

THE LABOUR FORCE

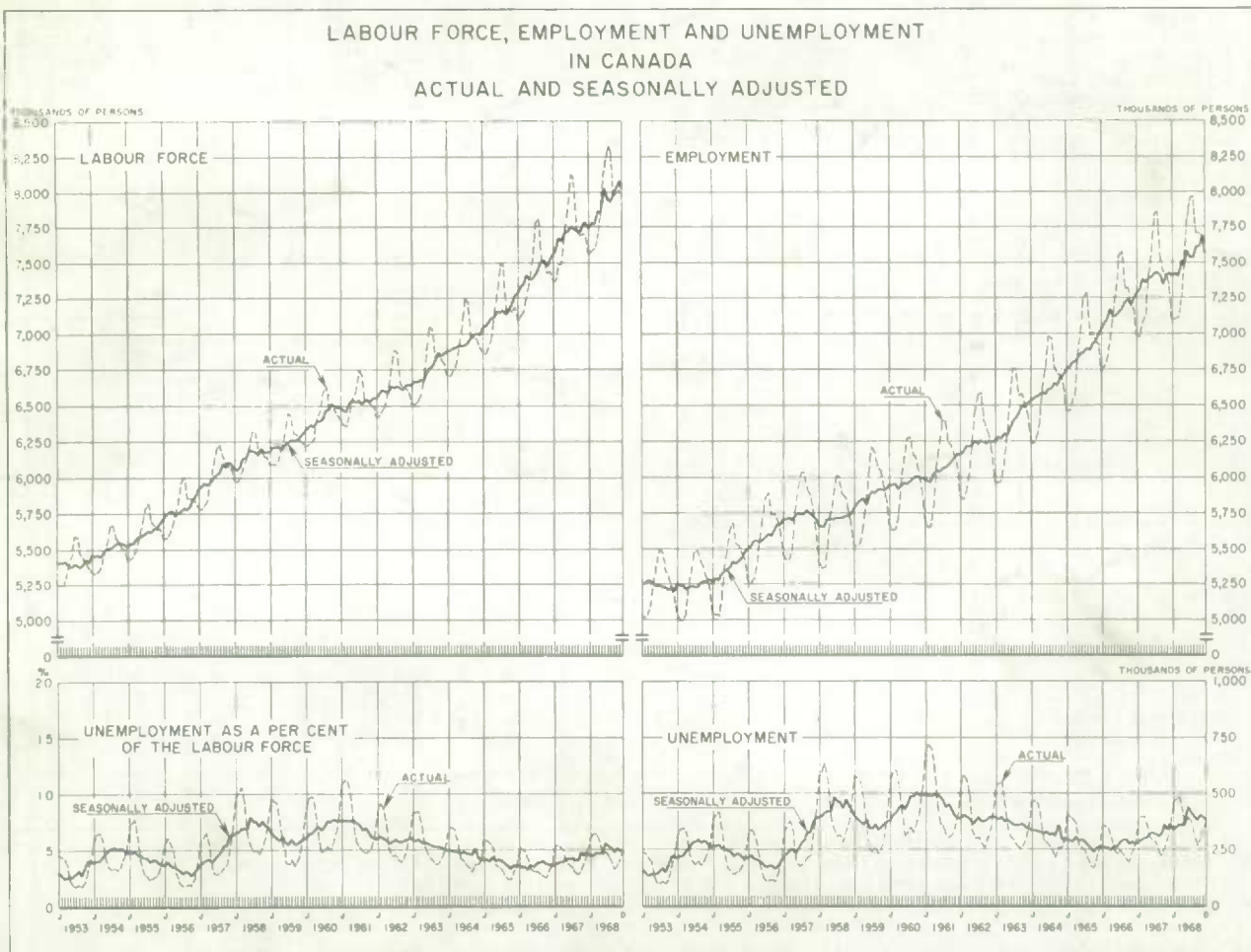
DECEMBER 1968

The Canadian labour force was estimated at 7,940,000 in the week ended December 14, 1968. Of this total, 7,567,000 persons were employed for all or part of the week and 373,000 persons were unemployed for the whole week. Between November and December, the labour force and employment decreased by 75,000 and 110,000, respectively; unemployment increased by 35,000. Compared with December 1967, the labour force was higher by 243,000, the employed by 223,000 and the unemployed by 20,000.

between November and December. Compared with December 1967, nonagricultural employment was 243,000 higher while employment in agriculture was 20,000 lower. Between November and December, employment declined by 67,000 among men and 43,000 among women. Employment was higher than in December 1967 by 120,000 for men and by 103,000 for women.

