

hoped and expected that a trend to higher school-leaving ages would partly account for the decline in the unpaid family labour work force.

Decline in the farm labour force is primarily among the younger men who can more easily adjust to other employment. The general statistical picture is shown in Table 1, which is reproduced from the Department of Labour bulletin "Trends In The Agricultural Labour Force In Canada". Between 1951 and 1958 the number of males in the 14 to 44 age groups declined from 560,000 to 387,000 or 30.9 per cent. During the same period, the number in the age groups of 45 years and over declined from 328,000 to 286,000 or by only 12.8 per cent. In general there is the same tendency among females as exists among males. Between 1951 and 1958 farm women in the age groups of 14 to 44, declined by 32.7 per cent, but the decline in the number of older women on farms was only 15 per cent.

TABLE 1  
THE AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE BY AGE AND SEX, CANADA, 1951-58  
MALE AGE GROUPS

Year	Total	14-19	20-24	25-44	45-64	65 and Over
(Annual averages in thousands)						
1951.....	888	122	97	341	258	70
1952.....	828	110	91	321	243	63
1953.....	821	107	84	321	251	58
1954.....	845	111	81	329	262	62
1955.....	789	98	68	308	255	60
1956.....	741	87	62	278	249	65
1957.....	712	85	57	263	241	66
1958.....	673	84	53	250	228	58
(Percentage distribution)						
1951.....	100.0	13.7	10.9	38.4	29.1	7.9
1958.....	100.0	12.5	7.9	37.1	33.9	8.6
FEMALE AGE GROUPS						
Year	Total	14-19	20-24	25-44	45-64	65 and Over
(Annual averages in thousands)						
1951.....	72	14	X	30	18	X
1952.....	64	13	X	25	17	X
1953.....	42	10	X	16	11	X
1954.....	39	X	X	16	X	X
1955.....	36	X	X	13	10	X
1956.....	40	X	X	15	10	X
1957.....	39	X	X	15	12	X
1958.....	52	X	X	22	16	X

SOURCE: Special tabulations from DBS Labour Force Surveys.

NOTE: Data include Newfoundland.

(X) Due to high sampling variabilities for smaller estimates, figures smaller than 10,000 are not shown.

A comparison of age distribution in agriculture with the non-farm working force is also revealing. Of all the males in the agricultural labour force, 42.5 per cent were 45 years or older, while only 31.9 per cent were in these ages in the non-agricultural labour force. In non-agricultural industries in 1958 males of 25 to 44 years of age represented 50 per cent of the total labour force, but only 37 per cent of the agricultural labour force.