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ABSTRACT

Toronto high school students were surveyed to determine some of their desires and experiences concerning work. (This report is the first of three on a study of Toronto secondary school students' attitudes toward work and unemployment.) Of 34,270 questionnaires sent, 29,499 usable responses were received, or 86% of the enrolled students. The data showed that a large number of the respondents were interested in work. While students were most interested in a summer job, 61% also reported that they had looked for a part-time job at which they could work while going to school, and 44% reported that they would like to combine part-time schooling with work. The responses, which were analyzed according to sex, level of study, and year of birth showed that considerably more men than women had jobs; students studying at levels 4, 5 and 6 were more likely to have had jobs than students studying at levels 1, 2 and 3; and the older the students, the more likely they were to have had jobs. The responses for a subset of returning students were analyzed separately. More of the returning students were interested than other students in a summer job, a part-time job while going to school, and part-time schooling combined with work. (EB)

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STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TO WORK AND UNEMPLOYMENT

PART I

The Survey

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#151

September, 1978

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The authors would like to express their appreciation to

- all staff and students in the Toronto high schools who participated in the study, and provided us with an unusually high rate of response; and,
- Lynda Groves who constructed all the graphs and typed the final report.

INTRODUCTION

In June of 1977, the School Programs Committee of the Toronto Board of Education adopted the following recommendation:

> "That the Research Department's outline of a study of student attitudes to work and unemployment be approved, and that this be done, if feasible, in co-operation with the Child in the City Project, University of Toronto."

The data for this study were gathered by the Research Department in two phases:

Phase I: Survey of all Toronto secondary school students to determine some of their desires for and experiences with work.

Phase II: A questionnaire to twelve subsets of Toronto secondary school students (chosen according to responses in Phase I) to determine their attitudes to work and unemployment, their knowledge of facts about the Canadian work world, their ideas about how to get jobs, the kinds of jobs they think they can get, and their hopes for their life at 30 years of age.

This report, which provides information about the students' desires for and experiences with work as collected in Phase I, is the first of three reports describing the results of this study. The second and third reports deal with the data collected in Phase II.

Literature Review*

Before World War II had drawn to a close, Canadians were looking forward to a future when once again we would be faced with young people with nothing to do. The Canadian Youth Commission, established in 1943, considered the post-war situation:

> "It would appear that as many as three-quarters of a million young people under the age of 25, possibly closer to a million, will be in need of new jobs or other constructive peacetime occupation in the period of post-war adjustment. What is the prospect of such opportunities being available to them?"

the Commission asked (Tuttle, 1946, page 5).

Even at the time that Commission published its report in 1945, it was recognized that when work is scarce, youth, especially the youngest group under 21, have a more difficult time finding work than older, more experienced workers. Teenagers have always been more susceptible to unemployment than other age groups, and have been the group most affected by cyclical economic variations. However, in Canada in the last 20 years, a steady trend has caused an already high youth unemployment rate to reach, in 1977, in some regions of Canada, over 30% for 15 to 19 year-olds (Statistics Canada, April, 1978). Although young workers constitute less than 30% of the labour force in Canada, they make up nearly 50% of the unemployed. Actual unemployment rates among young people vary considerably from province to province but the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for young people is close to 15% or around 400,000 young Canadians in 1977. In Ontario, statistics on unemployment rates by age and sex groups from 1973 to 1976 indicate that youth unemployment is a high and increasing percentage of total unemployment, and

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* This literature review has been written and contributed to this study by Martha Friendly and is an extract from The Child in the City: Changes and Challenges by William Michelson, Saul Levine, Anna-Rose Spina and the staff of the Child in the City Program. University of Toronto Press (forthcoming).

a more serious problem statistically for young males. Canada is not anomalous in this -- the United States and much of the West show similar trends (Manpower Report of the President, 1974).