The unemployment rate in December was 4.7 per cent, compared with rates of 4.2 in November and 4.6 in December 1967. Seasonally adjusted, the unemployment rate was 4.8 in December 1968.

Agricultural and nonagricultural employment declined by 56,000 and 54,000, respectively,



The Unemployed by Occupation and Industry
4th Quarter 1968

The Labour Force Survey provides information about the occupation and industry attachments of members of the labour force. For the employed, current occupation and industry are reported. The unemployed are identified with the industries in which they last worked and the occupations which they last followed. From these data, unemployment rates for broad occupation and industry groups are calculated by expressing the number unemployed as a percentage

of the labour force classified in each group. In addition, percentage distributions have been made according to occupation and industry groups. Unemployment rates and percentage distributions for the fourth quarter of 1968, with comparative data for the first three quarters of 1968 and the fourth quarter of 1967, are shown in the following tables - in Table 1 by occupation group, and in Table 2 by industry group.

Table 1 Occupation group	Percentage distribution of the unemployed (quarterly averages)					Unemployment rates(1) (quarterly averages)				
	1968				1967	1968				1967
	4th quar.	3rd quar.	2nd quar.	1st quar.	4th quar.	4th quar.	3rd quar.	2nd quar.	1st quar.	4th quar.
All occupations	100	100	100	100	100	4.2	3.9	5.0	6.3	3.9
Office and professional(2)	18	19	17	16	18	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.3	1.6
Transportation	5	4	5	7	5	4.5	3.7	5.5	9.4	4.4
Service and recreation	12	12	11	8	10	4.0	3.8	4.6	4.4	3.4
Primary(3)	10	7	8	10	9	4.7	2.7	4.3	8.0	3.9
Craftsmen, production process and related workers	33	26	32	38	35	5.4	4.0	6.2	9.1	5.2
Labourers(4)	14	12	14	16	14	13.2	9.4	15.1	22.4	12.5
Never worked(5)	8	19	13	4	8	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Total unemployed(000's)	333	317	399	478	299					

Table 2 Industry group	Percentage distribution of the unemployed (quarterly averages)					Unemployment rates(1) (quarterly averages)				
	1968				1967	1968				1967
	4th quar.	3rd quar.	2nd quar.	1st quar.	4th quar.	4th quar.	3rd quar.	2nd quar.	1st quar.	4th quar.
All industries	100	100	100	100	100	4.2	3.9	5.0	6.3	3.9
Primary industries(6)	11	8	9	12	10	4.5	2.6	4.5	7.9	3.8
Manufacturing	23	20	23	23	25	4.2	3.4	4.9	6.1	4.1
Construction	17	12	17	23	18	10.3	6.8	12.6	21.8	10.1
Transportation and other utilities(7)	7	7	8	10	8	3.5	2.9	4.3	6.9	3.7
Trade	12	12	11	11	10	2.9	2.8	3.5	4.2	2.4
Service(8)	22	23	19	17	20	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.3
Never worked(5)	8	19	13	4	8	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Total unemployed(000's)	333	317	399	478	299					

- (1) The unemployed in an occupation group or an industry group as a percentage of the labour force in that group.
- (2) Includes managerial, professional and technical, clerical, sales, and communication occupations.
- (3) Includes farming, fishing, trapping, logging, and mining occupations.
- (4) Includes labourers and unskilled workers not farming, fishing, logging, or mining.
- (5) Comprises unemployed persons who never had a full-time civilian job lasting two weeks or more.
- (6) Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and trapping, and mines, quarries, oil wells.
- (7) Includes transportation, storage, communication, and electric power, gas and water utilities.
- (8) Includes community, business and personal service, public administration, and finance, insurance, real estate.

