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THE LABOUR FORCE

MAY 1966

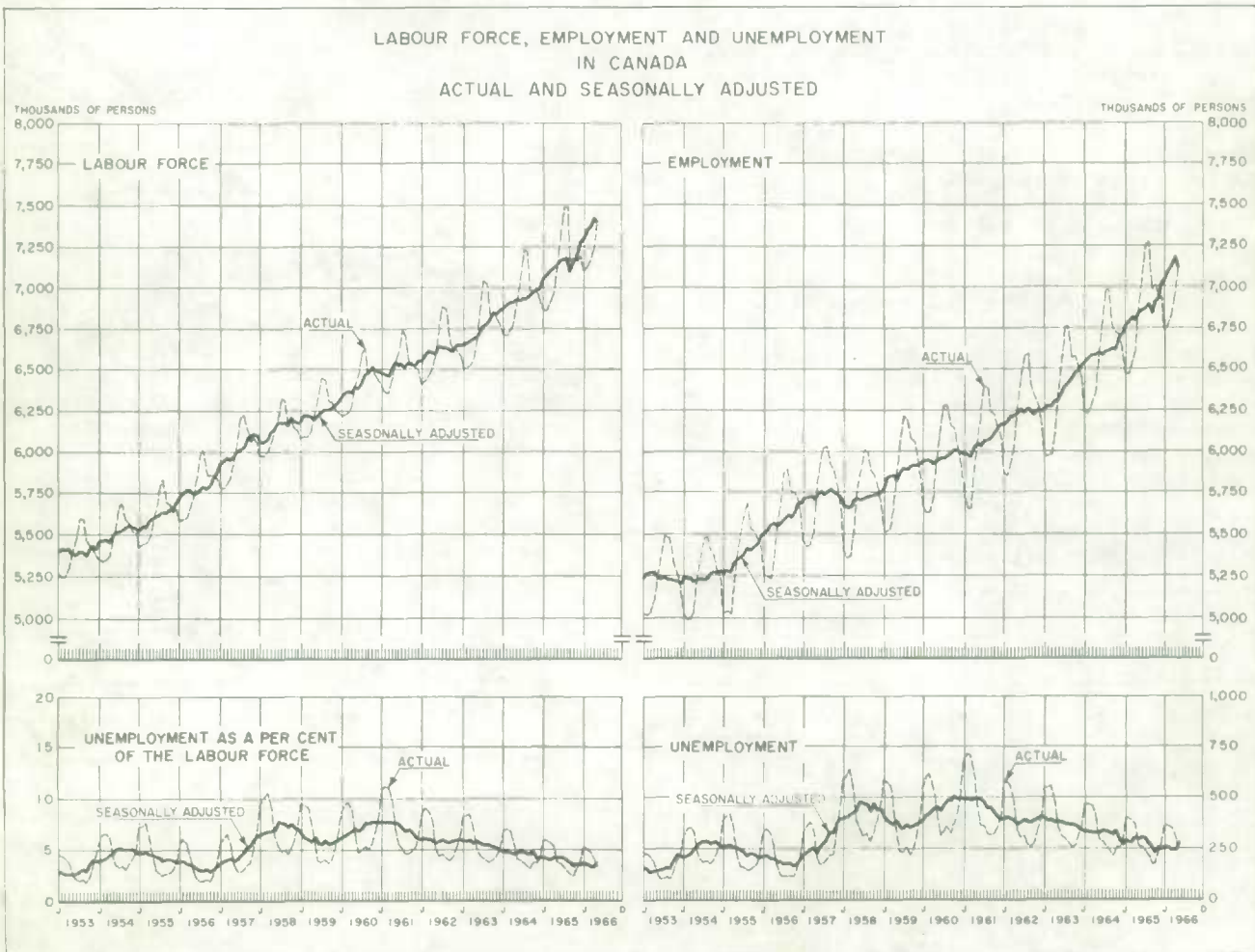
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In the week ended May 21, 1966, the Canadian labour force was estimated at 7,383,000. Of this total 7,136,000 were employed for all or part of the week and 247,000 were unemployed for the whole week. Between April and May, the labour force increased by 135,000, the employed having increased by 186,000 and the unemployed having decreased by 51,000. The labour force was 260,000 higher than in May 1965; over the year, the employed increased by 278,000 and the unemployed decreased by 18,000.