These official unemployment rates are seen as underestimates by many experts. For example, a recent report comments that, according to the 1971 census, there were 187,000 15 to 19 year-olds who were neither in school nor working (Collins, 1976). Even if some of these teenagers were young women with children who had chosen not to seek work, it may be reasonable to assume that some of the others were "discouraged workers"; that is, those who have left the labour force by ceasing to seek jobs. In addition, there is the phenomenon of involuntary part-time employment. Interpretations of Statistics Canada reports indicate that there are many youthful workers, especially young women, who were working part-time only because full-time work was unavailable (Collins, 1976). It has also been suggested that the seasonal presence of students in the labour force is buried in the aggregate youth unemployment rate figures and hides a relatively higher rate for the group which has the most problems finding jobs, the non-students or those who had left school (Collins, 1976).

The problem of underemployment should also be considered. Although there has been no official calculation of this problem, one indication of the problem of underemployment, from the point of view of the youthful worker himself, is the finding in Canadian Work Values that almost 3/4 of workers aged 16 to 24 wanted to be in jobs leading to "careers" but, in their own view, were not (Burstein et al, 1975). Whether or not underemployment is a phenomenon related merely to the increased formal credentials of the population, not to skill, is unknown. However, high aspirations and expectations related to having a specialized skill or a degree do not ensure finding a job in one's field anymore, or any job for that matter (Harvey & Masemann, 1975). Finally,

it is known that some youths who would prefer to work stay in the school system because it is diffiuclt to find work (Collins, 1976).

Whatever the precise percentages of the youth unemployment rate, it is generally agreed that it is a problem of sizeable magnitude. The youth unemployment situation is potentially explosive politically and economically and a recently released report by Statistics Canada indicates that the idea that the situation will be eased as the "baby boom" population ages is a myth (The Toronto Star, September 3, 1977; Statistics Canada, Ottawa, 1976).

The literature, as reviewed here, indicates that there is now (during the 1970!s) a considerable number of unemployed youth in Canada. It is also clear that there are many reasons why it is difficult to obtain an exact estimate of the rate of youth unemployment or even to define what youth unemployment means.

However, there have been no surveys or studies done in a Canadian school system to determine how many of the regular students want or have experienced summer jobs, part-time jobs combined with full-time schooling, or part-time schooling combined with part or full-time work. Nor has this kind of data been more closely examined in light of the students' sex, age, or level of study.

It is the purpose of this study to explore the unemployment and work status of the Toronto youth from the perspective of those young people who are enrolled in a regular Toronto secondary school -- a slightly different approach.

Purposes of Part One of the Study

The purpose of the first part of the study was to provide a detailed description of Toronto secondary school students' experiences with work and

desires for work classified as follows:

(1) Did students want or have a job during the summer of 1977?

(2) Had students ever looked for or had a part-time job at which they could work while going to school?

(3) Were students earning more than ten dollars a week in the Fall of 1977?

(4) Would students like to combine part-time schooling with work?

(5) What did students believe to be the rate of unemployment for young people under the age of 25 in Canada?

(6) What were returning students' experiences with work and desires for work?

For all parts of the description, the student body was subdivided and compared according to sex, date of birth (age) and level of study.

METHOD

Data Collection

On November 18, 1977, questionnaires were distributed to all high school students in the Toronto Board of Education (excluding students in Adult Day schools) in order to ask them seven questions about work (a copy of this questionnaire is provided in Appendix A; some of the questions on it are from a survey for the Study of Returning Students):

(1) Did you want a job last summer?

(2) Did you have a job last summer?

(3) Have you ever looked for a part-time job at which you could work while going to school?

(4) Have you ever had a part-time job while going to school?

(5) Do you now have a part-time job at which you make more than ten dollars every week?

(6) Would you like to combine part-time schooling with work?

(7) In your opinion, what percentage of young people under the age of 25 in Canada are unemployed:

4 to 7 per cent	13 to 16 per cent
7 to 10 per cent	over 16 per cent
10 to 13 per cent	don't know

A computer label used to address each questionnaire provided the student's sex and year of birth. The students were also asked to indicate the level at which they were studying.

Altogether, 29,499 students returned usable questionnaires, or 86% of the 34,270 high school students registered in November of 1977.

Data Analysis

Most of the analyses took the form of frequency counts converted to percentages and are, in many cases, presented in either tables or graphs. The

reader should note that not every student answered every question, thus there are varying totals for the many analyses.

