

Miscellaneous Reasons

This relatively small group of about 150,000 men and 300,000 women consisted of women who, at the time of interview, did not need (or really did not want) to work; men and women who were retired or semiretired, but said they might take some light part-time work if it came their way; persons who were getting ready to move, were just getting settled after a move, or were uncertain when or whether to move; persons who were taking care of personal business (e.g., after a death in the family); and young persons who were entering or leaving the Armed Forces or getting ready to go back to school. By and large, it could be said of these persons that at the time of the survey in mid-September 1966 they really did not want to work, or that their desire for work was relatively weak.

Expect to Work or Look Soon

Some 270,000 persons expect to be in the labor force shortly. This group was right on the fringe of the labor force, but did not meet the strict definitions (i.e., working or having a job last week, seeking work in the last 4 weeks, having definite instructions to report to a new job in 30 days, or being on layoff from a job with definite expectation of being called back). For example, there were some who had just quit or been discharged from one job, but had not yet started to look for another. A sizable number of women were waiting to be called to a job (and some of them possibly should have been counted as unemployed), but it was not clear when they last looked, when they expected to report, or even if they had definite instructions to report. Still others said that they planned to start looking for work soon—this week, next week, or within a month or two. A small number of persons actually started working at seasonal farm jobs during the interview week (the week following the survey week), but had not been seeking work in the previous 4 weeks and had not known just when the work would become available.

The Discouraged

An estimated three-fourths of a million persons wanting jobs at the time of the survey, were willing and able to work, were available for

TABLE 6. SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS WANTING WORK WHO WERE NOT LOOKING FOR WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND, BY SEX, SEPTEMBER 1966

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	Men	Women
REASON			
Total.....	754	266	488
Employers think too young.....	11	11	11
Employers think too old.....	229	188	91
Lacks necessary schooling, training, skills, or experience	84	22	62
Could not find or believes no job (or no suitable job) available.....	322	84	238
No transportation.....	61	11	40
Language difficulties.....	23	6	17
Pay too low.....	11	11	11
Other personal handicaps.....	23	6	17
AGE			
Total.....	754	266	488
16 to 19 years.....	56	22	34
16 to 17 years.....	28	22	6
18 and 19 years.....	28	—	28
20 to 64 years.....	497	123	374
20 to 24 years.....	34	17	17
25 to 54 years.....	343	61	283
55 to 59 years.....	45	11	34
60 to 64 years.....	74	34	40
65 years and over.....	201	122	79
COLOR			
Total.....	754	266	488
White.....	581	211	370
Nonwhite.....	173	55	118
Educational level			
Total.....	754	266	488
Less than 8 years of schooling.....	195	99	96
Elementary school graduate.....	123	50	73
Some high school.....	182	39	143
High school graduate.....	188	50	138
Some college.....	66	28	38

¹ Includes racial discrimination; excludes mental or physical disabilities.

work (in the sense that health, school, or personal or family obligations did not stand in the way), but had not looked for work in the past 4 weeks. The reasons they gave reflected discouragement or disappointment in the job market, or at least a negative attitude toward their own job prospects. (See table 6.) Two-thirds of this group were 20 to 64 years of age—125,000 men and 375,000 women.

For 430,000 of the three-quarters of a million—110,000 men and 320,000 women—training or placement assistance appeared to be a possible help. These individuals reported that they couldn't find a job or believed jobs weren't available, that they lacked education or training, or that language was a problem.

This group of 750,000 was less educated than the total not in the labor force (only a third were high school graduates, compared with about 45 percent of all nonworkers) and also disproportionately nonwhite (23 percent compared with only 10 percent of all nonparticipants).