From April to May, employment rose by 112,000 in nonagricultural industries and by 74,000 in agriculture. Nonagricultural

employment increased by 342,000 from May last year, while employment in agriculture decreased by 64,000. Men accounted for nearly all of the increase in employment between April and May. Compared with May 1965, the number of employed men was 144,000 higher and the number of employed women was 134,000 higher.

Expressed as a percentage of the labour force, the unemployment rate in May was 3.3 per cent compared with 4.1 in April and 3.7 in May last year. Seasonally adjusted the unemployment rate was 3.7 in May 1966.



Adults in the Labour Force

The number of persons 20 years of age and over in the Canadian labour force averaged 6,403,000 in 1965, an increase of 511,000 or 8.7 per cent from 1961. During the same period, the total labour force rose by 620,000 or 9.5 per cent.

Adult(1) Labour Force
(Annual averages)

	1965	1961	Increase	
	(000's)	(000's)	1961 - 1965 (000's)	%
Total	6,403	5,892	511	8.7
Men	4,646	4,430	216	4.9
Women	1,758	1,462	296	20.2

(1) Persons 20 years of age and over.

Of the total increase in the adult labour force, women accounted for more than half. In relative terms their contribution was more than four times as great as men's. In 1965, the proportion of women in the adult labour force was 27.5 per cent compared with 24.8 per cent in 1961.

For persons 20 years of age and over, the gain in the labour force was greater than the increase in the population. Consequently, the adult participation rate rose slightly from 57.1 in 1961 to 58.3 in 1965. This was due entirely to the entry in large numbers of women into the labour force.

The bulk of the adult male labour force, about 70 per cent, consists of those in the age groups 25-34, 35-44, and 45-54. Men 65 years of age and over account for less than 4 per cent of the total. In both absolute and relative terms, men 20-24 years of age made the largest contribution to the increase in the adult male labour force. Although this group comprises only about 12 per cent of the total, they accounted for 36.6 per cent of the gain between 1961 and 1965.

The Adult Male Labour Force by Age
(Annual averages)

	1965	1961	Change	
	(000's)	(000's)	1961 - 1965 (000's)	%
Total	4,646	4,430	+ 216	+ 4.9
20-24	578	499	+ 79	+ 15.8
25-34	1,128	1,166	- 38	- 3.3
35-44	1,186	1,120	+ 66	+ 5.9
45-54	959	899	+ 60	+ 6.7
55-64	618	557	+ 61	+ 11.0
65+	177	189	- 12	- 6.3

Women 35-44 years of age account for almost one-quarter of the total adult female

labour force. The age groups 20-24, 25-34, and 45-54, each comprise about one-fifth. The proportion of women 55-64 is about 11 per cent and women 65 years of age and over 2.6 per cent. Substantial gains in the labour force were recorded for all age groups except the group 65 years of age and over which showed little change. The age groups 45-54 and 55-64 together comprising about 32 per cent of the total adult female labour force accounted for 42.6 per cent of the total increase between 1961 and 1965.

The Adult Female Labour Force by Age
(Annual averages)

	1965	1961	Change	
	(000's)	(000's)	1961 - 1965 (000's)	%
Total	1,758	1,462	+ 296	+ 20.2
20-24	357	287	+ 70	+ 24.4
25-34	368	340	+ 28	+ 8.2
35-44	425	358	+ 67	+ 18.7
45-54	372	292	+ 80	+ 27.4
55-64	191	145	+ 46	+ 31.7
65+	45	40	+ 5	+ 12.5

The participation rate for total adult men continued to decline, due to the reduced participation of both younger and older men. For the age group 20-24, the rate has dropped almost uninterruptedly from a high of 93.6 in 1949 to 87.6 in 1965. Similarly, for the group 65 years of age and over the rate has varied from 47.5 in 1946 to 26.3 in 1965. Labour force participation for the other age groups is very stable, their rates remaining virtually unchanged from year to year.

In contrast to men, labour force participation of women continued to rise. For all age groups, except those 65 years of age and over, participation rates were substantially higher in 1965 than in 1961. The rapid expansion of the labour force for adult women, and more particularly for the age groups 45-54 and 55-64, is a continuation of a trend that began about 1950. At that time the rates for those two groups were 18.9 and 13.2, respectively, only about half the 1965 rates.

