canadian labour force survey

LABOUR FORCE QUALITY REPORT

April, 1973

Labour Force Survey Division
Field Division
Household Surveys Development
Staff

STATISTICS CANADA
Document for Restricted Circulation

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HIGHLIGHTS

A. COMPARISON OF SERIES

1. U.I.C. Claimants and LFS Unemployed:

In February 1973 the LFS Unemployed at 655,000 showed a decline of 33,000 from January, while the UIC Claimants at 1,055,000 in February showed little change (- 1,000) from January. See Summary Table on page 5 and Graph 1(1).

The comparison of both levels shows that the ratio of the UIC Claimants to the LFS Unemployed was at a high of 1.61 in February 1973 as compared to 1.53 in January. See table on page 6.

It is difficult to draw any conclusion when comparing the LFS and UIC data as conceptual differences render invalid direct comparisons. Attached as Appendix 3 of this report is an article entitled: "Comparing Unemployment Statistics Data from the Unemployment Insurance Commission" which appeared in the March issue of the Canadian Statistical Review.

2. Canadian and American Unemployment Rates:

(a) Actual: The Canadian unemployment rate at 6.8% in March 1973 showed a decline of 0.6 from last March, while the American rate at 5.2% showed a decline of 0.9 from a year ago.

(b) Seasonally adjusted: The Canadian unemployment rate at 5.5% in March 1973 showed a decline (-0.4) from February -- the third successive decline since last December. (The rate in December was 6.7%.) The American rate at 5.0% in March showed little change (-0.1) from February; the rate has oscillated between 5.0 and 5.1 since last December.

In March, the gap (0.5) between the two seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates is close to what it was last May (0.4) after being at higher levels (0.8 to 1.6) between June and February.

See Summary Table on page 5 and Graph 1(2).

B. SLIPPAGE

The estimated slippage rate at the Canada level has decreased slightly from 4.8% in February to 4.7% in March. See graphs on pages G-2 and G-3.

1 - By Province: All provinces exhibited positive slippage rates in March. From February to March, decreases in slippage rates were noted in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Newfoundland, Ontario and Alberta, on the other hand, showed increases in slippage during this same period. The largest increase in slippage occurred in Alberta where the slippage rate increased from 2.1% in February to 3.5% in March.

Newfoundland continues to exhibit the highest slippage rate. In fact, for this province, the estimate derived from the March Labour Force Survey sample represented only 89.7% (that is, a slippage rate of 10.3%) of the population estimate as projected from the 1961 Census.

2 - By Age at the Canada Level: All age groups exhibited positive slippage rates in March. From February to March, decreases in slippage rates were noted in all age groups except 25-44 where it increased from 3.0% in February to 3.8% in March.

The 20-24 age group, however, continues to show the highest slippage rate. In fact, for this age group, the estimate derived from the March Labour Force Survey sample represented only 88.1% (that is, a slipppage rate of 11.9%) of the population estimate as projected from the 1961 Census.

C. NON-RESPONSE

At the Canada level, the overall non-response rate declined from 7.2% in February to 6.8% in March. Slight decreases occurred in the T.A. and N1 components while the "refusal" rate (N2) and "other" remained constant.

All regional offices except Toronto and Vancouver indicated lower non-response rates in March than in February.

Compared with the March 1972 non-response, March 1973 shows a significant improvement. The March 1973 rates are lower in all components except "refusal".

For further information concerning the non-response rates, see Appendix 2.

D. REJECTED DOCUMENTS

The March survey reject rate for Labour Force documents was 12.7% up 4.0% from the February rate of 8.7. All regions registered increases in their overall reject rate. The Montreal Region had the lowest rate (9.0%) while the Toronto Region had the highest (15.8%).

The 4.0% increase in the overall reject rate resulted from:

(1) An increase of 6.4% to 7.4% in the reject rate for regular Labour Force questions with edits for inconsistent entries accounting for most of this increase.

(2) An increase of 2.3% to 5.3% in the reject rate pertaining to the 7 supplementary questions. There were a total of 3,941 documents rejected by supplementary question edits, with 1,695 or 43% resulting from no entry for 4 questions that required entries. The remainder, (57%) were rejected, because of inconsistent entries in the other three supplementary questions.

It is noted that the increase in the rejects due to supplementary questions show up in all 8 regions. From this, one could conclude that the interviewer instruction manual for the supplementary survey was less than adequate, or the seven supplementary questions were so congested on the enumeration document that the interviewer had difficulty in reading them which contributed to the poor result.

E. ENUMERATION COST

At the Canada level, the enumeration cost per household declined 1 cent from $2.18 in February to $2.17 in March.

Four regions registered increases ranging from 1 to 5 cents per household, 3 regions had decreases from 1 to 4 cents and the Edmonton region came up with a 12 cent decrease.

It should be noted that most of the decrease in the Edmonton region came as a result of substantial decreases in the cost of the enumeration for the city of Edmonton. This is the result of expanding the Telephone Experiment in the Edmonton metro area to include all the assignments.

Summary Table

		MONTHLY ESTIMATES AND RATES							MONTH-TO-MONTH CHANGE				YEAR-TO-YEAR CHANGE	
		1973			1972									
		Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	Mar.	Feb.	Feb. 1973 to Mar. 1973	Jan. 1973 to Feb. 1973	Dec. 1972 to Jan. 1973	Nov. 1972 to Dec. 1972	Mar. 1972 to Mar. 1973	Feb. 1972 to Feb. 1973
Comparison of Series														
LFS Unemployed	000's	608	655	688	584	524	642	627	− 47	− 33	+ 104	+ 60	− 34	+ 28
UIC Claimants	000's		1,055	1,056	903	765		912		− 1	+ 153	+ 138		+ 143
Unemployment Rates - Canadian	%	6.8	7.3	7.7	6.5	5.9	7.4	7.3	− 0.5	− 0.4	+ 1.2	+ 0.6	− 0.6	—
(Actual - American	%	5.2	5.6	5.5	4.7	4.9	6.1	6.4	− 0.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.8	− 0.2	− 0.9	− 0.8
Unemployment Rates - Canadian	%	5.5	5.9	6.2	6.7	6.6	6.1	5.9	− 0.4	− 0.3	− 0.5	+ 0.1	− 0.6	—
(Seasonally-adjusted)- American	%	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.9	5.8	− 0.1	+ 0.1	− 0.1	− 0.1	− 0.9	− 0.7
Slippage														
Canada - Total	%	4.7	4.8	4.2	4.5	4.6	3.7	3.7	− 0.1	+ 0.6	− 0.3	− 0.1	+ 1.0	+ 1.1
14-19 years	%	2.4	2.8	0.8	2.1	3.3	− 1.2	− 0.6	− 0.4	+ 2.0	− 1.3	− 1.2	+ 3.6	+ 3.4
20-24 years	%	11.9	12.3	12.2	14.0	14.3	10.8	12.4	− 0.4	+ 0.1	− 1.8	− 0.3	+ 1.1	− 0.1
25-44 years	%	3.8	3.0	3.8	4.2	4.1	2.7	2.1	+ 0.8	− 0.8	− 0.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.1	+ 0.9
45-64 years	%	4.5	5.2	4.2	3.4	3.1	3.9	3.7	− 0.7	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.5
65 and over	%	3.0	4.3	1.4	0.4	− 0.1	5.7	5.0	− 1.3	+ 2.9	+ 1.0	+ 0.5	− 2.7	− 0.7
Newfoundland	%	10.3	10.1	9.4	8.1	8.0	4.1	4.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.3	+ 0.1	+ 6.2	+ 5.7
Prince Edward Island	%	3.3	6.4	6.8	4.5	4.6	9.0	9.8	− 3.1	− 0.4	+ 2.3	− 0.1	− 5.7	− 3.4
Nova Scotia	%	6.2	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.1	3.5	4.8	− 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 2.7	+ 1.6
New Brunswick	%	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.8	7.0	5.3	5.4	− 0.4	—	− 0.5	− 0.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.9
Quebec	%	3.6	3.9	3.4	3.6	4.0	3.3	3.4	− 0.3	+ 0.5	− 0.2	− 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Ontario	%	5.3	5.2	4.5	5.0	5.2	3.9	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	− 0.5	− 0.2	+ 1.4	+ 1.5
Manitoba	%	3.7	4.9	3.3	2.6	0.4	1.2	1.5	− 1.2	+ 1.6	+ 0.7	+ 2.2	+ 2.5	+ 3.4
Saskatchewan	%	2.9	3.8	3.0	2.1	3.3	− 0.2	− 1.3	− 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	− 1.2	+ 3.1	+ 5.1
Alberta	%	3.5	2.1	1.4	2.2	1.4	2.8	2.9	+ 1.4	+ 0.7	− 0.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.7	− 0.8
British Columbia	%	4.9	6.1	5.4	6.4	6.8	6.6	6.2	− 1.2	+ 0.7	− 1.0	− 0.4	− 1.7	− 0.1
Non-response(1)														
Canada	%	6.8	7.2	7.3	6.3	5.2	9.8	9.2	− 0.4	− 0.1	+ 1.0	+ 1.1	− 3.0	− 2.0
St. John's	%	3.2	3.5	3.1	2.7	3.9	6.9	6.8	− 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	− 1.2	− 3.7	− 3.3
Halifax	%	6.3	7.0	6.4	7.1	5.7	11.5	9.6	− 0.7	+ 0.6	− 0.7	+ 1.4	− 5.2	− 2.6
Montreal	%	6.8	7.2	8.2	6.5	5.6	8.2	7.8	− 0.4	− 1.0	+ 1.7	+ 0.9	− 1.4	− 0.6
Ottawa	%	5.2	6.6	8.2	5.6	3.8	9.8	8.2	− 1.4	− 1.6	+ 2.6	+ 1.8	− 4.6	− 1.6
Toronto	%	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.5	4.3	13.0	12.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	− 0.2	+ 2.2	− 6.0	− 5.6
Winnipeg	%	2.8	2.9	2.4	1.6	2.1	6.0	5.6	− 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	− 0.5	− 3.2	− 2.7
Edmonton	%	9.1	11.0	9.4	7.5	6.5	8.3	10.6	− 1.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.9	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	+ 0.4
Vancouver	%	10.5	10.2	11.9	9.2	7.5	9.9	9.0	+ 0.3	− 1.7	+ 2.7	+ 1.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.2
Rejected Documents(1)														
Canada	%	12.7	8.7	9.3	8.5	12.8	11.4	11.7	+ 4.0	− 0.6	+ 0.8	− 4.3	+ 1.3	− 3.0
St. John's	%	10.3	7.8	7.1	7.9	15.1	12.0	9.7	+ 2.5	+ 0.7	− 0.8	− 7.2	− 1.7	− 1.9
Halifax	%	13.6	8.0	10.0	9.6	12.7	13.2	9.5	+ 5.6	− 2.0	+ 0.4	− 3.1	+ 0.4	− 1.5
Montreal	%	9.0	6.5	8.6	7.7	11.8	10.9	11.5	+ 2.5	− 2.1	+ 0.9	− 4.1	− 1.9	− 5.0
Ottawa	%	15.2	8.0	9.0	5.8	10.9	15.1	12.3	+ 7.2	− 1.0	+ 3.2	− 5.1	+ 0.1	− 4.3
Toronto	%	15.8	10.3	11.2	10.3	16.5	13.2	14.9	+ 5.5	− 0.9	+ 0.9	− 6.2	+ 2.6	− 4.6
Winnipeg	%	10.1	7.7	6.0	6.6	7.4	9.2	9.5	+ 2.4	+ 1.7	− 0.6	− 0.8	+ 0.9	− 1.8
Edmonton	%	11.9	10.0	9.4	8.3	11.7	8.4	11.1	+ 1.9	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	− 3.4	+ 3.5	− 1.1
Vancouver	%	14.7	11.6	10.1	8.9	13.2	8.8	13.6	+ 3.1	+ 1.5	+ 1.2	− 4.3	+ 5.9	− 2.0
Enumeration Cost per Household (1)														
Canada - Total	$	2.17	2.18	2.20	2.20	2.15	1.92	1.94	− 0.01	− 0.02	—	+ 0.05	+ 0.25	+ 0.24
S.R.U.	$	2.04	2.06	2.14	2.10	2.04	1.81	1.86	− 0.02	− 0.08	+ 0.04	+ 0.06	+ 0.23	+ 0.20
N.S.R.U.	$	2.31	2.33	2.29	2.32	2.29	2.06	2.03	− 0.02	+ 0.04	− 0.03	+ 0.03	+ 0.25	+ 0.30
St. John's - Total	$	2.52	2.47	2.35	2.42	2.42	2.14	1.96	+ 0.05	+ 0.12	− 0.07	—	+ 0.38	+ 0.51
S.R.U.	$	2.18	2.13	2.14	2.12	1.98	1.97	1.91	+ 0.05	− 0.01	+ 0.02	+ 0.14	+ 0.21	+ 0.22
N.S.R.U.	$	2.64	2.59	2.43	2.54	2.58	2.20	1.97	+ 0.05	+ 0.16	− 0.11	− 0.04	+ 0.44	+ 0.62
Halifax - Total	$	1.95	1.92	1.90	1.86	1.80	1.57	1.58	+ 0.03	+ 0.02	+ 0.04	+ 0.06	+ 0.38	+ 0.34
S.R.U.	$	1.68	1.62	1.71	1.64	1.63	1.34	1.46	+ 0.06	− 0.09	+ 0.07	+ 0.01	+ 0.34	+ 0.16
N.S.R.U.	$	2.12	2.12	2.02	2.00	1.90	1.72	1.66	-	+ 0.10	+ 0.02	+ 0.10	+ 0.40	+ 0.46
Montreal - Total	$	2.37	2.38	2.42	2.47	2.28	2.08	2.11	− 0.01	− 0.04	− 0.05	+ 0.19	+ 0.29	+ 0.27
S.R.U.	$	2.32	2.34	2.33	2.41	2.23	2.00	1.97	− 0.02	+ 0.01	− 0.08	+ 0.18	+ 0.32	+ 0.37
N.S.R.U.	$	2.46	2.47	2.60	2.58	2.39	2.24	2.38	− 0.01	− 0.13	+ 0.02	+ 0.19	+ 0.22	+ 0.09
Ottawa - Total	$	2.36	2.40	2.20	2.35	2.38	2.22	1.98	− 0.04	+ 0.20	− 0.15	− 0.03	+ 0.14	+ 0.42
S.R.U.	$	2.32	2.33	2.20	2.34	2.33	2.15	1.96	− 0.01	+ 0.13	− 0.14	+ 0.01	+ 0.17	+ 0.37
N.S.R.U.	$	2.41	2.51	2.19	2.36	2.45	2.32	1.99	− 0.10	+ 0.32	− 0.17	− 0.09	+ 0.09	+ 0.52
Toronto - Total	$	2.28	2.31	2.48	2.41	2.40	2.04	2.15	− 0.03	− 0.17	+ 0.05	+ 0.03	+ 0.24	+ 0.16
S.R.U.	$	2.21	2.23	2.39	2.32	2.30	2.00	2.11	− 0.02	− 0.16	+ 0.07	+ 0.02	+ 0.21	+ 0.12
N.S.R.U.	$	2.47	2.52	2.74	2.76	2.64	2.16	2.25	− 0.05	− 0.22	− 0.02	+ 0.12	+ 0.31	+ 0.27
Winnipeg - Total	$	2.24	2.21	2.22	2.21	2.24	2.06	2.02	+ 0.03	− 0.01	+ 0.01	− 0.03	+ 0.18	+ 0.19
S.R.U.	$	2.04	1.93	2.05	2.03	1.98	1.73	1.84	+ 0.11	− 0.12	+ 0.02	+ 0.05	+ 0.31	+ 0.09
N.S.R.U.	$	2.42	2.45	2.38	2.38	2.46	2.37	2.19	− 0.03	+ 0.07	—	− 0.08	+ 0.05	+ 0.26
Edmonton - Total	$	1.79	1.91	1.93	1.89	1.85	1.74	1.78	− 0.12	− 0.02	+ 0.04	+ 0.04	+ 0.05	+ 0.13
S.R.U.	$	1.43	1.61	1.68	1.61	1.55	1.43	1.49	− 0.18	− 0.07	+ 0.07	+ 0.06	-	+ 0.12
N.S.R.U.	$	2.14	2.18	2.17	2.16	2.14	2.00	2.02	− 0.04	+ 0.01	+ 0.01	+ 0.02	+ 0.14	+ 0.16
Vancouver - Total	$	2.00	1.99	1.98	1.96	1.99	1.73	1.90	+ 0.01	+ 0.01	+ 0.02	− 0.03	+ 0.27	+ 0.09
S.R.U.	$	1.90	1.89	2.01	1.88	1.84	1.67	1.81	+ 0.01	− 0.12	+ 0.13	+ 0.04	+ 0.23	+ 0.08
N.S.R.U.	$	2.17	2.15	1.95	2.10	2.23	1.82	2.04	+ 0.02	+ 0.20	+ 0.15	− 0.13	+ 0.35	+ 0.11

(1) By Regional Office.

Comparison of level of UIC Claimants and LFS Unemployed

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969												
LFS Unemployed (000's)	467	473	448	432	386	383	349	318	279	314	354	383
UIC Claimants (000's)	616	631	594	527	305	277	279	268	260	280	349	537
Ratio: Claimants / Unemployed	1.32	1.33	1.33	1.22	0.79	0.72	0.80	0.84	0.93	0.89	0.99	1.40
1970												
LFS Unemployed (000's)	485	526	542	544	513	529	518	448	398	419	476	538
UIC Claimants (000's)	659	694	705	691	505	442	439	409	391	399	480	672
Ratio: Claimants / Unemployed	1.36	1.32	1.30	1.27	0.98	0.84	0.85	0.91	0.98	0.95	1.01	1.25
1971												
LFS Unemployed (000's)	668	675	650	659	543	551	514	455	434	447	503	530
UIC Claimants (000's)	844	888	857	819	496	420	413	411	433	436	538	689
Ratio: Claimants / Unemployed	1.26	1.32	1.32	1.24	0.91	0.76	0.80	0.90	1.00	0.98	1.07	1.30
1972												
LFS Unemployed (000's)	665	627	642	592	552	568	543	503	459	483	524	584
UIC Claimants (000's)	827	912	914	874	814	753	762	722	692	709	765	903
Ratio: Claimants / Unemployed	1.24	1.45	1.42	1.48	1.47	1.33	1.40	1.44	1.51	1.47	1.46	1.55
1973												
LFS Unemployed (000's)	688	655										
UIC Claimants (000's)	1,056	1,055										
Ratio: Claimants / Unemployed	1.53	1.61										
% of Claimants under Old Act												
1971	(All claimants under Old Act)					*	80.4	61.9	44.2	36.6	25.4	17.8
1972	11.9	7.8	5.0	3.4	1.5	0.2	0.1	...	(All claimants under New Act)			

Note: 1. Seasonal Benefits Regulations were applicable from December to mid-May until 1971. This is the reason why in 1972 there was no large decline between April and May in the UIC Claimants as in previous years.

