

In 1976, substantial revisions went into effect in the Labour Force Survey, conducted monthly by Statistics Canada in order to indicate trends in the employment, unemployment and non-labour force situation in Canada. A general description of these changes, as well as data and summary statistics collected in both the Labour Force Survey and the decennial census are included in this chapter. There is also a review of the federal government departments concerned with employment regulations, programs and services, and such related subjects as labour legislation, compensation, pension plans, labour unions, wages and collective agreements.

In 1975 there were approximately 10,060,000 people in the civilian labour force in Canada, according to the Labour Force Survey Division (Table 8.1). Of that number, an estimated 9,363,000 persons were employed; 697,000 or 6.9% were unemployed. The proportion of the female population in the labour force increased from 38.3% in 1970 to 44.2% in 1975 (Table 8.2). It was anticipated that International Women's Year, observed in 1975, would result in a greater representation of women in the labour force in the remainder of the decade. Of approximately 7,162,000 males over 15 years of age in the population in 1970, 77.8% were in the labour force; in 1975 the participation rate was 78.4% of 8,111,000.

The government in relation to labour

8.1

Labour Canada

8.1.1

The Canada Department of Labour, now known as Labour Canada in accordance with the Federal Identity Program, was established by the Department of Labour Act (RSC 1970, c.L-2). Under this act, the Minister of Labour's responsibilities include: collecting, digesting and publishing in suitable form statistical and other information relating to the conditions of labour; instituting and conducting inquiries into important industrial questions upon which adequate information may not at present be available; issuing at least once a month *The Labour Gazette* and *La Gazette du Travail* which contain information regarding conditions of the labour market and kindred subjects.

The Minister of Labour is responsible for the Canada Labour Code, which has been in effect since July 1971 and consists of the following parts: Part I — Fair Employment Practices; Part III — Labour Standards; Part IV — Safety of Employees; and Part V — Industrial Relations. The Minister of Labour is responsible also for the administration of the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, the Government Employees Compensation Act, and the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act. The Minister of Labour reports to Parliament on behalf of the Canada Labour Relations Board and the Merchant Seamen Compensation Board.

The industrial relations legislation now administered by Labour Canada applies to employers, employees and trade unions within federal jurisdiction. The department is responsible for conciliation procedures in industrial disputes, investigating complaints of unfair labour practices, refusals to bargain and violations of legislation; processing union applications for certification and decertification and conducting representation votes. It determines wage rates and hours of work as far as federal government contracts for construction or supplies are concerned, and promotes improved industrial relations through joint union-management consultation and by preventive mediation through industrial relations consultants. The department is responsible also for administering assistance granted under the Automotive Manufacturing Assistance Regulations