FILE

canadian labour force survey

LABOUR FORCE QUALITY REPORT

MAY, 1973

Labour Force Survey Division
Field Division
Household Surveys Development Staff

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HIGHLIGHTS

A. COMPARISON OF SERIES

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

Both series experienced a decline of about the same magnitude between February and March. In March the LFS Unemployed at 608,000 showed a drop of 47,000 from February, while the UIC Claimants at 1,003,000 in March declined by 52,000 over the month. 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 1.65 in March as compared to 1.61 in February. See table on page 6.

It is difficult to draw any conclusion when comparing the LFS and UIC data due to conceptual differences. See Appendix 3 of the April issue of this report.

2. Canadian and American Unemployment Rates:

(a) Actual: The Canadian unemployment rate at 6.3 % in April showed a decline of 0.5 from last April, while the American rate at 4.8 % in April showed a drop of 0.7 % from a year ago.

(b) Seasonally-adjusted: In April, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in Canada was 5.4 % as compared to a rate of 5.0 % in the United States. The Canadian rate has been declining since last December. (The rate in December was 6.7 %.) On the other hand, the American rate has been rather stable since December, varying from 5.0 and 5.1.

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

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

B. SLIPPAGE

The estimated slippage rate at the Canada level has increased from 4.7 % in March to 4.9 % in April. See graphs on pages G-2 and G-3.

1 - By Province: All provinces exhibited positive slippage rates in April. Prince Edward Island and British Columbia were the only provinces showing decreases in slippage from March to April. The estimated slippage rates in Nova Scotia and Quebec remained constant and increases in the slippage rates from March to April were noted in the other six provinces. The largest increase in slippage occurred in Saskatchewan where the slippage rate increased from 2.9 % in March to 4.5 % in April.

Newfoundland continues to show the largest slippage rate. In fact, for this province, the estimate derived from the April Labour Force Survey sample represented only 89.2 % (that is, a slippage rate of 10.8 %) of the population estimate as projected from the 1961 Census. Projections from the 1971 Census seem to reflect more closely the true population of Newfoundland and the slippage rates consequently would decrease by about 2 to 3 %. Work is proceeding along these lines for other provinces.

2 - By Age at the Canada Level: All age groups at the Canada level exhibited positive slippage rates in April. The 14-19 and 65 and over age groups showed decreases in slippage from March to April. However, increases in slippage were noted in the other three age groups.

The largest increases in slippage were noted in the 20-24 and 25-44 age groups. The estimated slippage rate increased from 11.9 % to 12.5 % in the 20-24 age group and from 3.8 % to 4.4 % in the 25-44 age group.

The 20-24 age group continues to show the highest slippage rate. In fact, for this age group, the estimate derived from the April Labour Force Survey sample represented only 87.5 % (that is, a slippage rate of 12.5 %) of the population estimate as projected from the 1961 Census.

C. NON-RESPONSE

At the Canada level, the April non-response rate was 1.1 % higher than in March. At 7.9 % the April 1973 rate indicates a notable improvement over the 9.4 % level in April 1972.

From March to April, the T.A., N_1 and N_2 components showed increases while "other" decreased.

Again in April the Winnipeg Office indicated the lowest overall rate and Vancouver Regional Office the highest. Winnipeg was the only office that did not experience a higher non-response rate.

The general increase in T.A. and N_1 may be partly explained by the coincidence of Easter Monday and the start of Enumeration Week.

D. REJECTED DOCUMENTS

The edits for the April supplementary questions were removed early in the processing as a result of the frequency of inconsistent entries for several questions. For this reason it is not possible to compare the total reject rate for April with previous surveys. However, a comparison can be made for the regular Labour Force Items. A detailed Analysis of Rejected Documents is on page 7 of this report.

The overall rate of rejects for the Labour Force Items was 7.6 % for April, up 0.2 from the March rate of 7.4 %. Four regions registered increases as between March and April; three regions had decreases and Toronto with the highest reject rate at 10.1 % was unchanged from the previous survey.

In recent years every Labour Force Survey has had additional supplementary questions. Furthermore, the number and complexity of these questions vary from one survey to the next. The committee is therefore considering replacing the charts and Summary Table on page 5 which now reflect the document reject rate for all reasons for Canada and the regions with charts and a summary which will show the reject rate for the regular Labour Force Items only, since this would be a more valid comparison month by month. The detailed "Analysis of Rejected Documents" as contained on page 7 of this report would continue to be produced.

E. ENUMERATION COST

The Household Facilities and Equipment Survey was completed by the Labour Force Survey interviewers when they obtained data for the April Labour Force Survey. This additional survey required the interviewer to complete a separate questionnaire containing 49 items at each sample household.

Since interviewers find it almost impossible to assess the time and travel that should be charged to the Household Facilities Survey, a percentage method (based on time studies) of apportioning enumeration cost is done by the regional offices.

It is therefore not possible to make a valid comparison of Enumeration cost for the Labour Force Survey as between March and April. However, economies of approximately 13 % were realized in enumeration cost for the April LF Survey as a result of piggy-backing the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey.

Summary Table

		MONTHLY ESTIMATES AND RATES							MONTH-TO-MONTH CHANGE				YEAR TO YEAR CHANGE	
		1973				1972								
		April (1)	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	April	Mar.	Mar. 1973 to April 1973	Feb. 1973 to Mar. 1973	Jan. 1973 to Feb. 1973	Dec. 1972 to Jan. 1973	April 1972 to April 1973	Mar. 1972 to Mar. 1973
Comparison of Series														
LFS Unemployed	000's	570	608	655	688	584	592	642	− 38	− 47	− 33	+ 104	− 22	− 34
UIC Claimants	000's		1,003	1,055	1,056	903		914		− 52	− 1	+ 153		+ 89
Unemployment Rates (Actual - Canadian	%	6.3	6.8	7.3	7.7	6.5	6.8	7.4	− 0.5	− 0.5	− 0.4	+ 1.2	− 0.5	− 0.6
(Actual - American	%	4.8	5.2	5.6	5.5	4.7	5.5	6.1	− 0.4	− 0.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.8	− 0.7	− 0.9
Unemployment Rates (Seasonally-adjusted) - Canadian	%	5.4	5.5	5.9	6.2	6.7	5.9	6.1	− 0.1	− 0.4	− 0.3	− 0.5	− 0.5	− 0.6
(Seasonally-adjusted) - American	%	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.8	5.9	−	− 0.1	+ 0.1	− 0.1	− 0.8	− 0.9
Slippage														
Canada - Total	%	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.2	4.5	4.4	3.7	+ 0.2	− 0.1	+ 0.6	− 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.0
14-19 years	%	2.0	2.4	2.8	0.8	2.1	1.5	− 1.2	− 0.4	− 0.4	+ 2.0	− 1.3	+ 0.5	+ 3.6
20-24 years	%	12.5	11.9	12.3	12.2	14.0	10.8	10.8	+ 0.6	− 0.4	+ 0.1	− 1.8	+ 1.7	+ 1.1
25-44 years	%	4.4	3.8	3.0	3.8	4.2	3.4	2.7	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	− 0.8	− 0.4	+ 1.0	+ 1.1
45-64 years	%	4.7	4.5	5.2	4.2	3.4	5.0	3.9	+ 0.2	− 0.7	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	− 0.3	+ 0.6
65 and over	%	2.5	3.0	4.3	1.4	0.4	3.7	5.7	− 0.5	− 1.3	+ 2.9	+ 1.0	− 1.2	− 2.7
Newfoundland	%	10.8	10.3	10.1	9.4	8.1	4.4	4.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.3	+ 6.4	+ 6.2
Prince Edward Island	%	2.5	3.3	6.4	6.8	4.5	1.6	9.0	− 0.8	− 3.1	− 0.4	+ 2.3	+ 0.9	− 5.7
Nova Scotia	%	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.0	5.7	2.1	3.5	−	− 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	+ 4.1	+ 2.7
New Brunswick	%	6.9	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.8	6.7	5.3	+ 1.0	− 0.4	−	− 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Quebec	%	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.4	3.6	4.8	3.3	−	− 0.3	+ 0.5	− 0.2	− 1.2	+ 0.3
Ontario	%	5.9	5.3	5.2	4.5	5.0	4.9	3.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	− 0.5	+ 1.0	+ 1.4
Manitoba	%	4.7	3.7	4.9	3.3	2.6	2.7	1.2	+ 1.0	− 1.2	+ 1.6	+ 0.7	+ 2.0	+ 2.5
Saskatchewan	%	4.5	2.9	3.8	3.0	2.1	− 0.4	− 0.2	+ 1.6	− 0.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	+ 4.9	+ 3.1
Alberta	%	3.6	3.5	2.1	1.4	2.2	2.5	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.4	+ 0.7	− 0.8	+ 1.1	+ 0.7
British Columbia	%	4.0	4.9	6.1	5.4	6.4	6.0	6.6	− 0.9	− 1.2	+ 0.7	− 1.0	− 2.0	− 1.7
Non-response(1)														
Canada	%	7.9	6.8	7.2	7.3	6.3	9.4	9.8	+ 1.1	− 0.4	− 0.1	+ 1.0	− 1.5	− 3.0
St. John's	%	5.1	3.2	3.5	3.1	2.7	7.8	6.9	+ 1.9	− 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	− 2.7	− 3.7
Halifax	%	7.5	6.3	7.0	6.4	7.1	9.4	11.5	+ 1.2	− 0.7	+ 0.6	− 0.7	− 1.9	− 5.2
Montreal	%	7.4	6.8	7.2	8.2	6.5	7.8	8.2	+ 0.6	− 0.4	− 1.0	+ 1.7	− 0.4	− 1.4
Ottawa	%	5.6	5.2	6.6	8.2	5.6	7.5	9.8	+ 1.1	− 1.4	− 1.6	+ 2.6	− 1.2	− 4.6
Toronto	%	7.2	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.5	12.8	13.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.3	− 0.2	− 5.6	− 6.0
Winnipeg	%	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.4	1.6	6.0	6.0	−	− 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.8	− 3.2	− 3.2
Edmonton	%	10.0	9.1	11.0	9.4	7.5	9.8	8.3	+ 0.9	− 1.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Vancouver	%	14.5	10.5	10.2	11.9	9.2	9.9	9.9	+ 4.0	+ 0.3	− 1.7	+ 2.7	+ 4.6	+ 0.6
Rejected Documents(2)														
Canada	%	8.7	12.7	8.7	9.3	8.5	9.3	11.4	− 4.0	+ 4.0	− 0.6	+ 0.8	− 0.6	+ 1.3
St. John's	%	7.1	10.3	7.8	7.1	7.9	7.4	12.0	− 3.2	+ 2.5	+ 0.7	− 0.8	− 0.3	− 1.7
Halifax	%	8.7	13.6	8.0	10.0	9.6	8.9	13.2	− 4.9	+ 5.6	− 2.0	+ 0.4	− 0.2	+ 0.4
Montreal	%	7.5	9.0	6.5	8.6	7.7	8.0	10.9	− 1.5	+ 2.5	− 2.1	+ 0.9	− 0.5	− 1.9
Ottawa	%	8.3	15.2	8.0	9.0	5.8	9.4	15.1	− 6.9	+ 7.2	− 1.0	+ 3.2	− 1.1	+ 0.1
Toronto	%	11.0	15.8	10.3	11.2	10.3	11.5	13.2	− 4.8	+ 5.5	− 0.9	+ 0.9	− 0.5	+ 2.6
Winnipeg	%	6.9	10.1	7.7	6.0	6.6	8.1	9.2	− 3.2	+ 2.4	+ 1.7	− 0.6	− 1.2	+ 0.9
Edmonton	%	8.0	11.9	10.0	9.4	8.3	9.1	8.4	− 3.9	+ 1.9	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	− 1.1	+ 3.5
Vancouver	%	9.7	14.7	11.6	10.1	8.9	11.0	8.8	− 5.0	+ 3.1	+ 1.5	+ 1.2	− 1.3	+ 5.9
Enumeration Cost per Household (2)														
Canada - Total	$	1.89	2.17	2.18	2.20	2.20	1.56	1.92	− 0.28	− 0.01	− 0.02	−	+ 0.33	+ 0.25
S.R.U.	$	1.78	2.04	2.06	2.14	2.10	1.54	1.81	− 0.26	− 0.02	− 0.08	+ 0.04	+ 0.24	+ 0.23
N.S.R.U.	$	2.04	2.31	2.33	2.29	2.32	1.60	2.06	− 0.27	− 0.02	+ 0.04	− 0.03	+ 0.44	+ 0.25
St. John's - Total	$	2.17	2.52	2.47	2.35	2.42	1.65	2.14	− 0.35	+ 0.05	+ 0.12	− 0.07	+ 0.52	+ 0.38
S.R.U.	$	2.13	2.18	2.13	2.14	2.12	1.55	1.97	− 0.05	+ 0.05	− 0.01	+ 0.02	+ 0.58	+ 0.21
N.S.R.U.	$	2.18	2.64	2.59	2.43	2.54	1.69	2.20	− 0.46	+ 0.05	+ 0.16	− 0.11	+ 0.49	+ 0.44
Halifax - Total	$	1.74	1.95	1.92	1.90	1.86	1.33	1.57	− 0.21	+ 0.03	+ 0.02	+ 0.04	+ 0.41	+ 0.38
S.R.U.	$	1.55	1.68	1.62	1.71	1.64	1.29	1.34	− 0.13	+ 0.06	− 0.09	+ 0.07	+ 0.26	+ 0.34
N.S.R.U.	$	1.85	2.12	2.12	2.02	2.00	1.36	1.72	− 0.27	−	+ 0.10	+ 0.02	+ 0.49	+ 0.40
Montreal - Total	$	2.00	2.37	2.38	2.42	2.47	1.71	2.08	− 0.37	− 0.01	− 0.04	− 0.05	+ 0.29	+ 0.29
S.R.U.	$	1.86	2.32	2.34	2.33	2.41	1.63	2.00	− 0.46	− 0.02	+ 0.01	− 0.08	+ 0.23	+ 0.32
N.S.R.U.	$	2.28	2.46	2.47	2.60	2.58	1.87	2.24	− 0.18	− 0.01	− 0.13	+ 0.02	+ 0.41	+ 0.22
Ottawa - Total	$	2.05	2.36	2.40	2.20	2.35	1.38	2.22	− 0.31	− 0.04	+ 0.20	− 0.15	+ 0.67	+ 0.14
S.R.U.	$	1.98	2.32	2.33	2.20	2.34	1.17	2.15	− 0.34	− 0.01	+ 0.13	− 0.14	+ 0.81	+ 0.17
N.S.R.U.	$	2.16	2.41	2.51	2.19	2.36	1.65	2.32	− 0.25	− 0.10	+ 0.32	− 0.17	+ 0.51	+ 0.09
Toronto - Total	$	1.98	2.28	2.31	2.48	2.43	1.48	2.04	− 0.30	− 0.03	− 0.17	+ 0.05	+ 0.50	+ 0.24
S.R.U.	$	1.92	2.21	2.23	2.39	2.32	1.45	2.00	− 0.29	− 0.02	− 0.16	+ 0.07	+ 0.47	+ 0.21
N.S.R.U.	$	2.14	2.47	2.52	2.74	2.76	1.55	2.16	− 0.33	− 0.05	− 0.22	− 0.02	+ 0.59	+ 0.31
Winnipeg - Total	$	2.07	2.24	2.21	2.22	2.21	1.80	2.06	− 0.17	+ 0.03	− 0.01	+ 0.01	+ 0.27	+ 0.18
S.R.U.	$	1.90	2.04	1.93	2.05	2.03	2.11	1.73	− 0.14	+ 0.11	− 0.12	+ 0.02	− 0.21	+ 0.31
N.S.R.U.	$	2.22	2.42	2.45	2.38	2.38	1.52	2.37	− 0.20	− 0.03	+ 0.07	−	+ 0.70	+ 0.05
Edmonton - Total	$	1.66	1.79	1.91	1.93	1.89	1.49	1.74	− 0.13	− 0.12	− 0.02	+ 0.04	+ 0.17	+ 0.05
S.R.U.	$	1.39	1.43	1.61	1.68	1.61	1.28	1.43	− 0.04	− 0.18	− 0.07	+ 0.07	+ 0.11	−
N.S.R.U.	$	1.93	2.14	2.18	2.17	2.16	1.67	2.00	− 0.21	− 0.04	+ 0.01	+ 0.01	+ 0.26	+ 0.14
Vancouver - Total	$	1.72	2.00	1.99	1.98	1.96	1.67	1.73	− 0.28	+ 0.01	+ 0.01	+ 0.02	+ 0.05	+ 0.27
S.R.U.	$	1.65	1.90	1.89	2.01	1.88	1.59	1.67	− 0.25	+ 0.01	− 0.12	+ 0.13	+ 0.06	+ 0.23
N.S.R.U.	$	1.84	2.17	2.15	1.95	2.10	1.81	1.82	− 0.33	+ 0.02	+ 0.20	+ 0.15	+ 0.03	+ 0.35

(1) Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for the section "Rejected Documents". For further details see Highlights, Section D.

