

### LABOUR FORCE

Employment in Canada declined by an estimated 244,000 to 7,100,000 during December and January. Unemployment rose by 111,000 to 464,000 during the same period, about the normal increase for this time of year. The labour force declined by 133,000, mainly because of the withdrawal of seasonal workers.

The labour force at 7,564,000 in January was 200,000, or 2.7 percent higher than last year's level. Employment was up 117,000 or 1.7 percent over the year. Unemployment was 83,000 higher than the figure recorded for the same period last year.

### EMPLOYMENT

The employment decline from December to January was widely distributed, the largest decline being in trade (82,000), manufacturing (54,000), construction (51,000) and agriculture (28,000).

Total employment in January rose 117,000 or 1.7 percent over last year's figure. Community, business and personal service registered an employment advance of 136,000, which was offset partly by

year-to-year declines of 53,000 in manufacturing and 36,000 in construction.

As in previous months, employment in British Columbia was substantially higher than that of a year earlier. Employment gains also occurred in the Atlantic region, Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. In Quebec, the employment level was slightly lower than in January 1967.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment increased by 111,000 to 464,000 between December and January, a normal increase for this period. The January estimate was 83,000 higher than that of a year earlier.

Of the 464,000 unemployed in January, about 81 per cent had been unemployed for less than four months. The remaining 88,000 (19 per cent) had been unemployed four months or more.

Total unemployment in January represented 6.1 per cent of the labour force compared to 5.2 per cent in January 1967, and 5.1 per cent in January 1966. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in January 1968 was 4.4 per cent.

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