

sectors, transportation, communications and utilities, still remained below its 1981 peak. This increase in service sector employment has resulted in strong growth in part-time employment; its share of total employment reached 15.2% in 1987 compared to 13.5% in 1981. Increases in employment for women accounted for nearly 59% of the overall gains during the recovery period. Across the provinces, the recovery has been stronger in Central Canada, with gains of 14.8% and 15.7% in Quebec and Ontario, respectively. The Atlantic provinces averaged employment growth of 12.3%. Although Newfoundland had a modest 6.9%, Prince Edward Island reached 17.8%, the strongest employment growth for the five-year period. The weakest growth during the period since 1982 occurred in Alberta (1.7%), which did not reach its minimum employment level until 1984; recent recovery has been affected by low world prices for crude petroleum.

Unemployment as a percentage of the labour force reached a peak of 11.9% in 1983. It declined to an average of 8.9% by 1987, still above the rate of 7.5% which was recorded in 1981. The rate for youth aged 15 to 24 stood at 13.7% in 1987, down from the recessionary peak of 19.9%; it was 7.6% for persons aged 25 and over, down from 9.4% in 1983. The unemployment level in 1987 stood at 1,167,000, which was 269,000 above the number of persons without jobs recorded in 1981 but down 281,000 from the peak in 1983.

5.5.2 Other labour market highlights

Statistics Canada regularly adds a series of supplementary questions to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Although these supplementary surveys cover a wide range of topics, many ask labour-market-related questions, which subsequently provide data dealing with the patterns and characteristics of the labour market. This information can then be analyzed in conjunction with LFS data. The following are highlights from several LFS supplementary surveys:

Labour market activity survey. In 1986, 70% of Canadian women aged 16 to 69 were in the labour force at some time during the year compared with 90% of their male counterparts.

Survey of job opportunities. In March 1986, an estimated 71,000 persons wanted a job but did not seek work because they believed no work was available.

Survey of displaced workers. Between 1981 and 1984, approximately one million workers lost full-time jobs and were not recalled. Over one-third cited plant closure or relocation as the reason for job loss.

Survey of the self-employed. In November 1986, employers and their paid employees accounted for 37% of total employment.

Survey of volunteer activity. Between November 1986 and October 1987, over one in four adult Canadians volunteered their time or skills to groups and organizations across the country.

Absence from work survey. In 1986, nearly one million people were absent from their jobs for at least two consecutive weeks because of illness, accident or pregnancy. More than four out of five of these absent workers received some form of compensation.

5.5.3 Labour force Census data

The Census collects Canadian labour market information once every five years. It is one of Canada's richest data sources and the only survey which provides detailed information on small geographic areas. Census data can be analyzed according to a wide range of socio-cultural and demographic characteristics. For example, the Census provides data on employment by industry and occupation for women, youth or ethnic groups.

The broad range of information available includes some combinations of data that are not readily found in any other single data base. Included in this category are the labour data by presence of children in the home, work activity data in which weeks of employment are classified as either full- or part-time, and employment income by detailed industry and occupation.

Although the type of labour market data collected by the Census may vary slightly from one Census year to the next, there is a great deal of emphasis placed on historical comparability of data in regard to both the labour force concepts and classification systems used. For this reason, Census industry and occupation data can be compared from as far back as the 1961 Census to the most recent Census, 1986.

The 1986 Census was the first mid-decade Census to include labour questions relating to industry and occupation. This was prompted by rapid labour market changes in the Canadian economy and the need to identify these economic trends, as well as provide a "snapshot" of the economy. An increasing reliance on Census data by economists and other labour market analysts has been evident.

Labour force by occupation. Based on 1986 Census data, Canada's experienced labour force grew by 7.3% over the 1981-86 period. The occupational composition reflected a marked shift toward greater specialization in the managerial and scientific areas. Four major occupational