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	608									
UIC Claimants (000's)	1,056	1,055	1,003									
Ratio: Claimants / Unemployed	1.53	1.61	1.65									
% 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 OPERATIONS REGIONALES

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY
ENQUETE SUR LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE

ANALYSE OF REJECTED DOCUMENTS
ANALYSE DES DOCUMENTS REJETES

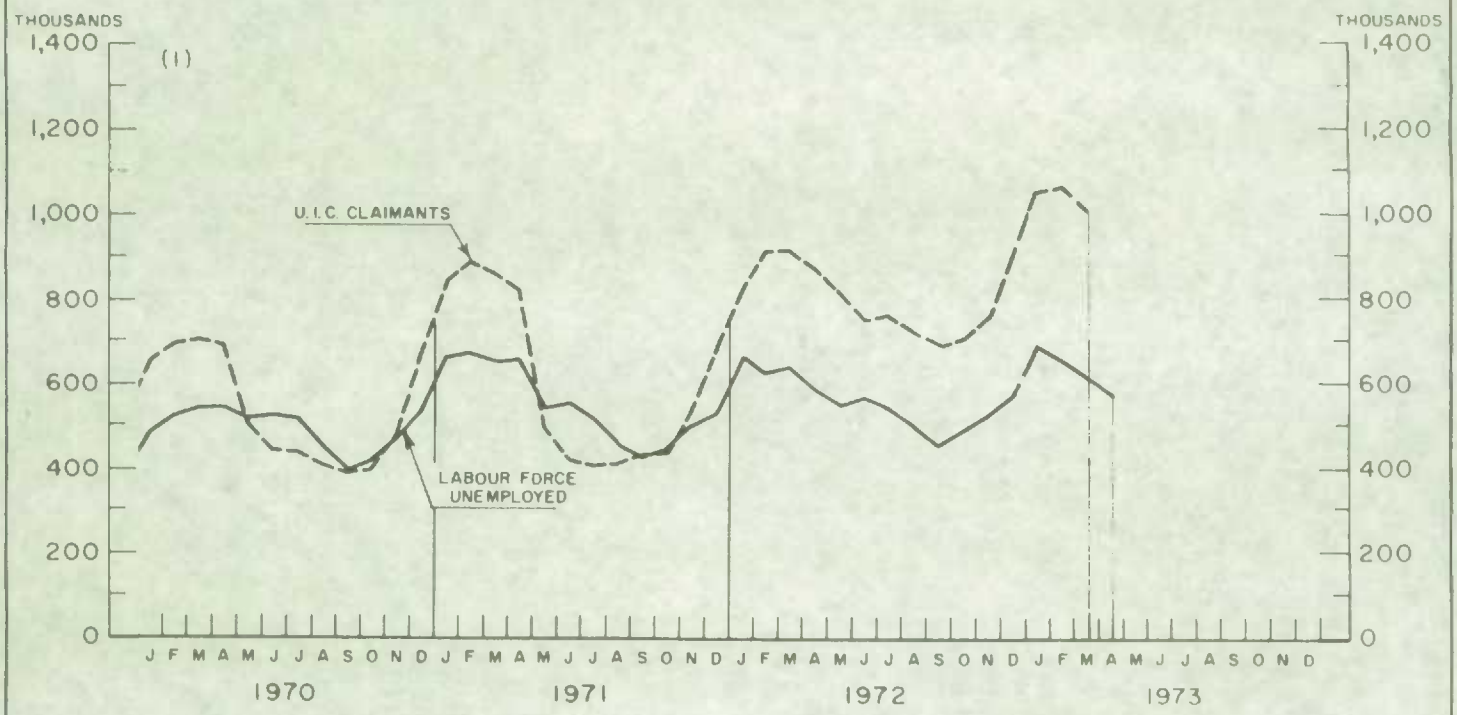
SURVEY No. 274
ENQUÊTE

April 1973 Avril

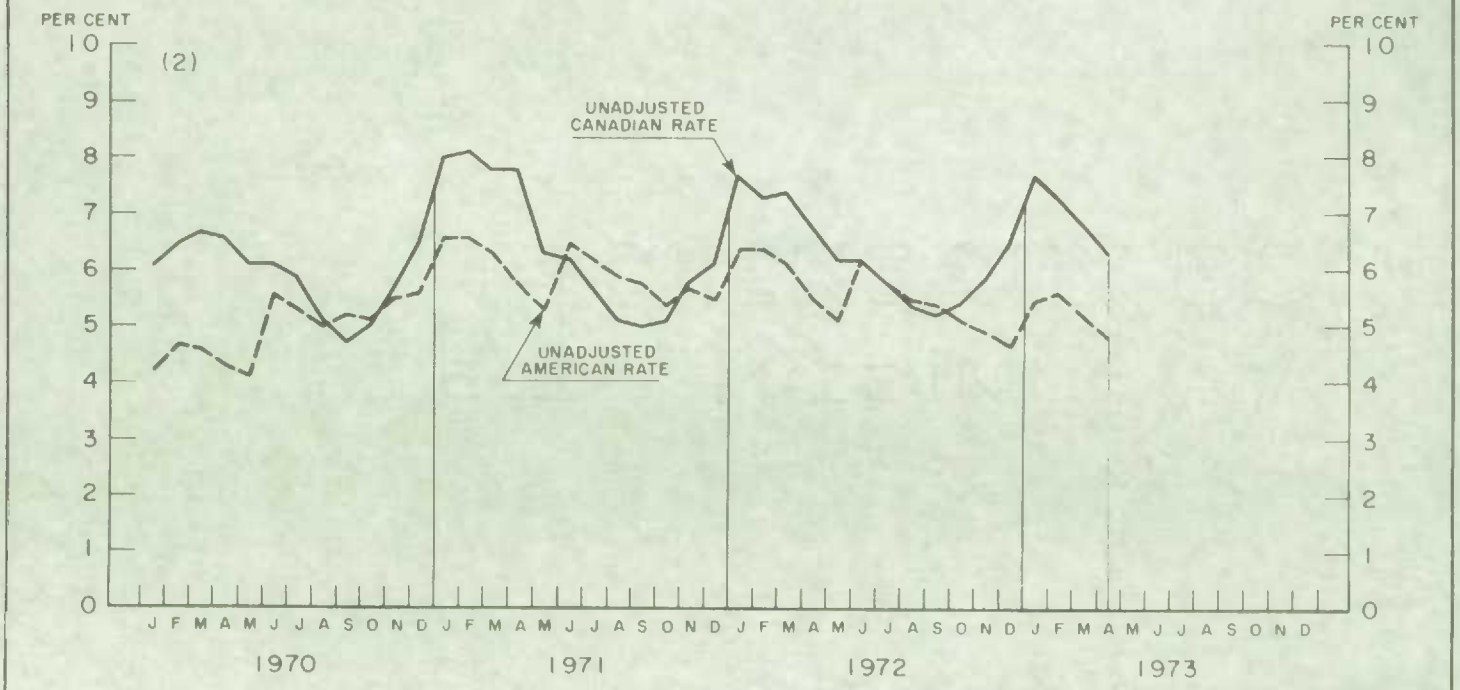
	CANADA	ST.JOHN'S	HALIFAX	MONTRÉAL	OTTAWA	TORONTO	WINNIPEG	EDMONTON	VANCOUVER
TOTAL DOCUMENTS RECEIVED TOTAL DES DOCUMENTS REÇUS	73,949	4,357	12,871	14,410	4,609	15,024	7,038	8,063	7,577
REJECTED DOCUMENTS DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	6,416	309	1,122	1,086	384	1,648	488	644	735
% REJECTED DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DES DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	8.7	7.1	8.7	7.5	8.3	11,0	6.9	8.0	9.7
SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS ARTICLES SUPPLÉMENTAIRES									
REJECTED DOCUMENTS DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	763	52	107	162	57	131	88	114	52
% OF TOTAL DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DU TOTAL DES DOCUMENTS		No calculation possible - Edit removed in earlier stage of processing -							
% OF REJECTED DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DES DOCUMENTS REJETÉS		due to frequencies of inconsistent entries							
LABOUR FORCE ITEMS ARTICLES DE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE									
REJECTED DOCUMENTS DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	5,653	257	1,015	924	327	1,517	400	530	683
% OF TOTAL DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DE TOUS LES DOCUMENTS	7.6	5.9	7.9	6.4	7.1	10.1	5.7	6.6	9.0
% OF REJECTED DOCUMENTS POURCENTAGE DES DOCUMENTS REJETÉS	88.1	83.2	90.5	85.1	85.2	92.0	82.0	82.3	92.9
No. OF CARELESS ERRORS NOMBRE DE FAUTES D'INATTENTION	3,289	99	519	580	137	1,108	240	240	366
AVE. PER DOCUMENT MOYENNE PAR DOCUMENT	.044	.023	.040	.040	.030	.074	.034	.030	.048
AVE. PER REJECTED DOCUMENT MOYENNE PAR DOCUMENT REJETÉ	.513	.320	.462	.534	.357	.672	.492	.373	.498
No. OF BLANKS IN ID. NOMBRE DE BLANCS À L'IDENTIFICATION	1,243	11	126	296	36	511	127	37	99
AVERAGE PER DOCUMENT MOYENNE PAR DOCUMENT	.017	.002	.010	.020	.01	.034	.018	.004	.013
AVE. PER REJECTED DOCUMENT MOYENNE PAR DOCUMENT REJETÉ	.194	.036	.112	.272	.09	.310	.260	.057	.135

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.

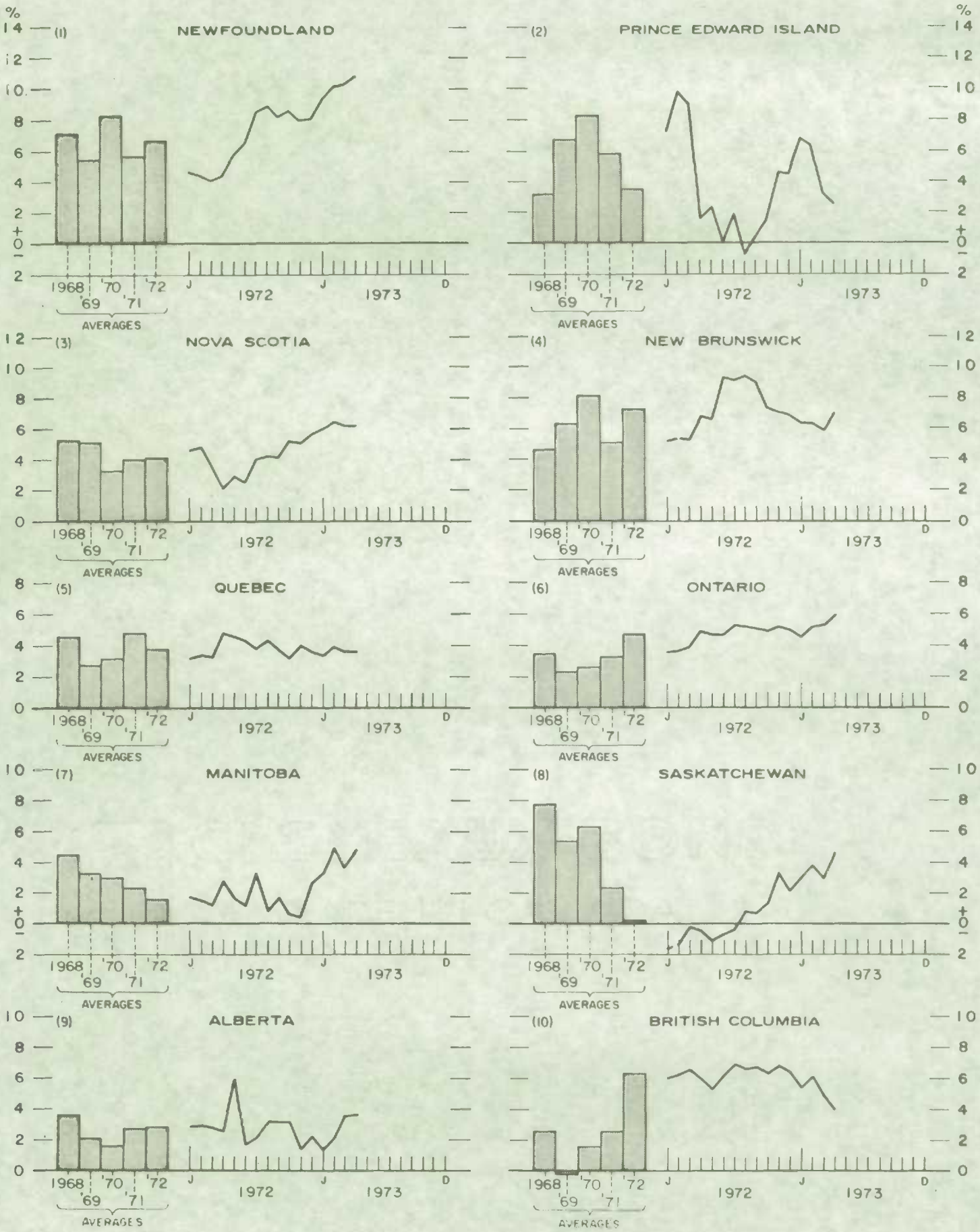
COMPARISON OF LABOUR FORCE UNEMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMANTS BY MONTH, JANUARY 1969 TO DATE



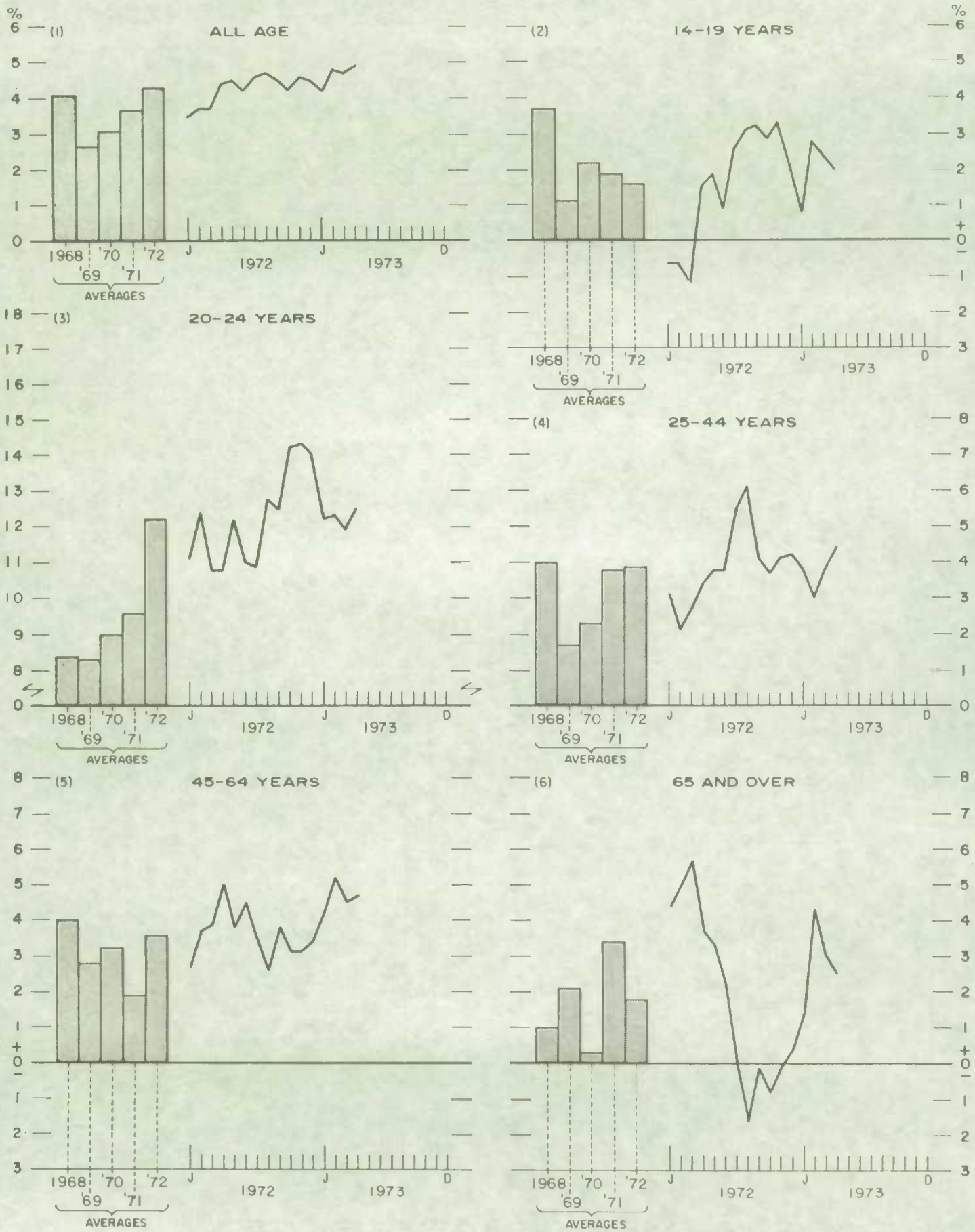
COMPARISON OF CANADIAN AND AMERICAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY MONTH, JANUARY 1970 TO DATE



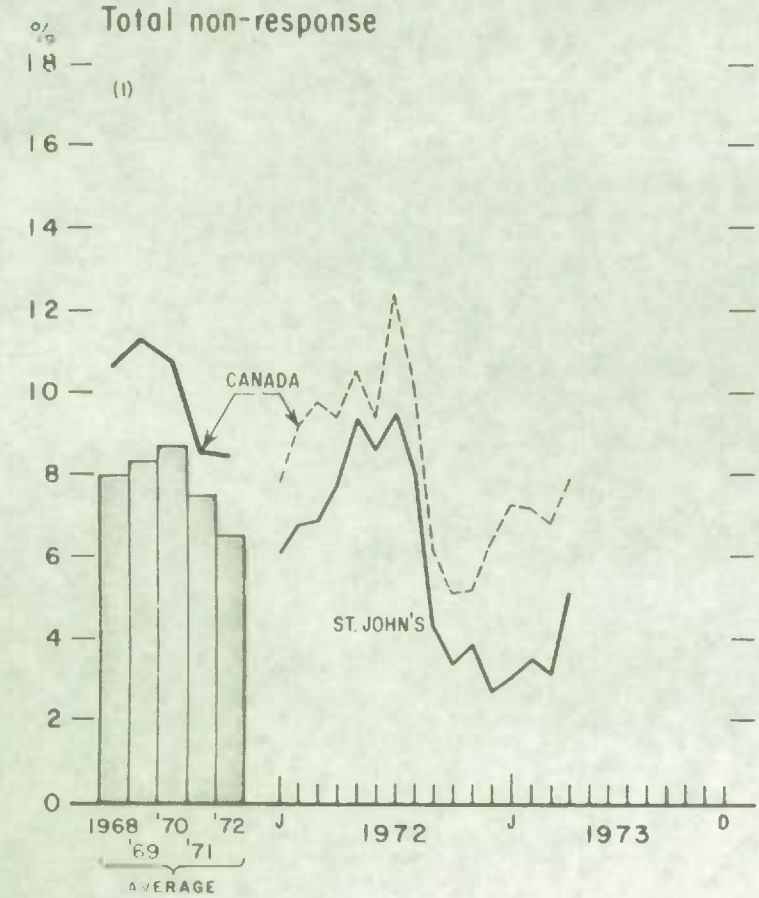
Slippage by Province

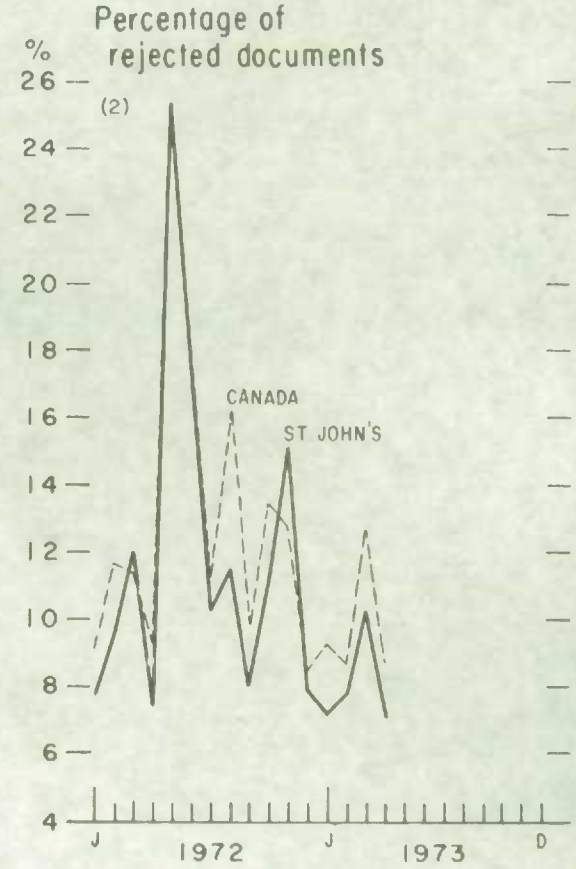


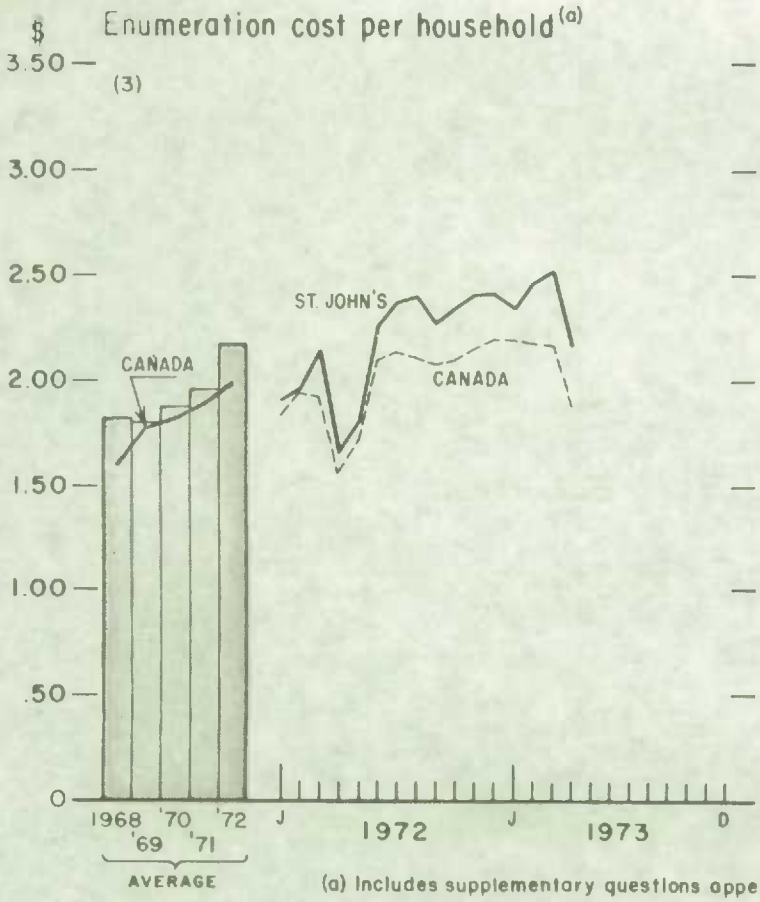
Slippage by Age Group at the Canada Level

