p.c. and 59 p.c., respectively. There were also significant changes in the distribution of employment within these industry sectors. In 1946, almost one in four employed persons worked in agriculture but by 1967 the ratio had dropped to less than one in 12. Between 1946 and 1967, a slight decline occurred in the proportion of persons employed in manufacturing industries but the relative increase of those employed in trade, finance, insurance and real estate and in service industries was substantial.

Paralleling the shifts in the distribution of employment among industries was a change in the occupational distribution. There was a larger increase in the number of office workers than in the number of craftsmen, production process and related workers in the postwar period, reflecting the changing composition of final output and also the introduction of new methods of production. Table 5 shows that increases occurred in the proportions of persons employed in the managerial, the professional and technical, the clerical, the service and recreational, and the craftsmen, production process and related workers groups in the 1948-67 period. On the other hand, agricultural occupations, in which approximately 22.5 p.c. of all employed persons worked in 1948, accounted for only 7.6 p.c. of employed persons in 1967. Small declines also occurred in the proportions of persons working in the fishing, logging, trapping and mining occupational group and in sales, transportation and communication occupations.

During the 1946-67 period, total employment increased by 58.1 p.c. to 7,379,000; the number of men employed rose by 40.8 p.c. to 5,083,000 and the number of women 117.2 p.c. to 2,296,000. On an annual average basis, unemployment as a percentage of the labour force fluctuated widely during the period, ranging from 2.2 p.c. in 1947 to 7.1 p.c. in 1961; it averaged 4.7 p.c. in 1967. Throughout the period, unemployment rates were substantially lower for women than for men. Persons not in the labour force averaged 6,179,000 in 1967 compared with 3,950,000 in 1946, an increase of 56.4 p.c. Housewives and students together accounted for about 72 p.c. of the 1967 total.