

The accelerated entry of women into the labour force has more than compensated for the decline in male labour force participation; in 1974 the rate was 39.7% compared with 31.3% in 1965 (see Table 8.2). The participation rate of women increased over the period in all age groups except for those 65 years and over. This increase was the result of changes in the rate of both major age groups. The participation rate for females 14-24 increased from 39.0% in 1965 to 48.1% in 1974 and that for women 25 years and over from 28.6% in 1965 to 36.5% in 1974.

The total number of persons employed in Canada rose by 27.8%, from 7.2 million in 1966 to 9.1 million in 1974 (Table 8.1). Although employment increased in all provinces (Table 8.3), the percentage increases varied markedly — from 9.0% (29,000) in Saskatchewan to 46.9% (318,000) in British Columbia. The increases in the other provinces were 28,000 (22.0%) in Newfoundland, 7,000 (20.6%) in Prince Edward Island, 43,000 (18.3%) in Nova Scotia, 37,000 (19.5%) in New Brunswick, 411,000 (20.4%) in Quebec, 868,000 (32.7%) in Ontario, 63,000 (18.1%) in Manitoba and 181,000 (32.9%) in Alberta.

Table 8.4 illustrates the changes over the decade in the distribution of actual employment by industry. The proportion of persons employed in the service-producing industries continued to increase; the proportion in the goods-producing industries indicated a corresponding decline. Transportation, trade, finance and services accounted for 63.5% of total employment in 1974 compared with 57.4% in 1965. Conversely, the goods-producing industries, comprising agriculture, primary industries, manufacturing and construction, dropped from 42.6% of total employment in 1965 to 36.5% in 1974. The most significant changes occurred in services and in agriculture. The share of total employment increased from 27.6% to 32.8% in services and decreased from 8.7% to 5.2% in agriculture. By occupation (Table 8.5), the largest group of employed was the clerical at 1.5 million (16.8%), followed by the service group at 1.1 million (12.1%). The smallest occupational group among the employed was the fishing, hunting and trapping group with 25,000 persons (0.3%).

On the average in 1974, over 87% of the employed were full-time workers (people usually working 35 hours or more a week). Men working full-time represented nearly 61% of total employment while women represented nearly 26%. The number of women in part-time employment represented 9% of total employment. Men working part-time however, accounted for only 4% of total employment.

Unemployment as a percentage of the labour force averaged between 3.6% in 1966 and 6.4% in 1971; it averaged 5.4% in 1974. The rates for males and females in all age groups showed increases between 1965 and 1974 (see Table 8.2). Persons not in the labour force averaged 6.9 million in 1974 compared with 6.0 million in 1965, an increase of 15.3%.

8.2.2 Labour force (1971 Census)

At each decennial census of Canada, questions are asked of persons 15 years of age and over relating to their employment status and present work activities. The census questions have the advantage that they can provide far more detailed information on the occupational and industrial structure as well as other characteristics of the labour force than the regular monthly surveys in terms of both geographical areas and classifications. A few short summary tabulations from the most recent 1971 Census are presented in Tables 8.6 - 8.12. Further information is available in the many census reports issued on these and other aspects of Canada's labour force (see 1971 Census, Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 94-701 to 94-789).

Because of differences in coverage, methodology, reference period, etc., data from the census are in some ways not comparable with those collected by the monthly labour force survey. Of particular importance among these differences are those of coverage and actual questions asked, even though the fundamental concepts are the same. As stated in the preceding section, the small labour force survey sample (about 30,000 households) includes persons 14 years and over but excludes the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, Indian reserves, members of the Armed Forces, overseas households and inmates of institutions. The 1971 Census questions were asked of all persons 15 years and over in a 33½% sample of households (about 2 million households) except that inmates of institutions were automatically classified as not in the labour force.

Foreign-born persons in the labour force. The labour force at the June 1, 1971 Census included all persons 15 years and over who, during the week preceding the enumeration,