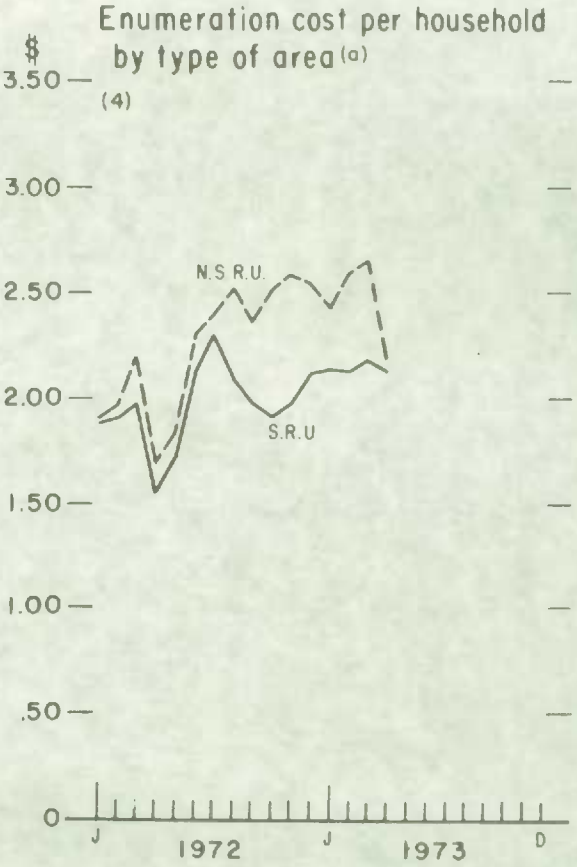


St. John's Regional Office





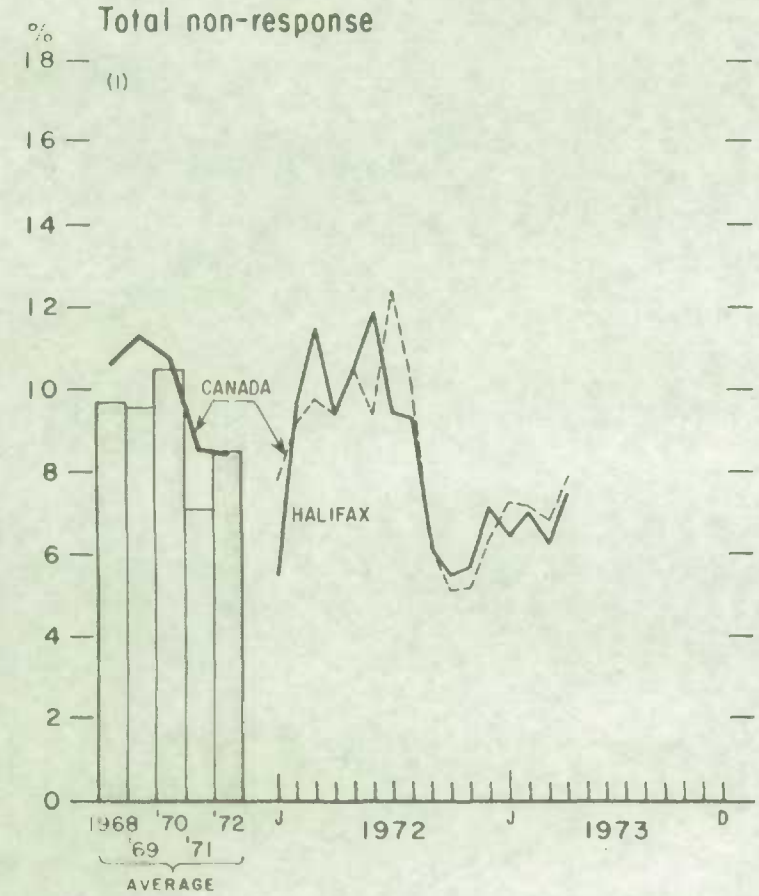


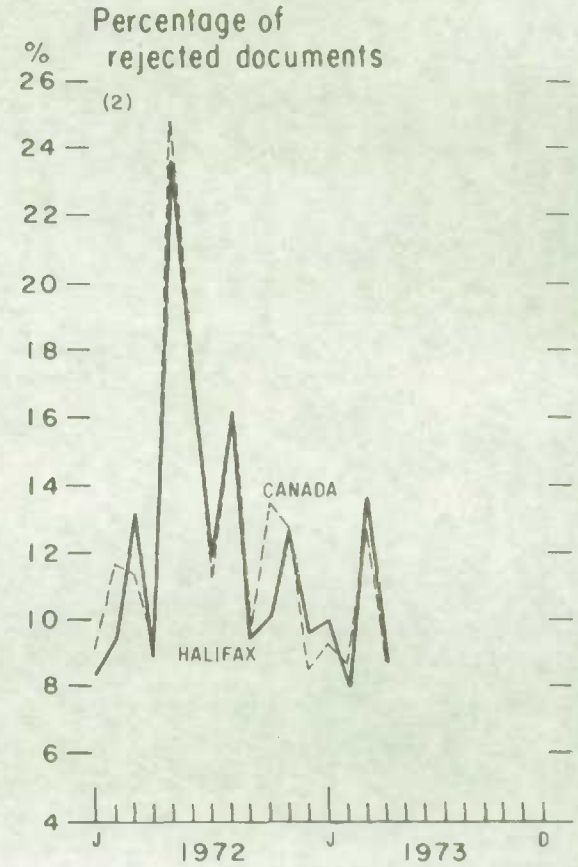


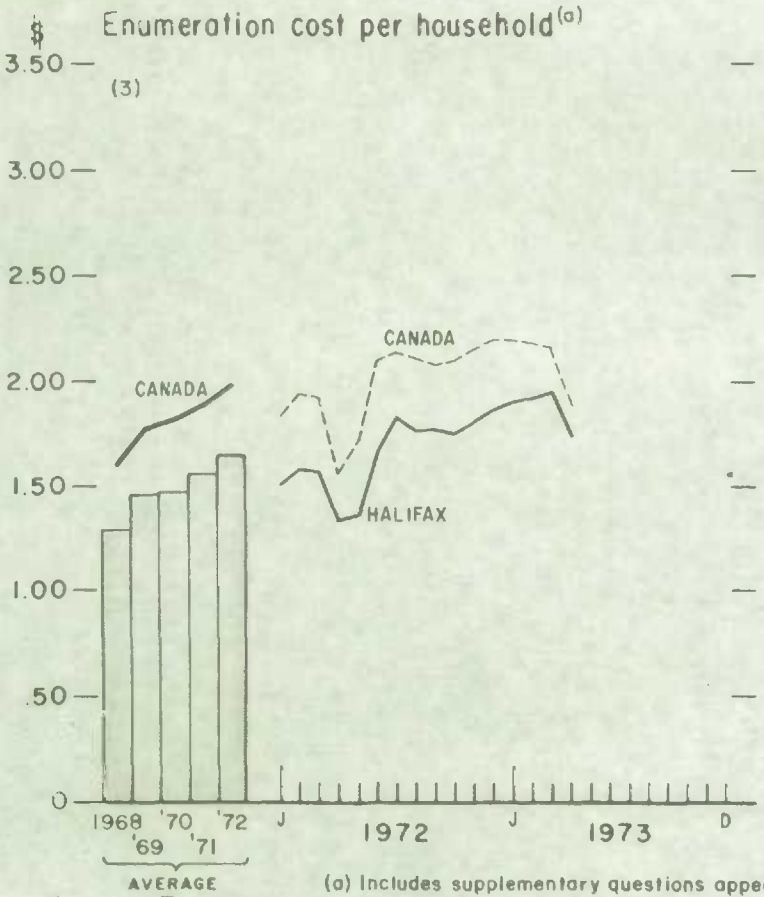
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the L F S regular schedule.

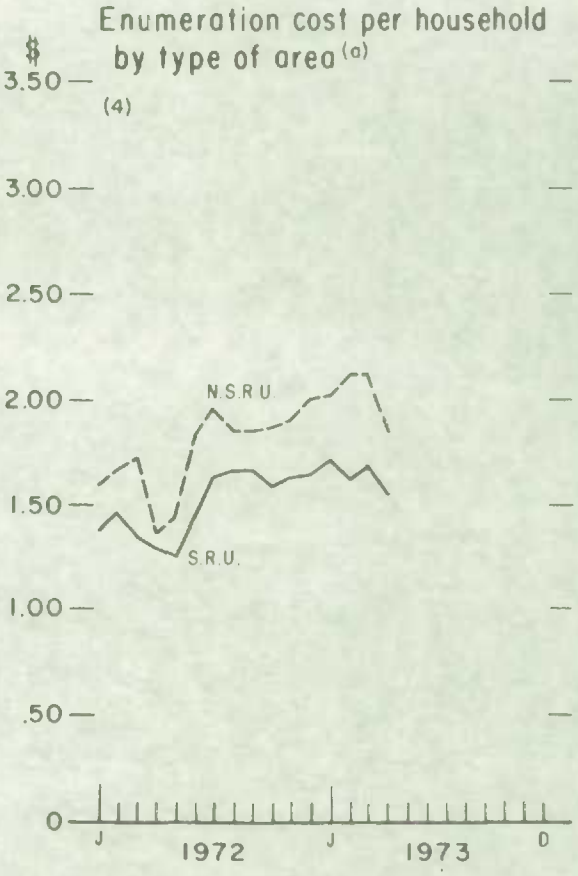
Note: Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for Chart(2) "Percentage of rejected documents". For further details see Highlights, Section D.

Halifax Regional Office





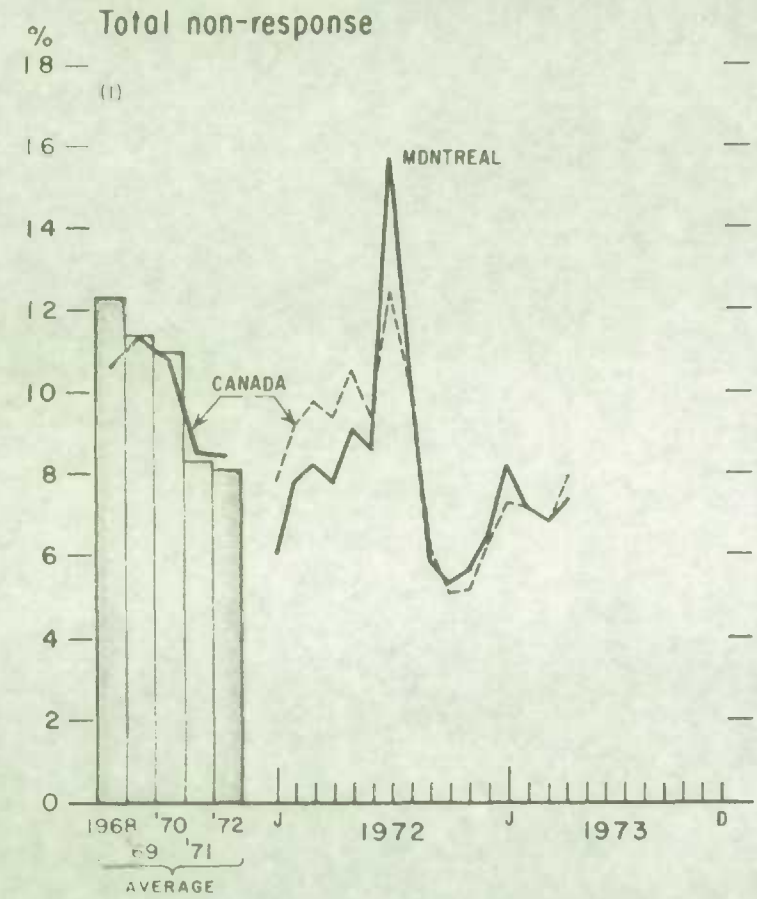


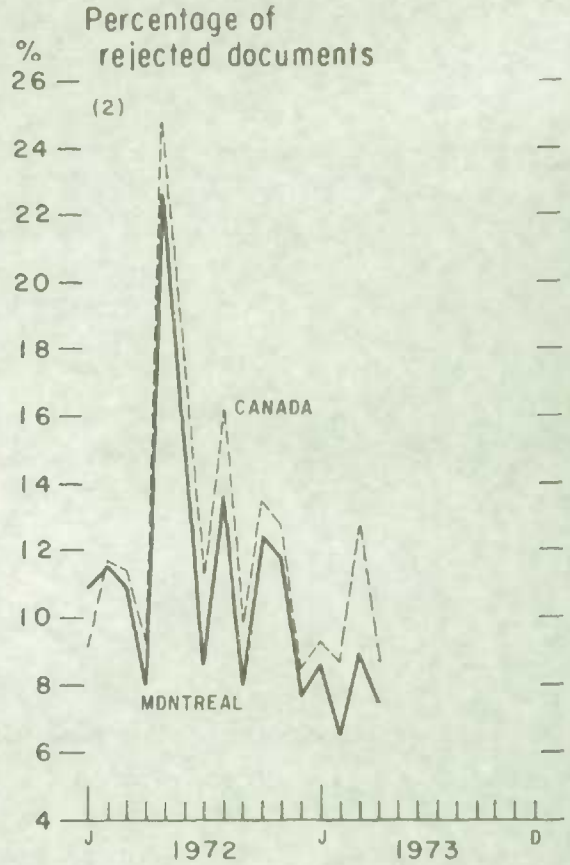


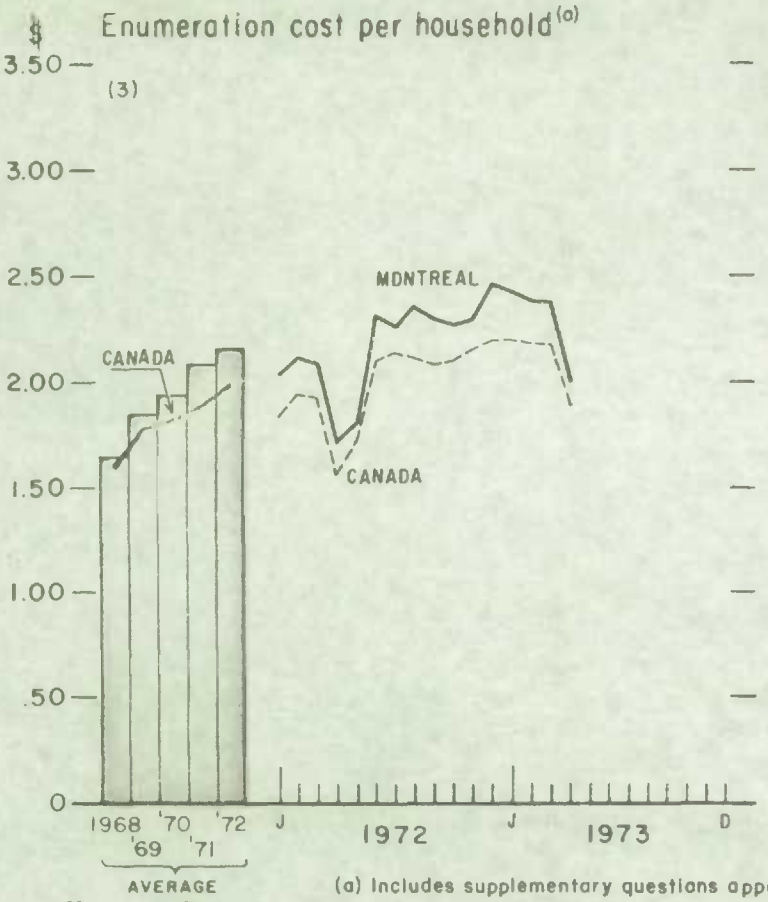
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule.

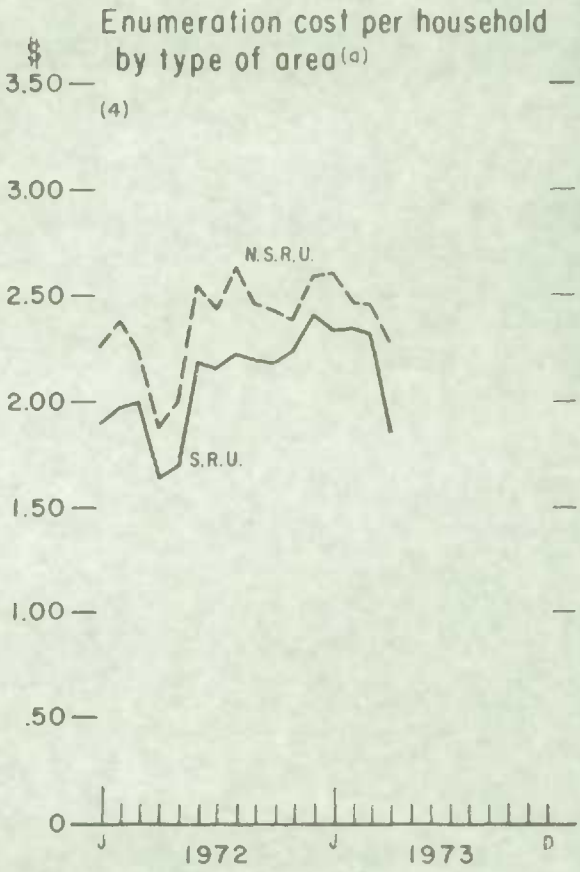
Note: Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for Chart(2) "Percentage of rejected documents". For further details, see "Highlights - Quarterly