2. The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, was introduced June 27, 1971. The lower portion of the above table indicates the percentage of claimants under the provision of the old Unemployment Insurance Act during the period July 1971 to August 1972.

3. Under the universal provision of the new Unemployment Insurance Act, some 2,000,000 persons - formerly excluded under the old Act - were insured effective January 2, 1972.

* New Act introduced June 27, 1971.

... Less than 0.1%.

FIELD DIVISION — DIVISION DES OPÉRATIONS RÉGIONALES

LFS 744

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY
ENQUÊTE SUR LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE

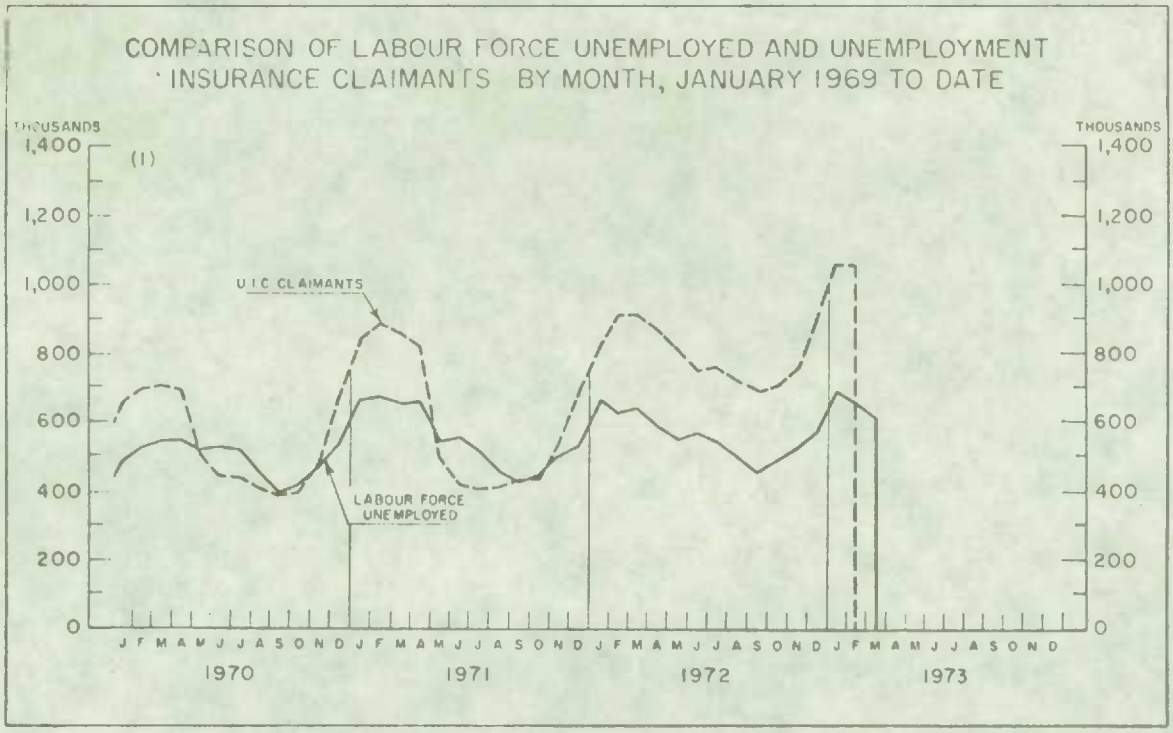
ANALYSIS OF REJECTED DOCUMENTS
ANALYSE DES DOCUMENTS REJETÉS

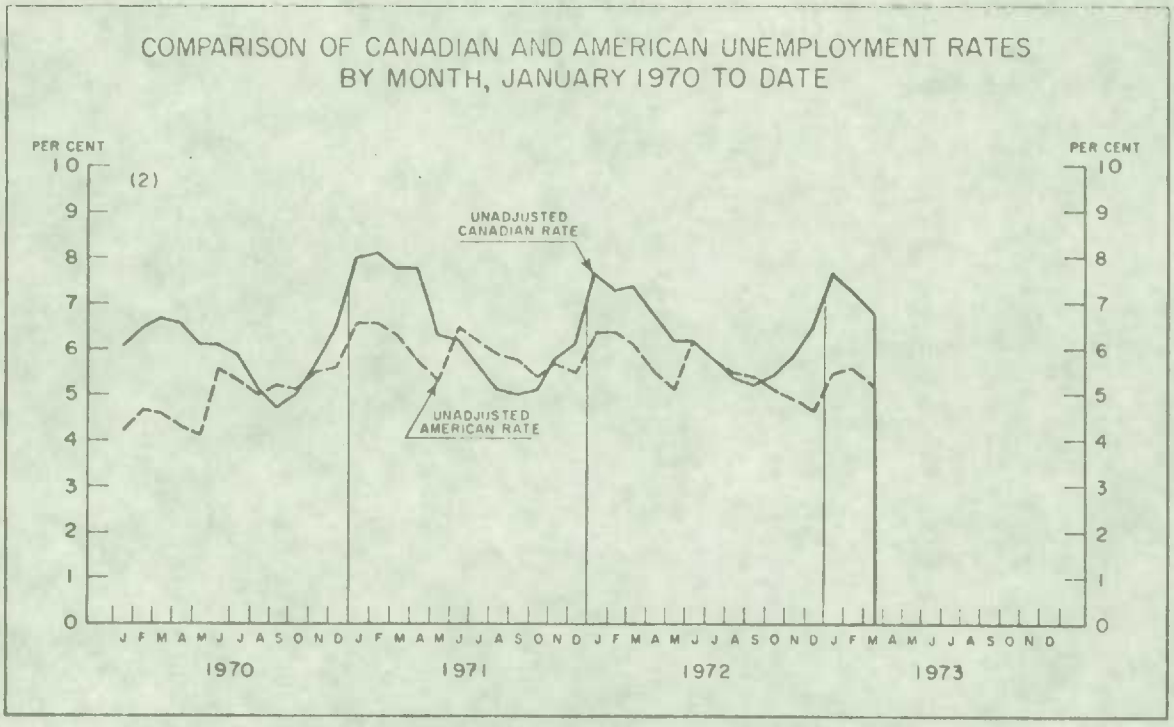
SURVEY No. 273
ENQUÊTE

March 1973 Mars

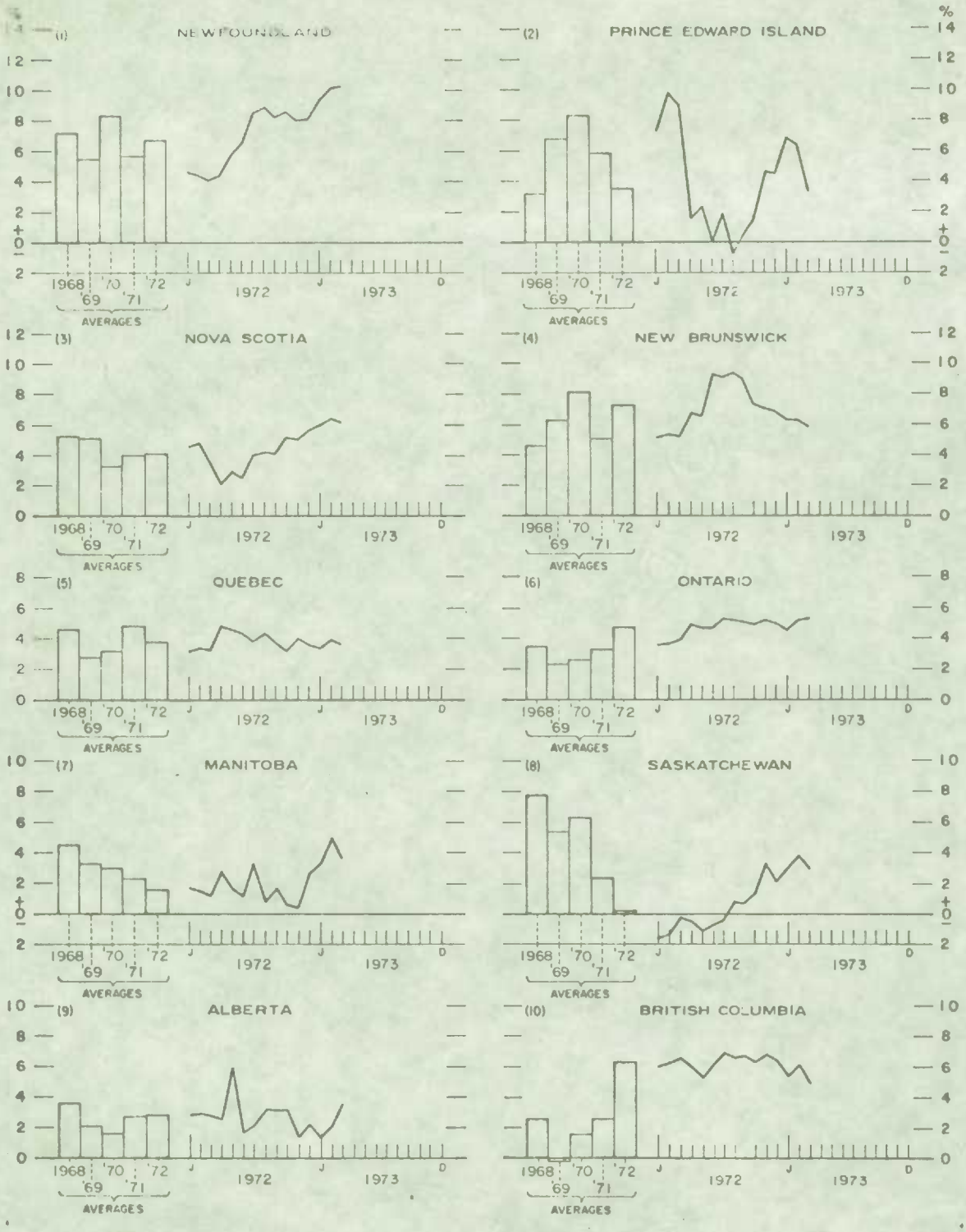
	CANADA	ST.JOHN'S	HALIFAX	MONTRÉAL	OTTAWA	TORONTO	WINNIPEG	EDMONTON	VANCOUVER
TOTAL DOCUMENTS RECEIVED TOTAL DES DOCUMENTS REÇUS	74,679	4,442	13,012	14,496	4,629	15,088	7,040	8,156	7,816
REJECTED DOCUMENTS DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	9,436	458	1,767	1,303	701	2,383	709	966	1,149
% REJECTED DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DES DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	12.7	10.3	13.6	9.0	15.2	15.8	10.1	11.9	14.7
SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS ARTICLES SUPPLÉMENTAIRES									
REJECTED DOCUMENTS DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	3,941	277	717	445	369	852	276	480	525
% OF TOTAL DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DU TOTAL DES DOCUMENTS	5.3	6.2	5.5	3.1	8.0	5.7	3.9	5.9	6.7
% OF REJECTED DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DES DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	41.8	60.5	40.6	34.2	52.6	35.8	38.9	49.7	45.7
LABOUR FORCE ITEMS ARTICLES DE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE									
REJECTED DOCUMENTS DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	5,495	181	1,050	858	332	1,531	433	486	624
% OF TOTAL DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DE TOUS LES DOCUMENTS	7.4	4.1	8.1	5.9	7.2	10.1	6.2	6.0	8.0
% OF REJECTED DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DES DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	58.2	39.5	59.4	65.8	47.4	64.0	61.1	50.3	54.3
No. OF CARELESS ERRORS NOMBRE DE FAUTES D'INATTENTION	1,900	48	301	360	79	559	167	173	213
AVE. PER DOCUMENT MOYENNE PAR DOCUMENT	.025	.011	.023	.025	.017	.037	.024	.021	.027
AVE. PER REJECTED DOCUMENT MOYENNE PAR DOCUMENT REJETÉ	.201	.105	.170	.276	.113	.234	.236	.179	.185
No. OF BLANKS IN ID. NOMBRE DE BLANCS À L'IDENTIFICATION	1,147	4	140	424	17	382	53	35	92
AVERAGE PER DOCUMENT MOYENNE PAR DOCUMENT	.015	.001	.011	.029	.004	.025	.007	.004	.012
AVE. PER REJECTED DOCUMENT MOYENNE PAR DOCUMENT REJETÉ	.122	.009	.079	.325	.024	.160	.075	.036	.080

CARELESS ERROR: sum of errors for items 1 to 10 and 24, 25, and 26 on the LFS document.
FAUTE D'INATTENTION: total des erreurs aux articles 1-10 et 24, 25 et 26 sur le document LFS.

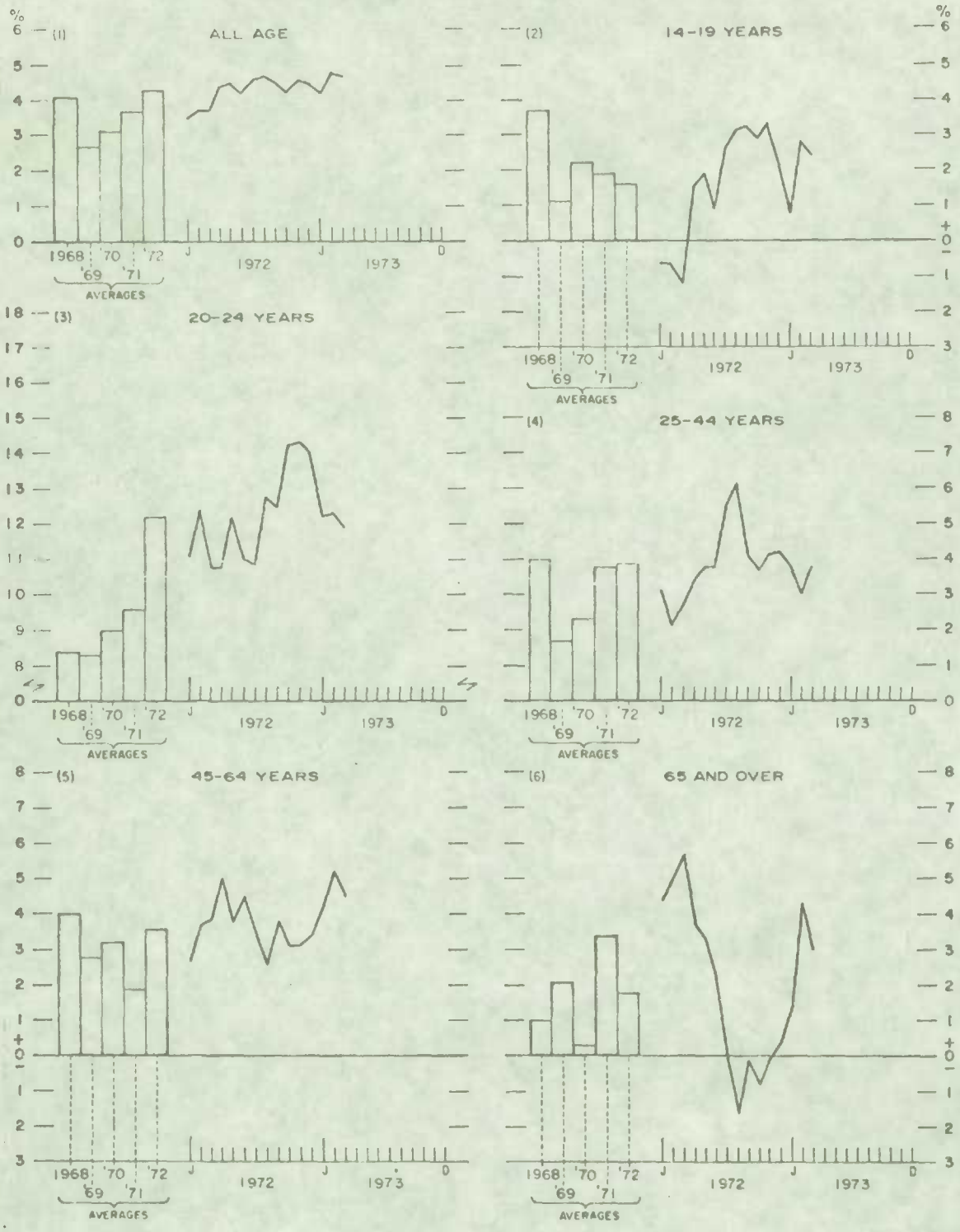

COMPARISON OF LABOUR FORCE UNEMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMANTS BY MONTH, JANUARY 1969 TO DATE
THOUSANDS
(1)
U.I.C. CLAIMANTS
LABOUR FORCE UNEMPLOYED
1,400
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1970
1971
1972
1973


COMPARISON OF CANADIAN AND AMERICAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY MONTH, JANUARY 1970 TO DATE
PER CENT
(2)
UNADJUSTED CANADIAN RATE
UNADJUSTED AMERICAN RATE
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1970
1971
1972
1973