Labour Force Participation Rates by Age
(Annual averages)

	Men		Women	
	1965	1961	1965	1961
All adults	85.7	86.6	31.6	28.1
20-24	87.6	90.7	52.6	48.7
25-34	97.5	97.7	31.1	28.2
35-44	97.7	97.6	34.1	30.2
45-54	95.8	95.9	37.0	32.1
55-64	86.4	86.8	27.0	23.2
65+	26.3	29.3	6.0	5.9

Technical Notes

Scope of Labour Force Survey

The statistics contained in this report are based on information obtained through a sample survey of households. Interviews are carried out in nearly 35,000 households chosen by area sampling methods across the country. Percentages of total households selected for the sample were as follows: Atlantic region, 1.6 p.c.; Quebec, 0.5 p.c.; Ontario, 0.5 p.c.; Prairie region, 0.8 p.c.; British Columbia, 0.7 p.c. The Labour Force Survey, started in November 1945, was taken at quarterly intervals until November 1952. Since then it has been carried out monthly. Estimates of employment, unemployment and non-labour force activity refer to the specific week covered by the survey each month.

The sample used in the surveys of the labour force has been designed to represent all persons in the population 14 years of age and over residing in Canada, with the exception of: residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Indians living on reserves, inmates of institutions and members of the armed forces. These excluded categories amount to about three per cent of the total population 14 years of age and over.

Estimates derived from a sample survey are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Aspects of this subject in relation to the Labour Force Survey are reviewed under "Reliability of Estimates" on page 8.

Labour Force Statistics

Contents of the Tables - The results of the survey are presented in the tables on pages 4 to 7 of this report.

Canada, Labour Force (pages 4 and 5).

Tables 1 to 3 refer to the labour force, employment and unemployment and contain labour force participation and unemployment rates.

Canada, Employed (page 6). Tables 4 to 6 contain further detail on employment.

Canada, Unemployed (page 7). Table 7 contains further detail on unemployment.

Regions, Labour Force (page 7). Table 8 contains labour force data for the regions.

Supplementary Data - From time to time, additional data on particular aspects of the labour force or its components will be obtained. Such material, as it becomes available, will be either included in this report or released in separate reports.

Other Data Available - In addition to the published statistics, there is a considerable amount of data which can be obtained on request. Following is a list of material available.

For Canada only:

1. Age and sex distributions.
2. Marital status and sex distributions.
3. Employed -
 - (a) Reasons for working less than full-time.
 - (b) Hours worked by sex for total employed, agriculture and non-agriculture, and for paid workers, non-agriculture.
 - (c) Industry and occupation groups, by sex for total employed and for paid workers.
4. Persons not in the labour force by category.

For regions:

5. Labour force: by age; by sex, agricultural and nonagricultural.
Employed: by age.

For individual provinces of Atlantic and Prairie regions:

6. Population 14 years of age and over and labour force: by sex.
Total employed, total unemployed, and total persons not in labour force.

Definitions and Explanations

Labour Force - The civilian labour force is composed of that portion of the civilian noninstitutional population 14 years of age and over who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed.

Employed - The employed includes all persons who, during the reference week:

- (a) did any work for pay or profit;
- (b) did any work which contributed to the running of a farm or business operated by a related member of the household; or
- (c) had a job, but were not at work, because of bad weather, illness, industrial dispute, or vacation, or because they were taking time off for other reasons.

Persons who had jobs but did not work during the reference week and who also looked for work are included in the unemployed as persons without work and seeking work.

Unemployed - The unemployed includes all persons who, through the reference week:

- (a) were without work and seeking work, i.e., did no work during the reference week and were looking for work; or would have been looking for work except that they were temporarily ill, were on indefinite or prolonged layoff, or believed no suitable work was available in the community; or
- (b) were temporarily laid off for the full week, i.e., were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off for less than 30 days.

Not in the Labour Force - Those not in the labour force include all civilians 14 years of age and over (exclusive of institutional population) who are not classified as employed or unemployed. This category includes those: going to school; keeping house; too old or otherwise unable to work; and voluntarily idle or retired. Housewives, students and others who worked part-time are classified as employed. If they looked for work they are classified as unemployed.

Canada, Labour Force

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(Estimates in thousands)

Note: Due to the introduction of revised weighting factors in March 1965, small adjustments have been made to estimates published before that time. See the March 1965 edition of this report, page 8.

