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THE LABOUR FORCE

MAY 1971

In the week ended May 22, 1971, the Canadian labour force was estimated at 8,627,000. This total included 8,084,000 persons employed for all or part of the week and 543,000 unemployed persons. Unemployment in May was 6.3 per cent of the labour force.

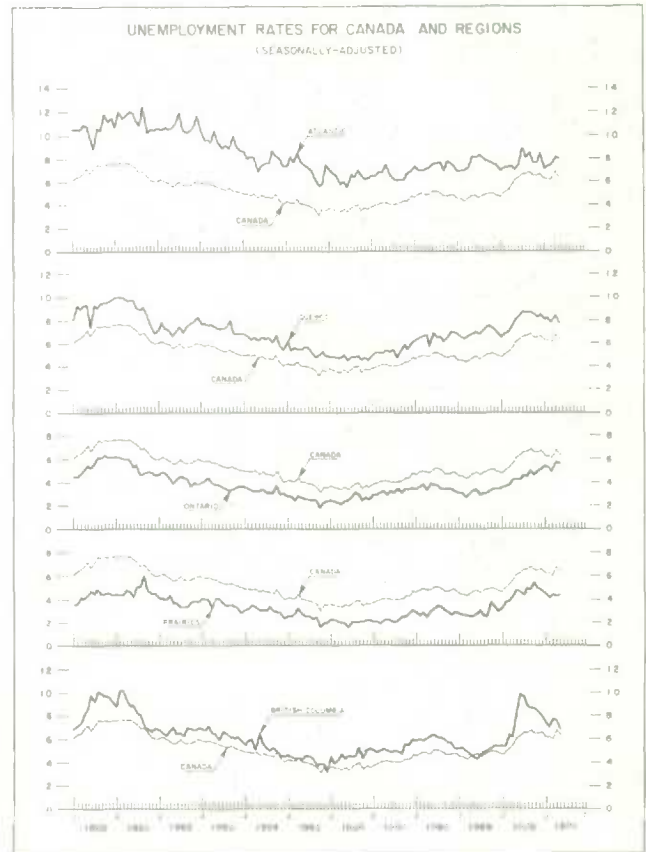
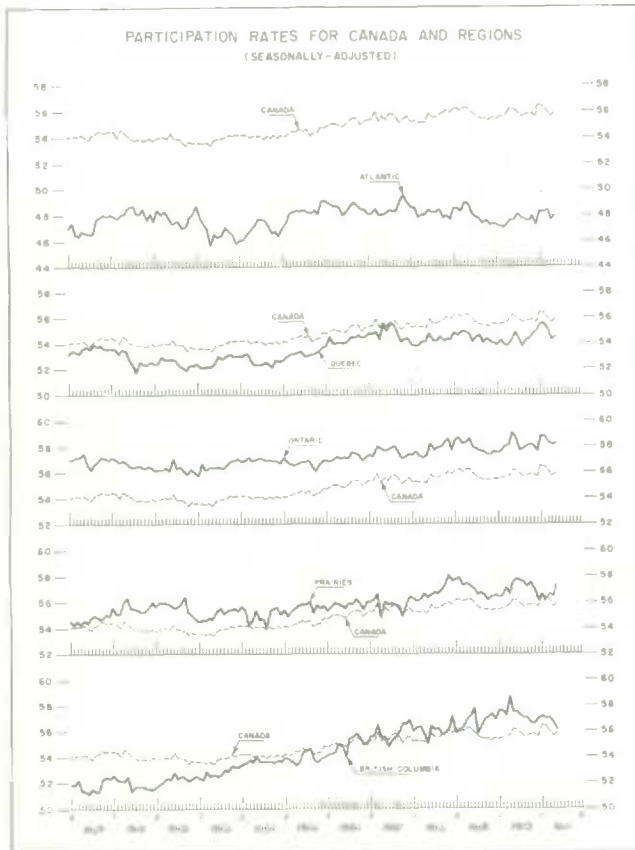
On a seasonally-adjusted basis the May unemployment rate was also 6.3, down from 6.7 in April and near the levels of the first months of the year. Regionally, rates were down in British Columbia and Quebec and little changed in Ontario, and the Atlantic and Prairie Regions.

The seasonally-adjusted employment level at 8,025,000 in May was up 93,000 from April but was only marginally higher than the levels of the winter months.

