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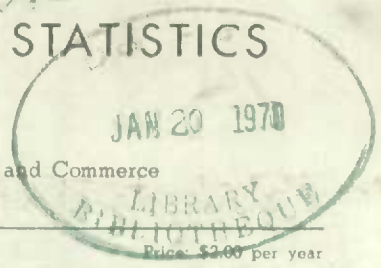
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# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## THE LABOUR FORCE

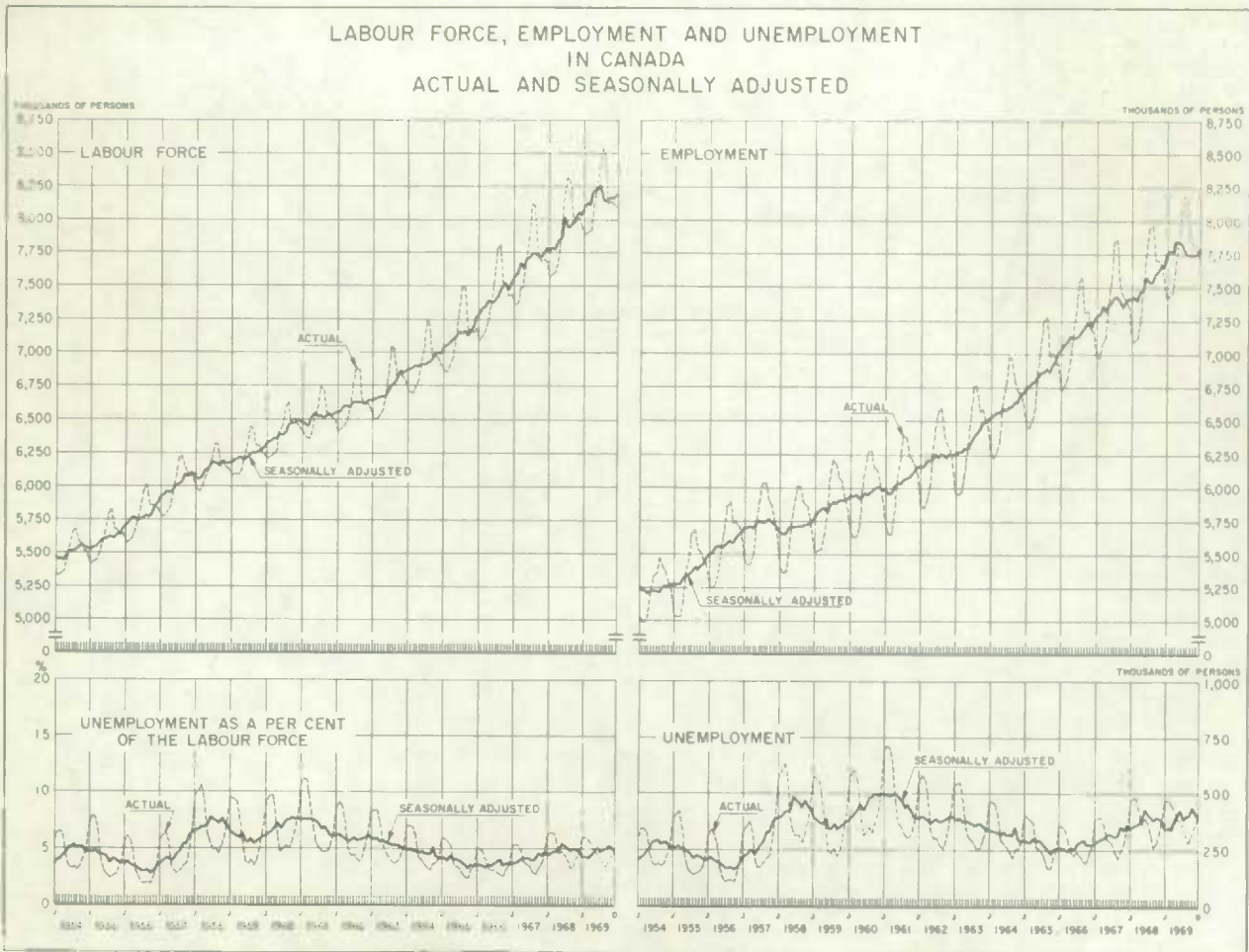
DECEMBER 1969

In the week ended December 13, 1969, the Canadian labour force was estimated at 8,095,000. This total included 7,712,000 persons employed for all or part of the week and 383,000 persons unemployed for the whole week. Between November and December, the labour force and the number of employed decreased by 20,000 and 49,000, respectively; unemployment increased by 29,000. Compared with December 1968, the labour force was higher by 155,000, employment by 145,000 and unemployment by 10,000.

