

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, 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.

In the period 1979-83, the Canadian labour force, including both employed and unemployed, increased by 952,000 persons or 8.5%. There was an increase of 15.0% in the number of women in the labour force and an increase in the number of men of only 4.2%. These changes 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 49.0% in 1979 to 52.7% in 1983, and a small decrease for men from 78.5% to 76.7%.

Participation rates decreased for both young males, age 15-24, from 71.3% to 69.2% and for older males, 25 and over, from 81.0% to 79.1%. Women in both age groups increased their participation. The rate for women age 15-24 rose from 61.0% in 1979 to 62.8% in 1983 and for women 25 and over from 45.0% to 49.6%.

The total number of persons employed in Canada rose by 339,000 or 3.3% over the 1979-83 period. Although employment rose in most provinces the increases were not uniform, ranging from 0.9% in Quebec to 10.7% in Alberta. Other increases were 6.1% in Saskatchewan, 4.6% in British Columbia, 4.3% in Prince Edward Island, 2.9% in Nova Scotia, 2.6% in Ontario, 2.4% in Newfoundland, 2.2% in Manitoba and 1.6% in New Brunswick.

Unemployment as a percentage of the labour force varied from 7.4% in 1979 to 11.9% in 1983 with an average over the entire 1979-83 period of 9.1%. Persons aged 15-24 had considerably higher rates (15.6%) than persons 25 and over (6.9%). Although women usually had higher unemployment rates than men during this period, this trend was reversed in 1983.

5.5.2 Labour force census data

In the 1981 Census questions were asked of persons 15 and over relating to labour force activity. Information on labour characteristics, such as occupation and industry, was also collected. The census provides this type of information once every five years in detailed terms of geographical areas, classifications and cross-classifications.

Because of differences in coverage, methodology and reference period, census information in some ways is not comparable with that collected by the monthly labour force survey even though the fundamental concepts are the same. The smaller labour force survey sample includes persons 15 and over but excludes Yukon and Northwest Territories, Indian reserves, members of the armed forces, overseas households and inmates of institutions. The 1981 Census questions were asked of all persons 15

and over, excluding inmates of institutions, in a 20% sample of households.

Labour force data from the 1981 Census show that the participation rate was 64.8% in the week preceding the census taken June 3, 1981. Rates were higher than the national average in Yukon (76.3%), Alberta (71.7%), Ontario (67.1%) and British Columbia (65.4%). Newfoundland had the lowest participation rate, 57.1%. More than 60% of the labour force is concentrated in Ontario and Quebec.

Women in the labour force. The upward trend in labour force participation by women persisted and even accelerated from 39.9% in 1971 to 44.8% in 1976 and 52.1% in 1981. The highest rates were in Yukon (67.3%) and Alberta (58.2%), and the lowest were in Newfoundland (42.4%) and Nova Scotia (43.3%). Higher participation rates were recorded for divorced, single and married women. The rate had decreased only for widows since 1971.

Labour force by occupation. Canada's experienced labour force grew by 39.2% over the 1971-81 period. The occupational composition reflects a marked shift toward greater specialization in the administrative and scientific areas. Four major occupational groups made rapid gains: social sciences and related fields (138%), managerial and administrative occupations (118%), artistic, literary, recreational and related occupations (105%) and the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics (72%).

In contrast, other occupations either declined or increased only slightly since 1971, such as farming, forestry and logging, mining and quarrying including oil and gas field occupations, machining and related occupations, and materials handling and related occupations. Clerical, sales and service occupations posted growth rates similar to that of the labour force as a whole and remained the largest occupational groups numerically.

Labour force by industry. Between 1971 and 1981 the finance, insurance and real estate sector experienced the most striking growth in labour force (73.5%). The largest numerical increase was in community, business and personal services, with 1.4 million (40.2%) of the 3.4 million gain in persons in the labour force.

5.6 Employment statistics

5.6.1 Employment, earnings and hours

Monthly surveys of employment conducted by Statistics Canada collect employment, payroll and person-hours information. In April 1983, four of the agency's employment surveys were combined into one, a new Statistics Canada survey of employment, payrolls and hours (SEPH), reducing the response burden and streamlining the processing of data.

Tables up to and including 1982 data in this edition of the *Canada Year Book* are based on the former surveys. Average weekly earnings, average