Montreal Regional Office





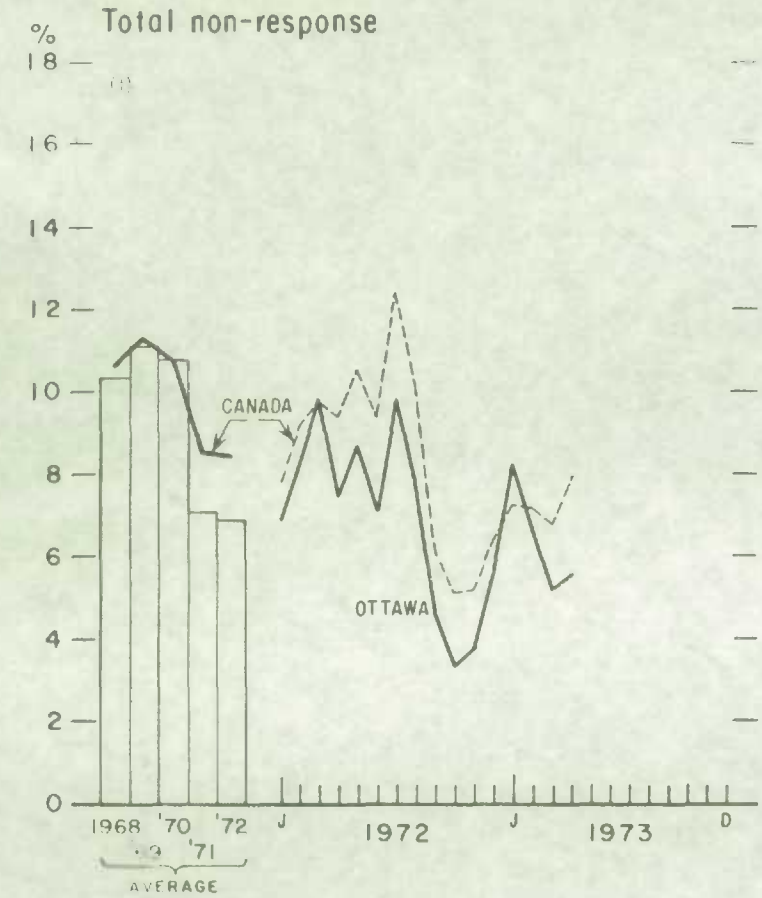


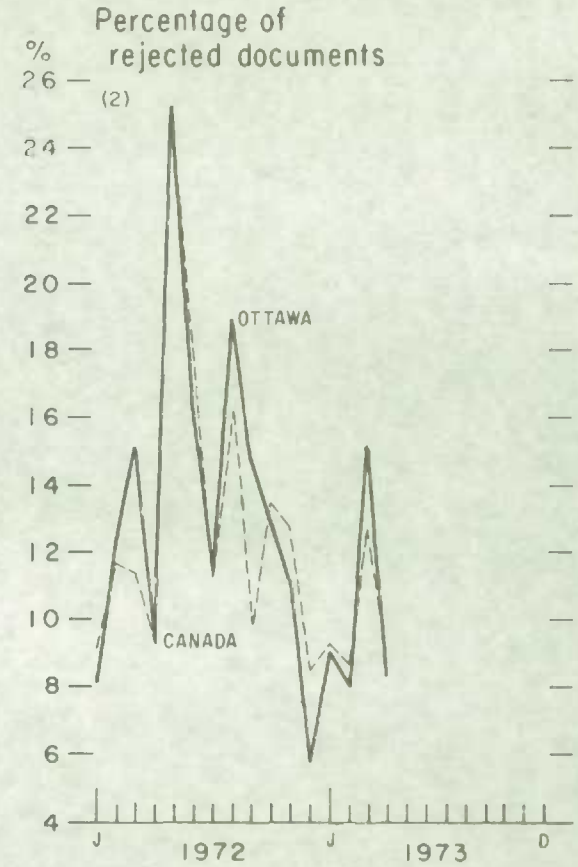


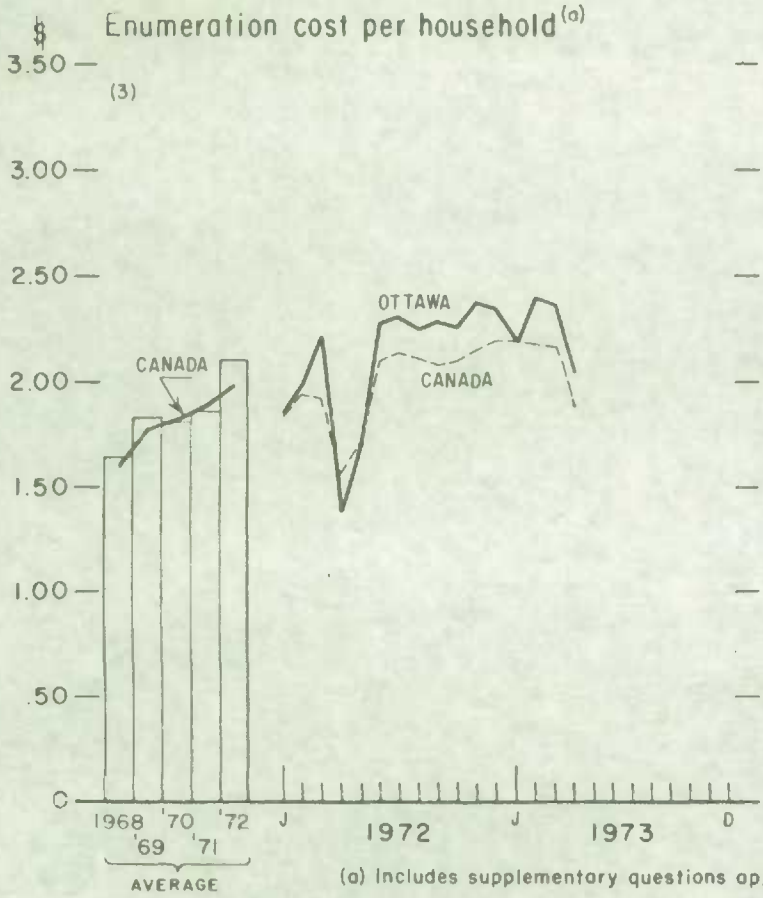
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule.

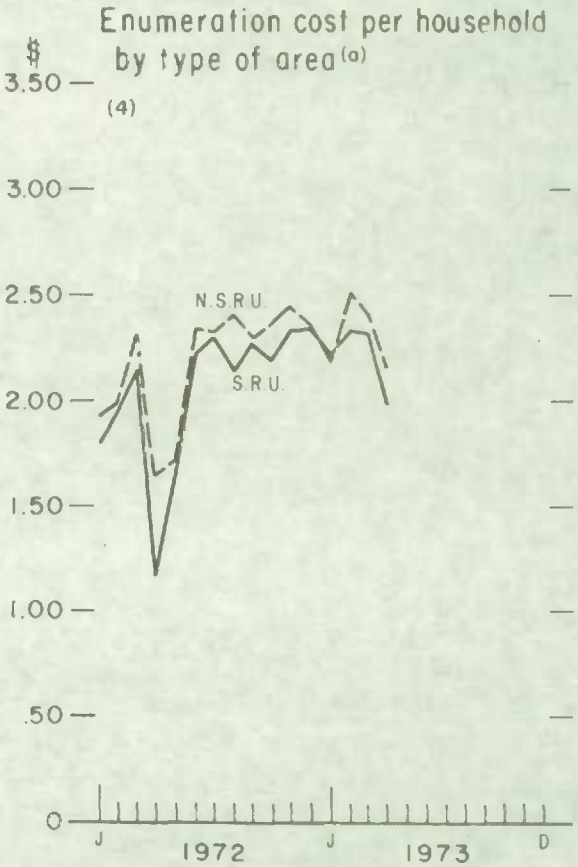
Note: Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for Chart(2) "Percentage of rejected documents". For further details see Highlights, Section D

Ottawa Regional Office





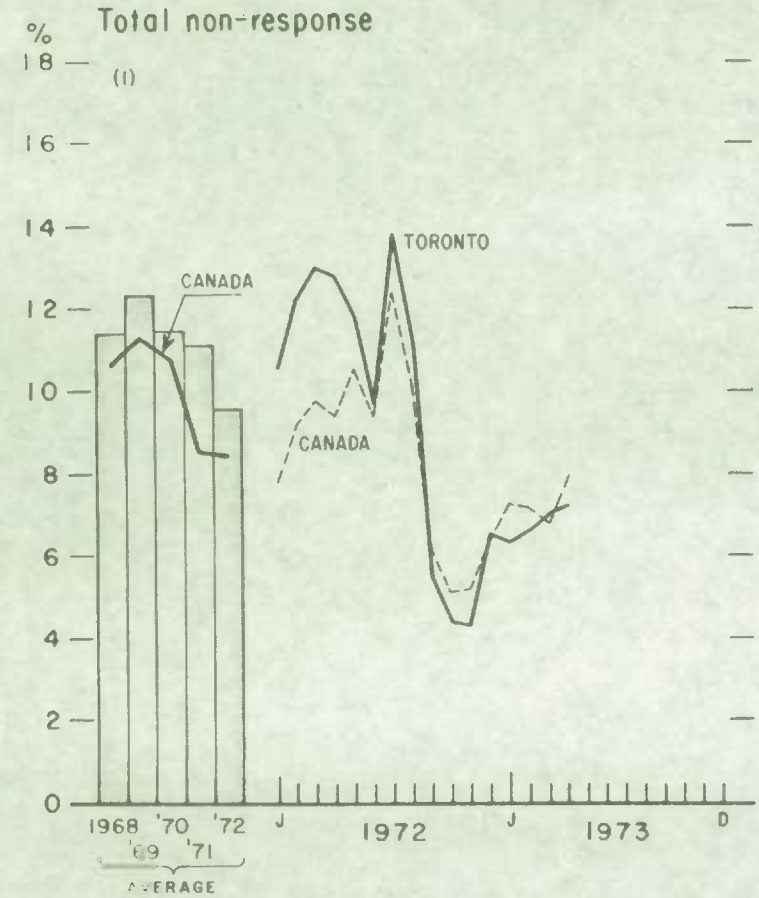


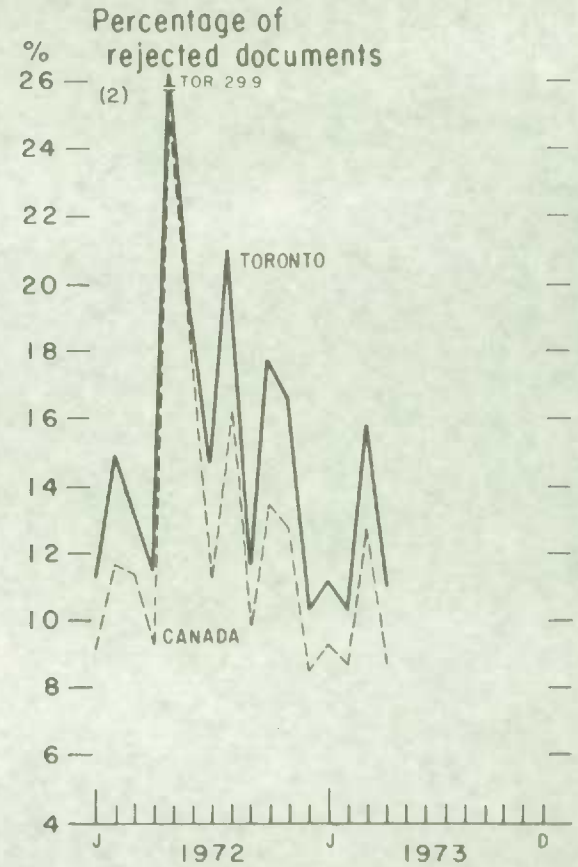


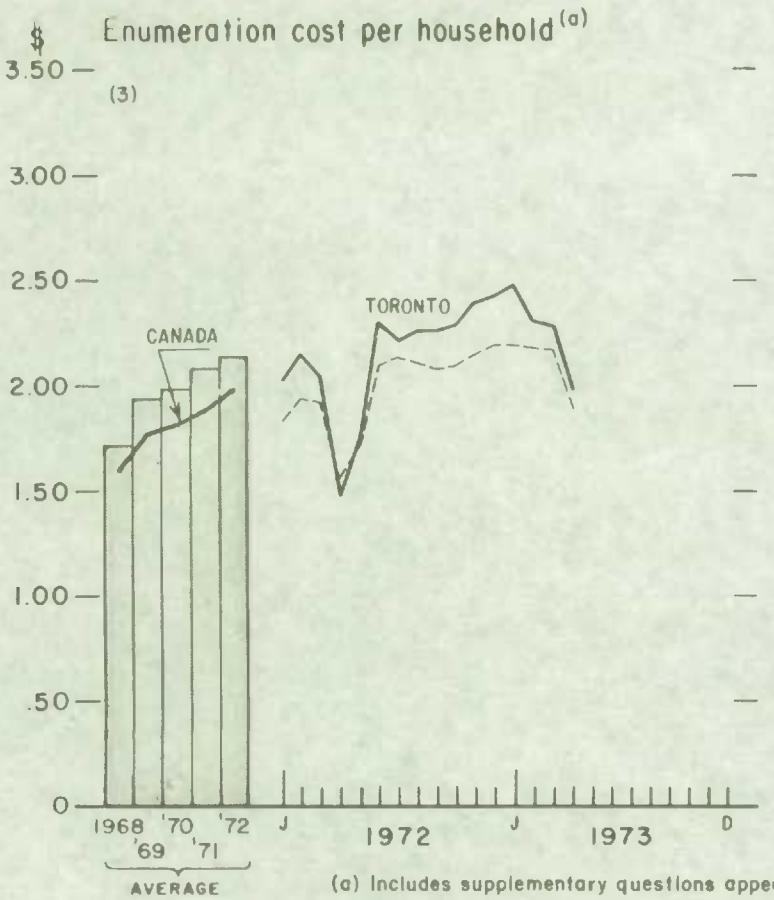
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule.

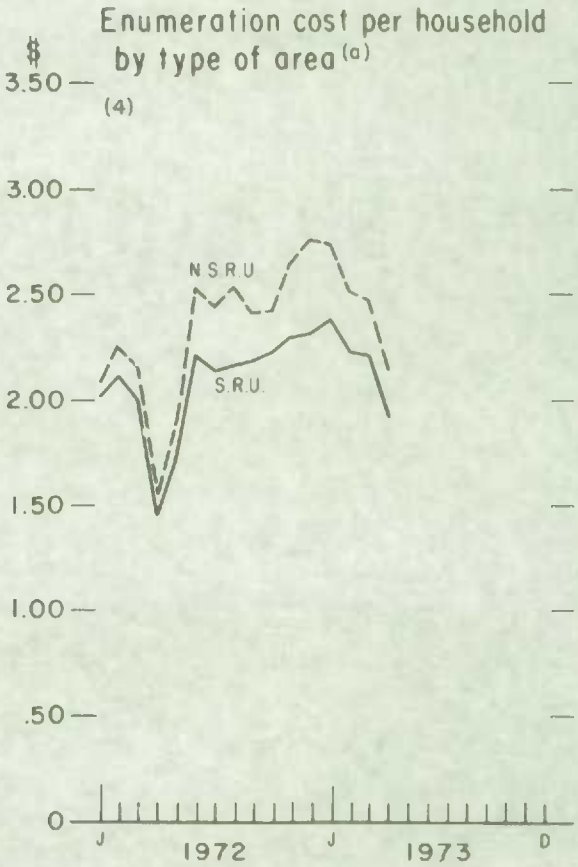
Note: Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for Chart(2) "Percentage of rejected documents". For further details see Highlights, Section D.

Toronto Regional Office





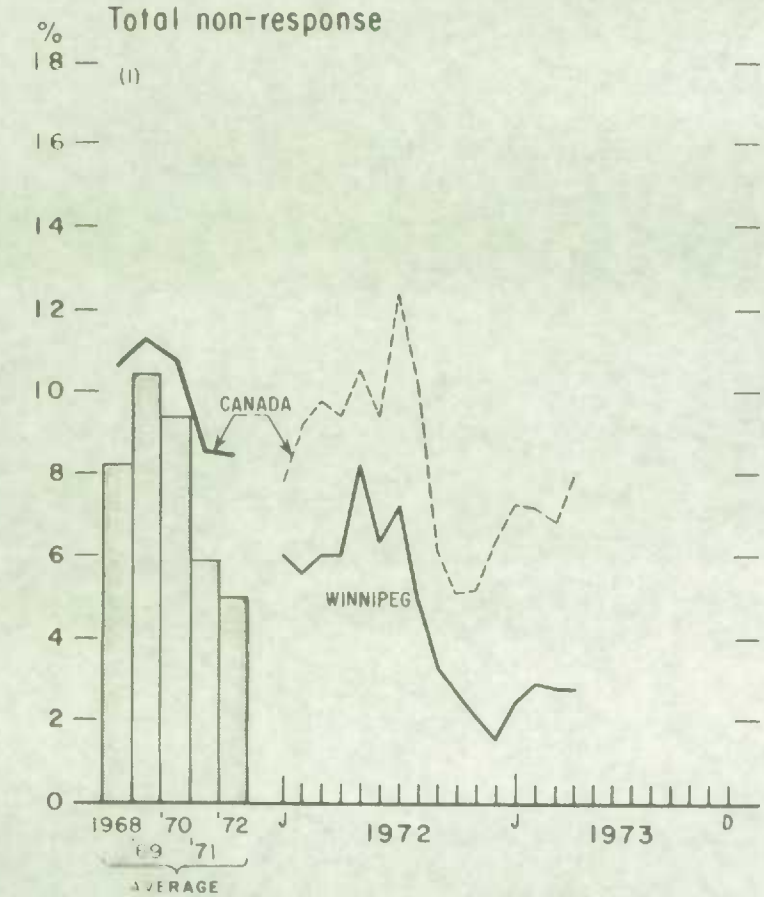


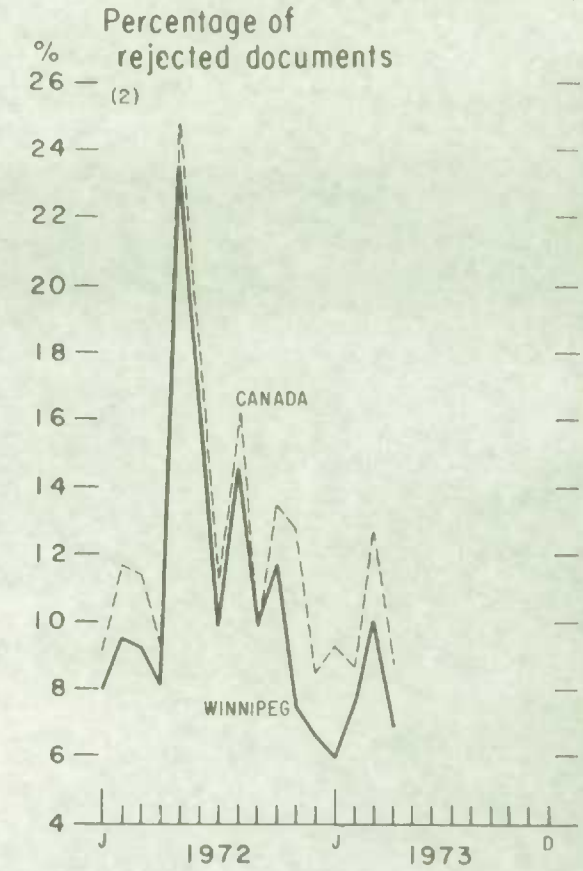


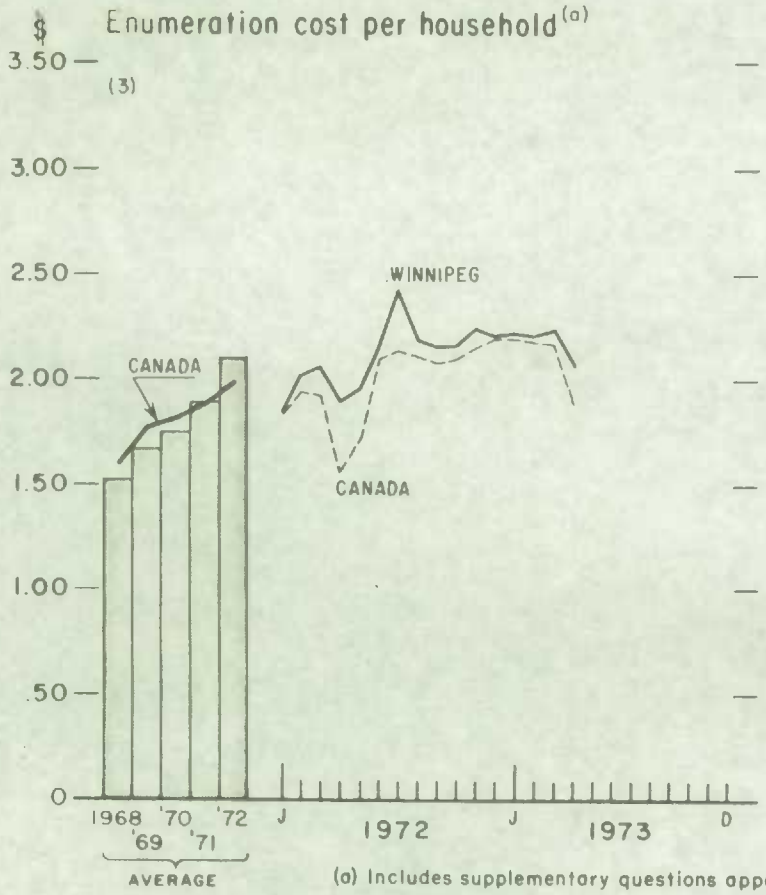
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule

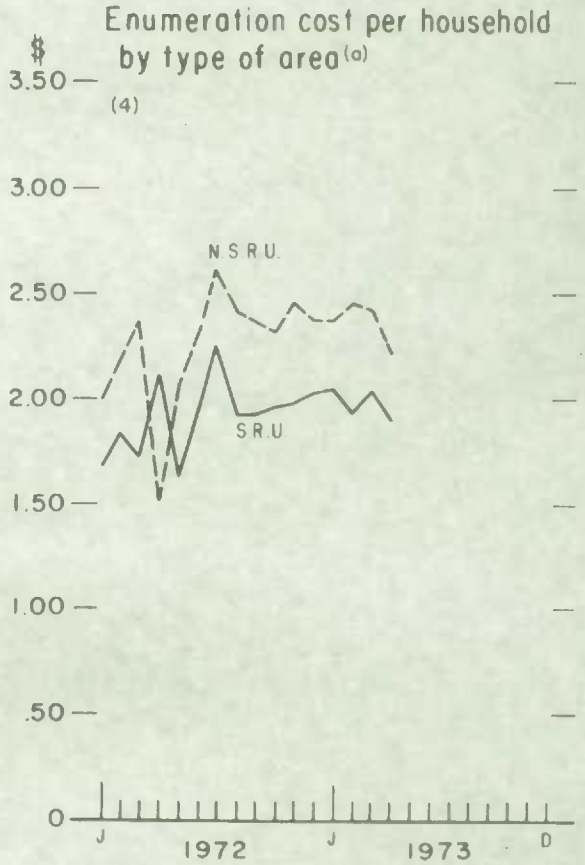
Note: Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for Chart(2) "Percentage of rejected documents". For further details see Highlights, Section D.

