

a dip in the number wanting work in January, when nearly all economic activity tends to be at a seasonal lull. A considerable amount of experience with these data will have to be accumulated, however, before definite seasonal or cyclical patterns can be detected.

The number who believed it would be impossible to find work ranged between 600,000 and 900,000; on the average, women accounted for two-thirds of this group. The number of men in this category fluctuated between 200,000 and 350,000, with about half the total between the ages of 20 and 64.

A conceptual problem arises when a person reports more than one reason for not seeking work. (In September, about 25 percent of those who wanted work reported more than one reason for not looking; in subsequent months, this proportion fell to 20 percent.) For example, a person in school might also report that he was not looking for work because employers thought he was too young. A housewife with young children might also say she doesn't believe there is any work available that she could do. In the classification system used in this report, top priority is given to "ill health or disability," and those not reporting this reason were assumed to be able to work. Going to school, family obligations, and personal reasons follow in that order, under the assumption that persons who gave these reasons were really not currently available for work, and that their participation in programs to help them find work would be limited.

As table 3 shows, about a third of those reporting they believed it would be impossible to find work were not readily available for work. Of the 1.2 million who believed they would be unsuccessful in the job market, about 450,000 were also either in ill health (100,000), in school (230,000), or tied

down with family responsibilities (125,000). Nearly two-thirds were women.

About 450,000 men age 16 and over who were not in the labor force wanted a job, but were not looking for work because they believed it would be impossible to find any. This included 185,000 who were also either in school or in ill health. About half of the remaining 265,000 reported that their reason for not looking for work was that employers thought they were too old.

One-third of these 450,000 men were teenagers (mainly students), one-third were in the central age groups (20-64), and one-third were age 65 and over. (See table 4.) Most of the latter said employers thought they were too old to work.

The reasons for nonparticipation given by persons who said they wanted a job at the time of the survey in September 1966 are discussed in more detail below. The qualitative analysis of reasons is based on verbatim replies recorded by the enumerators.

III Health or Disability

For over a million nonparticipants (500,000 men and 600,000 women), ill health or disability was given as a reason. For these persons, the desire for work tends to be highly conditional. A person may want to work, but his doctor will not permit it, or he may want only very light, sedentary work a few hours a day. Many of the responses indicated that these persons would accept a job involving a very limited amount of physical activity, but were not interested in actively seeking work. The responses also suggested that additional questions would be necessary to distinguish accurately between varying degrees of inability to work. For some persons, return to the labor

TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE WHO WANTED A REGULAR JOB, BUT BELIEVED NO WORK WAS AVAILABLE, BY COMBINATION OF REASONS FOR NOT SEEKING WORK AND DETAILED REASON FOR BELIEVING WORK NOT AVAILABLE, SEPTEMBER 1966

[Numbers in thousands]							
Reason	Total	Employers think too young	Employers think too old	Lacks skill, experience, education or training	Could not find, or believe no job available	No transportation	Other handicaps or barriers ¹
Total.....	1,203	39	257	84	619	147	57
Ill health, disability.....	95	.....	28	.....	45	22	.....
In school.....	229	28	.....	.....	167	34	.....
Family responsibilities.....	74	.....	.....	.....	57	17	.....
Inability to arrange for child care.....	61	.....	.....	.....	28	23	.....
No other reason.....	754	11	229	84	322	51	57

¹ Includes racial discrimination, language difficulties, unsatisfactory pay scale for type of work sought.