Agricultural and nonagricultural employment declined by 34,000 and 15,000, respectively, between November and December. In nonagricultural industries, employment was higher than

in December 1968 by 155,000 while in agriculture employment was 10,000 lower. Between November and December employment among men declined by 51,000; there was virtually no change in the number of women employed. Employment was higher than in December 1968 by 85,000 among men and by 60,000 among women.

The unemployment rate, expressed as a percentage of the labour force, was 4.7 in December 1969 compared with 4.4 in November 1969 and 4.7 in December 1968. Seasonally adjusted, the unemployment rate was 4.8 in December 1969.



The Unemployed by Occupation and Industry  
4th Quarter 1969

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 1969, with comparative data for the first three quarters of 1969 and the fourth quarter of 1968, 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)				
	1969				1968	1969				1968
	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	4.3	3.8	4.9	5.9	4.2
Office and professional(2)	20	21	17	16	18	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.2	1.7
Transportation	6	5	6	6	5	5.8	3.9	5.8	7.8	4.5
Service and recreation	12	12	10	11	12	4.2	3.8	3.9	5.2	4.0
Primary(3)	8	6	8	11	10	4.2	2.4	4.6	8.3	4.7
Craftsmen, production process and related workers	32	27	31	35	33	5.4	3.9	5.9	8.0	5.4
Labourers(4)	13	11	12	14	14	12.9	8.5	12.7	19.4	13.2
Never worked(5)	9	19	17	6	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total unemployed(000's)	350	315	400	463	333					

Table 2 Industry group	Percentage distribution of the unemployed (quarterly averages)					Unemployment rates(1) (quarterly averages)				
	1969				1968	1969				1968
	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	4.3	3.8	4.9	5.9	4.2
Primary industries(6)	8	7	11	13	11	3.9	2.5	5.2	8.1	4.5
Manufacturing	25	21	21	21	23	4.7	3.4	4.3	5.2	4.2
Construction	16	12	15	20	17	10.4	6.5	11.4	18.2	10.3
Transportation and other utilities(7)	8	6	8	9	7	3.8	2.7	4.4	6.0	3.5
Trade	11	12	12	11	12	2.9	2.8	3.5	4.0	2.9
Service(8)	22	23	17	19	22	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.3	2.7
Never worked(5)	9	19	17	6	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total unemployed(000's)	350	315	400	463	333					

(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 about 30,000 households chosen by area sampling methods across the country(1). 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.

(1) For a comprehensive description of the design of the Labour Force Survey, see Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canadian Labour Force Survey - Methodology, Catalogue No. 71-504, Ottawa, 1965.

### 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 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

- 4 -

(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)	1969		1968		1967	
		Dec. 13	Nov. 15	Dec. 14	Nov. 16	Dec. 9	Nov. 11
<u>Total</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		14,809	14,778	14,435	14,407	14,053	14,026
Labour force	a	8,095	8,115	7,940	8,015	7,697	7,698
Employed	a	7,712	7,761	7,567	7,677	7,344	7,409
Agriculture	d	457	491	467	523	487	535
Non-agriculture	a	7,255	7,270	7,100	7,154	6,857	6,874
Unemployed	d	383	354	373	338	353	289
Not in the labour force	a	6,714	6,663	6,495	6,392	6,356	6,328
-----							
Participation rate (3)	a	54.7	54.9	55.0	55.6	54.8	54.9
Unemployment rate (4)							
Actual	d	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.2	4.6	3.8
Seasonally adjusted		4.8	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.4
<u>Men</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		7,339	7,324	7,156	7,142	6,965	6,952
Labour force	a	5,488	5,502	5,401	5,433	5,271	5,283
Employed	a	5,192	5,243	5,107	5,174	4,987	5,060
Agriculture	d	407	429	412	451	432	470
Non-agriculture	a	4,785	4,814	4,695	4,723	4,555	4,590
Unemployed	d	296	259	294	259	284	223
Not in the labour force	b	1,851	1,822	1,755	1,709	1,694	1,669
-----							
Participation rate (3)	a	74.8	75.1	75.5	76.1	75.7	76.0
Unemployment rate (4)	d	5.4	4.7	5.4	4.8	5.4	4.2
<u>Women</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		7,470	7,454	7,279	7,265	7,088	7,074
Labour force	b	2,607	2,613	2,539	2,582	2,426	2,415
Employed	b	2,520	2,518	2,460	2,503	2,357	2,349
Agriculture	e	50	62	55	72	55	65
Non-agriculture	b	2,470	2,456	2,405	2,431	2,302	2,284
Unemployed	e	87	95	79	79	69	66
Not in the labour force	a	4,863	4,841	4,740	4,683	4,662	4,659
-----							
Participation rate (3)	b	34.9	35.1	34.9	35.5	34.2	34.1
Unemployment rate (4)	e	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.7