Table 1 Summary	S.D. (1)	1966		1965		1964	
		May 21	April 23	May 22	April 17	May 23	April 18
Total							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		13,424	13,396	13,086	13,052	12,780	12,749
Labour force	a	7,383	7,248	7,123	6,968	6,914	6,776
Employed	a	7,136	6,950	6,858	6,597	6,621	6,373
Agriculture	d	591	517	655	563	674	602
Non-agriculture	a	6,545	6,433	6,203	6,034	5,947	5,771
Unemployed	d	247	298	265	371	293	403
Not in the labour force	a	6,041	6,148	5,963	6,084	5,866	5,973

Participation rate (3)	a	55.0	54.1	54.4	53.4	54.1	53.1
Unemployment rate (4)							
Actual	d	3.3	4.1	3.7	5.3	4.2	5.9
Seasonally adjusted		3.7	3.3	4.1 ^r	4.2	4.7	4.7
Men							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		6,653	6,639	6,484	6,466	6,333	6,317
Labour force	a	5,179	5,077	5,056	4,935	4,948	4,850
Employed	a	4,988	4,831	4,844	4,624	4,714	4,505
Agriculture	d	510	457	569	506	595	547
Non-agriculture	a	4,478	4,374	4,275	4,118	4,119	3,958
Unemployed	d	191	246	212	311	234	345
Not in the labour force	c	1,474	1,562	1,428	1,531	1,385	1,467

Participation rate (3)	a	77.8	76.5	78.0	76.3	78.1	76.8
Unemployment rate (4)	d	3.7	4.8	4.2	6.3	4.7	7.1
Women							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		6,771	6,757	6,602	6,586	6,447	6,432
Labour force	b	2,204	2,171	2,067	2,033	1,966	1,926
Employed	b	2,148	2,119	2,014	1,973	1,907	1,868
Agriculture	e	81	60	86	57	79	55
Non-agriculture	c	2,067	2,059	1,928	1,916	1,828	1,813
Unemployed	e	56	52	53	60	59	58
Not in the labour force	a	4,567	4,586	4,535	4,553	4,481	4,506

Participation rate (3)	b	32.6	32.1	31.3	30.9	30.5	29.9
Unemployment rate (4)	f	2.5	2.4	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.0

(1) "S.D." = Standard deviation. For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8.

(2) Excludes inmates of institutions, members of the armed services, Indians living on reserves and residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

(3) The labour force as a percentage of the population 14 years of age and over.

(4) The unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

^r Revised.

Note: With the exception of Tables 2 and 5, all statistics refer to a specific week, the last day of which is indicated.

Note: Due to the introduction of revised weighting factors in March 1965, small adjustments have been made to estimates published before that time. See the March 1965 edition of this report, page 8.

Table 2 Annual averages, 1946-1965		S.D. (1)	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Population 14 years of age and over (2)			13,128	12,817	12,536	12,280	12,053	11,831	11,605	11,388	11,123	10,807
Labour force	a		7,141	6,933	6,748	6,615	6,521	6,411	6,242	6,137	6,008	5,782
Employed	a		6,862	6,609	6,375	6,225	6,055	5,965	5,870	5,706	5,731	5,585
Agriculture	d		594	630	649	660	681	683	700	718	748	777
Non-agriculture	a		6,268	5,979	5,726	5,565	5,374	5,282	5,170	4,988	4,983	4,808
Unemployed	d		280	324	374	390	466	446	372	432	278	197
Not in the labour force	a		5,986	5,884	5,787	5,665	5,531	5,420	5,363	5,250	5,115	5,025

Participation rate(3)	a		54.4	54.1	53.8	53.9	54.1	54.2	53.8	53.9	54.0	53.5
Unemployment rate (4)	d		3.9	4.7	5.5	5.9	7.1	7.0	6.0	7.0	4.6	3.4
			1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Population 14 years of age and over (2)			10,597	10,391	10,164	9,956	9,732	9,615	9,268	9,141	9,007	8,779
Labour force			5,610	5,493	5,397	5,324	5,223	5,163	5,055	4,988	4,942	4,829
Employed			5,364	5,243	5,235	5,169	5,097	4,976	4,913	4,875	4,832	4,666
Agriculture			819	878	858	891	939	1,018	1,077	1,096	1,122	1,186
Non-agriculture			4,546	4,365	4,377	4,278	4,158	3,958	3,837	3,779	3,711	3,480
Unemployed			245	250	162	155	126	186	141	114	110	163
Not in the labour force			4,987	4,898	4,767	4,632	4,509	4,453	4,213	4,153	4,065	3,950

