

c.2

CATALOGUE No.

71-001

MONTHLY Dept. of Manpower & Training

2.3

APR 26 1971

LIBRARY GOV. PUBL.

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Published by Authority of the Minister of Trade and Commerce

Vol. 27—No. 3

THE LABOUR FORCE

Price: \$2.00 per year

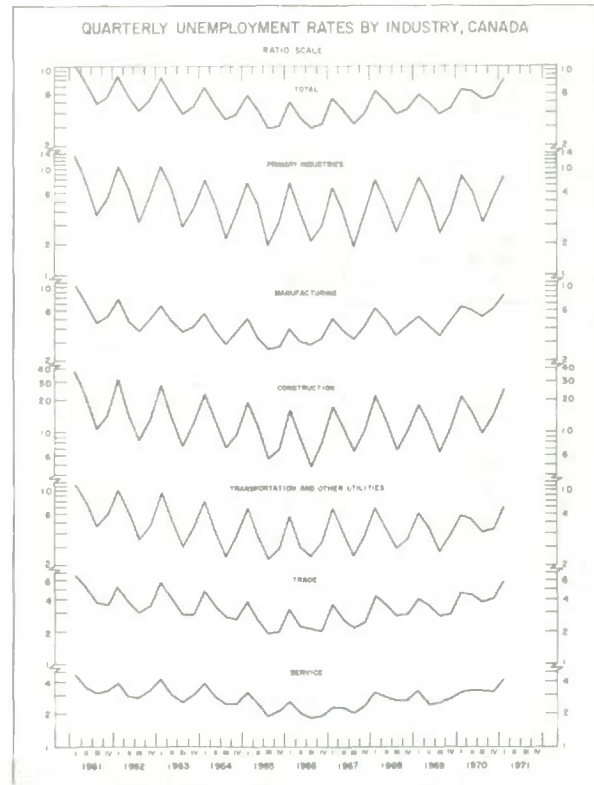
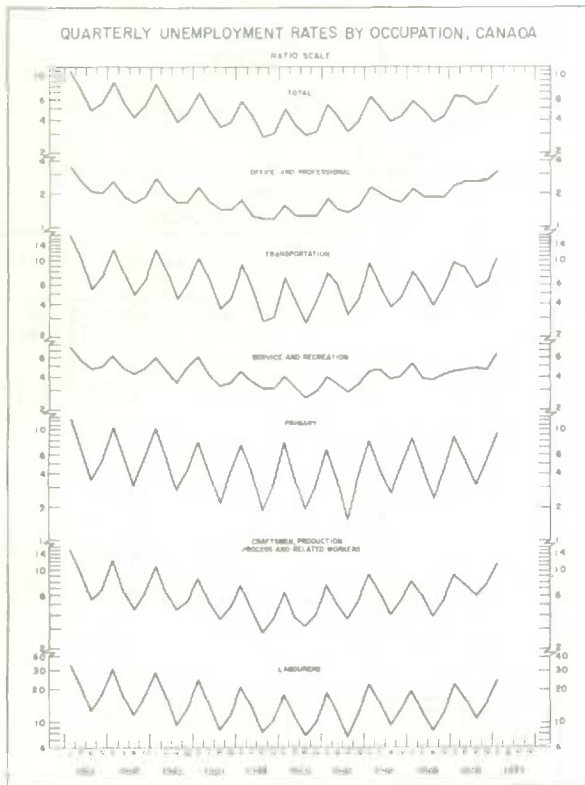
MARCH 1971

In the week ended March 20, 1971, the Canadian labour force was estimated at 8,336,000. This total included 7,686,000 persons employed for all or part of the week and 650,000 unemployed persons. Compared with the previous month, the labour force declined by 16,000 as a result of 25,000 decline in unemployment which was partially offset by a growth of 9,000 in employment. The labour force, the employed and the unemployed were higher than in March 1970 by 269,000, 161,000, and 108,000 respectively.

There was a larger-than-usual increase (21,000) in employment among women aged 25 and over between February and March. The number of employed men 25 and over was virtually unchanged whereas a small increase usually takes place in this period. Employment of young people 14-24 years old fell by 12,000 between February and March in contrast to the normal seasonal increase.

The decrease of 25,000 in the number of persons unemployed between February and March was mainly attributable to a larger-than-usual drop (18,000) in unemployment among 14-24 year olds. Reductions in the number of unemployed persons 25 and over were small between February and March. Regionally, there was a larger-than-usual reduction in unemployment in Ontario. Unemployment was also down in Quebec whereas there is usually an increase between these two months. Changes in the other regions were small.