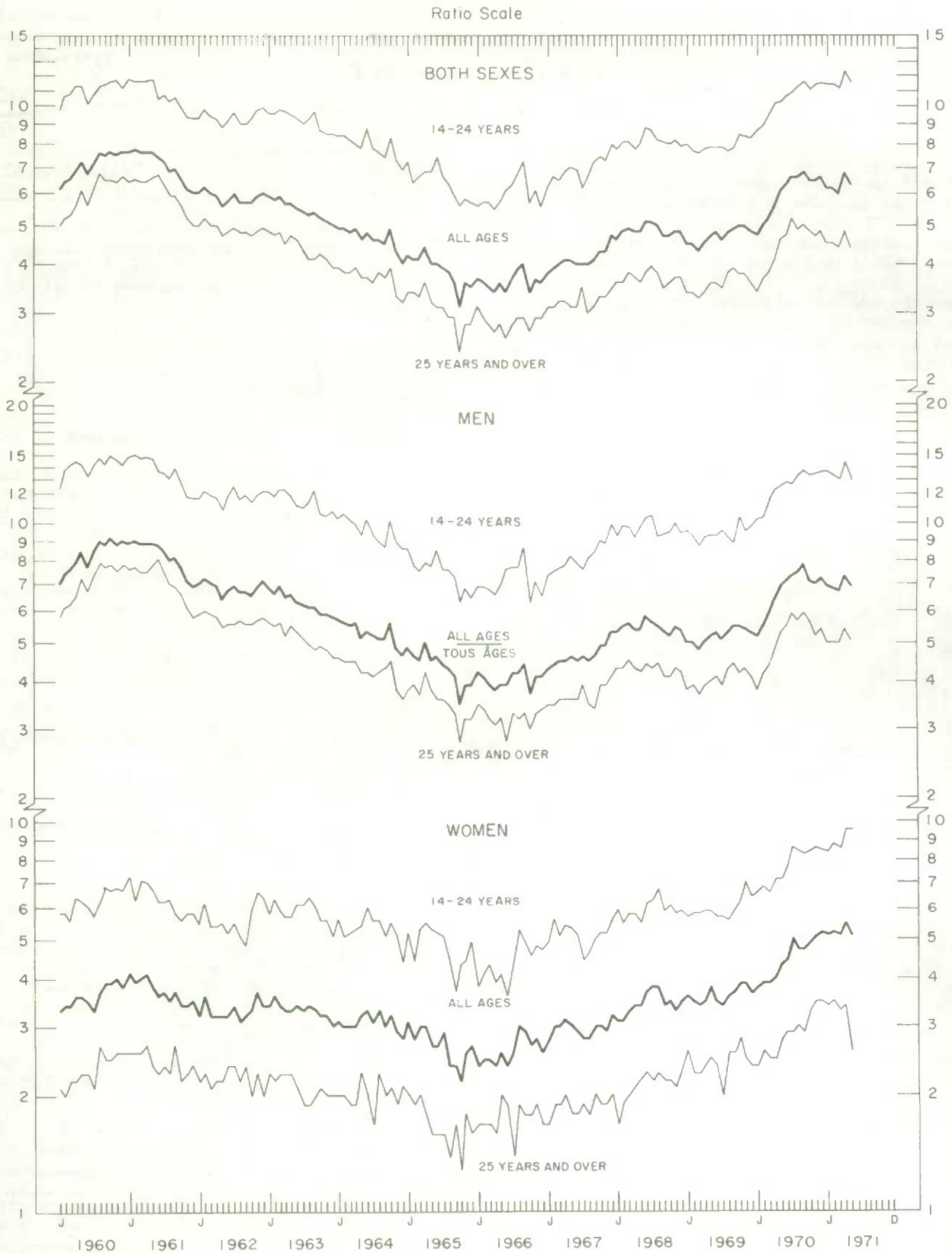
Seasonally-adjusted Employment and Unemployment, in thousands, showing changes from preceding month in brackets

	Employment	Unemployment
August 1970	7,868 ( - 2)	553 ( - )
September	7,898 ( + 30)	572 ( + 19)
October	7,929 ( + 31)	549 ( - 23)
November	7,936 ( + 7)	548 ( - 1)
December	7,897 ( - 39)	556 ( + 8)
January 1971	8,006 ( + 109)	533 ( - 23)
February	8,021 ( + 15)	532 ( - 1)
March	8,018 ( - 3)	515 ( - 17)
April	7,932 ( - 86)	567 ( + 52)
May	8,025 ( + 93)	541 ( - 26)

(continued on page 8)



# UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY AGE AND SEX, CANADA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