Winnipeg Regional Office





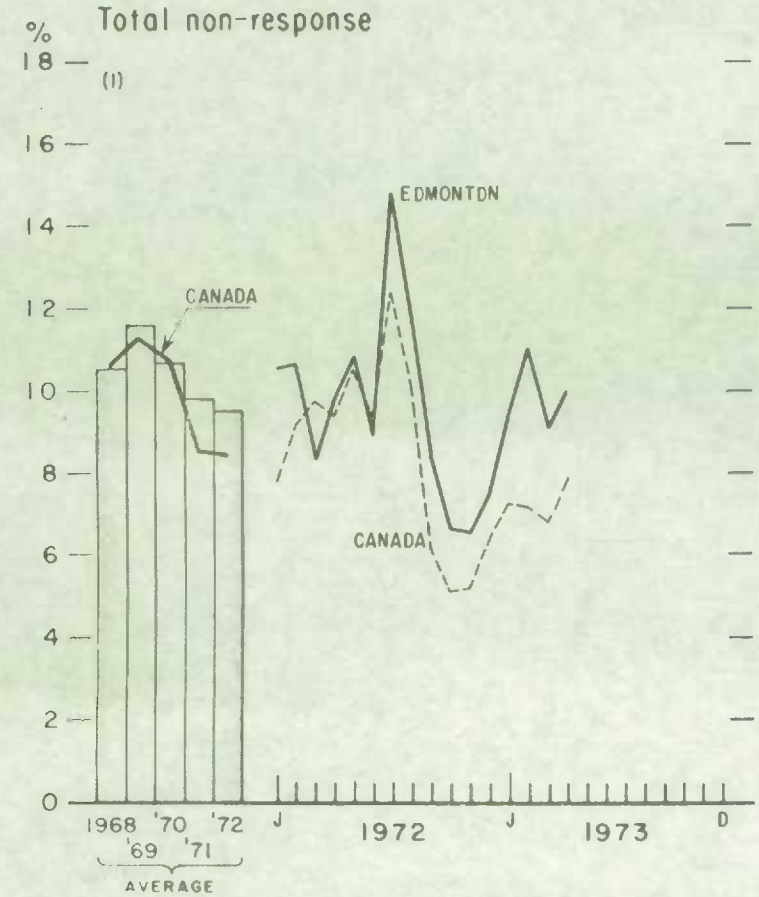


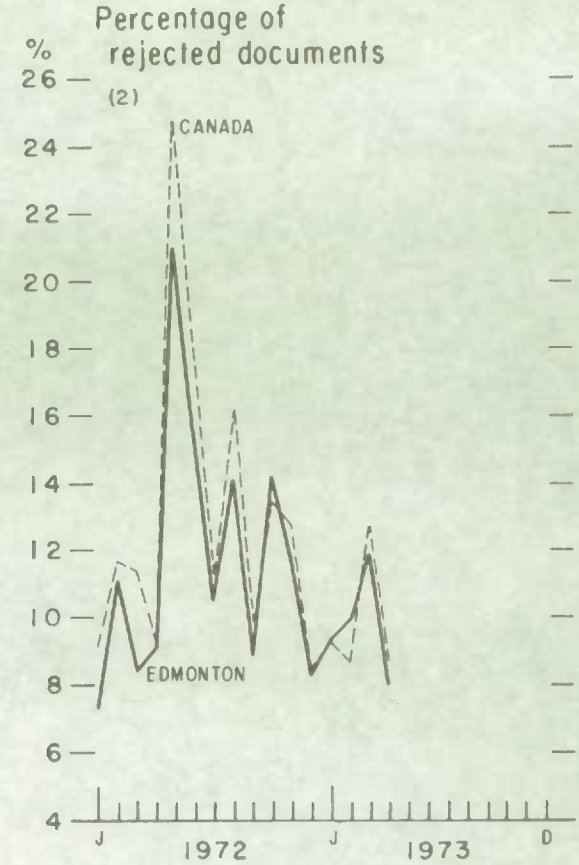


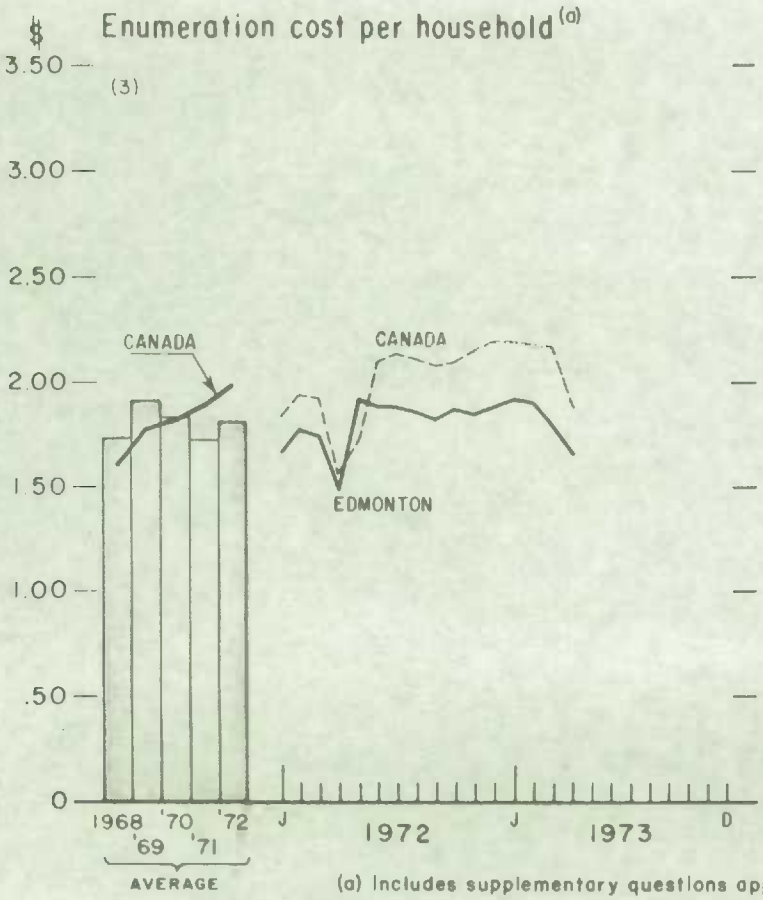
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule.

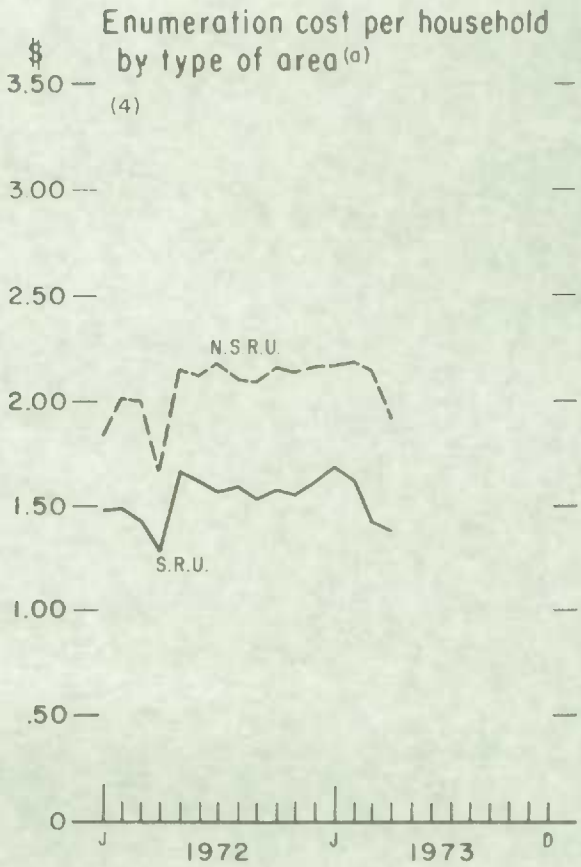
Note: Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for Chart(2) "Percentage of rejected documents". For further details see Highlights, Section D.

Edmonton Regional Office





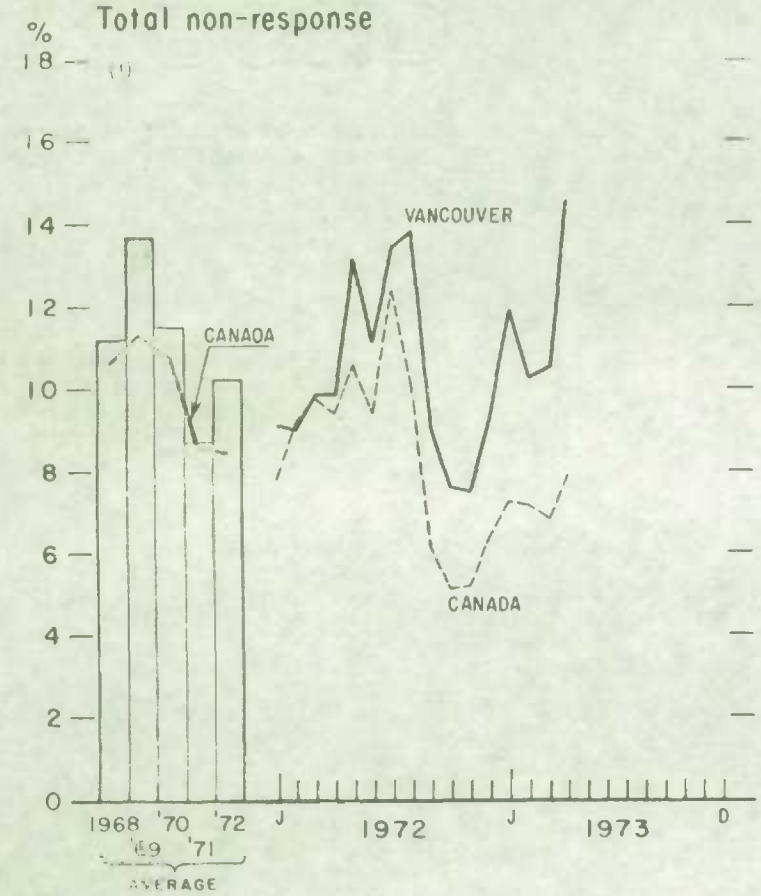


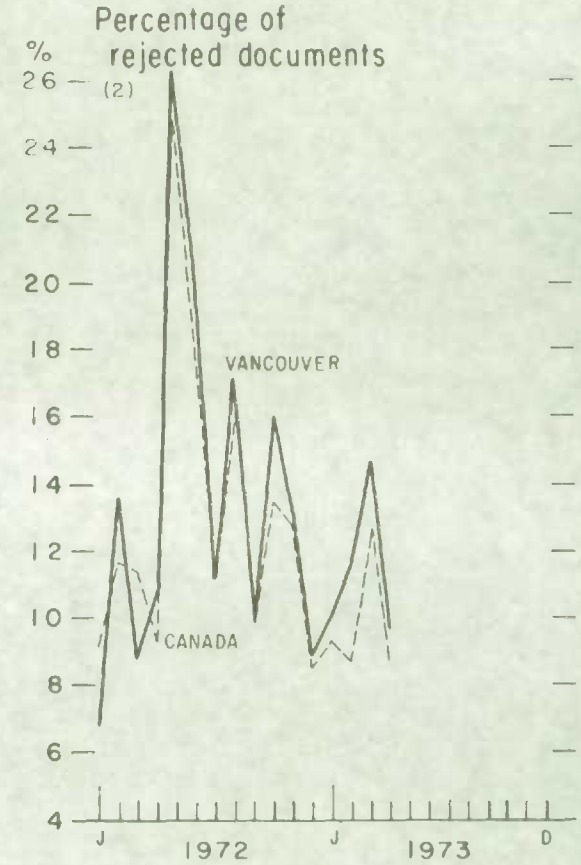


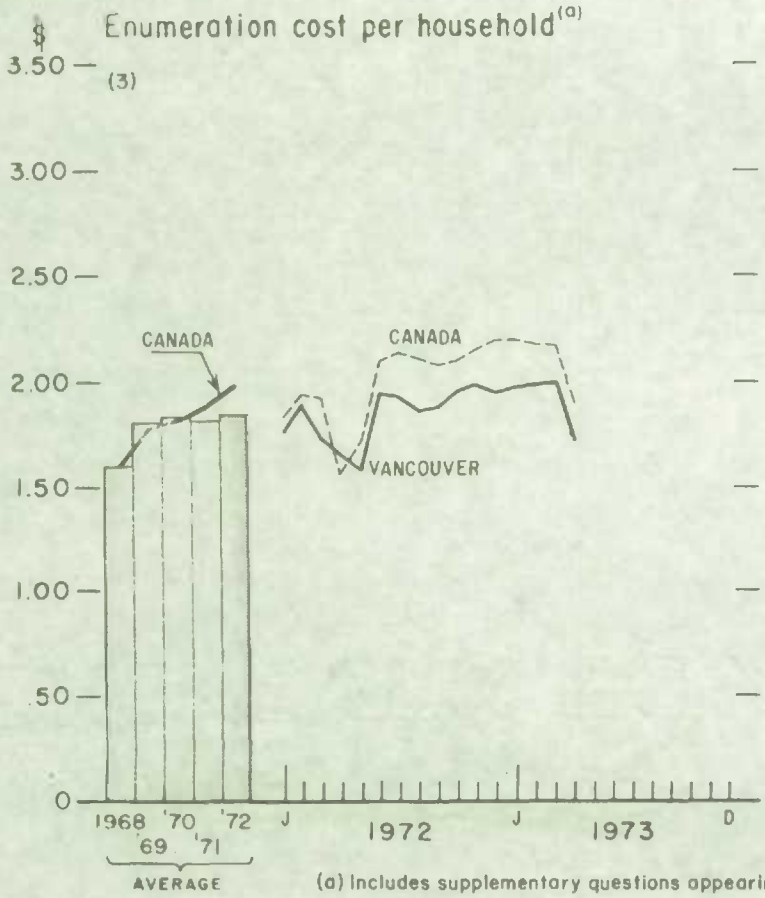
(a) Includes supplementary questions appearing on the LFS regular schedule.

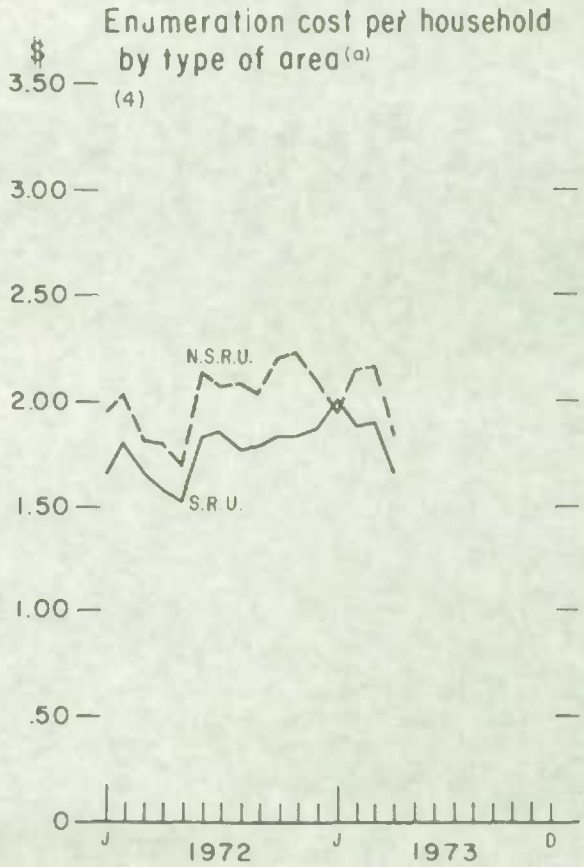
Note: Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for Chart(2) "Percentage of rejected documents". For further details see Highlights, Section D.

Vancouver Regional Office









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

Note: Edits of supplementary questions were removed in April so the comparisons with earlier surveys are not valid for Chart(2) "Percentage of rejected documents". For further details see Highlights, Section D.

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 NR73-4 (April 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 73-4 (April 1973)
Published May 1973

D.S. Murray,
Household Surveys Development Staff.

E.T. McLeod,
Field Division

NON-RESPONSE RATES IN THE

CANADIAN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

STATISTICS CANADA
Document for Restricted Circulation

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 April 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})

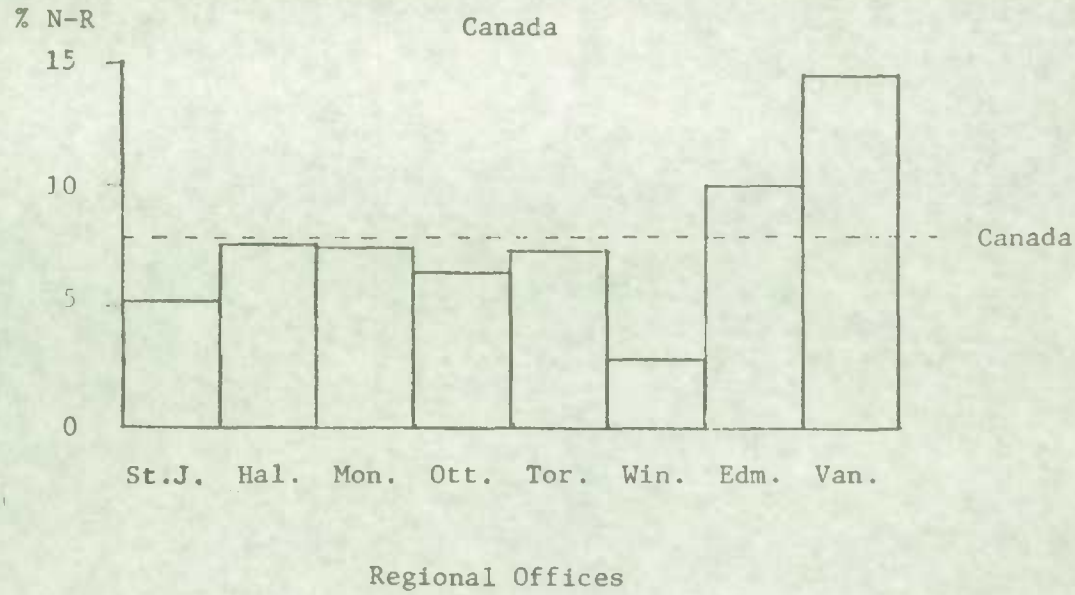
Canada

The April non-response rate was 1.1% higher than in March. At 7.9% the April 1973 rate indicates a notable improvement over the 9.4% level in April 1972.