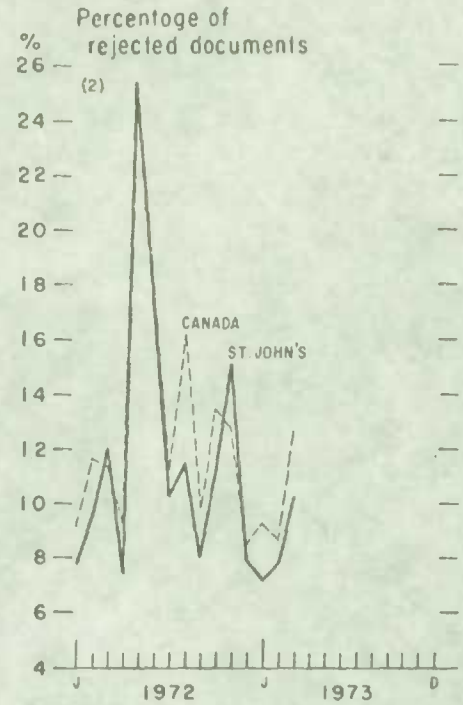
Slippage by Province

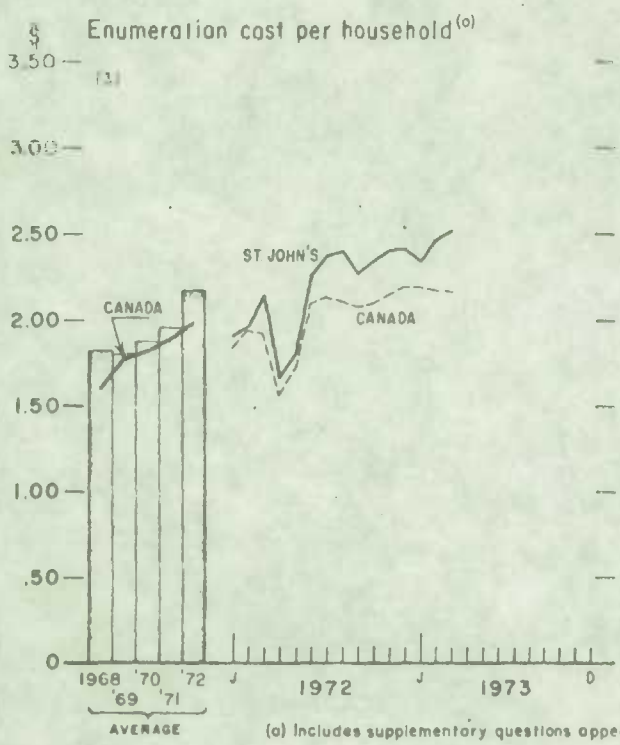


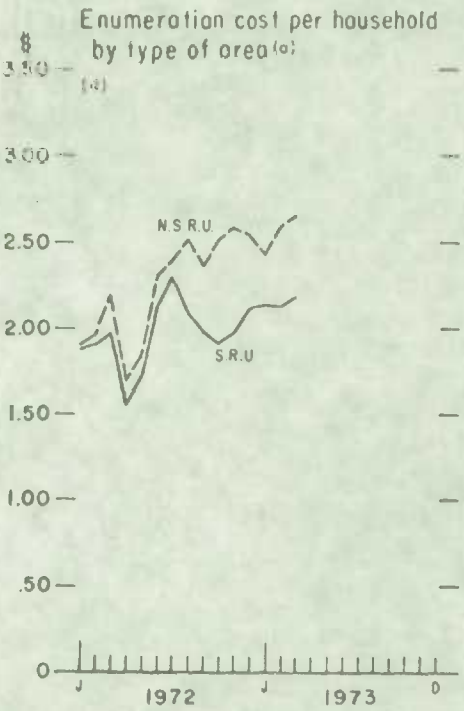
Slippage by Age Group at the Canada Level



St. John's Regional Office

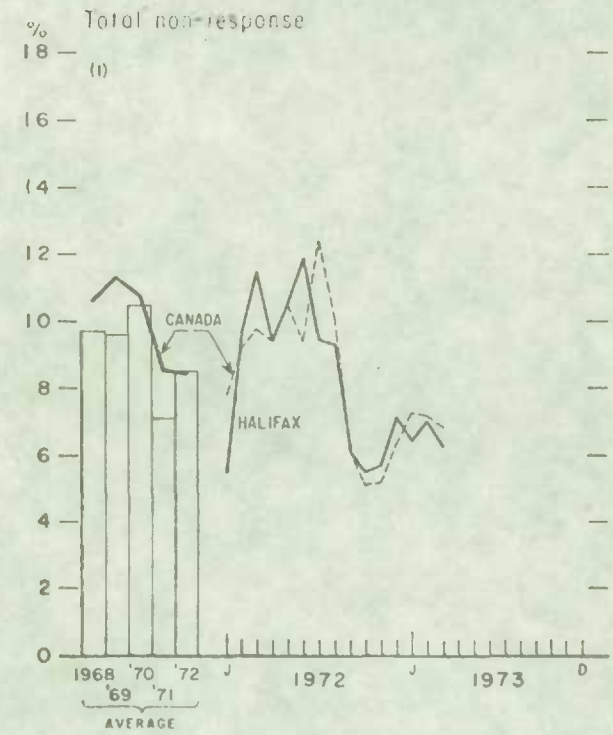


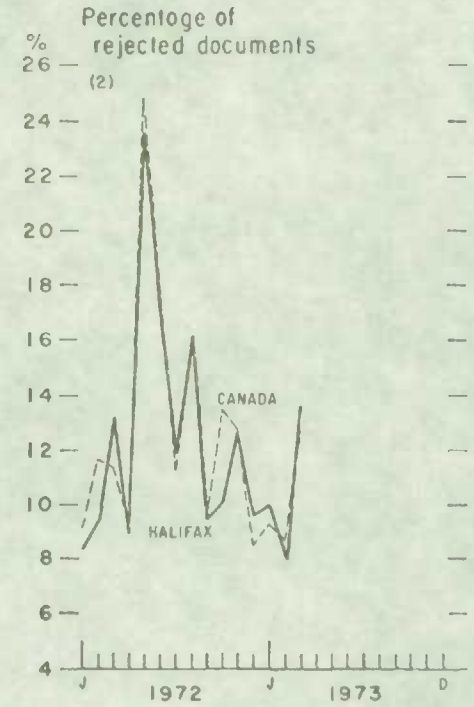


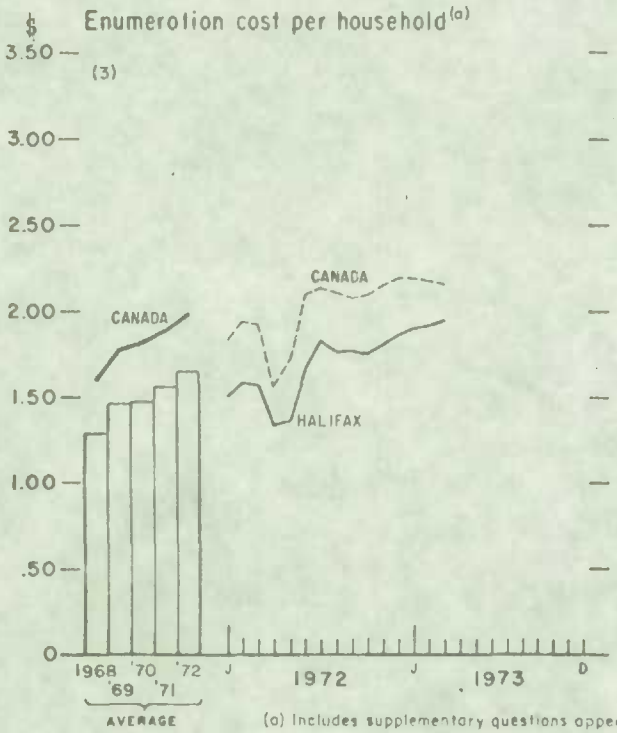


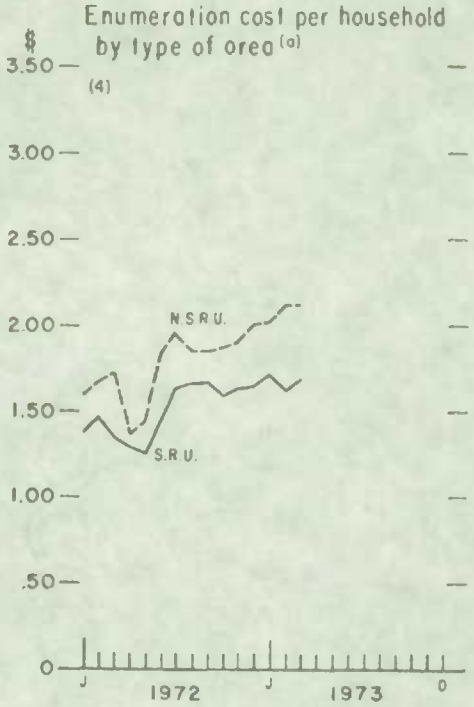
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the L.F.S. regular schedule.

Halifax Regional Office



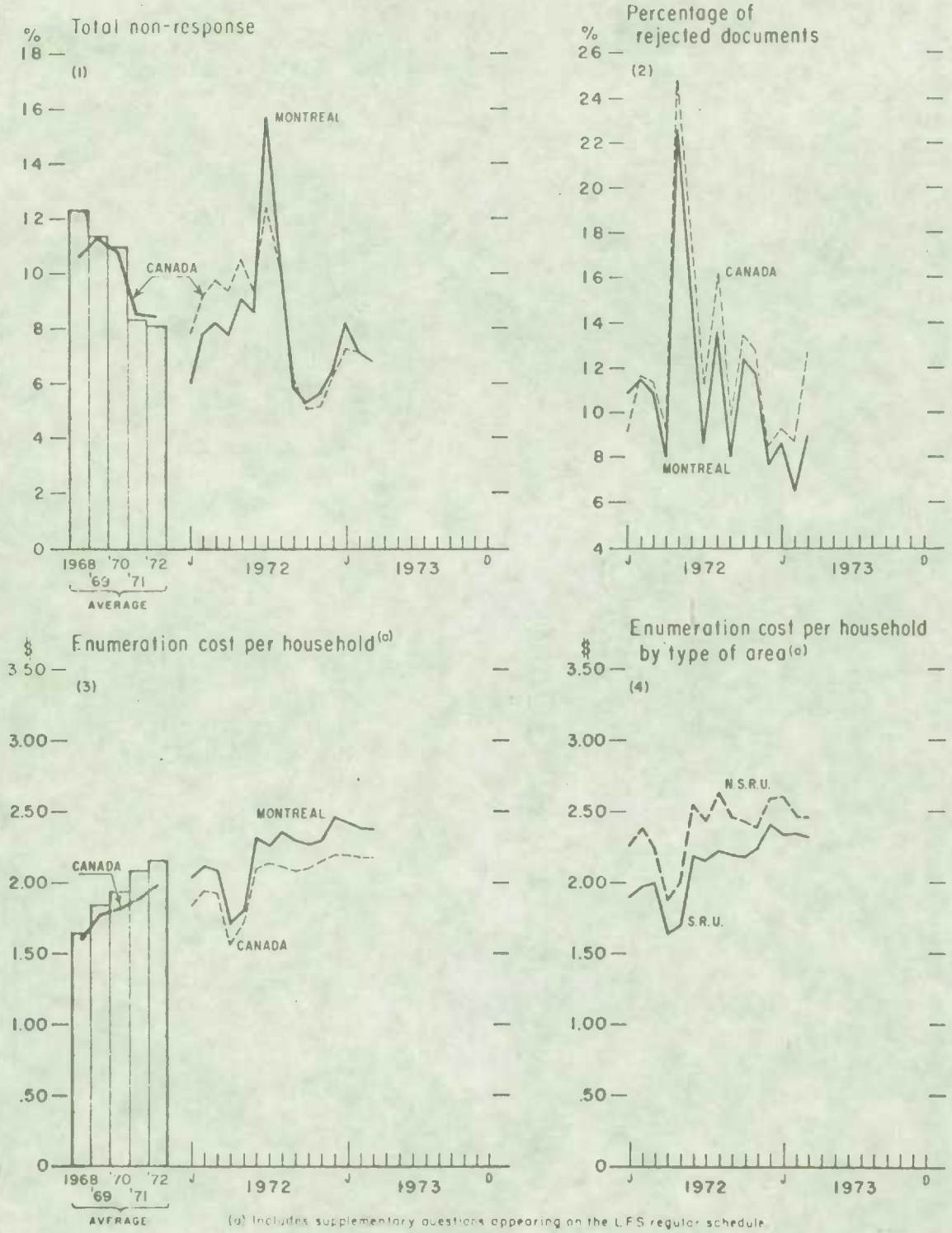






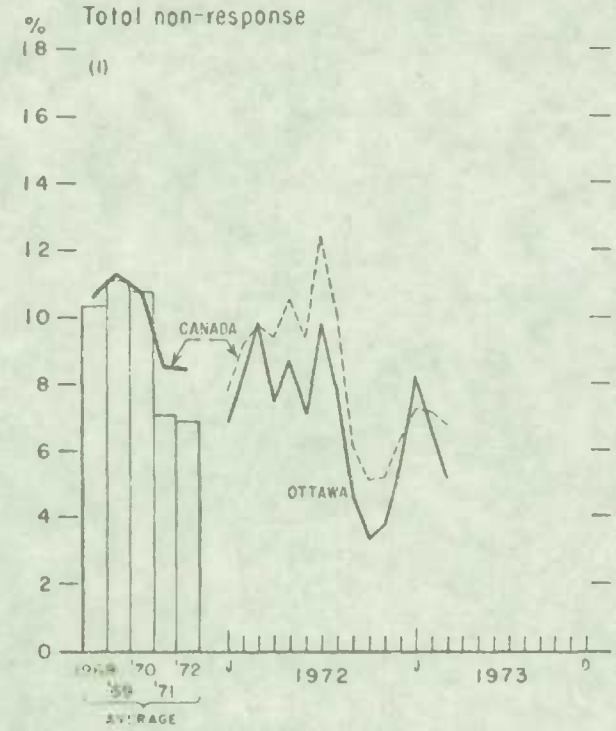
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule

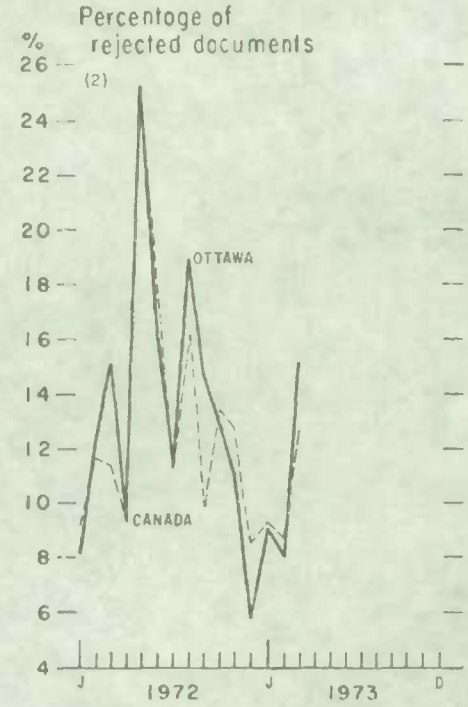
Montreal Regional Office

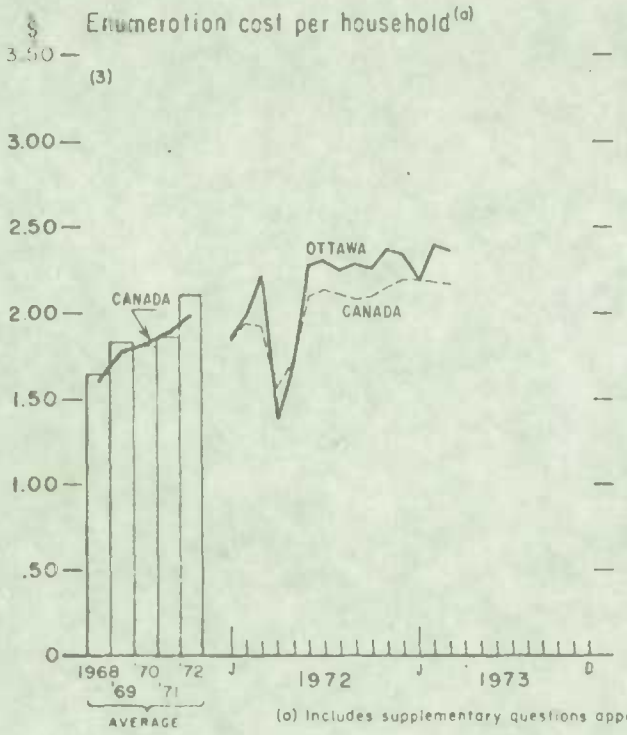


(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the L.F.S regular schedule.

