

Until 1977 the sample size had been fixed at approximately 30,000 households. Estimates of employment, unemployment and non-labour force activity generated from the survey refer to a specific week each month, normally the week containing the 15th day. The labour force is composed of members of the civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during reference week, were employed or unemployed.

The definition of employed includes all persons who, in reference week, did any work for pay or profit, either paid work in an employer-employee relationship or self-employment. Also included is unpaid family work contributing to the operation of a farm, business or professional practice owned or operated by a related member of the household. It also includes persons who had jobs but were not at work due to illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, bad weather, labour disputes or other reason.

The unemployed are those who, in reference week, were without work, had actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; had not actively looked for work in the past four weeks but had been on layoff, with expectation of returning to work, for 26 weeks or less and were available for work; or had a new job 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 1969-78, the Canadian labour force, including both employed and unemployed, increased by 2.7 million persons or 32.8%. 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 22%. 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 38.0% in 1969 to 47.8% in 1978, and a small decrease for men from 78.3% to 77.9%.

The increase in the participation rate of young males, age 15-24, from 62.7% to 69.7% more than offset the slight decline for older males, 25 and over, from 83.8% to 81.0%. 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 27.3% over the 1969-78 period. Although employment rose in all provinces the increases were not uniform, ranging from 18.0% in Saskatchewan to 47.3% in Alberta. Other increases were 30.7% in Newfoundland, 25.0% in Prince Edward Island, 20.5% in Nova Scotia, 25.3% in New Brunswick, 18.5% in Quebec, 29.1% in Ontario, 18.6% in Manitoba and 38.7% in British Columbia.

Unemployment as a percentage of the labour force varied from 4.4% in 1969 to 8.4% in 1978 with an average over the entire 1969-78 period of 6.5%. Throughout those years women had higher unemployment rates than men and persons aged 15-24 had considerably higher rates than persons 25 and over.

#### 7.4.2 Labour force census data

In 1976, for the first time in a national quinquennial census, questions were asked of persons 15 and over relating to labour force activity. In the decennial census, information on labour characteristics, such as occupation and industry, is also collected.