From March to April, the T.A., N_1 and N_2 components showed increases while "other" decreased.

Again in April the Winnipeg Office indicated the lowest overall rate and Vancouver Regional Office the highest. Winnipeg was the only office that did not experience a higher non-response rate.

The general increase in T.A. and N_1 may be partly explained by the coincidence of Easter Monday and the start of Enumeration Week.



Note: It should be noted that some errors had occurred in graphs G-1 to G-9 in February, March and April. The graphs have been re-drawn and are now correct.

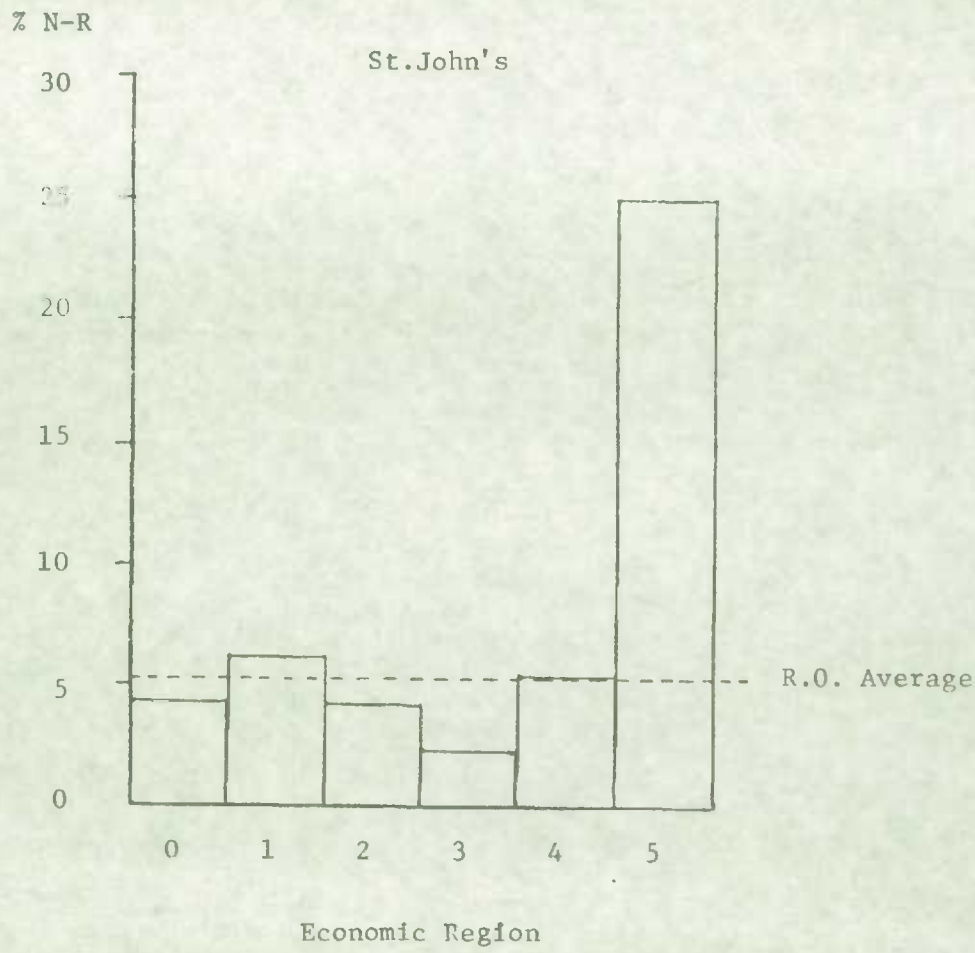
The data which appeared in the narratives and tables of the above-mentioned reports were accurate and thus do not require correcting.

St.John's

The overall rate in the St.John's Office increased from 3.2% in March to 5.1% in April. All components increased with T.A. showing the greatest change; from 1.1% to 2.3%. Both the N_2 and "other" components increased by 0.1% and N_1 increased by 0.5%.

With regard to the increase in T.A., the data indicates the rise was distributed over all E.R.'s.

The very high 25.0% overall rate indicated by E.R. 05 is solely attributable to 6 households; 4 listed as N_1 and 2 as N_2.



Halifax

The non-response rate increased from 6.3% in March to 7.5% in April. All components showed increases between 0.2% and 0.6%.

The N_2 rate, which increased by 0.2% is now 2.3% and represents a high level. Economic Region 22 (Halifax and area) accounts for a large part of the increase in refusal households. This E.R. showed 26 refusal households in March compared with 33 in April. The March and April rates were 2.0% and 2.6% respectively. Economic Region 31 continued to show a very high N_2 rate. At 5.9% in April the rate increased by 0.2% from March. This E.R. (St.John, N.B.) has shown high N_2 rates since May, 1972.

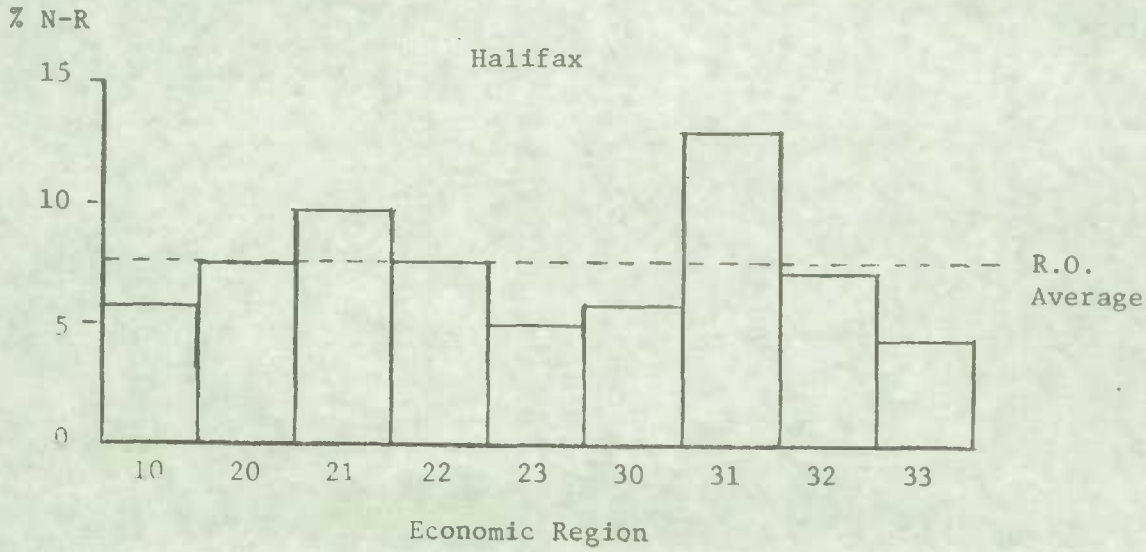
The increase in the "other" component is wholly attributable to 15 households listed as non-respondent due to "no interviewer available".

(a) E.R. 21 (Truro, Amherst) indicated 12 households not interviewed. An interviewer became ill before she finished her assignment and 12 households were not re-assigned for interviewing.

(b) In E.R. 23 three households were not covered due to illness of the interviewer.

In addition to these households, which caused the "other" rate to rise, 19 households were listed as not interviewed due to "roads impassible". Heavy rain apparently prevented interviewers from travelling in various rural areas in Nova Scotia.

The April 1973 rate was 1.9% lower than the 9.4% rate recorded in April 1972.



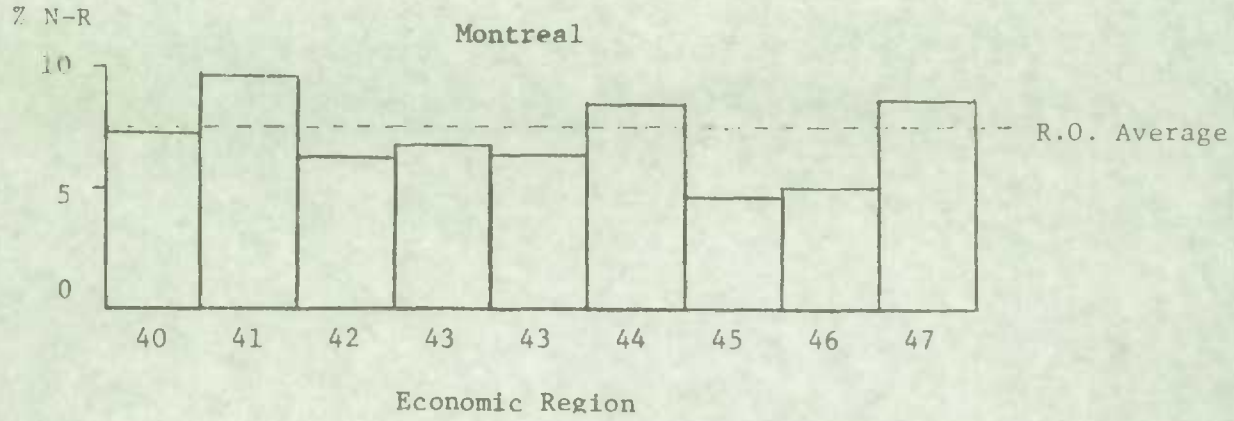
Montreal

The overall rate increased by 0.6% from March to April. The T.A., N_1 and N_2 components showed small increases (0.2% to 0.6%) while "other" declined by 0.6%. The April level of 7.4% remains below the national figure.

The increase in "refusals" can be attributed to the Montreal area (E.R. 47) where 10 additional households were listed as N_2. The N_2 rate for this E.R. was 3.6%, the highest in the regional office. Economic Region 44 (Joliette, St.Jerôme) indicated a refusal rate of 2.4%, an increase of 0.5% from March. Only these E.R.'s showed N_2 rates in excess of 2.0%.

In E.R. 41 there were 7 households not interviewed due to "no interviewer available". The interviewing in one assignment was completed by telephone from the regional office. Seven of the households do not have telephones and were lost to the survey.

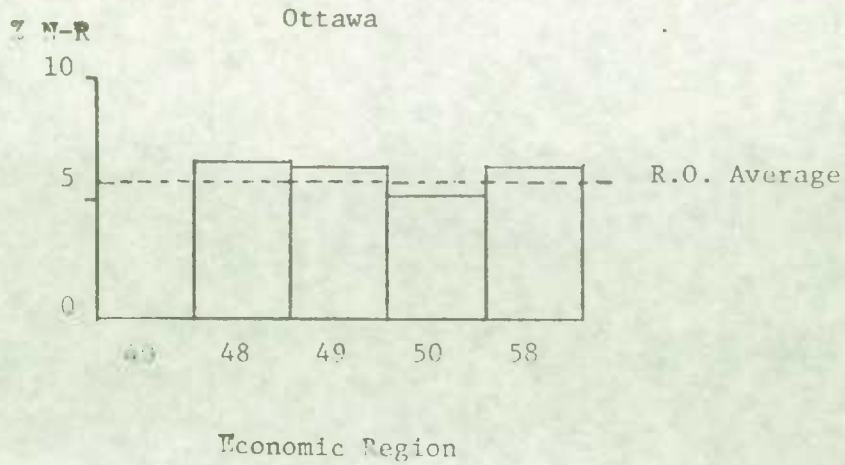
The April 1973 non-response rate showed a modest improvement over the April 1972 rate of 7.8%.



Ottawa

From March to April the overall rate increased to 5.6%, an increase of 0.4%. Slight changes occurred in all components except N_2: T.A. and "other" increased while N_1 decreased.

Despite the increase in non-response the Ottawa Office continued to show a low rate in comparison to the rates indicated by most regional offices. The overall Ottawa rate in April was 2.3% lower than the national average. When compared with the April 1972 figure of 7.5% (Ottawa) this office has indicated a substantial reduction in non-response.



Toronto

The overall rate increased by 0.2% in April. The March and April levels of the components are as follows:

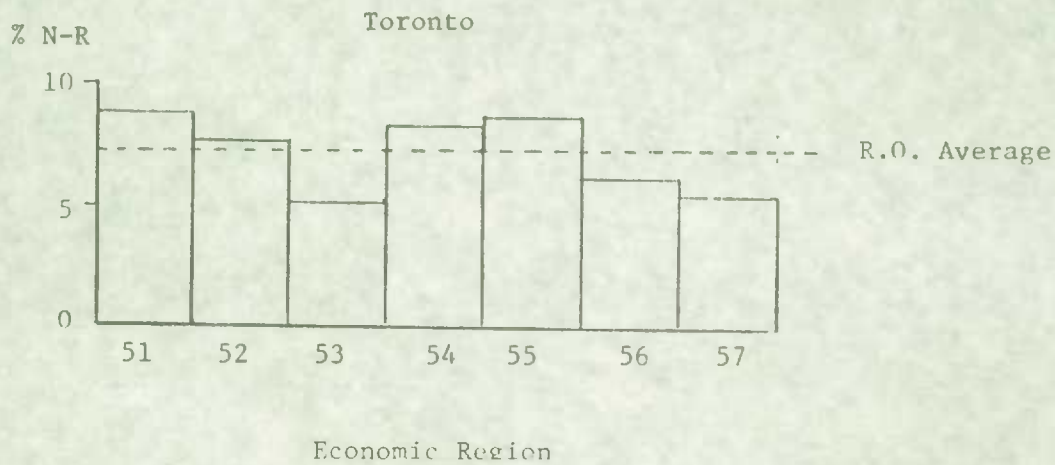
	March	April	Net Change (April - March)
T.A.	2.6	1.9	- 0.7
N_1	1.9	2.9	1.0
N_2	1.9	1.8	- 0.1
Other	0.6	0.6	0.0
Total	7.0	7.2	0.2

Three E.R.'s showed excessive N_1 rates in April.

E.R.	N_1 Rate (%)
51	5.3
54	4.1
55	4.8

Although these E.R.'s showed the highest N_1 rates in the office all E.R.'s showed increases in April compared with March.

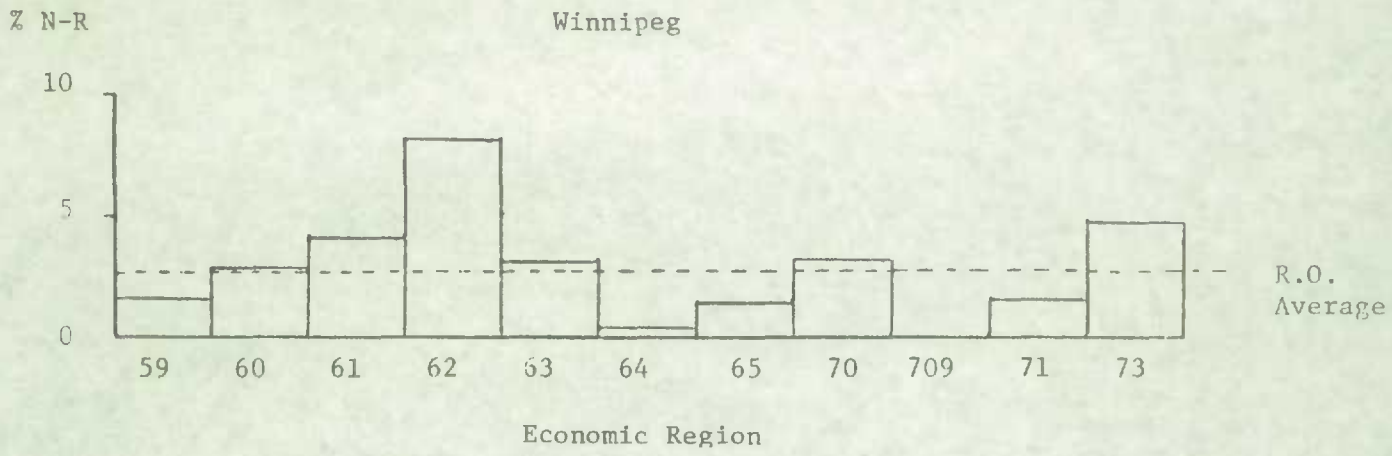
The April 1973 rate was 5.6% lower than in April 1972: a very substantial improvement.



Winnipeg

The overall Winnipeg rate remained the lowest in Canada: at 2.8% the April rate showed no change from March. In addition the levels of each of the components were the lowest in Canada. Only two components showed changes from March to April: a 0.1% increase in T.A. was offset by a 0.1% decrease in N_1.

The April 1973 rate was less than half the April 1972 rate of 6.0%.



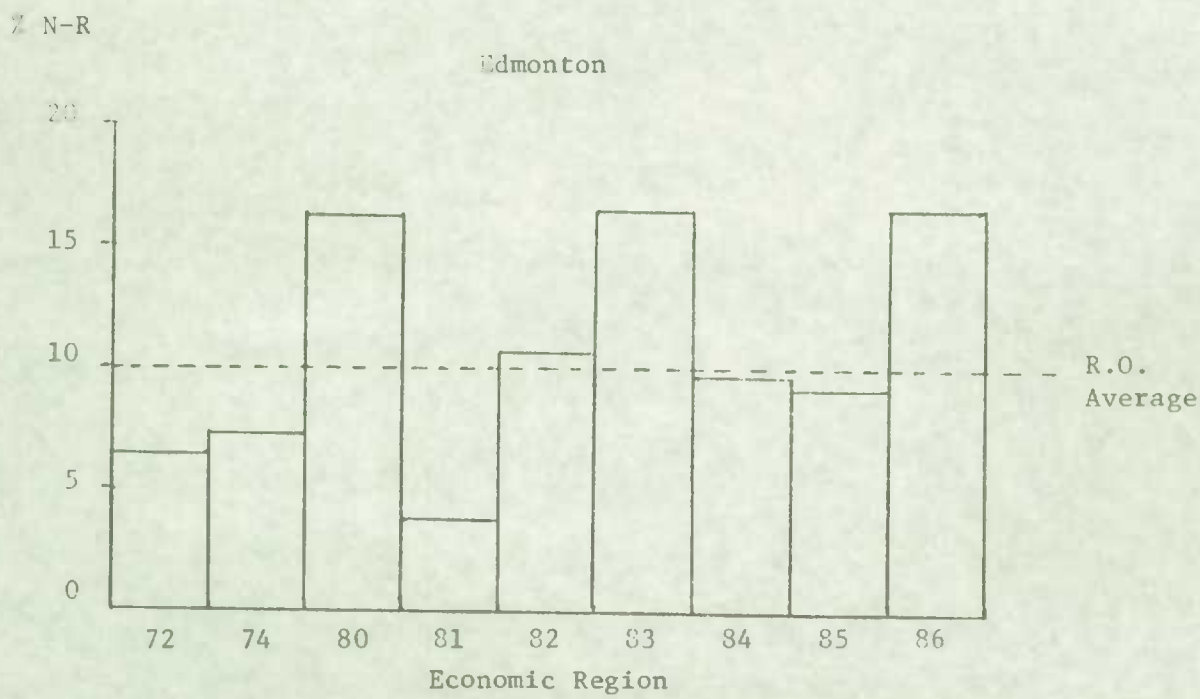
Edmonton

The Edmonton non-response rate increased from 9.1% in March to 10.0% in April. The component to show the largest change was T.A. which increased from 3.4% to 3.8%: only N_1 showed a decrease (0.1%).

Four E.R.'s showed overall rates in excess of 10.0%, three of which exceeded 16.0%.

The N_2 rate, at 2.5%, is the second highest in Canada. Economic Region 84 (Edmonton, Red Deer) with approximately 25% of the households in the office accounted for 58% of the refusal households. This E.R. showed an N_2 rate of 4.3%, an increase of 1.0% from March.

The April 1973 non-response rate is slightly higher than the 9.8% level recorded in April 1972.



Vancouver

At 14.5% the Vancouver non-response rate was 6.6% higher in April than the national average. Compared with March, the April rate has increased 4.0%. The "other" component indicated a decrease of 0.8% while all remaining components increased. All components showed the highest levels in Canada.