Ottawa Regional Office

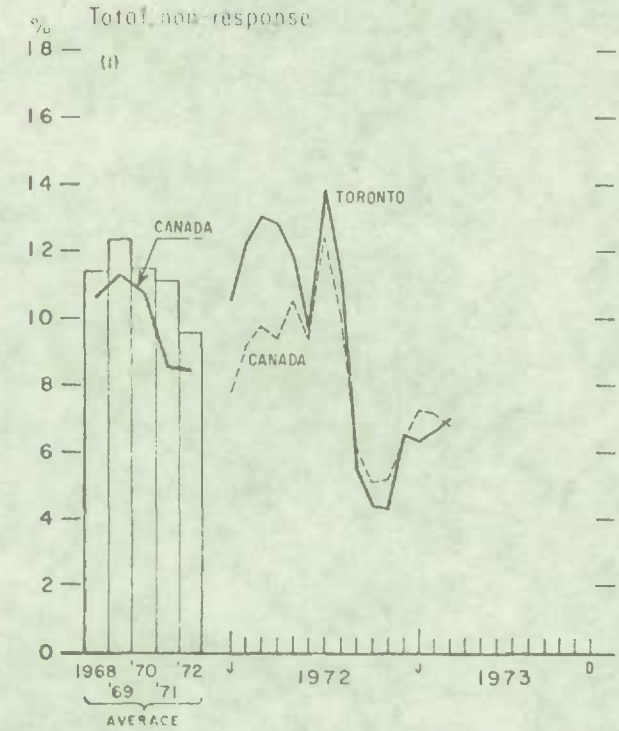


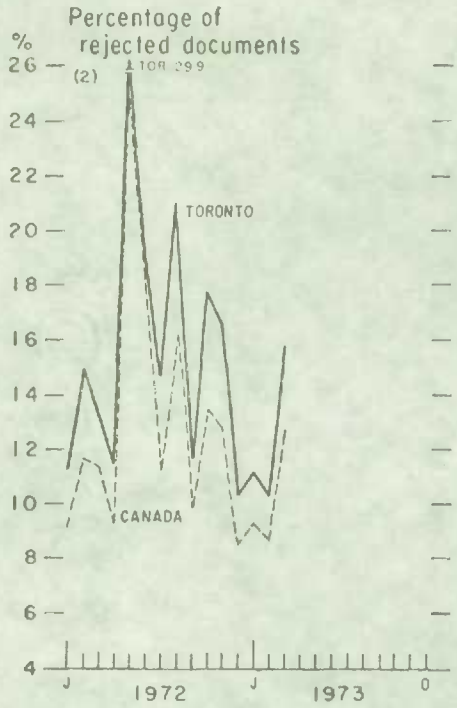


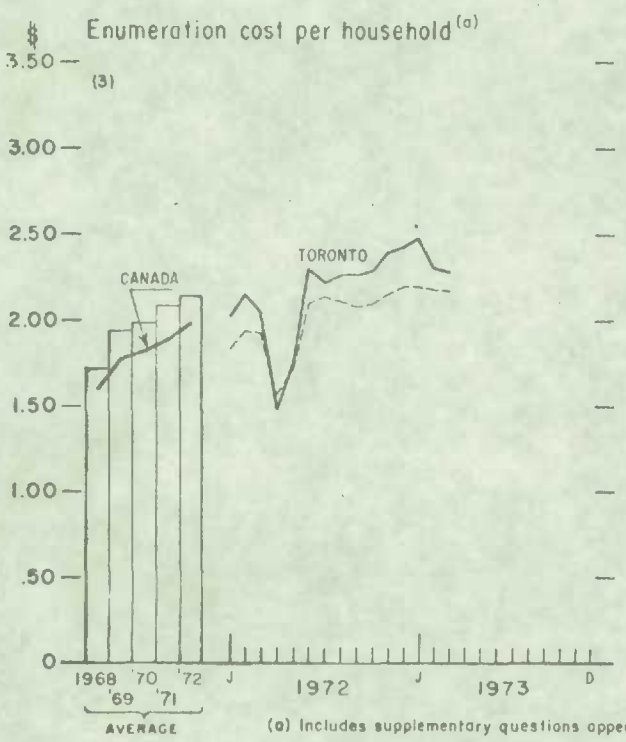


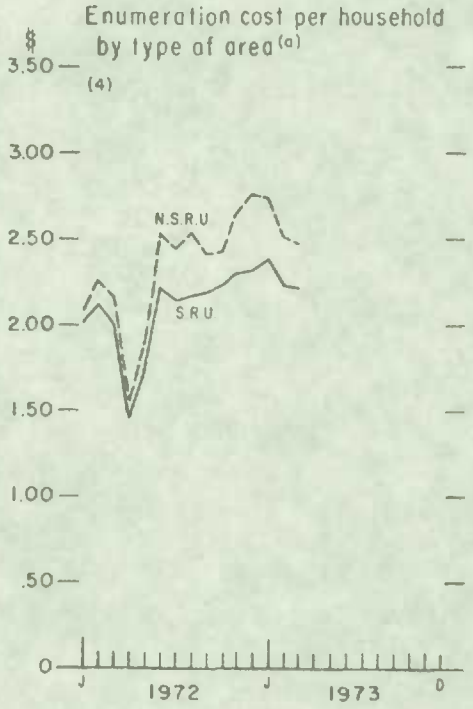
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the L.F.S. regular schedule.

Toronto Regional Office



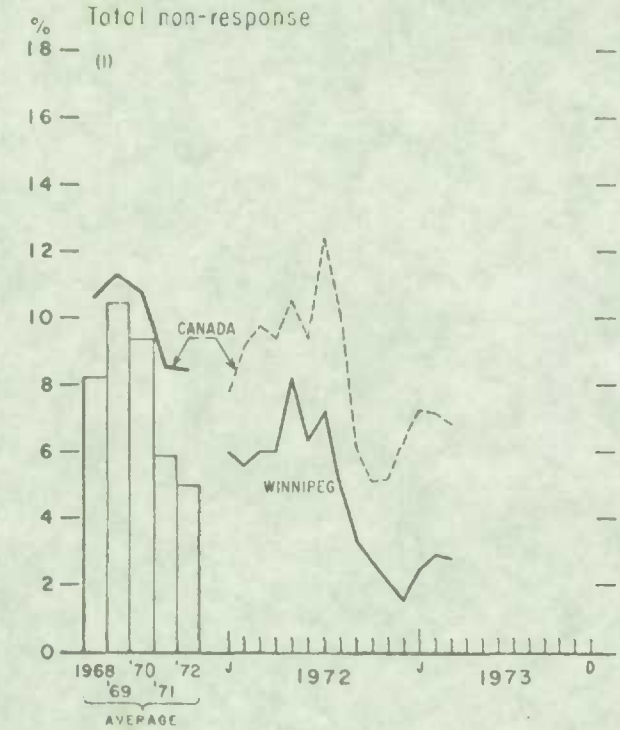


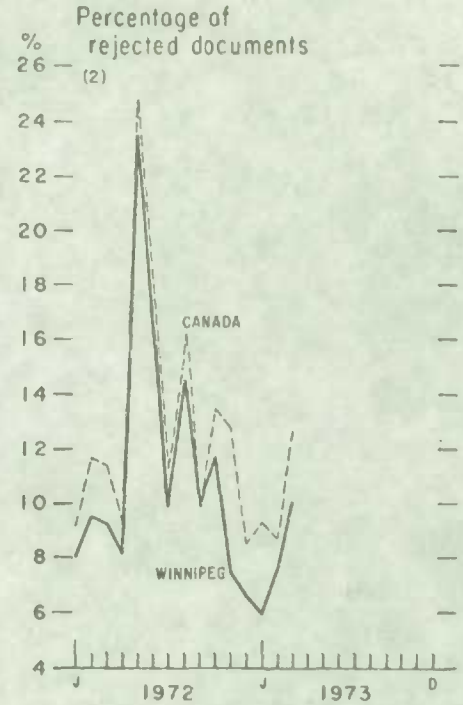


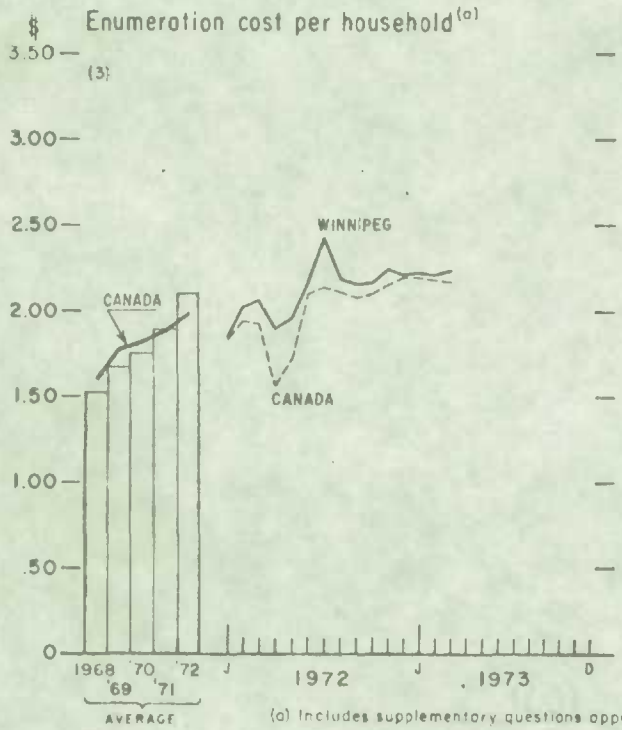


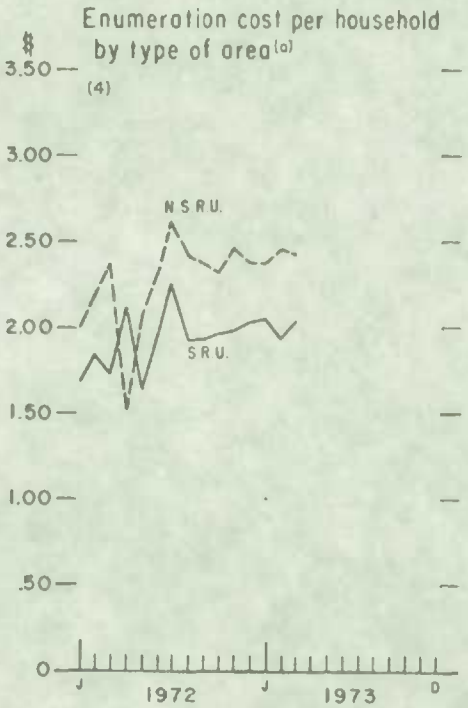
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule

Winnipeg Regional Office



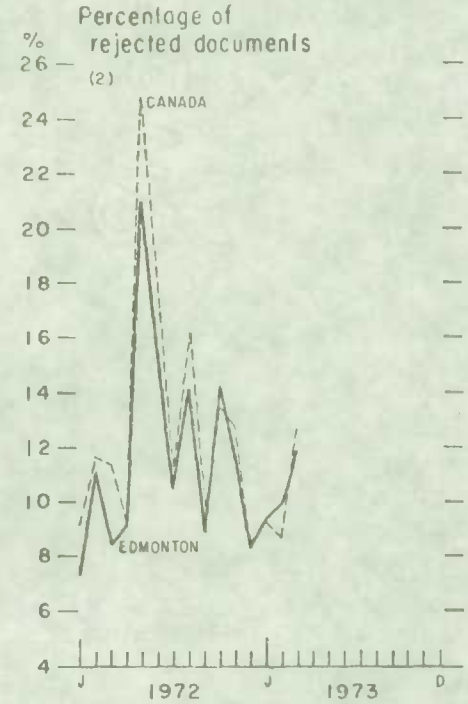


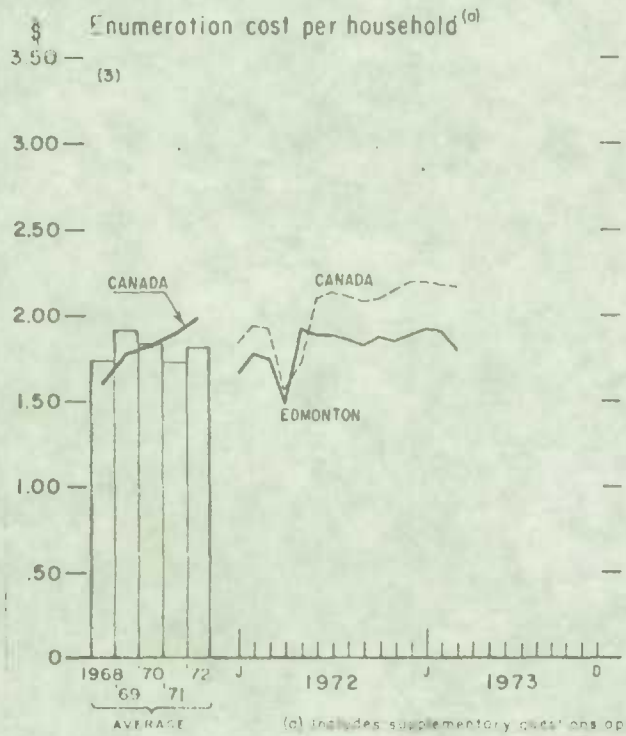


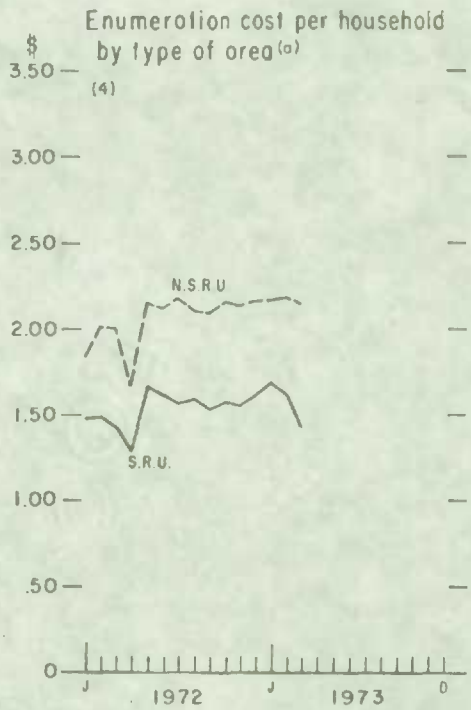


(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule.

Edmonton Regional Office

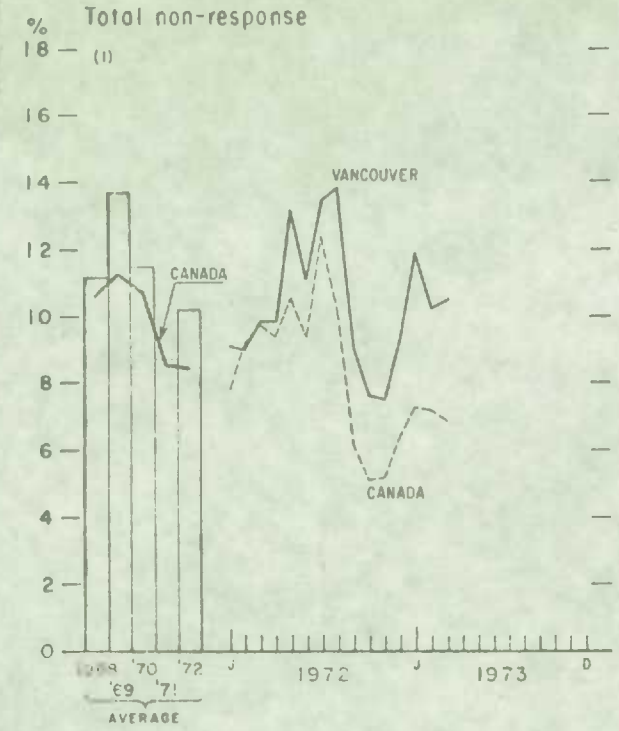


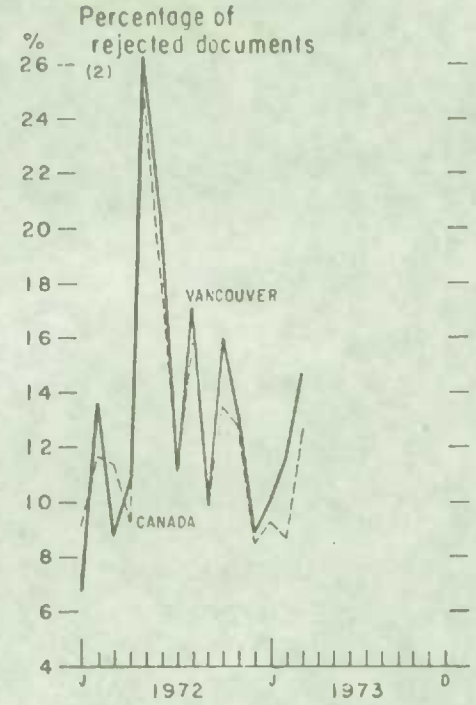


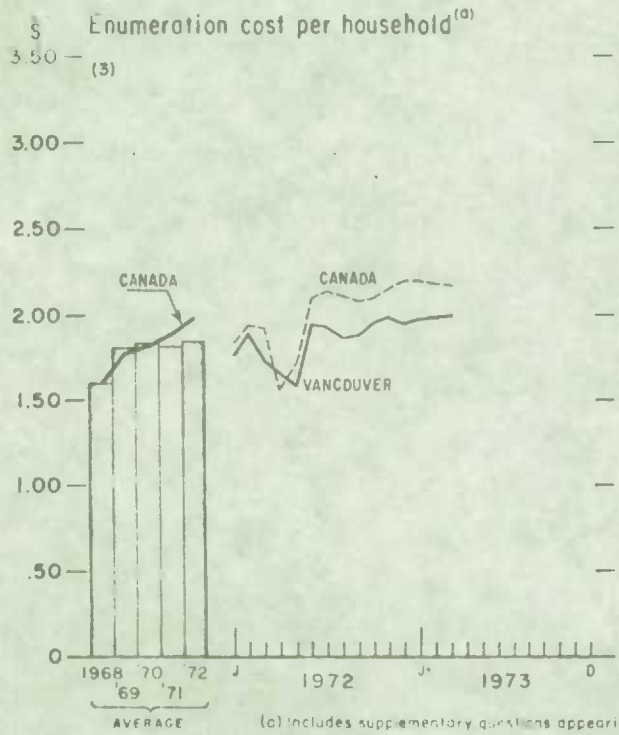


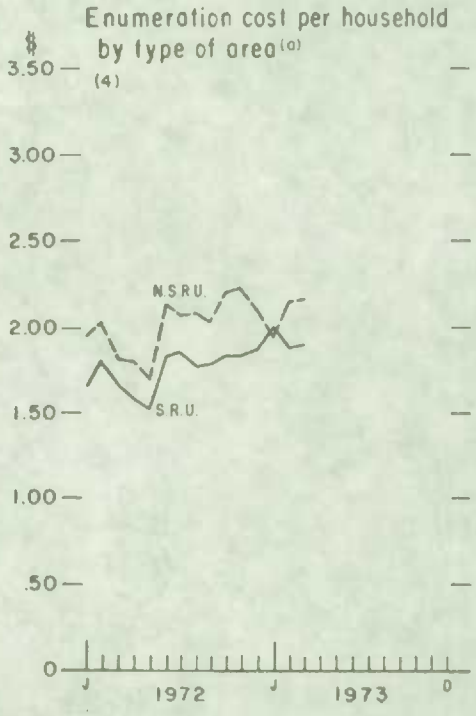
(a) Includes supplementary costs appearing on the LFS regular schedule.

