

to start in four weeks or less and were available for work. Persons not in the labour force are those defined as neither employed nor unemployed.

Because they are based on a sample of households, estimates derived from the survey are subject to sampling error. Extensive efforts are made to minimize the sampling error and in general the error, expressed as a percentage of the estimate, tends to decrease as the size of the estimate increases.

Revisions in the survey included introduction of an entirely new and expanded questionnaire, adjustment of some definitions, revision of the sample frame, change of population totals used to weight the sample and adoption of new methods of transmitting and processing the survey information. This revised survey was run in parallel with the former survey throughout 1975 and, as expected, some estimates from the two surveys differed significantly. By using relationships in estimates from the two surveys for 1975, estimates from the former survey have been revised for the period 1966 to 1974, allowing production of a consistent time series from 1966 to the present, except for the industry and paid worker series which were revised only to 1970.

In the period 1967-76, the Canadian labour force increased by 2.6 million persons or 33.1%. There was an increase of 55% in the number of women in the labour force and an increase in the number of men of only 23%. These increases resulted from an increase in the participation rate (the labour force as a percentage of the corresponding population aged 15 and over) for women from 36.5% in 1967 to 45.0% in 1976, and a small decrease for men from 79.3% to 77.7%.

The increase in the participation rate of young males, age 15-24, from 64.2% to 68.2% more than offset the slight decline for older males, 25 and over, from 84.5% to 81.2%. In the case of women, both age groups increased their participation although the rise was more pronounced among those aged 15-24.

The total number of persons employed in Canada rose by 2.1 million or 28.5% over the 1967-76 period. Although employment rose in all provinces the increases were not uniform, ranging from 17.3% in Saskatchewan to 44.2% in British Columbia. Other increases were 25.4% in Newfoundland, 25.7% in Prince Edward Island, 20.4% in Nova Scotia, 24.1% in New Brunswick, 18.9% in Quebec, 31.8% in Ontario, 20.9% in Manitoba and 44.0% in Alberta.

Unemployment as a percentage of the labour force varied from 3.8% in 1967 to 7.1% in 1976 with an average over the entire 1967-76 period of 5.7%. Throughout those years women had higher unemployment rates than men and persons aged 15-24 had considerably higher rates than persons 25 and over.

Labour force (1971 Census)

8.2.2

At each decennial census questions are asked of persons 15 and over relating to employment status and present work activities. These questions have the advantage of securing far more detailed information on the occupational and industrial structure and other characteristics of the labour force than the monthly surveys in terms of both geographical areas and classifications. Summary tabulations from the 1971 Census are presented in Tables 8.6-8.10. Further information is available in many census reports on these and other aspects of the labour force (see 1971 Census Publications, Statistics Canada Catalogue 94-701 to 94-789).

Because of differences in coverage, methodology and reference period, census information in some ways is not comparable with that collected by the monthly survey. Of particular importance among the differences are those of coverage and questions asked, even though the fundamental concepts are the same. As stated the smaller labour force survey sample included persons 15 and over but excluded the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, Indian reserves, members of the armed forces, overseas households and inmates of institutions. But the 1971 Census questions were asked of all persons 15 and over in a 33⅓% sample of households (about 2 million).

Foreign-born persons in the labour force. Results from the 1971 Census indicate that immigrants constituted 20% of the labour force. Table 8.6 presents data on persons in the total labour force by country of origin and region of Canadian residence in 1971. According to these figures, more than four-fifths of immigrants in the labour force came