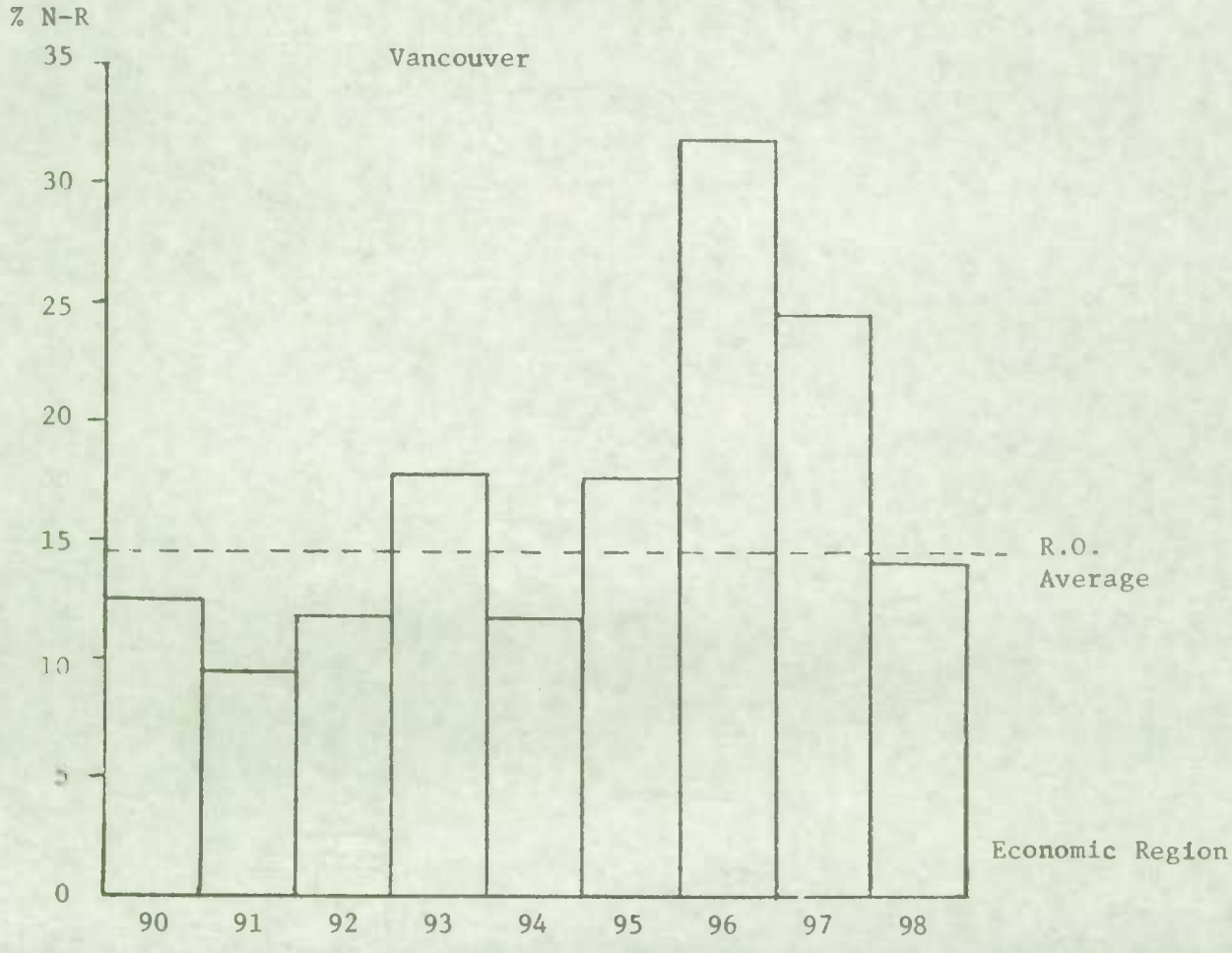
The greatest changes occurred in the T.A. and N_1 components which increased by 2.5 and 2.1% respectively.

The increases appear to be evenly distributed over British Columbia as shown by the fact that all E.R.'s except one showed increases.

Two E.R.'s indicated overall rates in excess of 24.0%, due mainly to T.A. and N_1 Economic Region 96 (Prince Rupert) and E.R. 97 (Prince George) showed rates of 24.5% and 31.8% respectively.

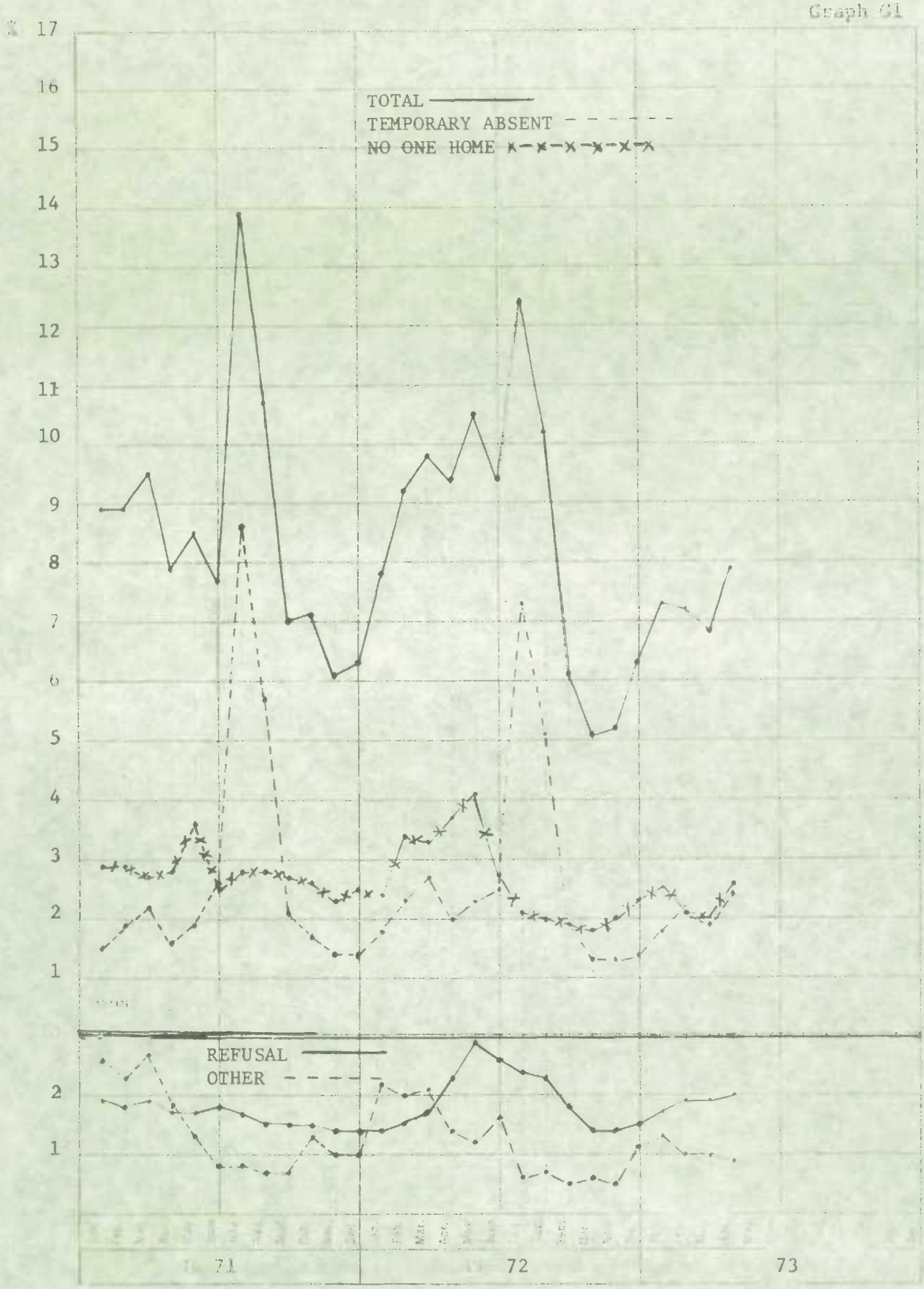
The greatest part of the refusal non-response, 87%, originated in two E.R.'s containing 71% of the households in the regional office: E.R. 94 (Vancouver) and E.R. 95 (Victoria) indicated refusal rates of 3.7% and 3.9% respectively.

The April 1973 level was 4.6% higher than the 9.9% rate in April 1972. This is also the highest level of non-response for the office since August 1970.