### 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	
		May 22	April 17	May 23	April 18	May 24	April 19
<u>Total</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		15,344	15,309	14,970	14,934	14,592	14,557
Labour force	a	8,627	8,396	8,465	8,198	8,248	8,061
Employed	a	3,084	7,737	7,952	7,654	7,862	7,629
Agriculture	d	542	502	550	481	592	521
Non-agriculture	a	7,542	7,235	7,402	7,173	7,270	7,108
Unemployed	d	543	659	513	544	386	432
Not in the labour force	a	6,717	6,913	6,505	6,736	6,344	6,496
<hr/>							
Participation rate (3)	a	56.2	54.8	56.5	54.9	56.5	55.4
Unemployment rate (4)							
Actual	d	6.3	7.8	6.1	6.6	4.7	5.4
Seasonally adjusted		6.3	6.7	6.1 <sup>r</sup>	5.6	4.7 <sup>r</sup>	4.5
<u>Men</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		7,601	7,583	7,419	7,401	7,233	7,215
Labour force	a	5,832	5,655	5,733	5,545	5,622	5,467
Employed	a	5,428	5,146	5,336	5,107	5,333	5,126
Agriculture	d	468	434	468	418	502	452
Non-agriculture	a	4,960	4,712	4,867	4,689	4,831	4,674
Unemployed	d	404	509	397	438	289	341
Not in the labour force	b	1,769	1,928	1,686	1,856	1,611	1,748
<hr/>							
Participation rate (3)	a	76.7	74.6	77.3	74.9	77.7	75.8
Unemployment rate (4)	d	6.9	9.0	6.9	7.9	5.1	6.2
<u>Women</u>							
Population 14 years of age and over(2)		7,743	7,726	7,551	7,533	7,359	7,342
Labour force	b	2,795	2,741	2,732	2,653	2,626	2,594
Employed	b	2,656	2,591	2,616	2,547	2,529	2,503
Agriculture	e	75	68	81	63	90	69
Non-agriculture	b	2,581	2,523	2,535	2,484	2,439	2,434
Unemployed	e	139	150	116	106	97	91
Not in the labour force	a	4,948	4,985	4,819	4,880	4,733	4,748
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Participation rate (3)	b	36.1	35.5	36.2	35.2	35.7	35.3
Unemployment rate (4)	e	5.0	5.5	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.5

(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.

<sup>r</sup> 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 May 22, 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)	15,344	2,543	4,293 a	1,276 b	4,434 a	1,195 c	1,604
Labour force	8,627 a	845 c	4,106 a	1,083 c	1,564 c	835 c	195 d
Employed	8,084 a	714 c	3,920 a	953 c	1,517 c	793 c	188 d
Unemployed	543 d	130 e	187 d	130 e	47 f	42 f	7 g
Not in the labour force	6,717 a	1,698 b	187 d	193 d	2,870 b	360 d	1,409 a
Participation rate (3) - 1971, May 22	56.2 a	33.2 c	95.6 a	84.9 a	35.3 c	69.9 b	12.2 d
Apr. 17	54.8	31.2	94.7	78.6	35.1	67.5	11.9
Unemployment rate (4) - 1971, May 22	6.3 d	15.4 e	4.6 d	12.0 e	3.0 f	5.0 f	3.6 g
Apr. 17	7.8	16.4	6.2	15.9	4.2	5.2	5.8

(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	
		May 22	April 17(2)	May 24(2)	April 18	May 24(2)	April 19
Total employed	a	8,084	7,737	7,952	7,654	7,862	7,629
Agriculture	d	542	502	550	481	592	521
Non-agriculture	a	7,542	7,235	7,402	7,173	7,270	7,108
Employed, non-agriculture	a	7,542	7,235	7,402	7,173	7,270	7,108
Usually work 35 hours or more	a	6,619	6,312	6,460	6,258	6,463	6,252
At work 35 hours or more	a	6,078	4,936	3,463	5,798	3,512	5,802
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work	c	541	1,375	2,997	460	2,951	450
Due to economic reasons(3)	e	87	70	80	87	83	72
Due to other reasons(4)	c	454	1,306	2,916	373	2,868	378
Usually work less than 35 hours	c	923	923	943	915	807	856

Table 5 Industry	S.D. (1)	1971		1970		1969	
		May 22	April 17	May 23	April 18	May 24	April 19
Total employed	a	8,084	7,737	7,952	7,654	7,862	7,629
Agriculture	d	542	502	550	481	592	521
Other primary industries	d	225	191	220	194	223	185
Manufacturing	c	1,777	1,720	1,809	1,750	1,827	1,809
Construction	c	508	441	484	426	486	436
Transportation and other utilities	c	701	689	694	669	722	694
Trade	c	1,290	1,293	1,277	1,301	1,274	1,277
Finance, insurance, real estate	d	398	392	362	353	342	333
Community, personal, other services	c	2,100	2,032	2,080	2,024	1,922	1,908
Public administration	c	543	477	477	454	474	466

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 May 22, 1971	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers	Employers	Unpaid family workers
Total employed	8,084 a	6,993 a	537 c	354 c	200 d
Agriculture	542 d	106 e	258 d	50 f	129 e
Non-agriculture	7,542 a	6,887 a	280 d	304 d	71 e
Men	5,428 a	4,562 a	455 c	327 c	85 d
Agriculture	468 d	95 e	252 d	48 f	73 e
Non-agriculture	4,960 a	4,467 a	203 d	279 d	12 f
Women	2,656 b	2,431 b	83 e	27 e	115 d
Agriculture	75 e	11 f	6 g	2 g	56 e
Non-agriculture	2,581 b	2,420 b	77 e	25 e	59 e

(1) "S.D." = Standard deviation. For explanation, see "Reliability of Estimates", page 8. (2) In April 1971, May 1970 and 1969, an unusually large number worked less than 35 hours due to Easter Monday and the Queen's Birthday being in the reference week. (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.

