

designed to be used alone, since affirmative answers could not be interpreted without further clarification. It was supposed to identify a subgroup of potential labor force members for further questioning. Consequently, those who reported wanting to work (either "yes" or "maybe—it depends") were asked a second question; "What are the reasons . . . is not looking for work?" A list of reasons was provided on the questionnaire, as follows: Believes no work available in line of work or area; Couldn't find any job; Lacks necessary schooling, training, skills, or experience; Employers think too young or too old; Other personal handicap in finding a job; Can't arrange for child care; Family responsibilities; In school or other training; Ill health, physical disability; and other.

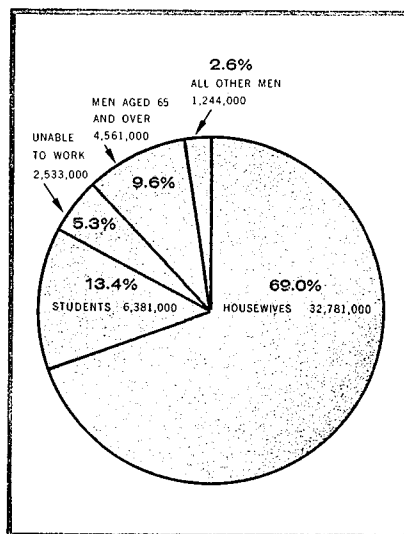
To avoid leading the respondent, the enumerator was instructed *not* to read the list, but to mark each reason mentioned. The question on reasons was an attempt to determine whether those who wanted work were also able to work and available for work. In addition, for about 55 percent of those who wanted or might want a job, the enumerator entered the respondent's verbatim comments to clarify the answers.

It was recognized that this list of possible reasons was not sufficiently detailed to yield information useful for program planning, and that some of the categories were overlapping and not mutually exclusive. However, the approach did represent a systematic effort to obtain an objective and comprehensive measure of unutilized potential manpower resources, within the limitations of a brief and highly structured interview situation. The main reason persons were not seeking work was determined on the basis of the respondent's report of the reasons, the person's major activity during the survey week, and the enumerator's comments.

A third question was asked of all persons not in the labor force, to get an additional indication of their propensity to work or seek work: "Does . . . intend to look for work of any kind in the next 12 months?"

For about half the sample, persons were reporting for themselves; for the other half, the information was based on the statements of someone else in a household. In part, therefore, the resulting statistics reflect another person's perception of the individual's attitudes toward work and work-seeking.

Composition of the Voluntary Nonparticipants,
September 1966



Voluntary Nonparticipants

Altogether, 90 percent of those not in the labor force in September 1966 did not want a regular full-time or part-time job—47.5 million of the 52.8 million persons 16 years of age and over who were not employed or seeking work. They could not be considered as currently available manpower resources, since their nonparticipation was voluntary. At that time, at least, they expressed no desire for regular work. This does not necessarily mean that they had no financial hardships, or that they might not benefit from paid employment if it were made available to them. The term "voluntary" in this context simply means that such a respondent, taking into account his total situation—health, age, and other responsibilities, could not say that he wanted a regular job at the time of the survey. Undoubtedly some of these nonparticipants would be willing and able to work if certain circumstances could be changed.

Information was obtained on the age and sex of the persons who did not want to work, on their