Note: The statistics in these tables are based on the 1961 Census Classification of Occupations and the 1960 Standard Industrial Classification.

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 30,000 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.

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:

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.

- (a) were without work and seeking work, i.e., did not 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

(Estimates in thousands)

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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)	1968		1967		1966	
		Dec. 14	Nov. 16	Dec. 9	Nov. 11	Dec. 10	Nov. 12
<u>Total</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		14,435	14,407	14,053	14,026	13,648	13,620
Labour force	a	7,940	8,015	7,697	7,698	7,439	7,428
Employed	a	7,567	7,677	7,344	7,409	7,173	7,190
Agriculture	d	467	523	487	535	485	482
Non-agriculture	a	7,100	7,154	6,857	6,874	6,688	6,708
Unemployed	d	373	338	353	289	266	238
Not in the labour force	a	6,495	6,392	6,356	6,328	6,209	6,192

Participation rate (3)	a	55.0	55.6	54.8	54.9	54.5	54.5
Unemployment rate (4)							
Actual	d	4.7	4.2	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.2
Seasonally adjusted		4.8	4.9	4.7	4.4	3.6	3.7

<u>Men</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		7,156	7,142	6,965	6,952	6,765	6,751
Labour force	a	5,401	5,433	5,271	5,283	5,168	5,173
Employed	a	5,107	5,174	4,987	5,060	4,955	4,994
Agriculture	d	412	451	432	470	437	433
Non-agriculture	a	4,695	4,723	4,555	4,590	4,518	4,561
Unemployed	d	294	259	284	223	213	179
Not in the labour force	b	1,755	1,709	1,694	1,669	1,597	1,578

Participation rate (3)	a	75.5	76.1	75.7	76.0	76.4	76.6
Unemployment rate (4)	d	5.4	4.8	5.4	4.2	4.1	3.5

<u>Women</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		7,279	7,265	7,088	7,074	6,883	6,869
Labour force	b	2,539	2,582	2,426	2,415	2,271	2,255
Employed	b	2,460	2,503	2,357	2,349	2,218	2,196
Agriculture	e	55	72	55	65	48	49
Non-agriculture	b	2,405	2,431	2,302	2,284	2,170	2,147
Unemployed	e	79	79	69	66	53	59
Not in the labour force	a	4,740	4,683	4,662	4,659	4,612	4,614

Participation rate (3)	b	34.9	35.5	34.2	34.1	33.0	32.8
Unemployment rate (4)	e	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.6

(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.