Participation rate(3)			52.9	52.9	53.1	53.5	53.7	53.7	54.5	54.6	54.9	55.0
Unemployment rate (4)			4.4	4.6	3.0	2.9	2.4	3.6	2.8	2.3	2.2	3.4

Table 3 Age, sex, and marital status Week ended May 21, 1966	Total	14-19 years all persons	20-64 years				65 years and over all persons
			Men		Women		
			Married	Other	Married	Other	
Population 14 years of age and over(2)	13,424	2,213	3,814 a	1,038 c	3,916 a	1,002 c	1,441
Labour force	7,383 a	731 c	3,686 a	898 c	1,110 c	725 c	233 d
Employed	7,136 a	676 c	3,594 a	841 c	1,093 c	707 c	225 d
Unemployed	247 d	55 e	92 e	57 e	17 f	18 f	8 g
Not in the labour force	6,041 a	1,482 b	128 d	140 d	2,806 b	277 d	1,208 b

Participation rate (3) - 1966, May 21	55.0 a	33.0 c	96.6 a	86.5 c	28.3 c	72.4 c	16.2 d
Apr. 23	54.1 a	31.3 c	96.2 a	83.4 c	28.1 c	71.1 c	15.5 d
Unemployment rate (4) - 1966, May 21	3.3 d	7.5 e	2.5 e	6.3 e	1.5 f	2.5 f	3.4 g
Apr. 23	4.1 d	8.0 e	3.5 e	8.3 e	1.5 f	2.5 f	4.5 g

(1)(2)(3)(4) See footnotes on opposite page.

Note: a) The alphabetic symbol following each estimate in table 3 indicates its standard deviation.

For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8.

b) Newfoundland included in estimates only from 1950.

Canada, Employed

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(Estimates in thousands)

Note: Due to the introduction of revised weighting factors in March 1965, small adjustments have been made to estimates published before that time. See the March 1965 edition of this report, page 8.

Table 4 Summary	S.D. (1)	1966		1965		1964	
		May 21	April 23	May 22	April 17(2)	May 23(2)	April 18
Total employed	a	7,136	6,950	6,858	6,597	6,621	6,373
Agriculture	d	591	517	655	563	674	602
Non-agriculture	a	6,545	6,433	6,203	6,034	5,947	5,771
Employed, non-agriculture	a	6,545	6,433	6,203	6,034	5,947	5,771
Usually work 35 hours or more	a	5,945	5,811	5,611	5,450	5,431	5,255
At work 35 hours or more	b	5,511	5,413	5,267	2,725	3,291	4,956
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work	c	434	398	344	2,725	2,140	299
Due to economic reasons (3)	e	55	53	59	81	63	62
Due to other reasons (4)	c	379	345	285	2,644	2,077	237
Usually work less than 35 hours	c	600	622	592	584	516	516

Table 5 Industry	S.D. (1)	1966		1965		1964	
		Average Mar./May	Average Feb./Apr.	Average Mar./May	Average Feb./Apr.	Average Mar./May	Average Feb./Apr.
Total employed	a	6,969	6,846	6,659	6,526	6,427	6,298
Agriculture	d	528	487	585	538	613	580
Other primary industries	e	202	198	199	199	172	160
Manufacturing	d	1,704	1,686	1,607	1,602	1,598	1,587
Construction	e	468	447	399	376	373	357
Transportation and other utilities	d	590	582	606	586	581	571
Trade	d	1,168	1,157	1,131	1,109	1,063	1,048
Finance, insurance, real estate	e	299	299	267	270	267	264
Community, personal, other services	d	1,600	1,586	1,470	1,474	1,393	1,364
Public administration	e	410	404	395	372	367	367

Note: From October 1962 to February 1966, the three-month averages in this table have been based on one-third of the records enumerated each month for the Labour Force Survey. Beginning with the three-month averages for January to March 1966, all of the records have been coded by industry each month and the averages are based on the full monthly surveys. Monthly estimates of employment by industry and occupation are available on request in the Special Tables series mentioned on page 3, "Other Data Available".

