

TABLE 1. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE WHO WANTED A REGULAR JOB, BY REASON FOR NOT LOOKING FOR WORK, SEPTEMBER 1966

[Numbers in thousands]

Reason	Both sexes		Men		Women	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
Total.....	5,292	100.0	1,641	100.0	3,651	100.0
Ill health, physical disability.....	1,078	20.4	450	29.3	598	16.4
In school.....	1,242	23.5	706	43.0	636	14.7
Family responsibilities.....	1,080	20.4			1,080	29.6
Inability to arrange child care.....	435	8.2			435	11.9
Miscellaneous personal reasons ¹	434	8.2	144	8.8	290	7.9
Expects to be working or seeking work shortly.....	270	5.1	44	2.7	226	6.2
Believes it would be impossible to find work ²	754	14.2	266	16.2	488	13.4

¹ Includes old age or retirement, moving, entering or leaving Armed Forces, death in family, planning to go back to school, no need to work at present time.

² Includes employers think too old (or too young); couldn't find or did not

believe any job (or any suitable job) was available, lacks skill, experience, education, or training, no transportation, racial discrimination, language difficulties, pay too low.

major activity during the survey week, and on their intentions to look for work of any kind in the next 12 months. The composition of this group of 47.5 million voluntary nonparticipants is shown in the accompanying chart.

Only 2.6 percent were men between the ages of 16 and 64 who were out of school, and presumably able to work, but who did not want work at the time of interview. Half this group were past age 55, and thus undoubtedly include a sizable number of early retirees.

Evidence drawn from the National Health Interview Survey suggests that health limitations may be an important factor among men below age 65 who say they do not want to work and do not intend to look for work, even though they are not reported as totally unable to work.³ More precise information on this point will become available with the results of the special supplementary study conducted in February 1967 of men 20-64 years of age not in the labor force. That supplement will also shed light on the major reasons for non-participation among other men of working age who were not in ill health or disabled, but who nevertheless responded that they currently did not want to work.

Involuntary Nonparticipants

Ten percent of those not in the current labor force were reported as wanting a regular full-time or part-time job at the time of interview. Of this 5.3 million, however, 22 percent gave only a qualified affirmative answer ("maybe—it depends"), another 24 percent were negative or uncertain about their intentions to look for work in the next

12 months, and 6 percent did not reply to this question. Thus, about half of those who said they wanted jobs either qualified their responses or were indecisive about whether they would look for work in the next year. The reasons become clear when we examine why they were not looking for work. (See table 1.)

TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE WHO WANTED A REGULAR JOB, BY REASON FOR NOT LOOKING FOR WORK, SEPTEMBER 1966-FEBRUARY 1967

[Numbers in thousands]

Reason	Sept. 1966	Nov. 1966	Dec. 1966	Jan. 1967	Feb. 1967
Men, total.....	1,641	1,582	1,567	1,460	1,524
Percent of total not in labor force.....	13.6	12.9	12.6	10.7	12.1
Reason for not looking:					
Ill health or disability.....	480	469	547	335	444
Going to school.....	706	620	612	659	650
Believes it would be impossible to find work.....	266	274	361	208	199
All other reasons.....	188	319	147	348	221
Women, total.....	3,651	4,509	3,775	3,425	3,780
Percent of total not in labor force.....	9.0	11.3	9.4	8.4	9.3
Reason for not looking:					
Ill health or disability.....	598	456	607	505	456
Going to school.....	636	605	531	615	617
Family responsibilities.....	1,080	1,451	1,097	995	1,090
Inability to arrange child care.....	435	651	453	414	413
Believes it would be impossible to find work.....	458	606	542	399	610
All other reasons.....	516	780	645	596	532

Data from the household survey samples for November and December 1966 and January and February 1967 were developed, using the same general methodology and concepts. The figures appear to be relatively stable (table 2) except for a big jump in the number of housewives who wanted work in November—probably temporary jobs for the Christmas season. There also appeared to be

³ "Work Limitations and Chronic Health Problems," *Monthly Labor Review*, January 1967, p. 41.