Vancouver Regional Office









(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule.

DEFINITIONS

RELATED TO SECTION 1A

Unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a per cent of the civilian labour force.

Canadian civilian Labour Force, in the Labour Force Survey concept, is composed of that portion of the civilian non-institutional population 14 years of age and over who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed.

American civilian Labour Force, in the Current Population Survey concept, is composed of that portion of the civilian non-institutional population 16 years of age and over who, during the reference week (which contains the 12th day of the month), were employed or unemployed.

List of some differences in the concepts of claimants and unemployed

UIC	LF unemployed
- need to have worked at least 8 weeks in past year to be eligible	- does not need to have worked before
- interruption of earnings resulting from unemployment, illness or pregnancy	- activity concept: 1) did not work, 2) actively searched for a job, and 3) was able to work
- must be capable of and available for work and unable to obtain suitable employment (except in case of illness and pregnancy)	
- contribution and benefit entitlement ceases for a person: a) at the age of 70, or b) to whom a retirement pension under the Canada Pension Plan or the Quebec Pension Plan has at any time become payable	- no upper age boundaries. See activity concept.
- claimants can work and be eligible for total benefit if weekly earnings do not exceed one quarter of weekly rate of benefit; work-related income in excess of 25% of weekly rate is deducted from benefit.	- unemployed cannot have worked a single hour in reference week

RELATED TO SECTION 1B

Slippage - population slippage is defined as the percentage difference between the Census population projection, Pp (based on the 1961 Census) for a given month and the population estimate $\hat{P}p$ derived from the Labour Force Survey sample for the same month. It is given by

$$\frac{Pp - \hat{P}p}{Pp} \cdot 100$$

RELATED TO SECTION 1C

Total non-response - proportion of households which were not interviewed due to lack of co-operation or their unavailability to the survey interviewer.

RELATED TO SECTION 1D

Percentage of Rejected Documents - The charts reflect a percentage of all labour force documents requiring clerical edits prior to final tabulations. These rejected documents result from missing or inconsistent entries in the regular labour force items and in the additional questions (supplementary) asked for every survey. Since the supplementary questions vary in their complexity from one month to the next, they affect the reject rate considerably.

Careless Errors - The term "careless errors" refers to omissions, poor marks and inconsistent entries on the Labour Force schedule for identification, sex, marital status, relationship to head and age as taken from the entries on the Household Record Card, plus the failure to answer item 26, "Was this person interviewed?"

RELATED TO SECTION 1E

Enumeration Cost per Household - The per household costs are calculated using the total number of households sampled for the survey in relation to the cost incurred to do the interviewing in terms of fees paid to the interviewer (hourly rated employee) and the interviewer expenses to cover the assignment (mileage, etc.).

NON-RESPONSE

The contents of this appendix are taken from publication NR73-3 (March 1973), Non-Response Rates in the Canadian Labour Force Survey, prepared by D.S. Murray, Household Surveys Development Staff, and E.T. McLeod of Field Division.

canadian labour force survey

NR 73-3
(March 1973)

NON-RESPONSE RATES IN THE CANADIAN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

D.S. Murray,
Household Surveys Development Staff

E.T. McLeod,
Field Division

Published March, 1973

Non-Response Rates

I. Introduction

There are a number of ways of measuring the quality of the Labour Force Survey. One such method is the calculation of non-response rates. The sampling variability of weighted up statistics is inversely proportional to the response rate so that published figures based on a sample with only 80% response rate (20% non-response rate) will have 90/80 or 1.125 times the sampling variability of corresponding figures based on the same sample with 90% response rate (or 10% non-response rate). Together with increase in sampling variability caused by higher non-response rates there is also a possible increase in the mean square error as a result of the non-response bias. If the characteristics of non-respondents are significantly different from those of respondents, then the higher the non-response rate, the greater the contribution to the mean square error by the non-response bias. The extent of this bias is unknown at present but must be obtained from outside sources of similar data or from special experiments on non-response characteristics.

The non-response rates are presented in the form of graphs for Canada and for regional offices. The rate of non-response is given for each of the four components[1] and for total non-response by month and year.

Non-response follows a marked pattern seasonally, generally peaking in the summer months and declining in the spring and autumn (Graph G1). The seasonality effect is caused by the "temporarily absent[1]" component which increases sharply during the summer months when people are generally away on vacation (Graph G1).

II. Format of Non-Response Graphs and Monthly Meeting

The non-response rate for each regional office is presented by component on a separate page. This format facilitates the examination of the contributions of each component of non-response to the total non-response. In this form, comparison of regional offices can also be made.

The monthly meeting on March non-response with D. S. Murray, Labour Force Methodology Section and E. T. McLeod, Field Division, deals with the more pronounced movements in the current non-response data.

Commencing with the report on January, 1973, non-response bar charts have been included to show the non-response for each Economic Region (E. R.) in each regional office. The R. O. levels, in total, are shown in a chart under the section headed Canada. Table 1, contains, for Canada and each regional office, the total non-response and each of its components.

[1] See definitions on Page 2

Definitions

Total households includes all sampled households but excluding vacant dwellings, households not to be interviewed, etc.

Non-response is defined as the proportion of total households which were not interviewed for the reasons shown and is the sum of the four given below.

1 Temporarily absent. When all household members are away for the entire interview week. (T.A.)

2 No one home. When after a reasonable number of callbacks, there is no responsible member to interview. (N_1)

3 Refusal. When a responsible member of the household definitely refuses to provide the survey information requested. (N_2)

4 Other. When none of the foregoing reasons are applicable, e.g., roads impassable, enumerator not available, death, illness, language problems, etc. (N_{3-5})

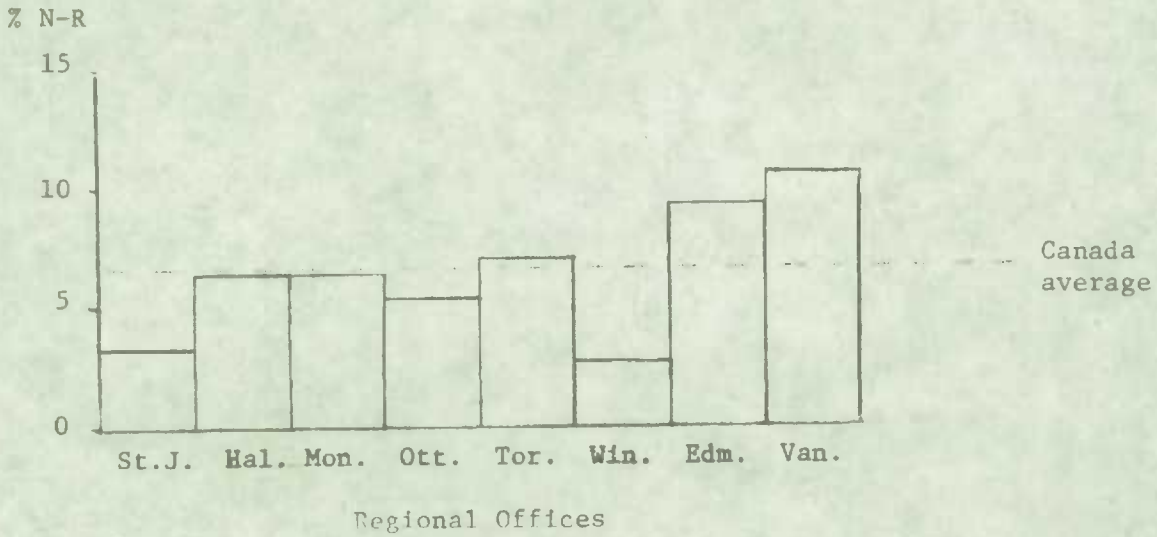
Canada

The overall non-response rate declined from 7.2% in February to 6.8% in March. Slight decreases occurred in the T.A. and N_1 components while the "refusal" rate (N_2) and "other" remained constant.

All regional offices except Toronto and Vancouver indicated lower non-response rates in March than in February.

Compared with the March 1972 non-response, March 1973 shows a significant improvement. The March 1973 rates are lower in all components except "refusal".

	March 1972	March 1973
T.A.	2.7%	1.9%
N_1	3.3	2.0
N_2	1.7	1.9
Other	2.1	1.0
Total	9.8	6.8

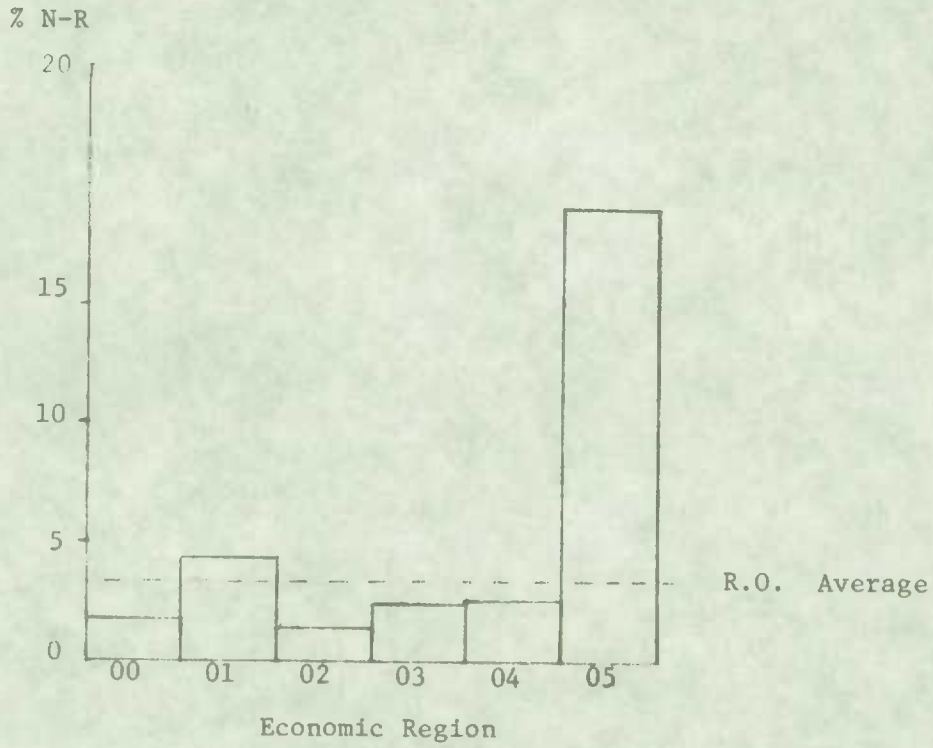


St. John's

The overall rate decreased from 3.5% in February to 3.2% in March. A slight increase in the T.A. component was more than offset by slight decreases in each of the remaining components.

The 0.6% refusal rate is the lowest level of all offices in Canada and the overall rate is second lowest. None of the components indicated high levels of non-response.

Economic Region 05, as the bar chart below shows, recorded a 19.1% non-response rate in March. It should be noted that the E.R. contains 21 households and thus all the non-response is accounted for by only 4 households, three of which were listed as N_1 and one as N_2.

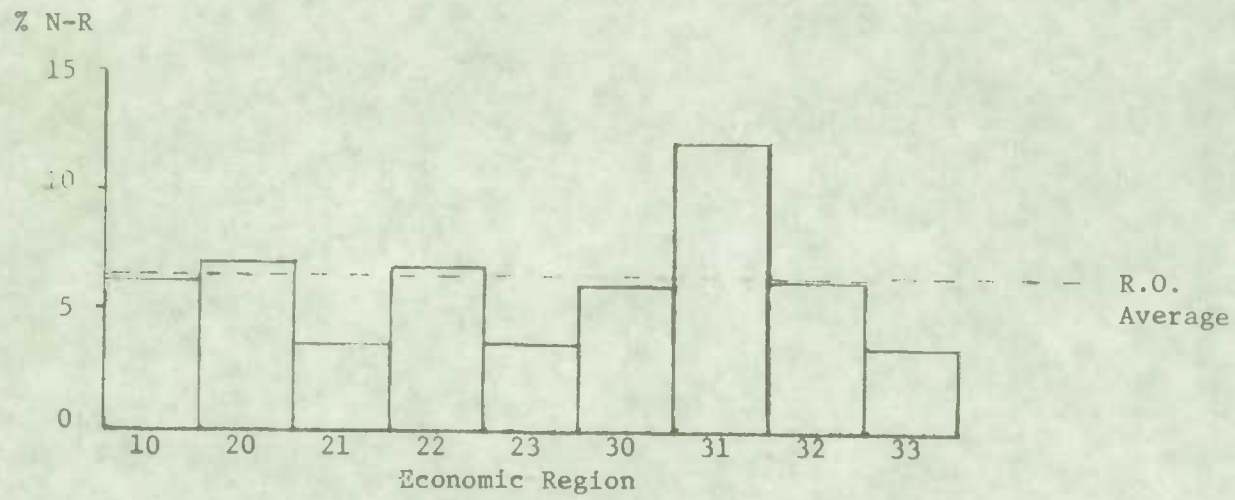


Halifax

The overall non-response rate decreased in Halifax from 7.0% in February to 6.3% in March. Most of the decrease occurred in the "other" component (1.3% in February, 0.8% in March). A small increase in T.A. and small declines in N_1 and N_2 accounted for the remainder of the change.

E.R. 31 showed a slightly higher refusal rate in March (from 5.6% in February to 5.7%). Thus, the N_2 rate is the main contributor to the overall E.R. rate of 12.0%.

The overall rate of 6.3% for March 1973 compares very favourably with the 11.5% rate shown in March 1972.

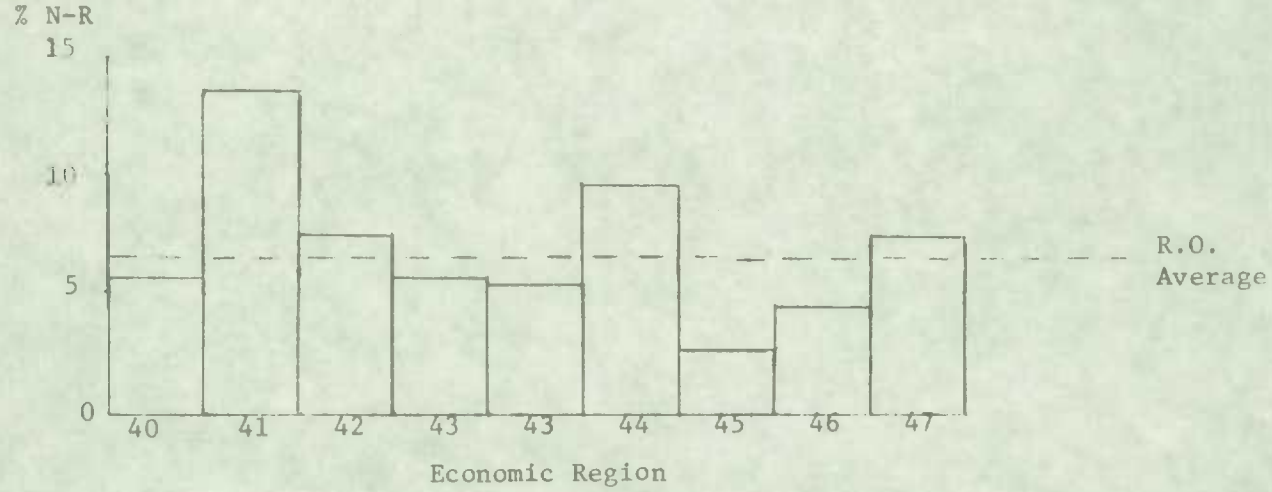


Montreal

The non-response rate in Montreal indicated an improvement in March compared with February. The decline in the T.A. rate, from 1.8% to 1.1% was the main contributor to the 0.4% overall decrease. The N_1 and N_2 rates decreased by 0.1% and 0.3% respectively while the "other" component increased from 0.8% to 1.5%. A large part of the increase in "other" was due to one assignment. The interviewer responsible completed interviews for 32 households and mailed the schedules on April 1. The package arrived in the regional office on April 10 at which time the schedules were too late for use in Ottawa.

Four households in E.R. 40 (Sept. Isles) were not covered due to "no interviewer available". The interviewer, because of illness, was unable to complete the assignment.

The March 1973 rate of 6.8% compares favourably with the 8.2% level in March 1972.

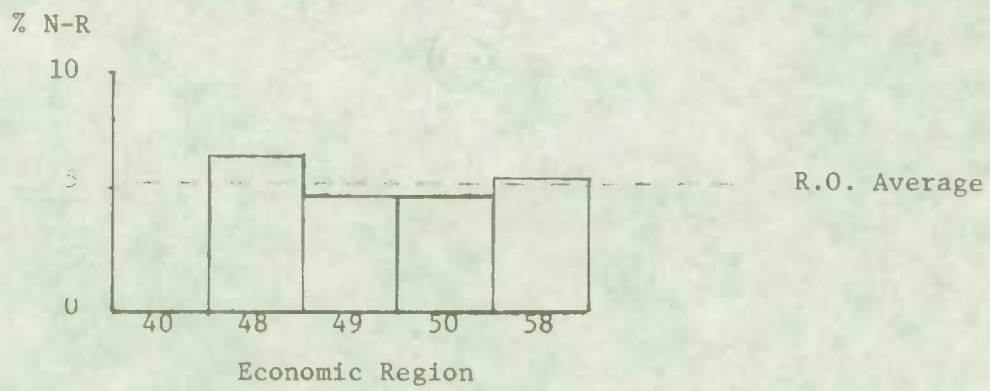


Ottawa

The Ottawa Office indicated a decrease of 1.4% in overall non-response. At 5.2% the March level is well below the Canada figure. Most of the decrease from February to March occurred in the T.A. component which declined from 2.8% to 1.8%. The 0.7% decrease in the "other" component was partially offset by a 0.3% rise in N_1 while N_2 remained constant.

None of the E.R.'s in this office showed overall rates in excess of 6.5%.

Compared with the 9.8% level in March 1972, the non-response for the corresponding survey in 1973 is much improved.

