

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Employment and unemployment remained virtually unchanged during the month of October, thus leaving the country's work force more fully occupied than in any corresponding period since 1951.

At October 20, 1956, the number of persons with jobs was estimated at 5,674,000, some 2,000 lower than a month earlier, but 197,000 higher than in October 1955. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work and those registered for work at National Employment Service offices remained almost unchanged during the month.

The shift of farm workers into non-farm industries took place as usual during the month. It is estimated that farm employment declined by 47,000 while non-farm employment rose by some 45,000. In the corresponding period last year, farm employment dropped by an estimated 70,000 while non-farm employment rose by some 52,000. The later harvest season this year accounts largely for the smaller decline in farm employment. Rising requirements in non-farm industries came primarily from the logging, manufacturing, trade and service industries.

The prolonged harvest season and high levels of activity in non-farm industries are reflected in local labour market classifications. Only eight of the 109 areas were not either in shortage or balance at the end of October, a situation unparalleled at least since 1951. At November 1, 1956, the area classification was as follows (last year's figures in brackets): in shortage 20 (0); in balance, 81 (87); in moderate surplus, 8 (21); in substantial surplus, 0 (1).

CURRENT STATISTICS

The civilian labour force totalled 5,772,000 in the week ended October 20, 1956, compared with 5,773,000 in the week ended September 22, 1956. These estimates are obtained from the monthly labour force survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Of the 5,772,000 in the labour force, 5,195,000 or 90.0 per cent worked full-time (defined as 35 hours or more) in the October survey week, 348,000 or 6.0 per cent worked

less than 35 hours, 131,000 or 2.3 per cent had jobs but did not work during the survey week, and 98,000 or 1.7 per cent did not have jobs and were seeking work. Classed as not in the labour force are such groups as those keeping house, going to school, retired or voluntarily idle, too old or unable to work, and these numbered 4,999,000.

The survey provides additional information about those who worked less than full-time and those who had jobs but were not at work. Of the 348,000 who worked less than 35 hours in the October survey week, 249,000 or 4.3 per cent of the labour force, were regular part-time workers, while the remaining 99,000 or 1.7 per cent of the labour force, included 27,000 who were ill, 23,000 on short-time, 10,000 who were on vacation and 39,000 with other reasons. Of the 131,000 or 2.3 per cent who had jobs but did no work during the survey week, 126,000 usually worked full-time and these included 46,000 on vacation, 57,000 who were ill and 11,000 laid off for the full week.

During the corresponding week in 1955, there were 5,619,000 in the labour force of whom 5,014,000 worked full-time, 332,000 worked less than 35 hours, 131,000 had jobs but did no work during the week, and 142,000 did not have jobs and were seeking work. There were 4,971,000 classed as not in the labour force.

Applications for employment on file at National Employment service offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission numbered 157,400 on October 18, a reduction of 1,400 from the total on file at September 20, 1956 and 35,300 from the level at October 20, 1955. The decline from the previous month was due to a reduction of 9,100 in the total for the Ontario Region, other Regions registering increases in the following order: Pacific Region 3,000, Prairie Region 2,000, Quebec Region 1,600, and the Atlantic Region 1,100. Compared with the same month one year ago all Regions shared in the overall decline as follows: Ontario 11,500, Quebec 10,800, Prairie Region 7,400, Atlantic Region 4,100 and the Pacific Region 1,500.

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NEW COMMISSIONING: HMCS Saguenay, the fourth of Canada's new anti-submarine destroyer escorts, will be commissioned on Saturday, December 15, at Halifax Shipyards Limited, Halifax, N.S.

The Saguenay will be the third destroyer escort to go into service in the Royal Canadian Navy this year and the first to be commissioned at Halifax Shipyards. The yard has two other destroyer escorts under construction.

On commissioning, the Saguenay will join the Third Canadian Escort Squadron, based at Halifax. The squadron now consists of the first three of the new destroyer escorts--HMC Ships St. Laurent, Assiniboine and Ottawa. The St. Laurent was commissioned in October 1955, and the Assiniboine and Ottawa in August and November of this year, respectively.

Like the rest of her class, the Saguenay is all-Canadian in concept and design and carries the most advanced equipment available for the detection and destruction of submarines.