Canada, Unemployed  
and  
Regions, Labour Force

(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 7 Unemployed	S.D. (1)	1971		1970		1969	
		May 22	April 17	May 23	April 18	May 24	April 19
Total unemployed	d	543	659	513	544	386	432
Without work and seeking work	d	518	621	478	499	362	404
Seeking full-time work	d	495	588	452	472	339	383
Seeking part-time work	f	22	32	26	27	23	21
On temporary layoff up to 30 days	f	25	39	35	45	24	28
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Without work and seeking work	d	518	621	478	499	362	404
Seeking under 1 month	d	135	110	134	109	117	91
Seeking 1-3 months	d	144	169	150	162	103	125
Seeking 4-6 months	e	112	190	98	151	71	116
Seeking more than 6 months	e	126	152	96	78	71	72

Table 8 Regional distributions Week ended May 22, 1971				Canada	Atlantic region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie region	British Columbia
Population 14 years of age and over				15,344	1,401	4,353	5,550	2,453	1,587
Men				7,601	694	2,144	2,739	1,234	790
Women				7,743	707	2,209	2,811	1,219	797
Labour force				8,627 a	676 b	2,376 b	3,237 a	1,436 b	902 b
Men				5,832 a	471 b	1,622 a	2,149 a	976 a	614 b
Women				2,795 b	205 c	754 c	1,088 c	460 c	288 d
Employed				8,084 a	624 b	2,180 b	3,062 a	1,377 b	841 b
Men				5,428 a	429 b	1,465 b	2,027 a	934 b	573 b
Women				2,656 b	195 c	715 c	1,035 c	443 c	268 d
Agriculture				542 d	23 e	98 e	139 e	258 d	24 f
Non-agriculture				7,542 a	601 b	2,082 b	2,923 b	1,119 c	817 c
Paid workers				6,993 a	546 c	1,919 b	2,738 b	1,045 b	746 c
Men				4,562 a	366 c	1,271 b	1,765 b	659 b	500 b
Women				2,431 b	179 c	648 c	973 c	385 c	246 d
Unemployed				543 d	52 e	196 e	175 e	59 e	61 e
Men				404 d	42 e	157 e	122 e	42 e	41 e
Women				139 e	10 f	39 f	53 e	17 g	20 f
Not in the labour force				6,717 a	725 b	1,977 b	2,313 b	1,017 b	685 c
Men				1,769 b	223 c	522 c	590 c	258 c	176 c
Women				4,948 a	502 b	1,455 b	1,723 b	759 b	509 c
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Employed	1971	May	22	8,084 a	624 b	2,180 b	3,062 a	1,377 b	841 b
		April	17	7,737	569	2,102	2,970	1,283	813
	1970	May	23	7,952	619	2,124	3,044	1,351	814
		April	18	7,654	566	2,072	2,926	1,269	821
	1969	May	24	7,862	614	2,128	2,959	1,351	810
		April	19	7,629	574	2,091	2,894	1,290	780
Unemployed	1971	May	22	543 d	52 e	196 e	175 e	59 e	61 e
		April	17	659	75	234	205	73	72
	1970	May	23	513	44	201	132	64	72
		April	18	544	65	203	145	72	58
	1969	May	24	386	52	166	97	33	38
		April	19	432	67	182	100	42	41

(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.

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. 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.

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 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.

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

(continued from page 1)

Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates

	May 1971	April 1971	March 1971	Feb. 1971	Jan. 1971	Dec. 1970	Nov. 1970	Oct. 1970	Sept. 1970	Aug. 1970
Canada	6.3	6.7	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.8	6.6
Atlantic	8.0	8.1	7.3	7.3	7.1	8.5	7.6	7.6	8.5	8.0
Quebec	7.7	8.4	7.8	8.2	8.1	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.7
Ontario	5.6	5.7	4.9	5.2	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.6	5.0	4.5
Prairies	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.5	4.9	5.0
British Columbia	6.8	7.6	7.7	7.0	7.3	7.9	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.8
Total	6.3	6.7	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.8	6.6
Persons 25 years and over	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.9
Men	5.1	5.4	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.9	5.7
Women	2.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	2.9	3.0
Persons 14-24	11.6	12.3	11.1	11.4	11.4	11.5	11.4	11.1	11.6	11.3