

(H) Employment and Labour Relations**Employment**

Annual figures on employment and unemployment are not available except for certain years during which sample surveys on employment were conducted. The only available figures that have some relevance are the number of registrants for employment and better employment with the Employment Exchanges. Even though these figures are highly unsatisfactory as an indicator of the extent of unemployment, they can be made use of for purposes of studying the change in unemployment over a period.

During 1967, there was a 7.6 per cent rise in the number of registrants compared with the 19.7 per cent rise during 1966 and the 20.7 per cent rise during 1965. The increase during 1967, in the different categories of registrants were 9.8 per cent in technical and clerical, 8.9 per cent in skilled, 10.8 per cent in semi-skilled and 3.5 per cent in unskilled. The corresponding comparable figures for 1966 were 19.7, 8.4, 22.9 and 20.7 per cent respectively.

Table 11 (H)-1 shows the number of persons placed in employment in recent years by the Labour Exchanges.

TABLE II (H) - 1

The number of persons placed in employment and its relative importance to total registrants in each category.

Year	Technical Clerical	%	Skilled	%	Semi-Skilled	%	Un Skilled	%	Total	%
1957	1,176	6.3	709	5.3	1,180	3.8	3,053	6.4	6,118	5.5
1958	1,827	9.2	800	5.9	1,006	3.1	2,251	4.4	5,884	5.0
1959	1,667	8.0	1,045	7.5	1,275	3.8	3,218	5.4	7,205	5.6
1960	1,400	5.3	771	4.6	1,247	3.6	4,744	6.5	8,162	5.4
1961	1,259	4.6	631	3.5	964	2.8	2,794	3.9	5,648	3.7
1962	1,263	3.7	468	2.7	809	2.3	2,315	3.5	4,857	3.2
1963	1,322	3.7	502	3.0	836	2.3	2,466	3.9	5,129	3.4
1964	1,722	4.4	535	3.1	945	2.5	3,599	5.5	6,801	4.3
1965	1,495	2.7	846	4.2	1,035	2.1	3,753	5.0	7,129	3.6
1966	1,056	1.6	740	3.4	917	1.5	4,089	4.5	6,802	2.9
1967*	1,018	1.4	585	2.5	711	1.1	1,869	2.0	4,183	1.6

Source : Department of Labour.

* Provisional.

Employment in the Public Sector

The annual inquiry by the Central Bank into changes in employment in the public sector was repeated for 1967. On addressing all the Government and semi-Government Institutions the bank was able to obtain data from 73 per cent of Government departments and 83 per cent of semi-Government institutions. The latter group includes the Government Corporations, the Universities, and the Central Bank.

In the 57 Government Departments that responded to the Bank's inquiry there were altogether 111,456 employees at the end of 1967 as against 108,025 at the end of 1966 in the same departments. Of these employees 83 per cent were permanent, 8 per cent temporary, and 9 per cent casual. The corresponding figures, as at the end of 1966 were 85, 8 and 7 per cent respectively. Taking the difference between the employment figures at the end and at the beginning of the year as a measure of the change in employment it is estimated that permanent and temporary employment in government departments has increased by 1.3 per cent over the year. No estimate of the change in casual employment is given here because of the highly fluctuating nature of the numbers employed as casual employees.

In the 39 semi-Government institutions from which the Bank was able to obtain figures there were 105,150 employees at the end of 1967 as against 104,223 at the end of 1966. Of these 73 per cent were permanent, 9 per cent temporary and 18 per cent casual. The comparable figures, as at the end of 1966, were 69, 12 and 19 per cent, respectively. Based on the response to the inquiry, permanent and temporary employment in the semi-Government institutions increased by 2 per cent.

Labour Relations

The figures for the year on strikes and man-days lost available at the time of writing this report are provisional. In the past they have been under-estimated mainly owing to the fact that data for the last two months of the year, during which period incidence of strikes tends to be higher, are usually incomplete.

Compared with 1966 the number of man-days lost in 1967 in the plantation sector shows a marked decrease. However, the year 1966, it would be recalled, recorded an exceptionally large loss of man-days in the plantation sector. The figure for 1967 when compared with the average for the past decade excluding 1966 shows an increase of 3 per cent. In the non-plantation sector the number of man-days lost in 1967 is substantially higher than that in 1966. This comparison, as in the plantation sector, does not provide a realistic picture. The figure for 1967 when compared with the average for the past decade has, in fact, fallen by 8 per cent.

About 37 per cent of the strikes were due to loss of employment, 21 per cent due to estate rules, working arrangements, etc. and another 11 per cent to general demands.

Table II (H) 2 shows the number of strikes, the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost as a result of strikes.

TABLE II (H) - 2

Strikes

YEAR	Plantations			Other Employment		
	No. of Strikes	Workers involved	Man-days lost	No. of Strikes	Workers involved	Man-days lost
1956	99	56,908	200,888	115	31,852	152,966
1957	177	297,061	618,050	127	70,239	190,443
1958	123	39,372	340,632	96	42,713	399,228
1959	177	47,318	352,095	71	42,453	460,141
1960	123	42,528	259,948	37	4,839	15,139
1961	90	29,223	317,866	39	38,013	170,372
1962	138	42,569	193,792	50	25,730	801,882
1963	174	62,511	359,905	58	21,819	479,678
1964	201	68,009	611,060	103	21,400	274,623
1965	175	70,929	482,259	55	10,085	89,952
1966	132	138,259	4,117,264	32	4,592	34,351
1967*	175	66,719	376,730	32	13,176	277,739

Source : Department of Labour.

* Provisional.

The underlying causes for strikes in 1967 have remained unchanged. As in the past the main causes were dismissals or loss of employment causing 37 per cent, estate rules, working arrangement, etc., causing 21 per cent and general demands causing another 11 per cent of the strikes.