Unemployment in March was 7.8 per cent of the total labour force, compared with rates of 8.1 in February and 6.7 in March 1970. Seasonally-adjusted, the unemployment rate in March was 6.0, down from 6.2 in February and January.



The Unemployed by Occupation and Industry

1st Quarter 1971

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 per-

centage 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 first quarter of 1971, with comparative data for the four quarters of 1970, 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)				
	1971	1970				1971	1970			
	1st quar.	4th quar.	3rd quar.	2nd quar.	1st quar.	1st quar.	4th quar.	3rd quar.	2nd quar.	1st quar.
All occupations	100	100	100	100	100	8.0	5.7	5.3	6.3	6.5
Office and profes- sional(2)	19	22	21	18	17	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.4
Transportation	6	5	5	6	7	10.2	6.3	5.6	8.8	9.6
Service and recreation Primary(3)	10	10	11	9	8	6.5	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.4
Craftsmen, production process and related workers	8	7	5	7	10	9.2	5.4	3.2	5.4	8.5
Labourers(4)	36	33	29	32	36	11.4	7.6	6.0	7.9	9.1
Never worked(5)	14	12	10	12	15	24.3	15.5	11.1	16.9	22.7
	8	11	18	15	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total unemployed(000's)	664	478	455	529	518					

Table 2 Industry group	Percentage distribution of the unemployed (quarterly averages)					Unemployment rates(1) (quarterly averages)				
	1971	1970				1971	1970			
	1st quar.	4th quar.	3rd quar.	2nd quar.	1st quar.	1st quar.	4th quar.	3rd quar.	2nd quar.	1st quar.
All industries	100	100	100	100	100	8.0	5.7	5.3	6.3	6.5
Primary industries(6)	9	8	6	9	11	8.7	5.3	3.2	6.1	8.4
Manufacturing	24	25	22	22	24	8.5	6.2	5.1	6.0	6.5
Construction	21	17	13	17	22	25.4	14.7	9.9	15.8	21.9
Transportation and other utilities(7)	8	6	7	7	8	6.9	4.3	4.1	5.3	5.8
Trade	12	12	12	11	12	5.8	4.1	3.8	4.4	4.6
Service(8)	19	20	22	19	17	4.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.1
Never worked(5)	8	11	18	15	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total unemployed(000's)	664	478	455	529	518					

- (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)	1971		1970		1969	
		March 20	Feb. 20	March 21	Feb. 21	March 22	Feb. 15
<u>Total</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		15,283	15,254	14,904	14,873	14,528	14,495
Labour force	a	8,336	8,352	8,057	8,031	7,919	7,911
Employed	a	7,686	7,677	7,525	7,505	7,471	7,438
Agriculture	d	436	422	438	430	466	454
Non-agriculture	a	7,250	7,255	7,087	7,075	7,005	6,984
Unemployed	d	650	675	542	526	448	473
Not in the labour force	a	6,947	6,902	6,837	6,842	6,609	6,584

Participation rate (3)	a	54.5	54.8	54.1	54.0	54.5	54.6
Unemployment rate (4)							
Actual	d	7.8	8.1	6.7	6.5	5.7	6.0
Seasonally adjusted		6.0	6.2	5.2 ^r	5.0	4.3	4.5
<u>Men</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		7,571	7,557	7,385	7,370	7,201	7,185
Labour force	a	5,605	5,612	5,481	5,466	5,400	5,382
Employed	a	5,091	5,089	5,038	5,048	5,038	5,002
Agriculture	d	386	377	390	388	412	403
Non-agriculture	a	4,706	4,712	4,648	4,660	4,626	4,599
Unemployed	d	514	523	443	418	362	380
Not in the labour force	b	1,966	1,945	1,904	1,904	1,801	1,803

Participation rate (3)	a	74.0	74.3	74.2	74.2	75.0	74.9
Unemployment rate (4)	d	9.2	9.3	8.1	7.6	6.7	7.1
<u>Women</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		7,712	7,697	7,519	7,503	7,327	7,310
Labour force	b	2,731	2,740	2,586	2,565	2,519	2,529
Employed	b	2,595	2,588	2,487	2,457	2,433	2,436
Agriculture	e	50	45	48	42	54	51
Non-agriculture	b	2,544	2,543	2,439	2,415	2,379	2,385
Unemployed	e	136	152	99	103	86	93
Not in the labour force	a	4,981	4,957	4,933	4,938	4,808	4,781

Participation rate (3)	b	35.4	35.6	34.4	34.2	34.4	34.6
Unemployment rate (4)	e	5.0	5.5	3.8	4.2	3.4	3.7

(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.