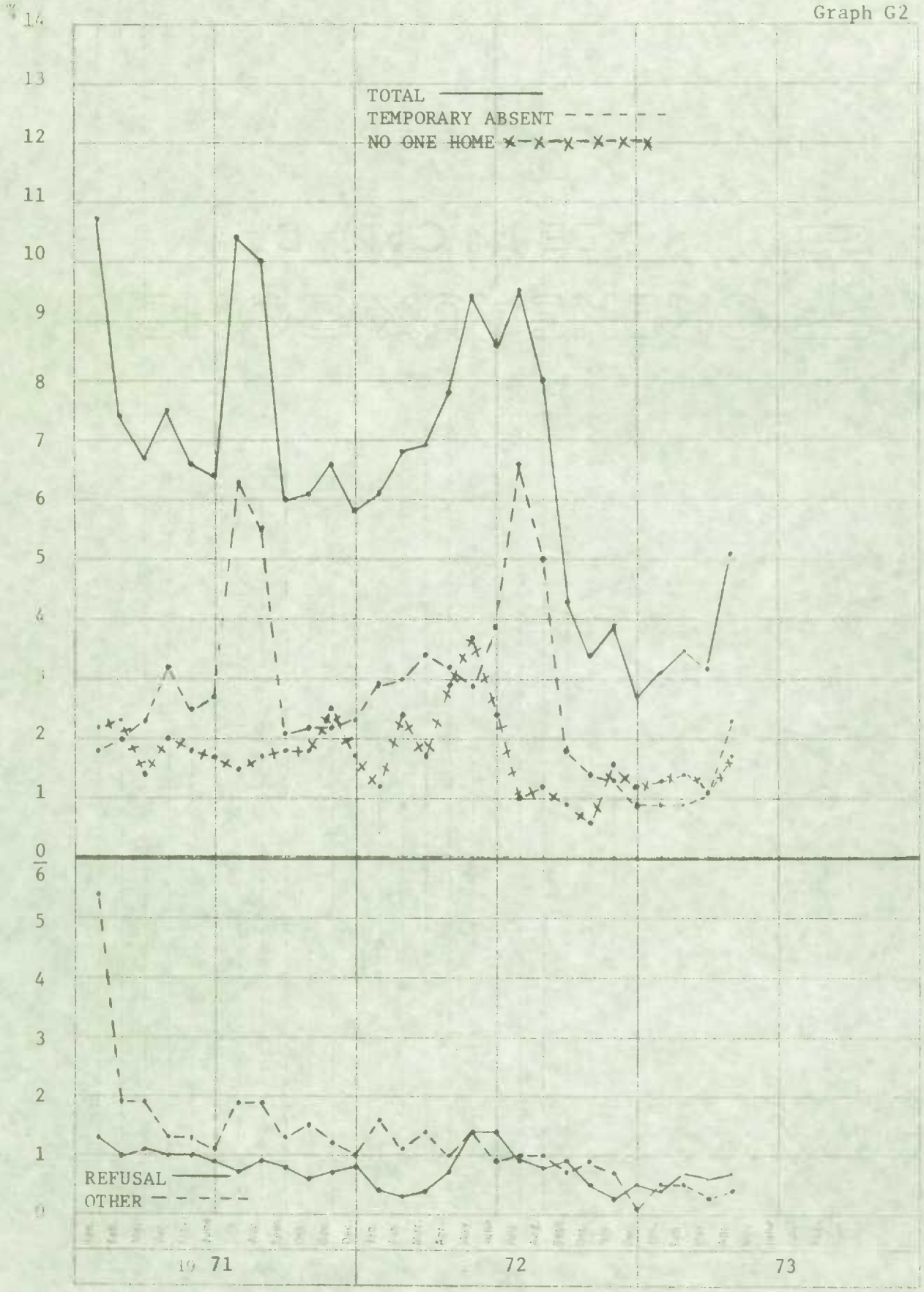
Canada

Graph G1



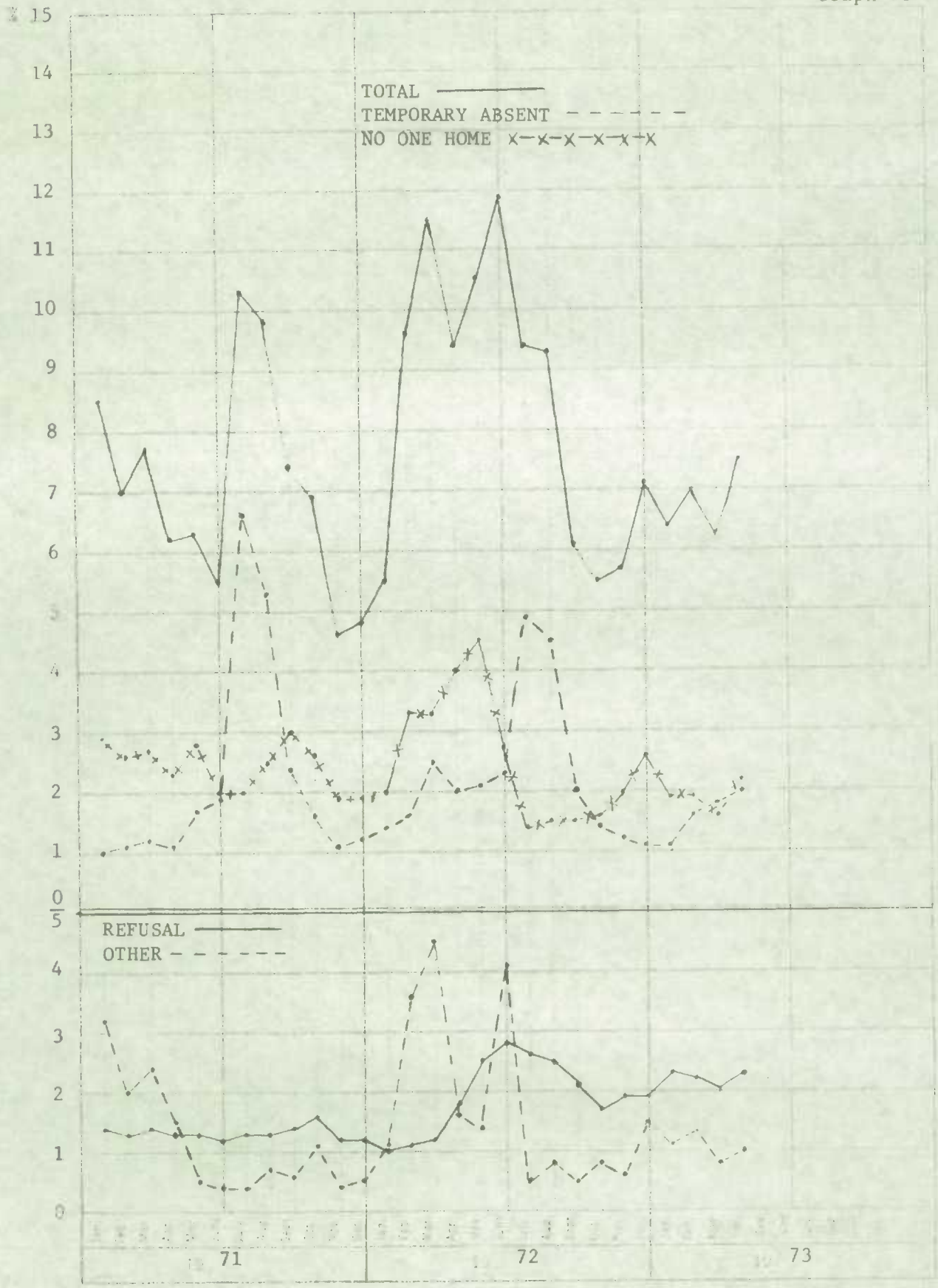
St.John's Regional Office

Graph G2



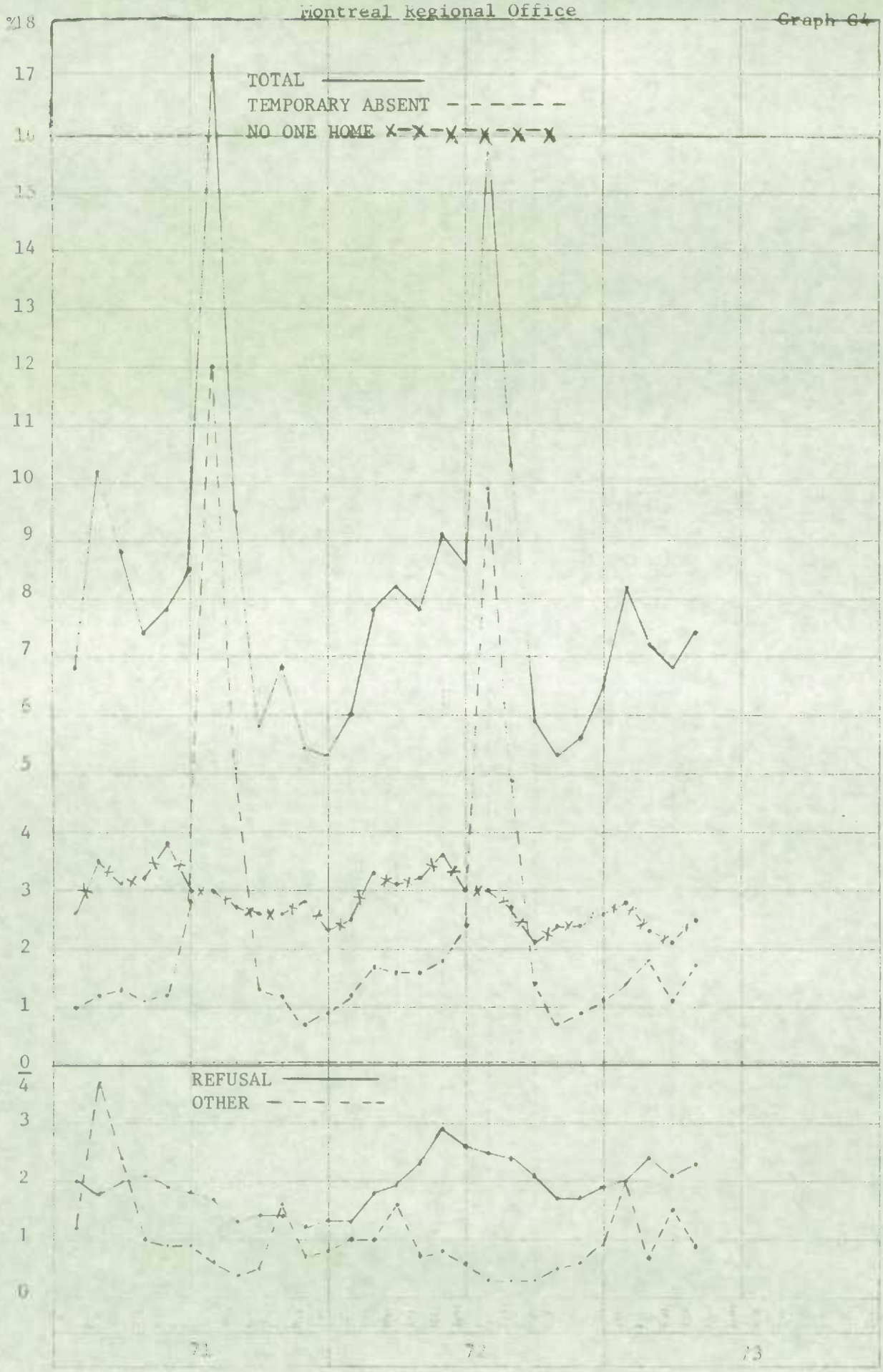
Halifax Regional Office

Graph G3



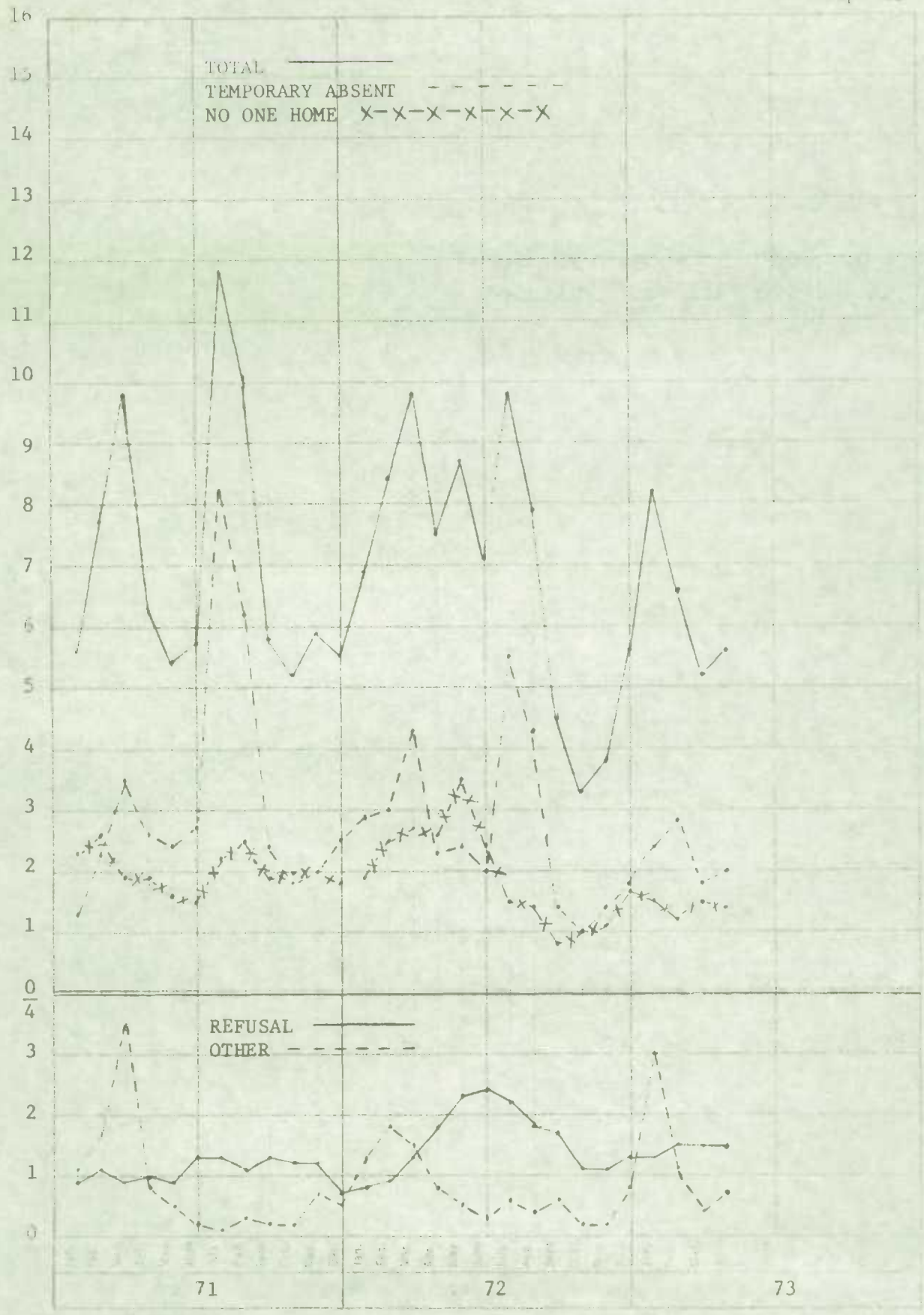
Montreal Regional Office

Graph G4



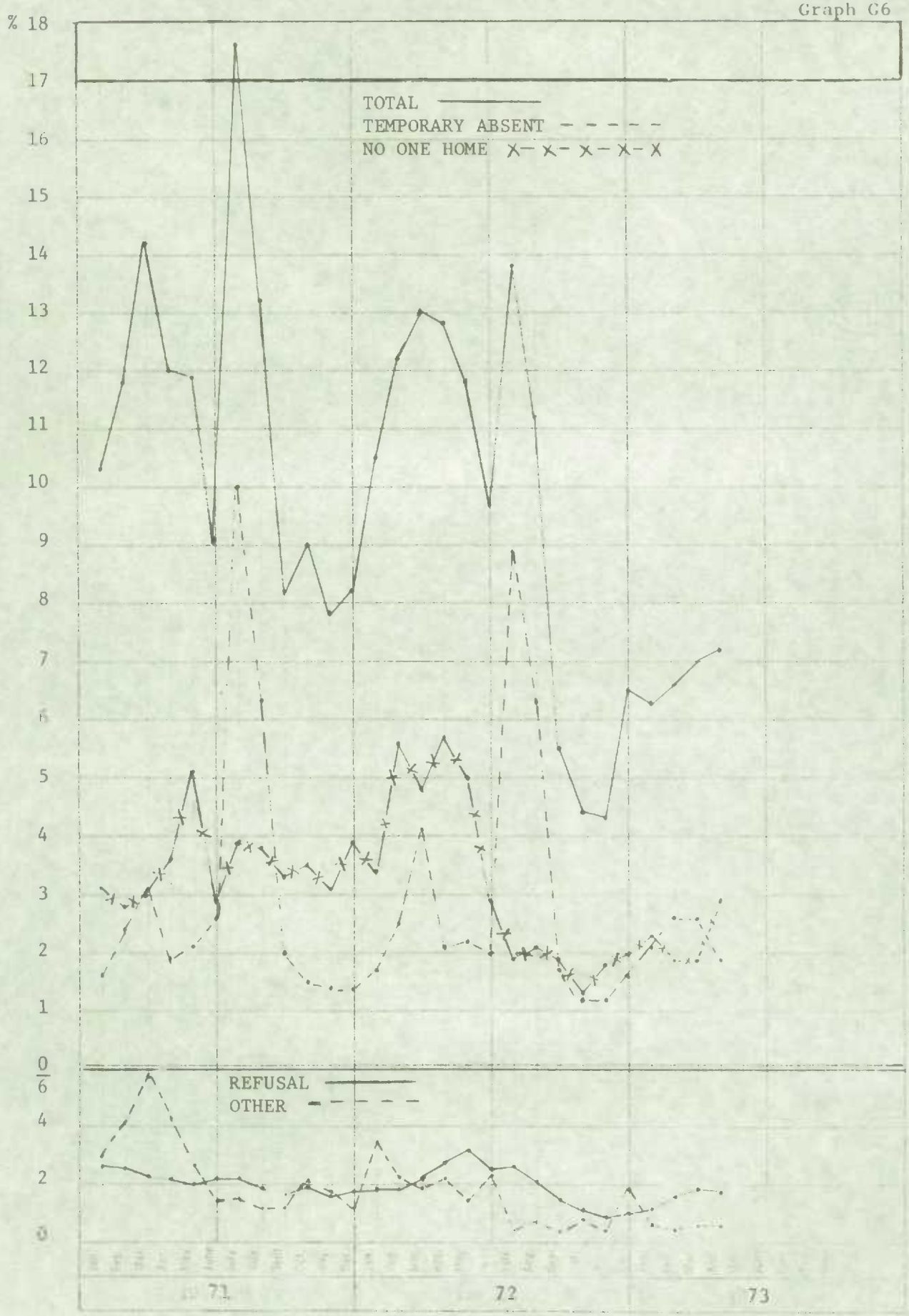
Ottawa Regional Office

Graph G5



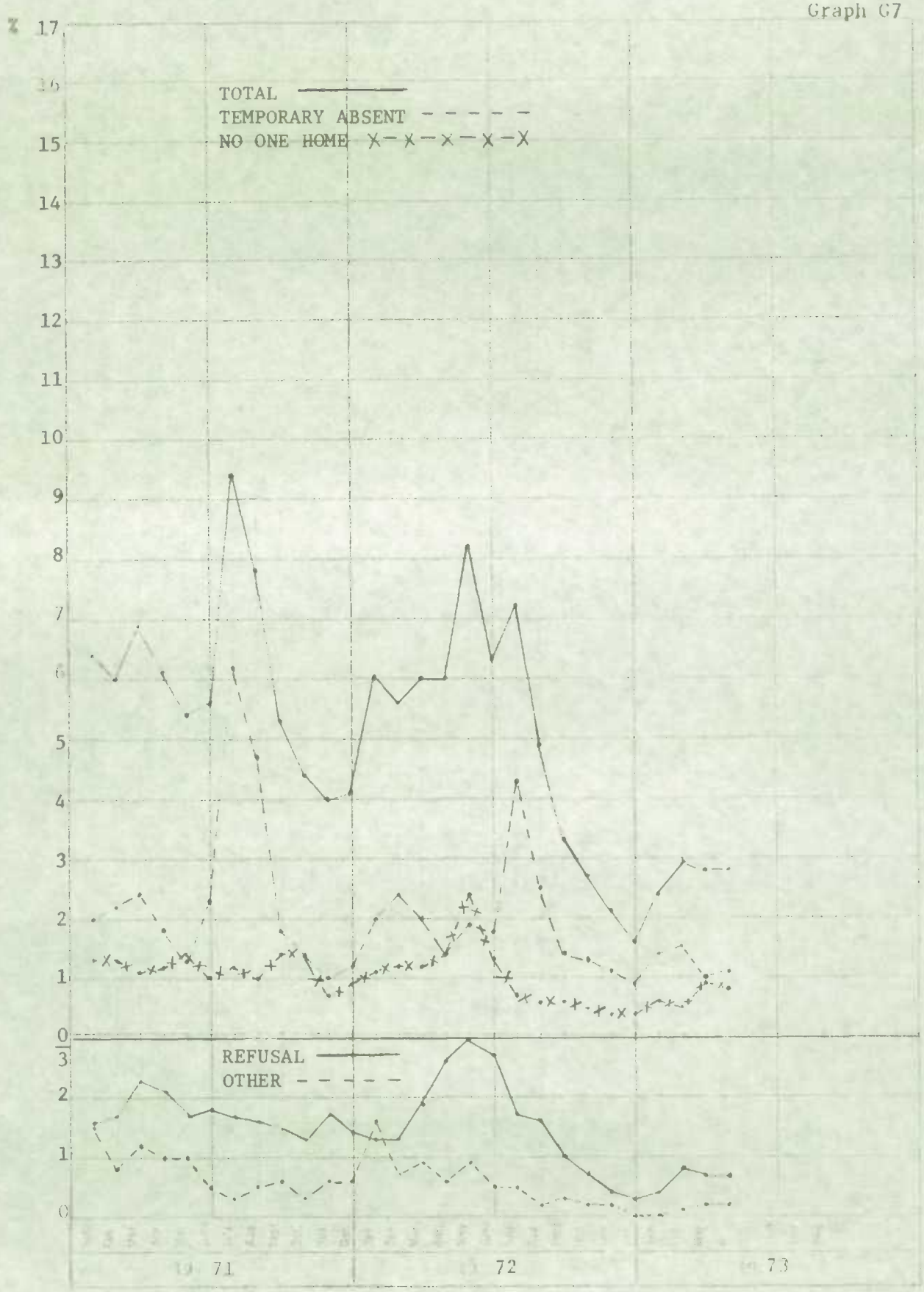
Toronto Regional Office

Graph G6



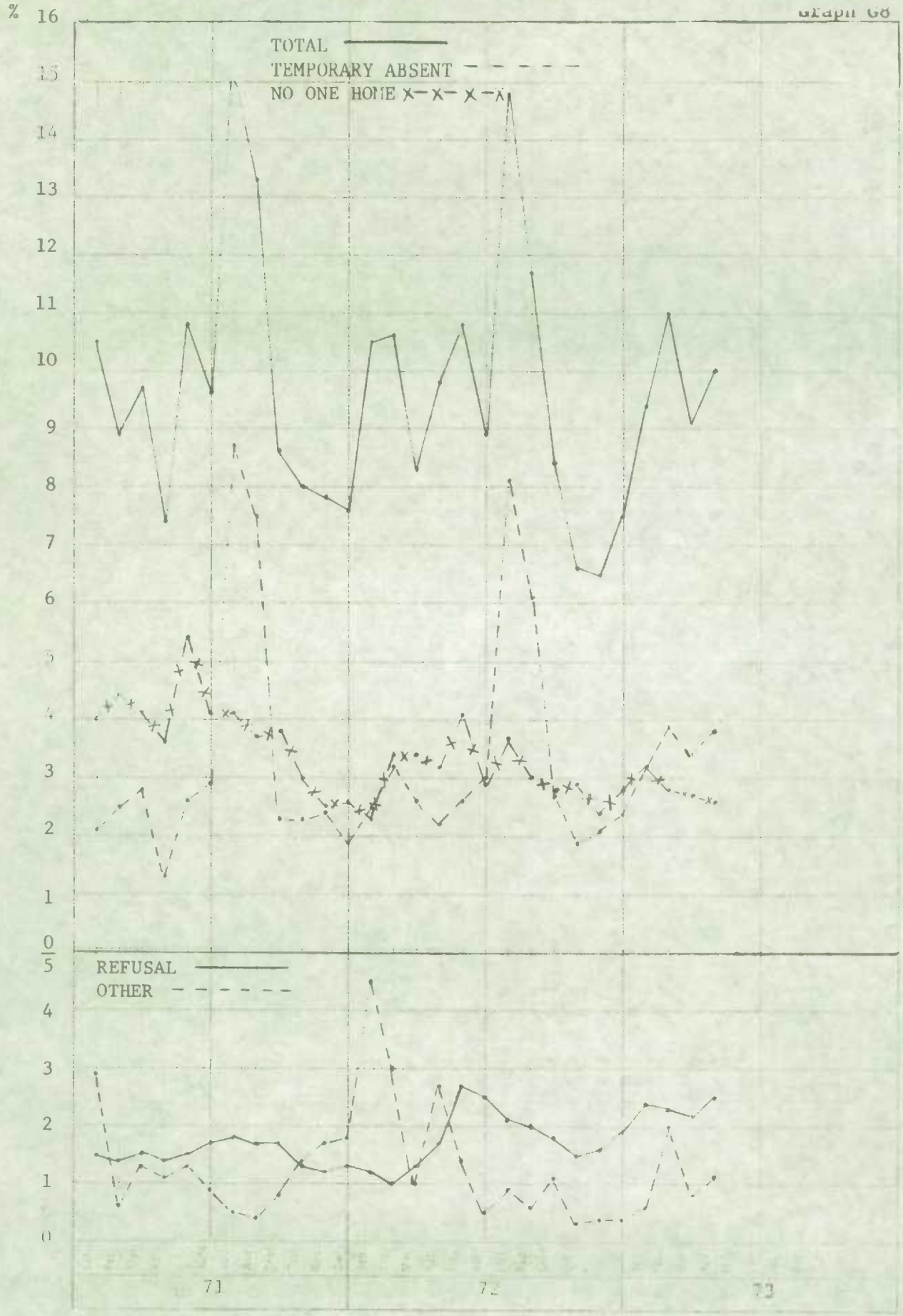
Winnipeg Regional Office

Graph G7



Edmonton Regional Office

Graph 68



Vancouver Regional Office

Graph G9

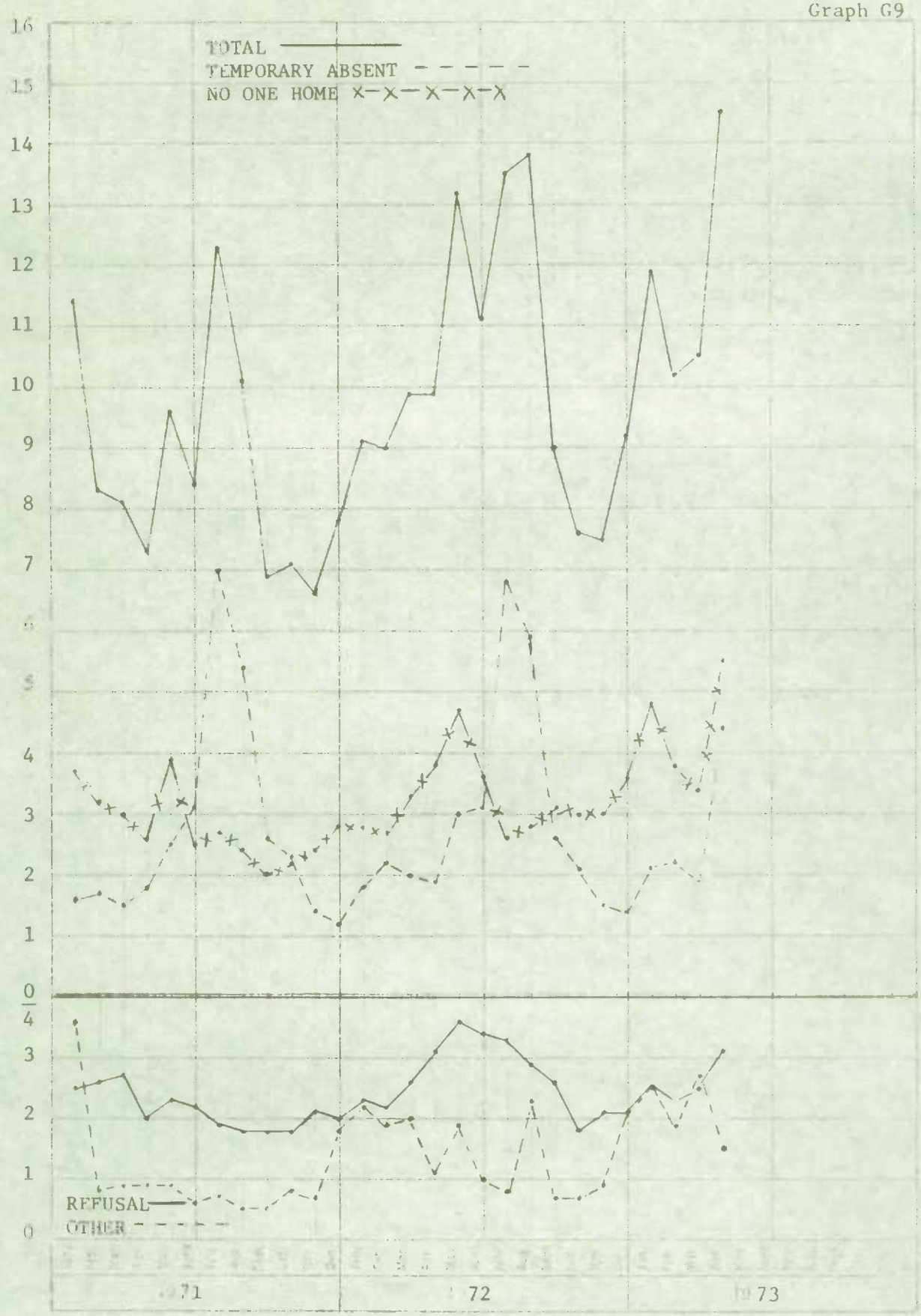


TABLE I.

April, 1973

NON-RESPONSE RATES BY COMPONENT,

CANADA, AND REGIONAL OFFICES

(Percent)

	Total	T. A.	N. 1.	N. 2.	Other
Canada	7.9	2.4	2.6	2.0	0.9
St. John's	5.1	2.3	1.7	0.7	0.4
Halifax	7.5	2.0	2.2	2.3	1.0
Montreal	7.4	1.7	2.5	2.3	0.9
Ottawa	5.6	2.0	1.4	1.5	0.7
Toronto	7.2	1.9	2.9	1.8	0.6
Winnipeg	2.8	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.2
Edmonton	10.0	3.8	2.6	2.5	1.1
Vancouver	14.5	4.4	5.5	3.1	1.5