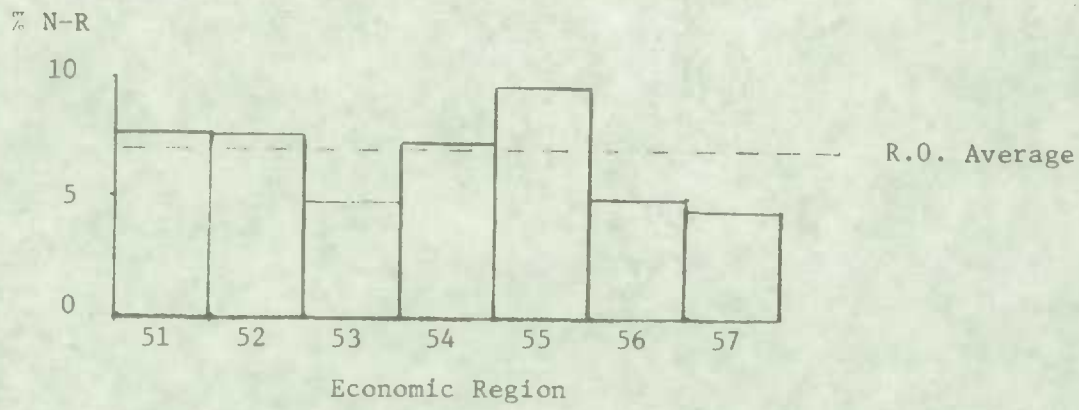


Toronto

The overall rate in Toronto showed a moderate increase of 0.4% in March. Most of the increase (0.3%) can be accounted for by the N_2 rate. As was mentioned in the report dealing with the February non-response (NR 73-2) the refusal rate in Toronto appeared to be increasing. At 1.9% the rate is causing some concern particularly since a great many of the refusal households are located in E.R. 52, the same E.R. in which the regional office is located. The refusal rate here increased by 0.4% and now stands at 2.6%. The entire office indicated 129 refusal households with E.R. 52 contributing 76 of these.

The T.A. and N_1 components remained at 2.6% and 1.9% respectively and the "other" component increased from 0.5% to 0.6%.

The overall March 1973 rate of 7.0% indicates a substantial improvement over the 13.0% rate in March 1972.

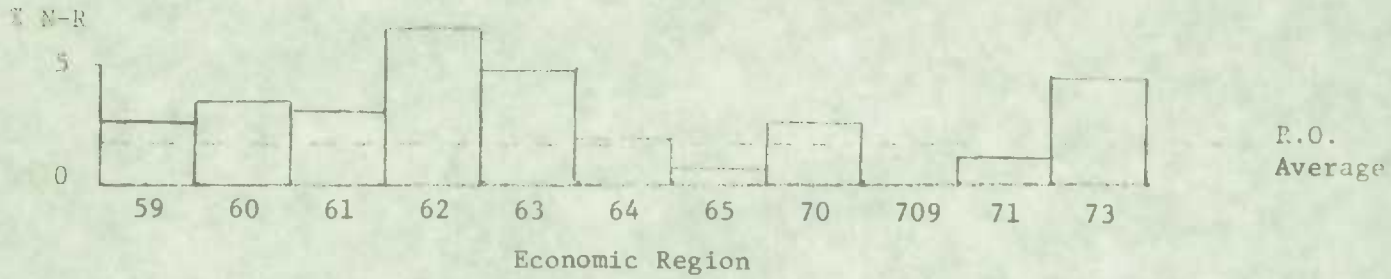


Winnipeg

Again in March the Winnipeg Office showed the lowest non-response rate in Canada. The overall rate decreased from 2.9% in February to 2.8% in March. A 0.4% decrease in T.A. was offset by a 0.4% increase in N_1 and the 0.1% decrease in N_2 was offset by a 0.1% increase in "other". Thus the net change appears to be zero. (- 0.4% + 0.4% - 0.1% + 0.1%).

The appearant discrepancy in the published figures resulted from rounding the levels of the components before summing. Using four decimal place figures the overall difference amounts to 0.0742% or, rounded to one decimal, 0.1%. Using one decimal place figures the overall difference is 0.0%.

The overall March 1973 rate of 2.8% is less than half the 6.0% level of March 1972.

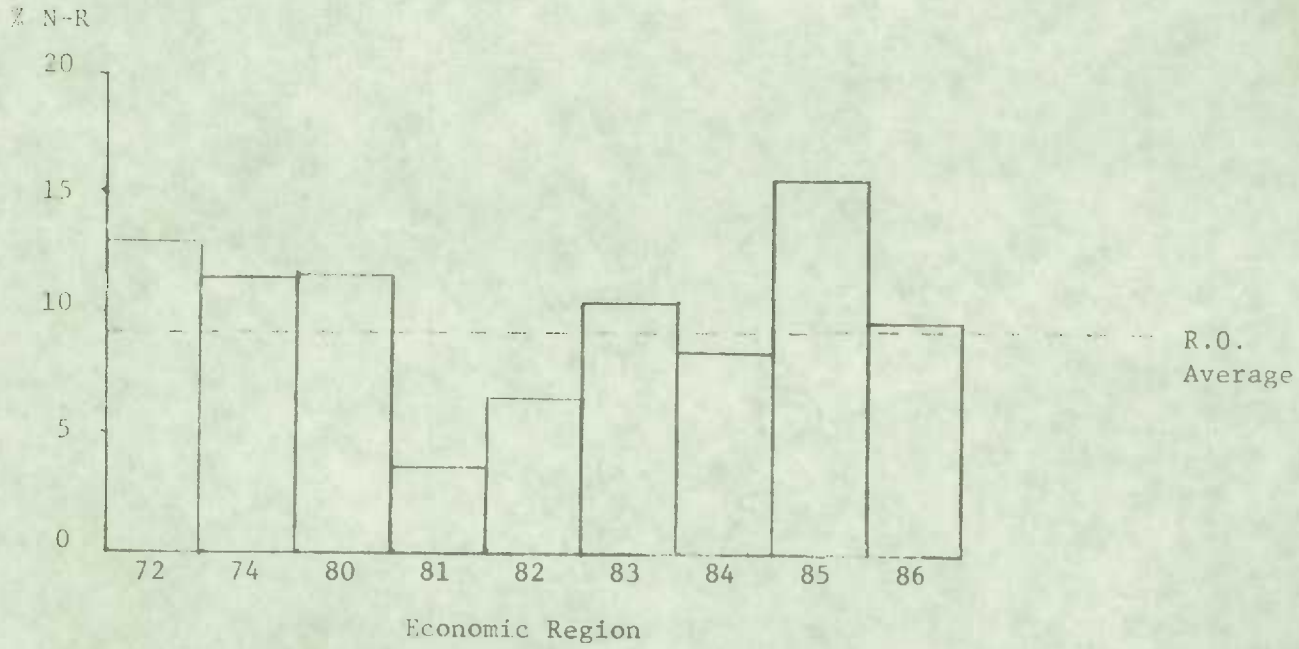


Edmonton

The Edmonton Office showed an overall decrease of 1.9% in March compared with February. At 9.1% overall the rate remains quite high and well above the national figure.

All components showed decreases: "other" declining from 2.0% to 0.8%. It may be recalled that in February (see NR 73-2) one assignment was completely uncovered and thus 59 households were lost to the survey. In March all assignments were covered and thus the "no interviewer available" type of non-response was 0.0%. The T.A. component decreased from 3.9% in February to 3.4% in March and N_1 and N_2 both declined by 0.1%.

Although the overall rate declined from February to March, the March level is higher than the March 1972 level of 8.3%.



Vancouver

The overall rate, at 10.5%, was the highest in Canada. From February to March the non-response increased by 0.3%. The T.A. and N_1 components showed small declines while N_2 and "other" increased.

The increase of 0.7% in "other" was due wholly to the 47 households listed as non-respondent due to "no interviewer available".

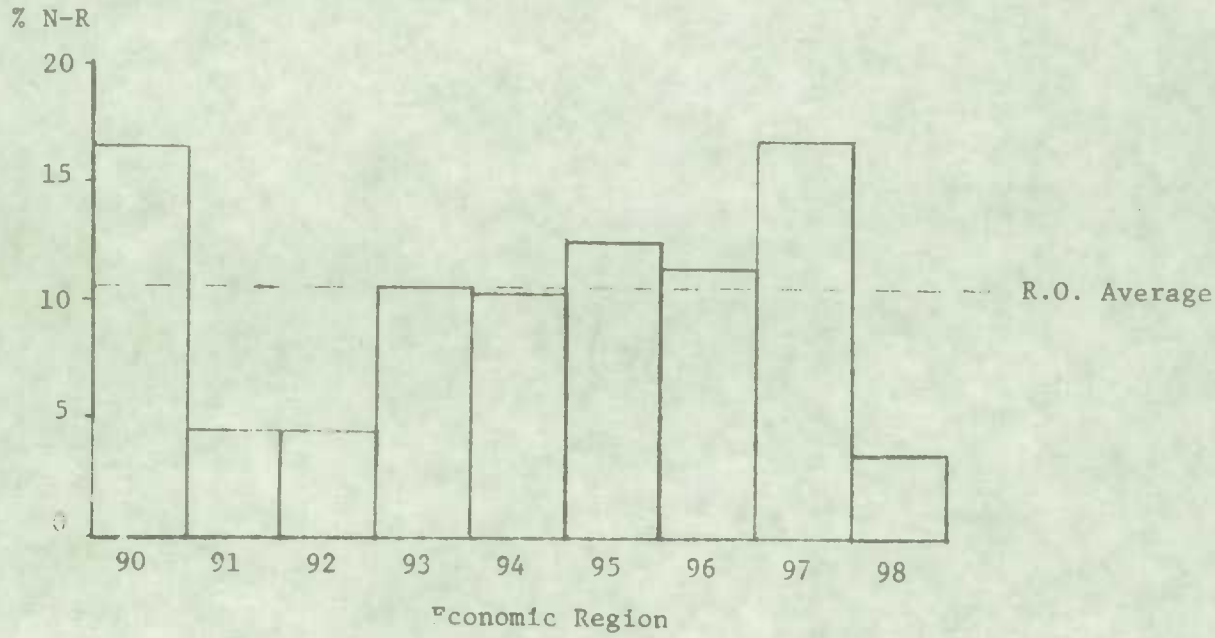
(a) Four households on Vancouver Island were not covered when an interviewer became ill and was not able to complete her assignment.

(b) In E.R. 93, Vancouver and area, 43 households were not covered due to "no interviewer available". Shortly after the February survey an interviewer was dismissed when it was discovered, through the Re-Interview Program, she had not been interviewing respondents and instead had completed the Labour Force schedules at home. No interviewer was hired in the next 2 or 3 weeks and the assignment was turned over to a regional office staff member who completed 20 interviews before becoming ill. The remaining 43 households in the assignment were not subsequently re-assigned and became non-respondent.

In E.R. 97, Prince George, the "other" rate was 5.4% of which 4.7% was due to "roads impassible". Apparently these households are located on roads which are closed each Spring when thawing damages the structure.

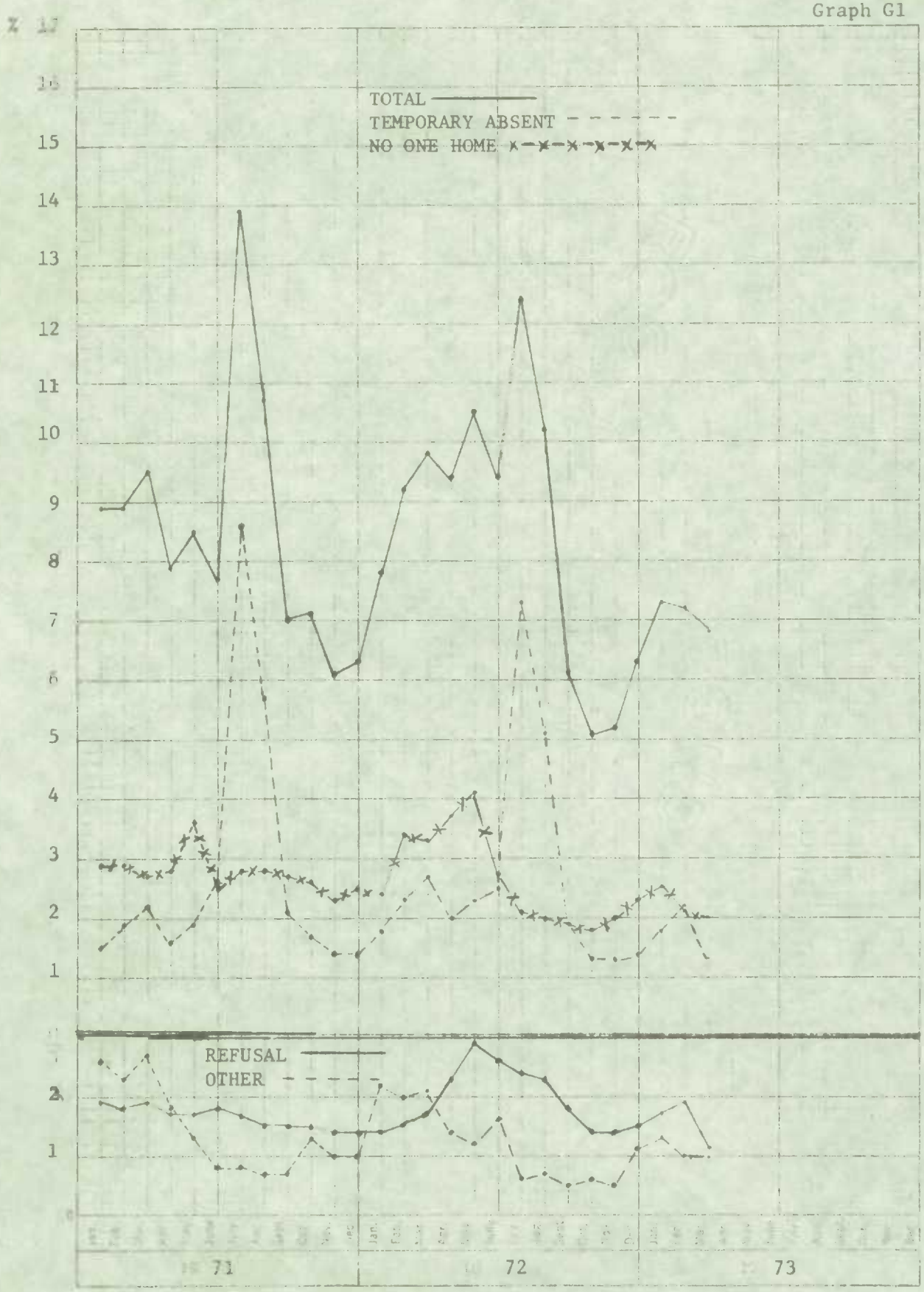
In terms of regional office totals, the Vancouver office showed the highest N_1, N_2 and "other" rates in Canada.

Compared with the March 1972 rate of 9.9% the March 1973 level of 10.5% shows a deterioration. All components were higher in March 1973 than in March 1972.