^r Revised.

Note: With the exception of Table 2 all statistics refer to a specific week, the last day of which is indicated. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals because of rounding.

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, 1948-1970		S.D. (1)	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	
Population 14 years of age and over (2)			15,016	14,638	14,264	13,874	13,475	13,128	12,817	12,536	12,280	12,053	11,831	
Labour Force	a		8,374	8,162	7,919	7,694	7,420	7,141	6,933	6,748	6,615	6,521	6,411	
Employed	a		7,879	7,780	7,537	7,379	7,152	6,862	6,609	6,375	6,225	6,055	5,965	
Agriculture	d		511	535	546	559	544	594	630	649	660	681	683	
Non-agriculture	a		7,368	7,245	6,992	6,820	6,609	6,268	5,979	5,726	5,565	5,374	5,282	
Unemployed	d		495	382	382	315	267	280	324	374	390	466	446	
Not in the labour force	a		6,642	6,475	6,344	6,179	6,055	5,986	5,884	5,787	5,665	5,531	5,420	
Participation rate(3)	a		55.8	55.8	55.5	55.5	55.1	54.4	54.1	53.8	53.9	54.1	54.2	
Unemployment rate (4)	d		5.9	4.7	4.8	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.7	5.5	5.9	7.1	7.0	
			1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Population 14 years of age and over (2)			11,605	11,388	11,123	10,807	10,597	10,391	10,164	9,956	9,732	9,615	9,268	9,141
Labour force			6,242	6,137	6,008	5,782	5,610	5,493	5,397	5,324	5,223	5,163	5,055	4,988
Employed			5,870	5,706	5,731	5,585	5,364	5,243	5,235	5,169	5,097	4,976	4,913	4,875
Agriculture			700	718	748	777	819	878	858	891	939	1,018	1,077	1,096
Non-agriculture			5,170	4,988	4,983	4,808	4,546	4,365	4,377	4,278	4,158	3,958	3,837	3,779
Unemployed			372	432	278	197	245	250	162	155	126	186	141	114
Not in the labour force			5,363	5,250	5,115	5,025	4,987	4,898	4,767	4,632	4,509	4,453	4,213	4,153
Participation rate(3)			53.8	53.9	54.0	53.5	52.9	52.9	53.1	53.5	53.7	53.7	54.5	54.6
Unemployment rate (4)			6.0	7.0	4.6	3.4	4.4	4.6	3.0	2.9	2.4	3.6	2.8	2.3

Table 3 Age, sex, and marital status Week ended March 20, 1971.	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)	15,283	2,532	4,277 a	1,270 b	4,424 a	1,183 c	1,598
Labour force	8,336 a	753 c	4,045 a	995 c	1,552 c	803 c	189 d
Employed	7,686 a	633 c	3,779 a	839 c	1,491 c	765 c	179 d
Unemployed	650 d	121 e	266 d	155 e	61 f	38 f	10 g
Not in the labour force	6,947 a	1,779 b	232 d	276 d	2,872 b	380 d	1,409 a
Participation rate (3) - 1971, Mar. 20	54.5 a	29.7 c	94.6 a	78.3 a	35.1 c	67.9 b	11.8 d
Feb. 20	54.8	30.9	94.7	78.6	34.9	68.6	11.6
Unemployment rate (4) - 1971, Mar. 20	7.8 d	16.1 e	6.6 d	15.6 e	3.9 f	4.7 f	5.3 g
Feb. 20	8.1	16.7	6.6	16.0	4.4	5.3	5.9

(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)	1971		1970		1969	
		March 20	Feb. 20	March 21	Feb. 21	March 22	Feb. 15
Total employed	a	7,686	7,677	7,525	7,505	7,471	7,438
Agriculture	d	436	422	438	430	466	454
Non-agriculture	a	7,250	7,255	7,087	7,075	7,005	6,984
Employed, non-agriculture	a	7,250	7,255	7,087	7,075	7,005	6,984
Usually work 35 hours or more	a	6,337	6,337	6,204	6,214	6,214	6,185
At work 35 hours or more	a	5,838	5,802	5,715	5,704	5,668	5,692
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work	c	499	535	489	510	546	493
Due to economic reasons(2)	e	77	73	93	86	74	71
Due to other reasons(3)	c	422	462	396	424	472	422
Usually work less than 35 hours	c	913	917	883	861	791	799

Table 5 Industry	S.D. (1)	1971		1970		1969	
		March 20	Feb. 20	March 21	Feb. 21	March 22	Feb. 15
Total employed	a	7,686	7,677	7,525	7,505	7,471	7,438
Agriculture	d	436	422	438	430	466	454
Other primary industries	d	197	198	187	213	198	202
Manufacturing	c	1,728	1,731	1,761	1,766	1,773	1,783
Construction	c	415	401	406	391	416	419
Transportation and other utilities	c	693	684	653	674	659	656
Trade	c	1,286	1,283	1,272	1,247	1,268	1,251
Finance, insurance, real estate	d	397	397	356	367	337	328
Community, personal, other services	c	2,044	2,062	1,974	1,952	1,886	1,869
Public administration	c	489	498	478	465	468	476

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 Labour Force Survey Section.

