



children, number and combinations of income recipients, and labour force participation of wife. While only three summary classifications of family income are presented here relating to age and sex of head, education of head, and income recipients, data on all variables listed above may be found in the annual report *Income distributions by size in Canada*, Catalogue No. 13-207.

Incomes by age and sex of family head. Average incomes in 1971 of the estimated 4.7 million families in Canada with male heads were almost twice that of the roughly 400,000 families with female heads. Table 6.6 shows that family incomes averaged \$10,727 for families with male heads as compared to \$5,901 for those with female heads. This difference was most pronounced at the younger age levels and it gradually lessened with advancing age to the point where incomes of families with female heads 65 years of age and over averaged higher than those headed by males in the same age bracket.

Incomes of families with male heads increased at each successive age group to reach a peak at the 45-54 age range and then fell sharply at the 65-and-over age levels. From an average of \$8,248 for families with male heads under 25, family incomes rose to an average \$12,361 for those with heads 45 to 54 and dropped back to \$5,808 for those 70 years and over. Families with female heads showed a rise from \$3,668 in the under-35 range to \$6,660 for the 45-54 group but then peaked at a much higher age level averaging \$7,445 for families whose female heads were 65 years of age and over.

Incomes by education of family head. Education of the family head is another factor which exerts a marked influence on family income. For example, Table 6.7 shows that the average family income in 1971 of families whose heads had a university degree was nearly two and a half times that of families whose heads had received elementary schooling or less. The differences in income distributions underlying these averages are such that 80% of families whose heads had a degree showed incomes in 1971 of \$10,000 or more, and 18% attained \$25,000 or more. This compares with fewer than 30% reaching the \$10,000 mark and fewer than 1% the \$25,000 level for families whose heads had no more than elementary education.