Table 6 Class of worker, agriculture and non-agriculture, and sex Week ended May 21, 1966	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers	Employers	Unpaid family workers
Total employed	7,136 a	6,044 b	551 c	354 d	187 d
Agriculture	591 d	109 e	299 d	57 f	126 e
Non-agriculture	6,545 a	5,935 b	252 d	297 d	61 e
Men	4,988 a	4,108 b	482 c	322 d	76 e
Agriculture	510 d	98 e	291 d	54 f	67 e
Non-agriculture	4,478 a	4,010 b	191 d	268 d	9 g
Women	2,148 b	1,936 c	69 e	32 e	111 d
Agriculture	81 e	11 f	8 g	3 g	59 e
Non-agriculture	2,067 c	1,925 c	61 e	29 f	52 e

(1) "S.D." = Standard deviation. For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8.

(2) A large number of persons worked less than 35 hours because of a holiday in the reference week (May 23, 1964 - The Queen's Birthday; April 17, 1965 - Good Friday). (3) Economic reasons for not working 35 hours or more include short time, layoff for part of the week and termination or start of employment during the week. (4) Other reasons for not working 35 hours or more include illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, and reasons such as a statutory holiday in the week.

Note: The alphabetic symbol following each estimate in table 6 indicates its standard deviation. For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8.

Note: Due to the introduction of revised weighting factors in March 1965, small adjustments have been made to estimates published before that time. See the March 1965 edition of this report, page 8.

Table 7 Unemployed	S.D. (1)	1966		1965		1964	
		May 21	April 23	May 22	April 17	May 23	April 18
Total unemployed	d	247	298	265	371	293	403
Without work and seeking work	d	235	274	250	345	281	380
Seeking full-time work	d	221	263	235	330	263	365
Seeking part-time work	f	14	11	15	15	18	15
On temporary layoff up to 30 days	f	12	24	15	26	12	23

Without work and seeking work	d	235	274	250	345	281	380
Seeking under 1 month	e	79	71	75	81	82	72
Seeking 1-3 months	e	77	95	79	111	83	123
Seeking 4-6 months	e	47	75	52	101	57	123
Seeking more than 6 months	e	32	33	44	52	59	62

Table 8 Regional distributions Week ended May 21, 1966		Canada	Atlantic region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie region	British Columbia
Population 14 years of age and over		13,424	1,285	3,884	4,735	2,235	1,285
Men		6,653	638	1,914	2,333	1,130	638
Women		6,771	647	1,970	2,402	1,105	647
Labour force		7,383 a	624 b	2,091 b	2,695 b	1,266 b	707 c
Men		5,179 a	453 b	1,472 b	1,863 a	891 b	500 b
Women		2,204 b	171 c	619 c	832 c	375 c	207 c
Employed		7,136 a	589 b	1,986 b	2,638 b	1,244 b	679 c
Men		4,988 a	422 b	1,386 b	1,827 a	874 b	479 b
Women		2,148 b	167 c	600 c	811 c	370 c	200 c
Agriculture		591 d	34 e	114 f	150 e	266 d	27 f
Non-agriculture		6,545 a	555 c	1,872 b	2,488 b	978 c	652 c
Paid workers		6,044 b	504 c	1,722 c	2,314 b	912 c	592 c
Men		4,108 b	353 c	1,178 c	1,565 b	599 c	413 c
Women		1,936 c	151 d	544 c	749 c	313 d	179 d
Unemployed		247 d	35 e	105 e	57 e	22 e	28 e
Men		191 d	31 e	86 e	36 e	17 e	21 e
Women		56 e	4 g	19 f	21 f	5 g	7 g
Not in the labour force		6,041 a	661 b	1,793 b	2,040 b	969 b	578 c
Men		1,474 c	185 c	442 c	470 c	239 c	138 d
Women		4,567 a	476 b	1,351 b	1,570 b	730 b	440 c

Employed	1966, May 21	7,136 a	589 b	1,986 b	2,638 b	1,244 b	679 c
	April 23	6,950 a	553 b	1,954 b	2,597 b	1,189 b	657 c
	1965, May 22	6,858	570	1,900	2,536	1,217	635
	April 17	6,597	516	1,853	2,468	1,146	614
	1964, May 23	6,621	550	1,806	2,471	1,188	606
	April 18	6,373	499	1,764	2,409	1,109	592
Unemployed	1966, May 21	247 d	35 e	105 e	57 e	22 e	28 e
	April 23	298 d	52 e	117 e	62 e	32 e	35 e
	1965, May 22	265	45	105	59	30	26
	April 17	371	76	133	80	52	30
	1964, May 23	293	40	113	70	32	38
	April 18	403	70	156	90	54	33

(1) "S.D." = Standard deviation. For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8.