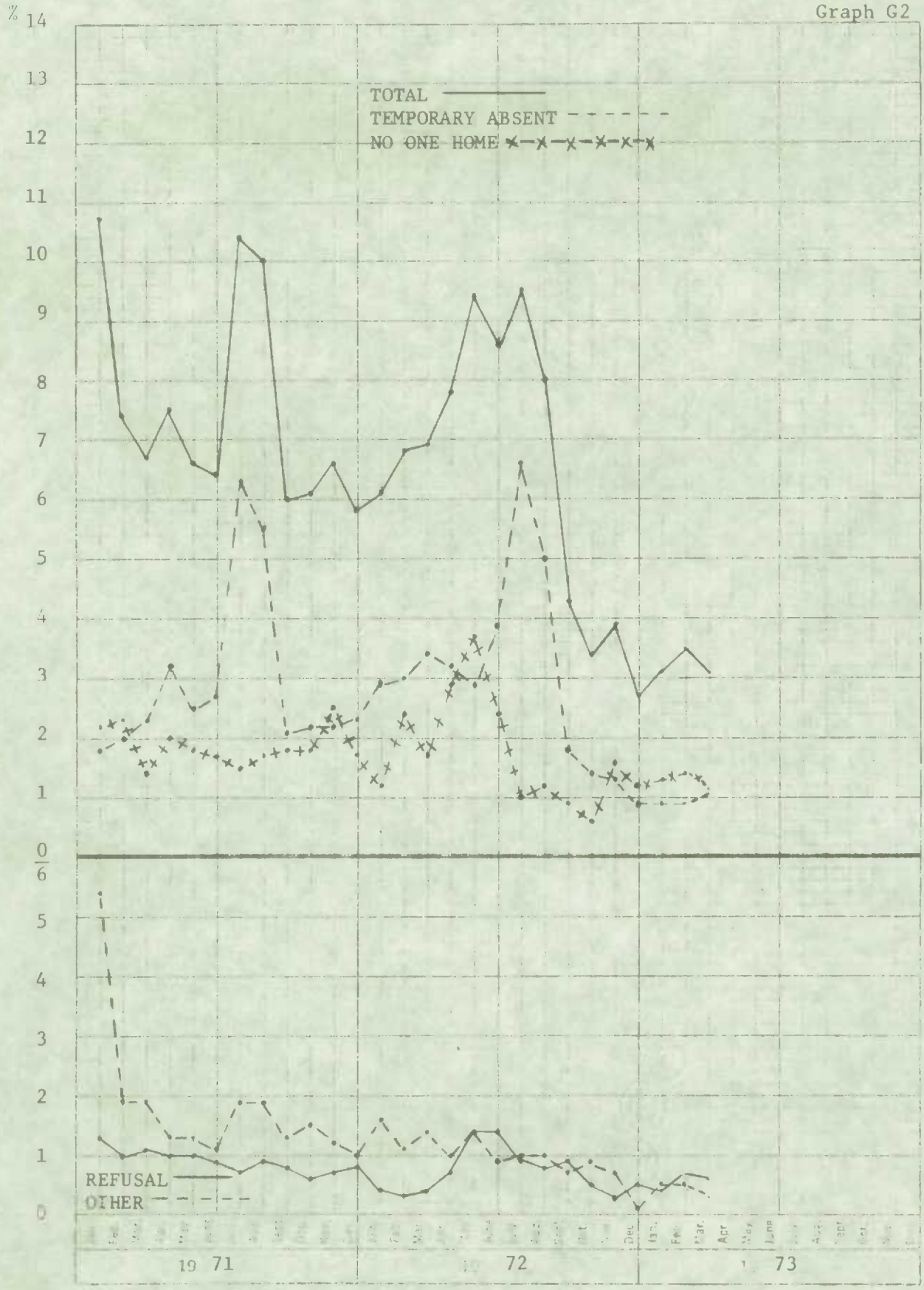
Canada

Graph G1



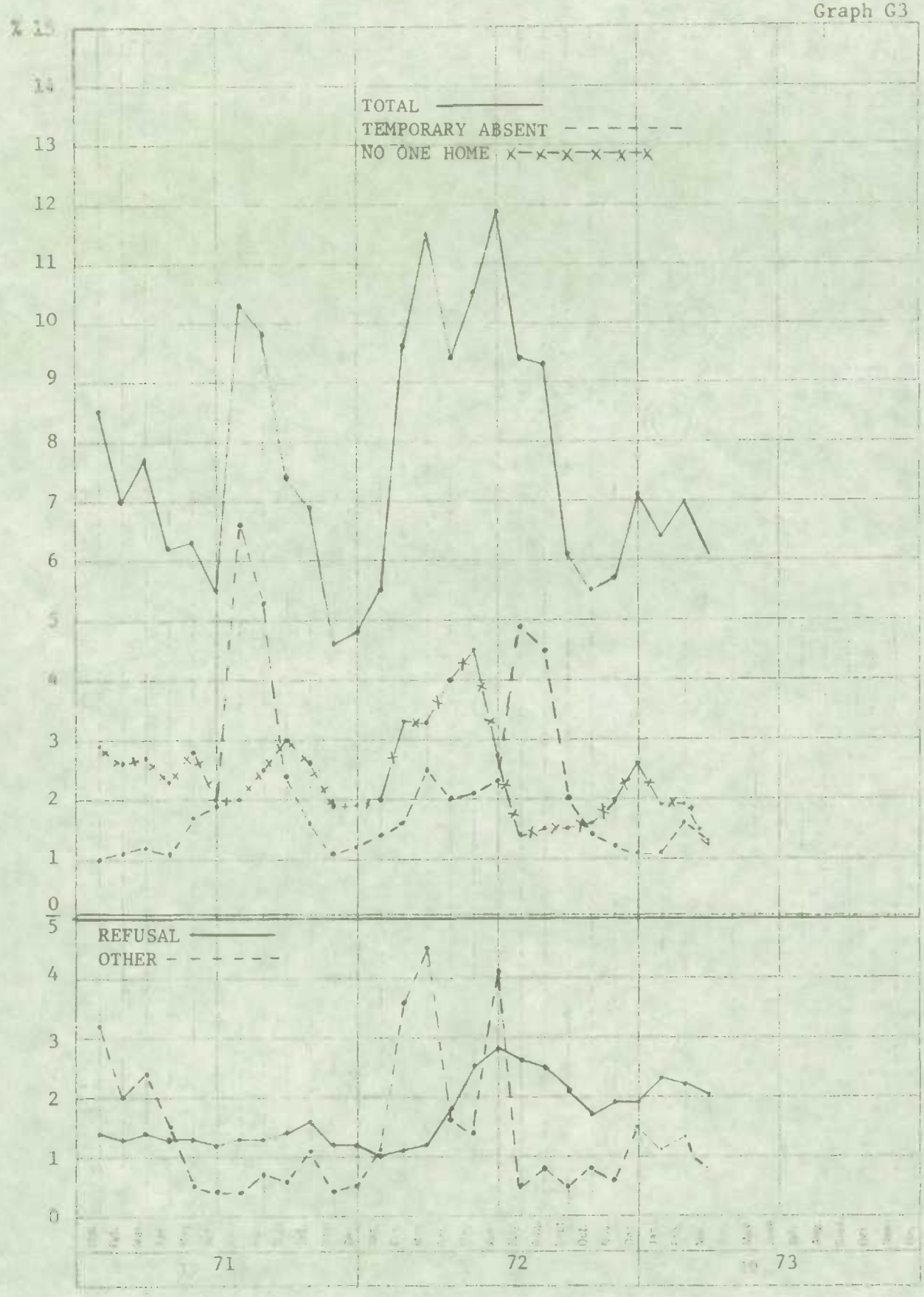
St.John Regional Office

Graph G2



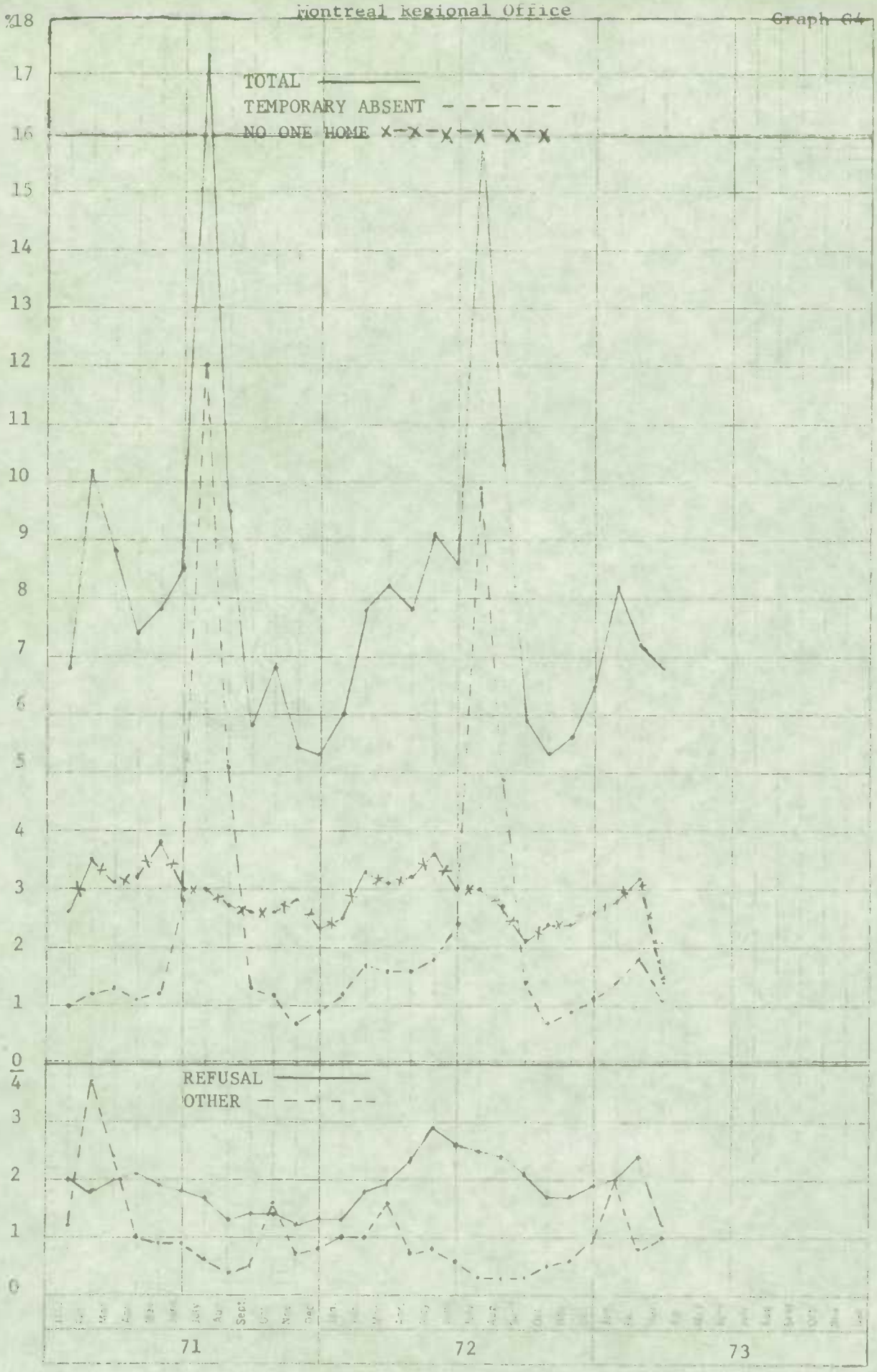
Halifax Regional Office

Graph G3



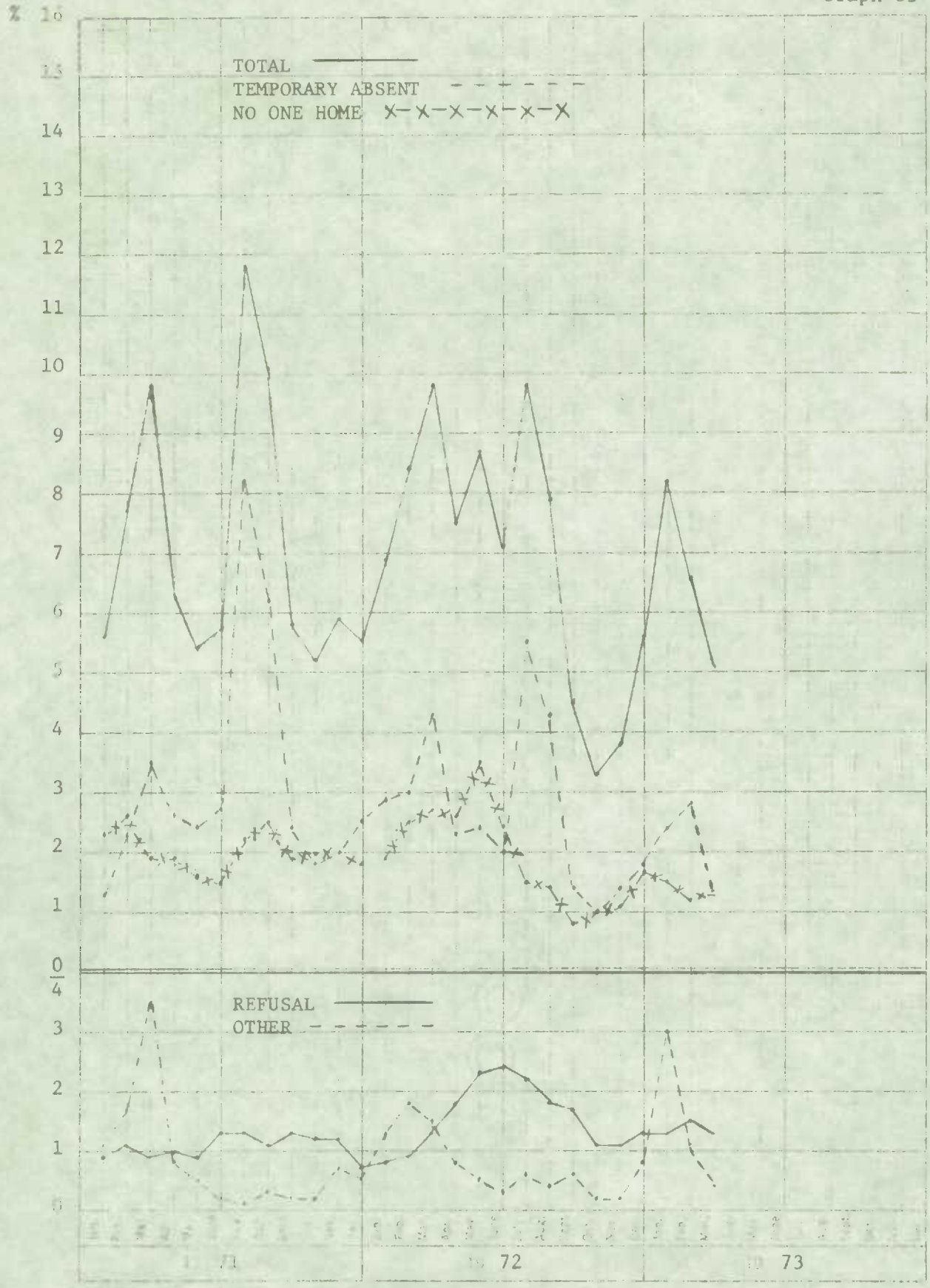
Montreal Regional Office

Graph G4



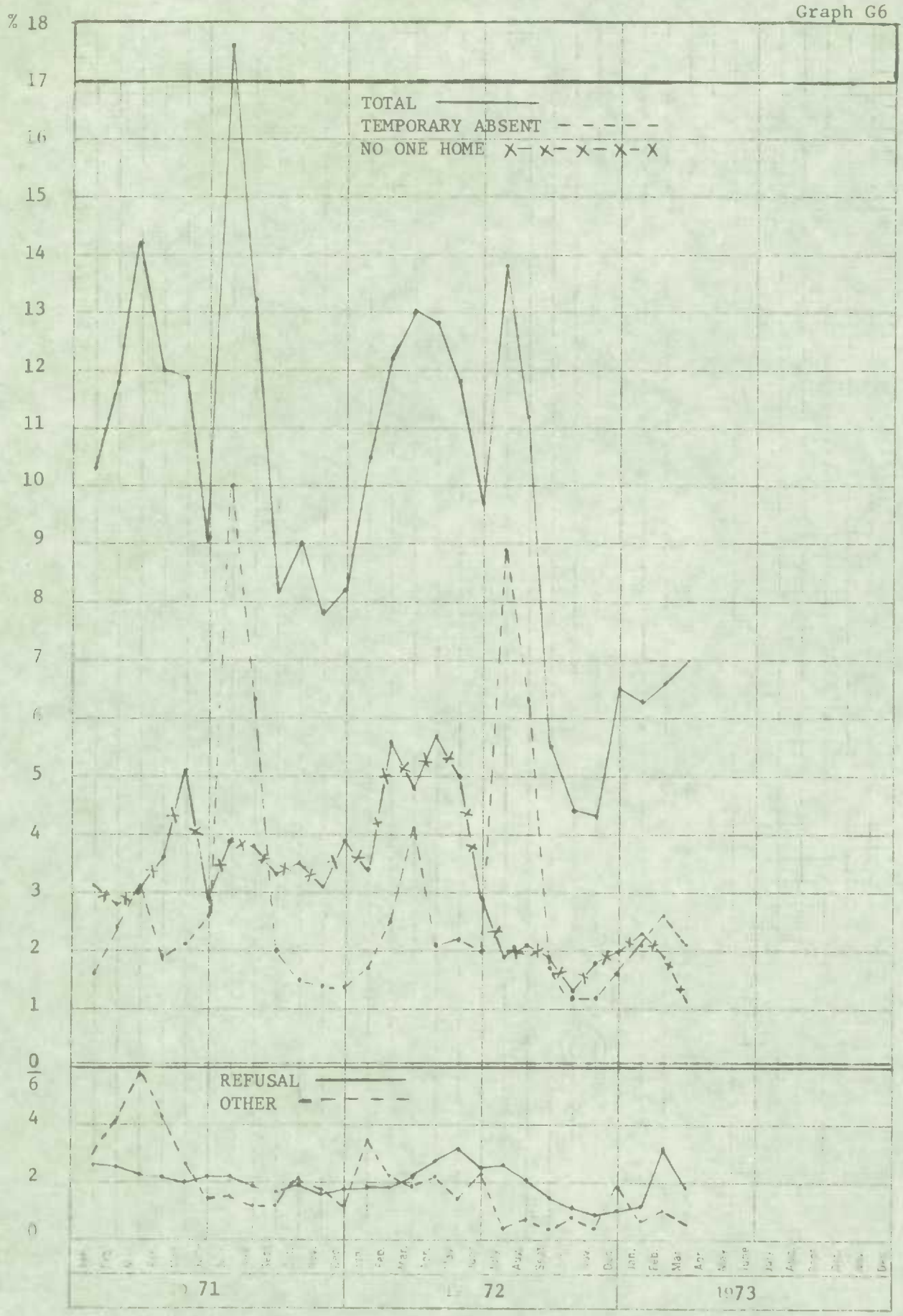
Ottawa Regional Office

Graph G5



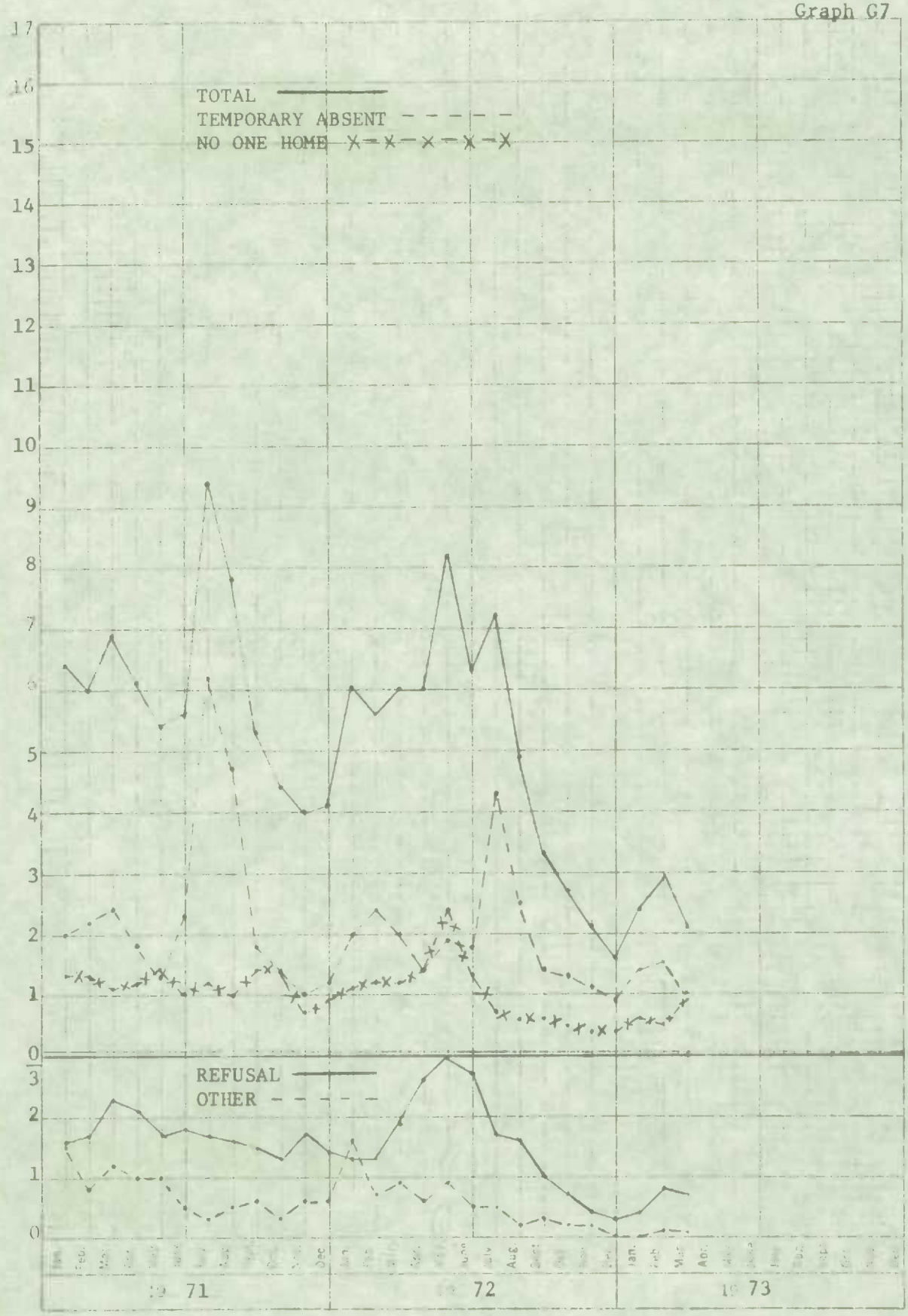
Toronto Regional Office

Graph G6



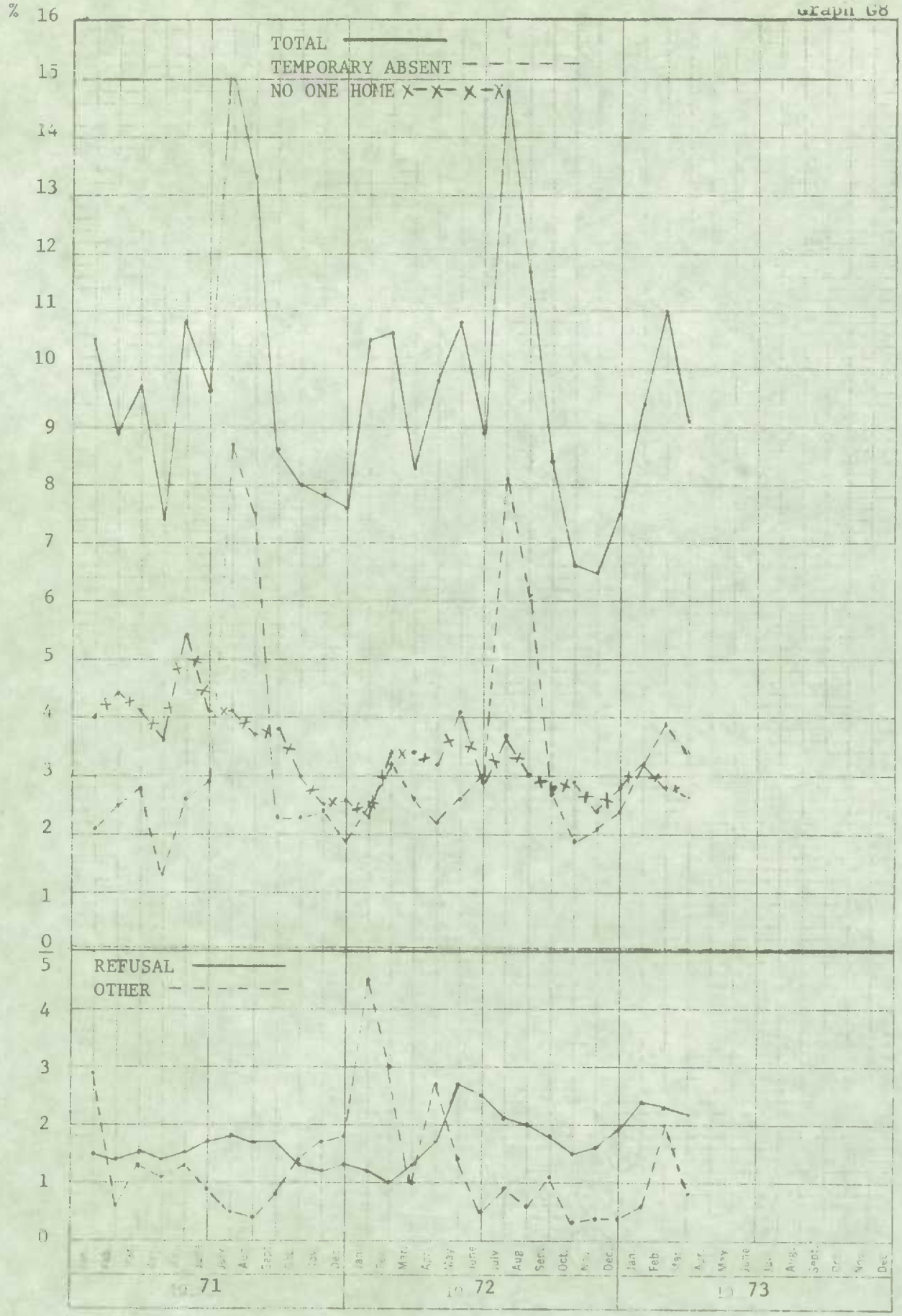
Winnipeg Regional Office

Graph G7



Edmonton Regional Office

Graph G8



Vancouver Regional Office

Graph G9

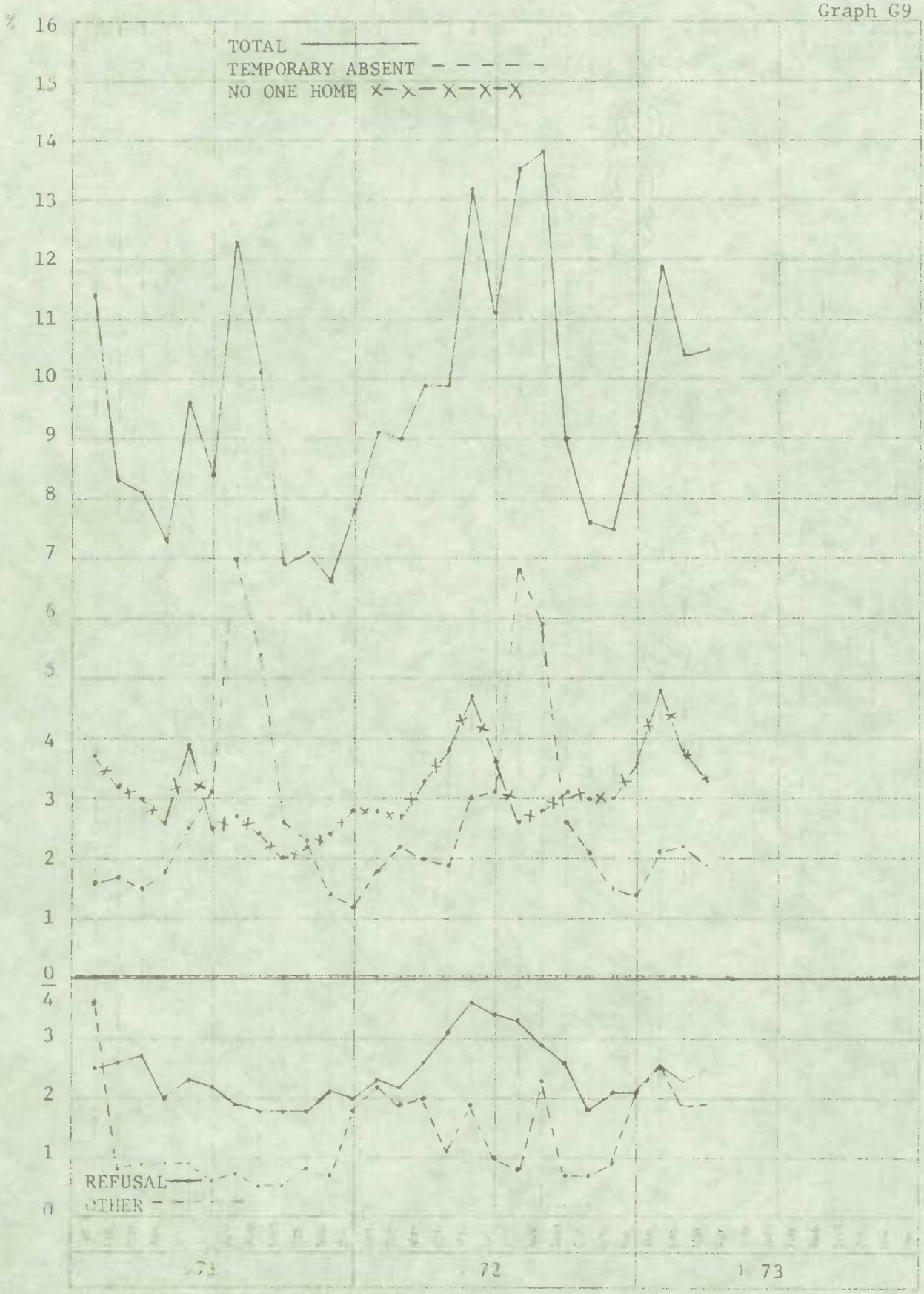


TABLE 1.

MARCH, 1973

NON-RESPONSE RATES BY COMPONENT,

CANADA, AND REGIONAL OFFICES

(Percent)

	Total	T. A.	N. 1.	N. 2.	Other
Canada	6.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.0
St. John's	3.2	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.3
Halifax	6.3	1.8	1.6	2.1	0.8
Montreal	6.8	1.1	2.1	2.1	1.5
Ottawa	5.2	1.8	1.5	1.5	0.4
Toronto	7.0	2.6	1.9	1.9	0.6
Winnipeg	2.8	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.2
Edmonton	9.1	3.4	2.7	2.2	0.8
Vancouver	10.5	1.9	3.4	2.5	2.7

COMPARING UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WITH DATA FROM THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

(Special Reprint From the Canadian Statistical Review, March 1973)

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

COMPARING UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WITH DATA FROM THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

Special Reprint from the Canadian Statistical Review, March, 1973

Information Canada
Ottawa

COMPARING UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WITH DATA FROM THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

M. Naemark*

The monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) is the source of the official measure of unemployment in Canada.[1] Comparisons are frequently made between the number of unemployed persons as reported by the LFS and the number of claimants for unemployment insurance benefit. The numbers in the two series seldom coincide, and misleading inferences are often drawn about the accuracy of the measures. However, the two series are not intended to measure the same characteristics and therefore, direct comparisons are not valid.

The populations from which the unemployed and claimants are drawn are somewhat different. The labour force covers the civilian population attached to the labour market, including self-employed persons. The insured population consists mainly of the paid worker segment of the labour force.[2] Members of the armed forces are in the insured population.

Another problem in comparing the LFS unemployed and the Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC) claimants is that these measures overlap. For example, not all the LFS unemployed are UIC claimants; conversely, not all UIC claimants are included in the LFS unemployed. Some UIC claimants are employed and some are, by LFS definition, "not in the labour force". The differences between the two series are such as to invalidate direct comparisons. The following article examines the constituents of each group and explains the differences and similarities.

Labour Force Survey[3]

The Labour Force Survey is a monthly sample survey of about 30,000 households in Canada. The sample has been designed to represent the non-institutional civilian population, 14 years of age and over. Each month, questions are asked about the activity of individuals in the sample of households. Interviewers code replies into the following categories: worked; looked for work (including persons who indicate they would have looked for work except that they were ill, were on prolonged layoff, or believed no work was available in the community); had a job but not at work (illness, vacation, temporary layoff, etc.); permanently unable to work; kept house; went to school; retired or voluntary idle; or other. These coded replies are used to determine whether a person is employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force.

An unemployed person is one who, in the reference week:

(i) was without work, and
(ii) demonstrated an immediate interest in work, either by actively looking for work or by indicating that he would have looked for work except for special circumstances,
(iii) or, was temporarily laid off.

The employed are those who worked in the reference week, even for only a few hours, plus those who had a job but were not at work because of illness, vacation, etc. The sum of the employed and unemployed constitutes the labour force.

Unemployment Insurance Data

Effective January 2, 1972, unemployment insurance coverage became universal for members of the labour force for whom there exists an employer-employee relationship, including the Armed Forces. There are three exceptions:

(i) employed persons with "very low earnings" (very low earnings are defined as less than 20% of the maximum weekly insurable earnings, which were $160 a week in 1973, or less than 20 times the provincial hourly minimum wage, whichever is lower. For example, a person in Ontario earning less than $32 a week is not covered.);
(ii) employed persons 70 years of age and over; and
(iii) employed persons to whom a retirement pension under the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) or the Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) has at any time become payable.

An insured person qualifies to receive unemployment insurance benefit if he has had:

(i) 8 or more weeks of insurable employment in the past 52 weeks; and
(ii) an interruption of earnings from employment.

A claimant is an insured person who applies for or is in receipt of benefit. A claimant with 20 or more weeks of insurable employment is eligible for a wider range of benefit that includes benefit payments when the interruption of earnings was caused by illness or pregnancy. There are also retirement benefits for older workers – those 70 years of age and over – or those to whom a pension under CPP or QPP is payable.