Table 6 Class of worker, agriculture and non-agriculture, and sex Week ended March 20, 1971	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers	Employers	Unpaid family workers
Total employed	7,686 a	6,686 a	512 c	316 c	172 d
Agriculture	436 d	65 e	236 d	36 f	99 e
Non-agriculture	7,250 a	6,621 a	276 d	280 d	73 e
Men	5,091 a	4,303 a	427 c	285 c	77 d
Agriculture	386 d	56 e	230 d	34 f	65 e
Non-agriculture	4,706 a	4,246 a	197 d	251 d	12 f
Women	2,595 b	2,383 b	86 e	31 e	95 d
Agriculture	50 e	8 f	6 g	2 g	34 e
Non-agriculture	2,544 b	2,375 b	80 e	29 e	61 e

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

(2) 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.

(3) 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)	1971		1970		1969	
		March 20	Feb. 20	March 21	Feb. 21	March 22	Feb. 15
Total unemployed	d	650	675	542	526	448	473
Without work and seeking work	d	613	634	490	469	409	433
Seeking full-time work	d	589	614	465	445	387	408
Seeking part-time work	f	24	20	25	24	22	25
On temporary layoff up to 30 days	f	37	41	52	57	39	40
Without work and seeking work	d	613	634	490	469	409	433
Seeking under 1 month	d	96	96	93	108	87	88
Seeking 1-3 months	d	209	275	197	202	152	195
Seeking 4-6 months	e	182	146	128	98	107	90
Seeking more than 6 months	e	126	117	72	61	63	60

Table 8 Regional distributions Week ended March 20, 1971			Canada	Atlantic region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie region	British Columbia
Population 14 years of age and over			15,283	1,397	4,341	5,522	2,446	1,577
Men			7,571	692	2,139	2,725	1,231	784
Women			7,712	705	2,202	2,797	1,215	793
Labour force			8,336 a	642 b	2,330 b	3,145 a	1,341 b	878 b
Men			5,605 a	446 b	1,585 a	2,062 a	917 a	595 b
Women			2,731 b	196 c	745 c	1,083 c	424 c	283 d
Employed			7,686 a	572 b	2,094 b	2,953 a	1,262 b	805 b
Men			5,091 a	385 b	1,391 b	1,921 a	854 b	540 b
Women			2,595 b	187 c	703 c	1,032 c	408 c	265 d
Agriculture			436 d	22 e	83 e	115 e	200 d	17 f
Non-agriculture			7,250 a	550 b	2,011 b	2,838 b	1,062 c	788 c
Paid workers			6,686 a	503 c	1,844 b	2,654 b	970 b	714 c
Men			4,303 a	332 c	1,206 b	1,682 b	610 b	473 b
Women			2,383 b	171 c	638 c	973 c	361 c	241 d
Unemployed			650 d	70 e	236 e	192 e	79 e	73 e
Men			514 d	61 e	194 e	141 e	63 e	55 e
Women			136 e	9 f	42 f	51 e	16 g	18 f
Not in the labour force			6,947 a	755 b	2,011 b	2,377 b	1,105 b	699 c
Men			1,966 b	246 e	554 e	663 c	314 e	189 c
Women			4,981 a	509 b	1,457 b	1,714 b	791 b	510 c
Employed	1971	March 20	7,686 a	572 b	2,094 b	2,953 a	1,262 b	805 b
		February 20	7,677	572	2,098	2,957	1,249	801
	1970	March 21	7,525	551	2,031	2,892	1,263	788
		February 21	7,505	553	2,048	2,867	1,245	792
	1969	March 22	7,471	555	2,041	2,856	1,261	758
		February 15	7,438	560	2,022	2,846	1,266	744
Unemployed	1971	March 20	650 d	70 e	236 e	192 e	79 e	73 e
		February 20	675	71	244	207	77	76
	1970	March 21	542	67	206	141	69	59
		February 21	526	68	195	136	70	57
	1969	March 22	448	67	190	99	48	44
		February 15	473	66	186	116	52	53

(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.



1010520620

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.