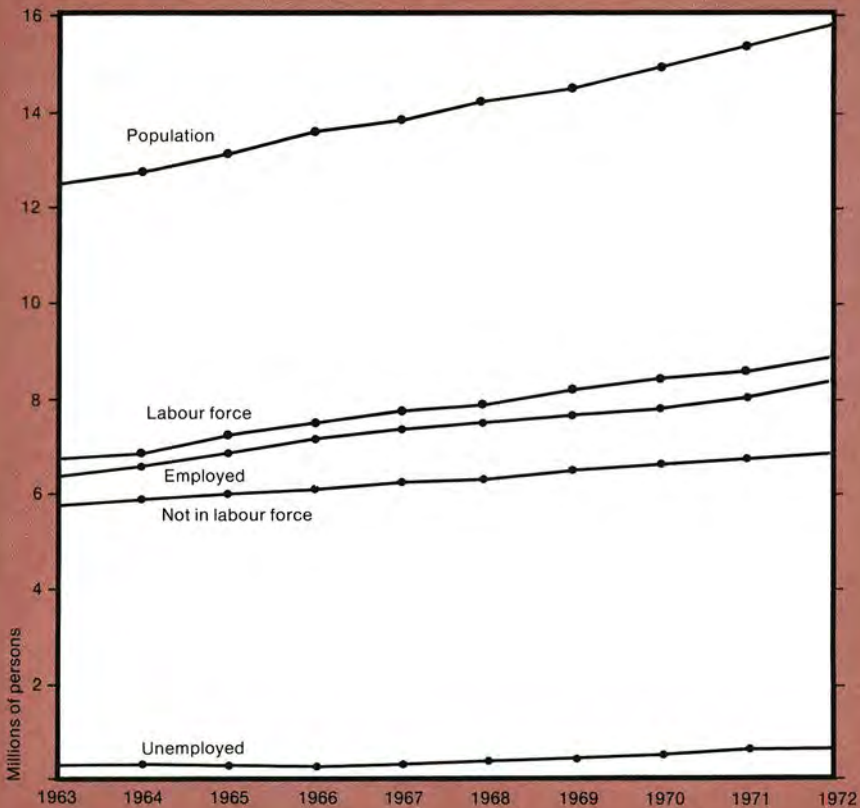


Estimates of the civilian labour force and its main components, 1963-72
(figures not adjusted for seasonality)



voluntarily idle or retired. Housewives, students and others who worked part-time are classified as employed or, if they looked for work, as unemployed.

Because they are based on a sample of households, estimates derived from the labour force survey are subject to sampling error. Somewhat different figures might be obtained if a complete census were taken and this difference is called the sampling error of the estimates. In the design and processing of the survey, extensive efforts are made to minimize the sampling error; in general, the percentage of error tends to decrease as the size of the estimate increases. A statistical measure of the sampling error is given in Statistics Canada monthly publication *The labour force* (Catalogue No. 71-001).

8.2.2 The labour force, 1963-72

As revealed in the accompanying chart and in Table 8.1, the period 1963-72 was one of rapid expansion as the actual labour force increased by 2.1 million persons or 31.8%. The number of women in the labour force increased by 57.9%, an advance that was greater, both absolutely and relatively, than the increase of 21.7% experienced by men. The total participation rate (the labour force as a percentage of the population) reached a record high level in 1972 of 56.5% compared with 53.8% in 1963.

In the decade under review, as in the entire postwar period, the male participation rate has been declining; in 1972 the rate was 76.2% compared with 78.5% in 1963 (as calculated from