A claimant can draw to a maximum of 51 weeks of benefit depending upon his employment history, prevailing economic conditions and providing he meets the conditions of availability and capability. A claimant is not entitled to be paid benefit until he has served a two-week waiting period.

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* Mr. Naemark is Chief, Unemployment Insurance and Manpower Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada.

[1] *Report of the Committee on Unemployment Statistics*, Ottawa, August, 1960, out of print.

[2] The only self-employed workers included in the insured population are fishermen.

[3] "The Meanings, Uses and Limitation of the Unemployment Statistics", by Peter Hicks, *Canadian Statistical Review*, Catalogue 11-003, July, 1972.

(Continued on page 1163)

Comparing Unemployment Statistics with Data from the Unemployment Insurance Commission

(Continued from page 6)

Claimants can augment their benefit by working part-time; however, work-related income in excess of 25% of the weekly benefit is deducted from the benefit paid.

Each month, statistics on the number of claimants currently reporting to UIC offices are published in the *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (Catalogue 73-001). More detail on the coverage and benefits of unemployment insurance is also included in these reports.

Not all claimants receive benefit for every week of unemployment. Some may be serving the two-week waiting period: some may be disqualified, for a maximum of three weeks, for voluntarily leaving employment or for dismissal for misconduct. Others may be disentitled from receiving benefit for various reasons; for example, not available, not capable, refusing suitable employment, etc. The UIC is developing statistics on the number of persons in receipt of unemployment insurance benefit for a particular week each month. The beneficiary count is a measure of the number of persons benefiting financially from the unemployment insurance program whereas the claimant count is a measure of the number of persons reporting to UIC offices.

Differences in LFS and UIC Data

In the Labour Force Survey, the employed category of the labour force consists of paid workers, self-employed workers or unpaid family help. Persons covered by unemployment insurance are mainly restricted to paid workers. However, as previously noted, not all paid workers are insurable. Exclusions are those 70 years of age or over, or CPP or QPP pensioners, and those earning less than a weekly minimum wage. Persons with no previous work experience, that is, new entrants to the labour force, are not included in the insured population. Employment in the Canadian Armed Forces is insurable.

The LFS unemployed includes persons who were without work and actively seeking work. To be entitled to receive UIC benefit, a claimant must have had an interruption of earnings, and be available for and capable of employment. A UIC claimant may work part-time and still be eligible for benefit; in the LFS, he would be considered as employed. Although a claimant meets the condition of availability and capability, he may not be actively seeking employment; therefore, he would not be included in the labour force. That is, in addition to persons who are unemployed, the UIC claimant count includes persons with some earnings (employed) as well as persons not actively seeking employment (not in the labour force). For example, most claimants eligible for UIC sickness, maternity and retirement benefit are probably not included in the LFS unemployed.

Persons unemployed but not claimants include:

(i) new entrants to the labour force,
(ii) older persons – age 70 or CPP or QPP pensioners,
(iii) persons who had very low earnings,
(iv) self-employed persons (except fishermen) who have become unemployed, and
(v) claimants who have exhausted their benefit rights and are still unemployed.

Some examples of the comparative UIC and LFS status of certain cases is shown diagrammatically in Chart I.

In order to quantify the relationship between the unemployment and claimants (or beneficiaries), it would be necessary to link records of individuals in both the LFS sample and UIC claim file. At present, the technical problems of uniquely identifying individuals in both files makes this match impossible.

The above article has pointed out that the conceptual differences between LFS and UIC measures render invalid direct comparisons. However, another reason why the two series are not directly comparable is that the number of claimants is overstated in the UIC claimant data. This overstatement arises because claimants may not report their change in status when they return to work. If a claimant does not report because he became reemployed, a period of five weeks is allowed to elapse before his claim is transferred to the inactive file.

CHART I – A COMPARISON OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND UIC STATUS

LABOUR FORCE STATUS	UIC STATUS		
	CLAIMANT		NON-CLAIMANT
	Receiving Benefit	**Not Receiving Benefit**	
EMPLOYED	Persons with some earnings from part-time work	Persons with some earnings from part-time work who are serving two-week waiting period or who are disqualified	The usual case of a steadily employed person
UNEMPLOYED	Persons formerly with insurable employment, now without work and looking for work	Persons serving two-week waiting period Persons who are disqualified from receiving benefit	Persons who have exhausted benefits Persons over 70 or CPP or QPP pensioners Persons not eligible because of no previous insurable employment
NOT IN LABOUR FORCE	Persons receiving illness or maternity benefit	Serving two-week waiting period for illness or maternity benefit	Students, housewives, voluntarily idle