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, 1946-1967		S.D. (1)	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	
Population 14 years of age and over (2)			14,264	13,874	13,475	13,128	12,817	12,536	12,280	12,053	11,831	11,605	11,388	
Labour force	a		7,919	7,694	7,420	7,141	6,933	6,748	6,615	6,521	6,411	6,242	6,137	
Employed	a		7,537	7,379	7,152	6,862	6,609	6,375	6,225	6,055	5,965	5,870	5,706	
Agriculture	d		546	559	544	594	630	649	660	681	683	700	718	
Non-agriculture	a		6,992	6,820	6,609	6,268	5,979	5,726	5,565	5,374	5,282	5,170	4,988	
Unemployed	d		382	315	267	280	324	374	390	466	446	372	432	
Not in the labour force	a		6,344	6,179	6,055	5,986	5,884	5,787	5,665	5,531	5,420	5,363	5,250	
Participation rate(3)	a		55.5	55.5	55.1	54.4	54.1	53.8	53.9	54.1	54.2	53.8	53.9	
Unemployment rate (4)	d		4.8	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.7	5.5	5.9	7.1	7.0	6.0	7.0	
			1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Population 14 years of age and over (2)			11,123	10,807	10,597	10,391	10,164	9,956	9,732	9,615	9,268	9,141	9,007	8,779
Labour force			6,008	5,782	5,610	5,493	5,397	5,324	5,223	5,163	5,055	4,988	4,942	4,829
Employed			5,731	5,585	5,364	5,243	5,235	5,169	5,097	4,976	4,913	4,875	4,832	4,666
Agriculture			748	777	819	878	858	891	939	1,018	1,077	1,096	1,122	1,186
Non-agriculture			4,983	4,808	4,546	4,365	4,377	4,278	4,158	3,958	3,837	3,779	3,711	3,480
Unemployed			278	197	245	250	162	155	126	186	141	114	110	163
Not in the labour force			5,115	5,025	4,987	4,898	4,767	4,632	4,509	4,453	4,213	4,153	4,065	3,950
Participation rate(3)			54.0	53.5	52.9	52.9	53.1	53.5	53.7	53.7	54.5	54.6	54.9	55.0
Unemployment rate (4)			4.6	3.4	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 December 14, 1968	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)	14,435	2,393	4,105 a	1,130 b	4,220 a	1,069 c	1,518
Labour force	7,940 a	767 c	3,911 a	905 c	1,389 c	746 c	222 d
Employed	7,567 a	697 c	3,758 a	824 c	1,356 c	723 c	209 d
Unemployed	373 d	70 e	153 d	81 e	33 f	23 f	13 g
Not in the labour force	6,495 a	1,626 b	194 d	225 d	2,831 b	323 d	1,296 a
Participation rate (3) - 1968, Dec. 14	55.0 a	32.1 c	95.3 a	80.1 a	32.9 c	69.8 b	14.6 d
Nov. 16	55.6	33.1	95.9	80.1	33.7	70.2	14.7
Unemployment rate (4) - 1968, Dec. 14	4.7 d	9.1 e	3.9 d	9.0 e	2.4 f	3.1 f	5.9 g
Nov. 16	4.2	9.7	3.3	8.2	1.8	3.2	4.0

(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

(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)	1968		1967		1966	
		Dec. 14	Nov. 16(2)	Dec. 9	Nov. 11(2)	Dec. 10	Nov. 12(2)
Total employed	a	7,567	7,677	7,344	7,409	7,173	7,190
Agriculture	d	467	523	487	535	485	482
Non-agriculture	a	7,100	7,154	6,857	6,874	6,688	6,708
Employed, non-agriculture	a	7,100	7,154	6,857	6,874	6,688	6,708
Usually work 35 hours or more	a	6,248	6,295	6,125	6,151	6,043	6,064
At work 35 hours or more	a	5,769	4,732	5,641	5,586	5,570	4,595
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work	c	479	1,563	484	565	473	1,469
Due to economic reasons(3)	e	80	79	73	76	64	60
Due to other reasons(4)	c	399	1,484	411	489	409	1,409
Usually work less than 35 hours	c	852	859	732	723	645	644

Table 5 Industry	S.D. (1)	1968		1967		1966	
		Dec. 14	Nov. 16	Dec. 9	Nov. 11	Dec. 10	Nov. 12
Total employed	a	7,567	7,677	7,344	7,409	7,173	7,190
Agriculture	d	467	523	487	535	485	482
Other primary industries	d	219	225	227	224	226	233
Manufacturing	c	1,765	1,782	1,712	1,738	1,757	1,776
Construction	c	466	500	452	493	470	498
Transportation and other utilities	c	675	639	657	658	646	646
Trade	c	1,314	1,313	1,287	1,240	1,228	1,213
Finance, insurance, real estate	d	331	335	319	318	302	303
Community, personal, other services	c	1,873	1,882	1,769	1,763	1,649	1,622
Public administration	c	457	478	434	440	410	417

Note: Since late 1962, statistics in Table 5 have been published on a 3-month average basis. However since January 1966, it has been possible to provide monthly estimates of the employed by industry. Accordingly, beginning with the February 1968 report, the statistics in Table 5 refer to the monthly reference periods. Industry estimates on the 3-month average basis are available on request from the Special Surveys Division.