(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, 1946-1969		S.D. (1)	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959		
Population 14 years of age and over (2)			14,638	14,264	13,874	13,475	13,128	12,817	12,536	12,280	12,053	11,831	11,605		
Labour force	a		8,162	7,919	7,694	7,420	7,141	6,933	6,748	6,615	6,521	6,411	6,242		
Employed	a		7,780	7,537	7,379	7,152	6,862	6,609	6,375	6,225	6,055	5,965	5,870		
Agriculture	d		535	546	559	544	594	630	649	660	681	683	700		
Non-agriculture	a		7,245	6,992	6,820	6,609	6,268	5,979	5,726	5,565	5,374	5,282	5,170		
Unemployed	d		382	382	315	267	280	324	374	390	466	446	372		
Not in the labour force	a		6,475	6,344	6,179	6,055	5,986	5,884	5,787	5,665	5,531	5,420	5,363		
Participation rate (3)	a		55.8	55.5	55.5	55.1	54.4	54.1	53.8	53.9	54.1	54.2	53.8		
Unemployment rate (4)	d		4.7	4.8	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.7	5.5	5.9	7.1	7.0	6.0		
			1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Population 14 years of age and over (2)			11,388	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			6,137	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			5,706	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			718	748	777	819	878	858	891	939	1,018	1,077	1,096	1,122	1,186
Non-agriculture			4,988	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			432	278	197	245	250	162	155	126	186	141	114	110	163
Not in the labour force			5,250	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)			53.9	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)			7.0	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 13, 1969	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)	14,809	2,454	4,223 a	1,149 b	4,288 a	1,142 c	1,553
Labour force	8,095 a	757 c	4,012 a	902 c	1,468 c	761 c	195 d
Employed	7,712 a	678 c	3,857 a	820 c	1,431 c	740 c	186 d
Unemployed	383 d	79 e	155 d	82 e	37 f	21 f	9 g
Not in the labour force	6,714 a	1,697 b	211 d	247 d	2,820 b	381 d	1,358 a
Participation rate (3) - 1969, Dec. 13	54.7 a	30.8 c	95.0 a	78.5 a	34.2 c	66.6 b	12.6 d
Nov. 15	54.9	31.4	95.5	78.8	34.0	67.5	12.8
Unemployment rate (4) - 1969, Dec. 13	4.7 d	10.4 e	3.9 d	9.1 e	2.5 f	2.8 f	4.6 g
Nov. 15	4.4	9.8	3.3	7.8	2.5	3.7	4.5

(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)	1969		1968		1967	
		Dec. 13	Nov. 15(2)	Dec. 14	Nov. 16(2)	Dec. 9	Nov. 11(2)
Total employed	a	7,712	7,761	7,567	7,677	7,344	7,409
Agriculture	d	457	491	467	523	487	535
Non-agriculture	a	7,255	7,270	7,100	7,154	6,857	6,874
Employed, non-agriculture	a	7,255	7,270	7,100	7,154	6,857	6,874
Usually work 35 hours or more	a	6,347	6,383	6,248	6,295	6,125	6,151
At work 35 hours or more	a	5,900	4,706	5,769	4,732	5,641	5,586
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work	c	447	1,677	479	1,563	484	565
Due to economic reasons(3)	e	73	76	80	79	73	76
Due to other reasons(4)	c	374	1,601	399	1,484	411	489
Usually work less than 35 hours	c	908	887	852	859	732	723