Note: The alphabetic symbol following each estimate in table 8 indicates its standard deviation. For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8.



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Reliability of Estimates

(a) Sampling Error

The estimates in this report are based on a sample of households. Somewhat different figures might have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same questionnaires, enumerators, supervisors, processing, etc. as those actually used in the Labour Force Survey. This difference is called the sampling error of the estimates. In the design and processing of the Labour Force Survey extensive efforts have been made to minimize the sampling error. The sampling error (expressed as a per cent of the estimate it refers to) is not the same for all estimates; of two estimates the larger one will likely have a smaller per cent sampling error and of two estimates of the same size the one referring to a characteristic more evenly distributed across the country will tend to have a smaller per cent sampling variability. Also, estimates relating to age and sex are usually more reliable than other estimates of comparable size.

than 0.5% of the estimate, the letter "b" indicates that the standard deviation is between 0.6% and 1.0% of the estimate and so on as shown in the table below.

Alphabetic designation of per cent standard deviations

Alphabetic indicator	Per cent standard deviation
a	0.0% - 0.5%
b	0.6% - 1.0%
c	1.1% - 2.5%
d	2.6% - 5.0%
e	5.1% - 10.0%
f	10.1% - 15.0%
g	15.1% -

(b) Non-sampling Errors

Errors, which are not related to sampling, may occur at almost every phase of a survey operation. Enumerators may misunderstand instructions, respondents may make errors in answering questions, the answers may be incorrectly entered on the questionnaires and errors may be introduced in the processing and tabulations of the data. All these errors are called non-sampling errors. Some of the non-sampling errors will usually balance out over a large number of observations but systematically occurring errors will contribute to biases. Non-sampling errors can be reduced by a careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of enumerators and a thorough control of the processing operation. In general, the more personal and more subjective inquiries are subject to larger errors. Also, data referring to persons with less stable labour force status will have relatively large non-sampling errors.

The actual standard deviation of an estimate is not the same each month. Since the standard deviations of the current estimates are not available at the time when this report is published, the alphabetic indicators are based on the average standard deviations during the last year. They should, therefore, be interpreted only as indications of the order of magnitude of the standard deviations.

(d) Standard Deviation of Month-to-Month Changes

A rough upper limit for the standard deviation of the difference (change) between two estimates referring to two months up to a year apart may also be indicated using the table above. For most characteristics published in this report the standard deviation of the difference between two estimates is likely to be somewhat smaller than the standard deviation of the smaller of the two estimates or in the immediately preceding range.

(c) Alphabetic Indicators of Standard Deviation

The sampling error, as described under (a) is not known. A quantity, called the standard deviation, can however be estimated from sample data itself. The standard deviation of an estimate is a statistical measure of its sampling error. It also partially measures the effect of non-sampling errors, but does not reflect any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that the difference between a sample estimate and the corresponding census figure would be less than the standard deviation. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard deviation and about 99 out of 100 that it would be less than 2 1/2 times as large.

For example, suppose that a hypothetical estimate in May and June was 513,000 and 625,000 respectively and the per cent standard deviation of both estimates was indicated by the letter "c", i.e. it was between 1.1% and 2.5%. The difference between the May and June estimates (112,000) would, therefore, have a standard deviation which would likely be smaller than 2.5% of 513,000, i.e. it would likely be smaller than 12,800.

(e) Current Estimates of Standard Deviations

Standard deviations are computed monthly for several estimates and month-to-month changes. These are available usually in a few weeks after the publication of this report and can be obtained on request. Beginning with 1966, an annual report on the standard deviations during the last year will be released.

The standard deviations of the estimates, expressed as a per cent of the estimates, are indicated by letters. The letter "a" indicates that the standard deviation is smaller