Table 6 Class of worker, agriculture and non-agriculture, and sex Week ended December 14, 1968	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers	Employers	Unpaid family workers
Total employed	7,567 a	6,561 a	512 c	331 c	163 d
Agriculture	467 d	76 e	260 d	34 f	97 e
Non-agriculture	7,100 a	6,485 a	252 d	297 d	66 e
Men	5,107 a	4,300 a	437 c	298 c	72 d
Agriculture	412 d	64 e	254 d	32 f	62 e
Non-agriculture	4,695 a	4,236 a	183 d	266 d	10 f
Women	2,460 b	2,261 b	75 e	33 e	91 d
Agriculture	55 e	12 f	6 g	2 g	35 e
Non-agriculture	2,405 b	2,249 b	69 e	31 e	56 e

(1) "S.D." = Standard deviation. For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8. (2) In the reference weeks of November 1966 and 1968, unusually large numbers worked fewer than 35 hours due to Remembrance Day holidays. Since Remembrance Day fell on a Saturday in 1967, its effect on the number of hours worked in the November 1967 reference week was very much less than in 1966 or 1968. (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)	1968		1967		1966	
		Dec. 14	Nov. 16	Dec. 9	Nov. 11	Dec. 10	Nov. 12
Total unemployed	d	373	338	353	289	266	238
Without work and seeking work	d	343	318	326	267	243	219
Seeking full-time work	d	320	298	312	253	233	203
Seeking part-time work	f	23	20	14	14	10	16
On temporary layoff up to 30 days	f	30	20	27	22	23	19
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Without work and seeking work	d	343	318	326	267	243	219
Seeking under 1 month	d	110	118	116	106	91	87
Seeking 1-3 months	d	142	112	135	100	101	82
Seeking 4-6 months	e	47	44	42	33	28	24
Seeking more than 6 months	e	44	44	33	28	23	26

Table 8 Regional distributions Week ended December 14, 1968		Canada	Atlantic region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie region	British Columbia
Population 14 years of age and over		14,435	1,346	4,148	5,149	2,346	1,446
Men		7,156	667	2,047	2,541	1,183	718
Women		7,279	679	2,101	2,608	1,163	728
Labour force		7,940 a	633 b	2,221 b	2,939 a	1,331 b	816 b
Men		5,401 a	437 b	1,544 a	1,976 a	898 a	546 b
Women		2,539 b	196 c	677 c	963 c	433 c	270 d
Employed		7,567 a	588 b	2,069 b	2,852 a	1,286 b	772 b
Men		5,107 a	397 b	1,425 b	1,913 a	860 b	512 b
Women		2,460 b	191 c	644 c	939 c	426 c	260 d
Agriculture		467 d	21 e	95 e	134 e	198 d	19 f
Non-agriculture		7,100 a	567 b	1,974 b	2,718 b	1,088 c	753 c
Paid workers		6,561 a	513 c	1,816 b	2,542 b	999 b	691 c
Men		4,300 a	341 c	1,227 b	1,670 b	615 b	447 b
Women		2,261 b	172 c	589 c	872 c	384 c	244 d
Unemployed		373 d	45 e	152 e	87 e	45 e	44 e
Men		294 d	40 e	119 e	63 e	38 e	34 e
Women		79 e	5 f	33 f	24 e	7 g	10 f
Not in the labour force		6,495 a	713 b	1,927 b	2,210 b	1,015 b	630 c
Men		1,755 b	230 c	503 c	565 c	285 c	172 c
Women		4,740 a	483 b	1,424 b	1,645 b	730 b	458 c
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Employed	1968, December 14	7,567 a	588 b	2,069 b	2,852 a	1,286 b	772 b
	November 16	7,677	602	2,100	2,905	1,309	761
	1967, December 9	7,344	596	2,044	2,749	1,226	729
	November 11	7,409	613	2,081	2,748	1,230	737
	1966, December 10	7,173	583	2,034	2,674	1,205	677
	November 12	7,190	592	2,045	2,660	1,207	686
Unemployed	1968, December 14	373 d	45 e	152 e	87 e	45 e	44 e
	November 16	338	40	134	82	35	47
	1967, December 9	353	42	126	91	45	49
	November 11	289	36	101	77	32	43
	1966, December 10	266	36	93	65	32	40
	November 12	238	31	86	60	26	35

(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.

(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.

(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 on 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.

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

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% -

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.

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.