Table 5 Industry	S.D. (1)	1969		1968		1967	
		Dec. 13	Nov. 15	Dec. 14	Nov. 16	Dec. 9	Nov. 11
Total employed	a	7,712	7,761	7,567	7,677	7,344	7,409
Agriculture	d	457	491	467	523	487	535
Other primary industries	d	206	215	219	225	227	224
Manufacturing	c	1,757	1,796	1,765	1,782	1,712	1,738
Construction	c	461	489	466	500	452	493
Transportation and other utilities	c	687	670	675	639	657	658
Trade	c	1,347	1,323	1,314	1,313	1,287	1,240
Finance, insurance, real estate	d	358	354	331	335	319	318
Community, personal, other services	c	1,971	1,970	1,873	1,882	1,769	1,763
Public administration	c	468	453	457	478	434	440

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 13, 1969	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers	Employers	Unpaid family workers
Total employed	7,712 a	6,720 a	517 c	316 c	159 d
Agriculture	457 d	64 e	258 d	34 f	101 e
Non-agriculture	7,255 a	6,656 a	259 d	282 d	58 e
Men	5,192 a	4,387 a	440 c	290 c	75 d
Agriculture	407 d	54 e	254 d	34 f	65 e
Non-agriculture	4,785 a	4,333 a	186 d	256 d	10 f
Women	2,520 b	2,333 b	77 e	26 e	84 d
Agriculture	50 e	10 f	4 g	- g	36 e
Non-agriculture	2,470 b	2,323 b	73 e	26 e	48 e

(1) "S.D." = Standard deviation. For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8. (2) In the reference weeks of November 1968 and 1969, 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 1968 or 1969. (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.

(Estimates in thousands)

Table 7 Unemployed	S.D. (1)	1969		1968		1967	
		Dec. 13	Nov. 15	Dec. 14	Nov. 16	Dec. 9	Nov. 11
Total unemployed	d	383	354	373	338	353	289
Without work and seeking work	d	350	331	343	318	326	267
Seeking full-time work	d	328	306	320	298	312	253
Seeking part-time work	f	22	25	23	20	14	14
On temporary layoff up to 30 days	f	33	23	30	20	27	22
-----							
Without work and seeking work	d	350	331	343	318	326	267
Seeking under 1 month	d	106	111	110	118	116	106
Seeking 1-3 months	d	149	132	142	112	135	100
Seeking 4-6 months	e	49	41	47	44	42	33
Seeking more than 6 months	e	46	47	44	44	33	28

Table 8 Regional distributions Week ended December 13, 1969			Canada	Atlantic region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie region	British Columbia
Population 14 years of age and over			14,809	1,373	4,242	5,298	2,397	1,499
Men			7,339	680	2,093	2,614	1,207	745
Women			7,470	693	2,149	2,684	1,190	754
Labour force			8,095 a	641 b	2,256 b	3,022 a	1,334 b	842 b
Men			5,488 a	435 b	1,558 a	2,018 a	910 a	567 b
Women			2,607 b	206 c	698 c	1,004 c	424 c	275 d
Employed			7,712 a	595 b	2,104 b	2,927 a	1,290 b	796 b
Men			5,192 a	397 b	1,440 b	1,946 a	875 b	534 b
Women			2,520 b	198 c	664 c	981 c	415 c	262 d
Agriculture			457 d	20 e	90 e	122 e	204 d	21 f
Non-agriculture			7,255 a	575 b	2,014 b	2,805 b	1,086 c	775 c
Paid workers			6,720 a	529 c	1,838 b	2,626 b	1,010 b	717 c
Men			4,387 a	348 c	1,235 b	1,699 b	635 b	470 b
Women			2,333 b	181 c	603 c	927 c	375 e	247 d
Unemployed			383 d	46 e	152 e	95 e	44 e	46 e
Men			296 d	38 e	118 e	72 e	35 e	33 e
Women			87 e	8 f	34 f	23 e	9 g	13 f
Not in the labour force			6,714 a	732 b	1,986 b	2,276 b	1,063 b	657 c
Men			1,851 b	245 c	535 c	596 c	297 c	178 c
Women			4,863 a	487 b	1,451 b	1,680 b	766 b	479 c
-----								
Employed	1969, December	13	7,712 a	595 b	2,104 b	2,927 a	1,290 b	796 b
	November	15	7,761	606	2,131	2,925	1,292	807
	1968, December	14	7,567	588	2,069	2,852	1,286	772
	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
Unemployed	1969, December	13	383 d	46 e	152 e	95 e	44 e	46 e
	November	15	354	40	143	82	41	48
	1968, December	14	373	45	152	87	45	44
	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

(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, interviewers, 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. Interviewers 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 interviewers 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.