The analyses of the subgroup of students who had returned to school also included x^2 one-sample tests with $df = k - 1$ (where k = # categories) in order to compare observed frequencies for the returning students with expected frequencies derived from the population of Toronto high school students (all those who answered the questionnaire). The null hypotheses for these cases were that the characteristics of the returning students did not differ significantly from the characteristics of the population of students; that is, observed characteristics were compared with theoretically expected characteristics. For all significance tests, the significance criterion was a chance probability less than .05. Again, the totals varied considerably.

Limitations of the Data

The investigators pilot tested the questionnaire and were fairly satisfied that the students understood the questions and that the questions seemed appropriate; however, they did not do a formal validation of the questionnaire. That is, no check was made to determine whether the students who finally answered the questionnaire understood the questions, whether they were interpreting the questions as intended, or whether they were giving correct responses. The responses were accepted as they stood. For example, it is not unreasonable to believe that what many students meant by looking for a job was that they would have taken one if it were offered them, but that they didn't actually go out and search for a job.

FINDINGS

Did Students Want and Have Jobs During the Summer of 1977?

Did you Want a Job Last Summer?

There were 29,201 students who replied to this question, for 29,048 of whom data on sex were also available. A large percentage of the students (77.9%) answered "Yes" to this question, and only slightly more men (79.9%) than women (75.8%) said they wanted a job during the summer of 1977 (see Figure 1).

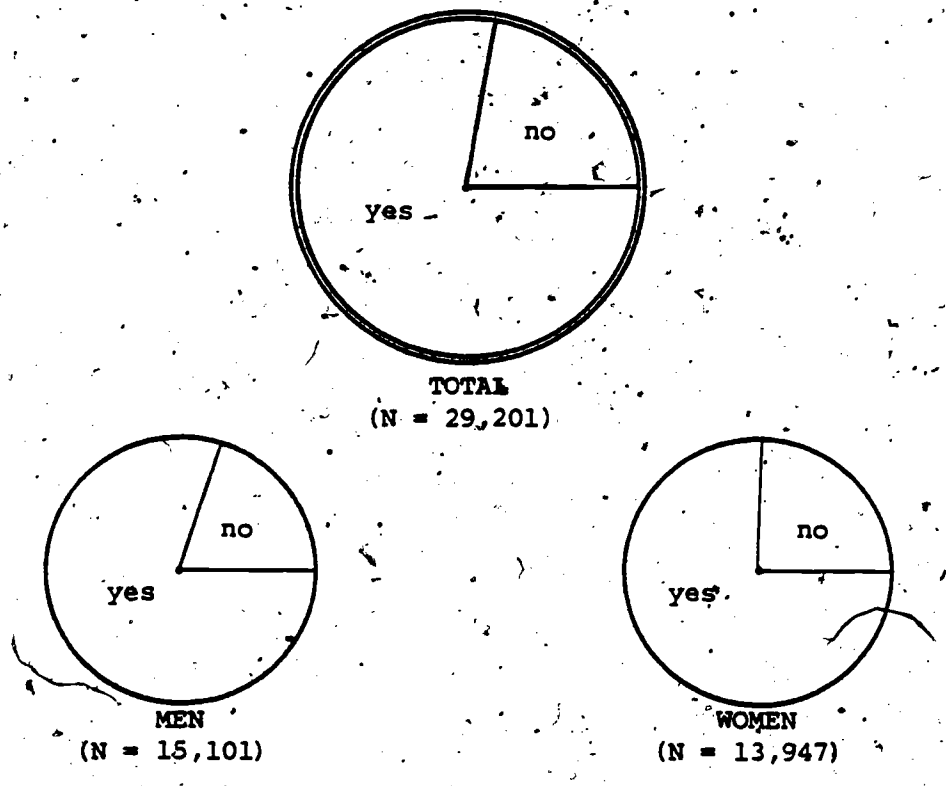

Figure 1. Students who wanted a job during the summer of 1977 by sex.

Replies to this question were available for 312 students at level 1; 715 students at level 2; 3,175 students at level 3; 7,571 students at level 4; 16,766 students at level 5; and 159 students at level 6. Figure 2 clearly shows that students studying at levels 3 and 4 were most likely (over 80%)

and students studying at levels 1 and 6 were least likely to want a summer job.

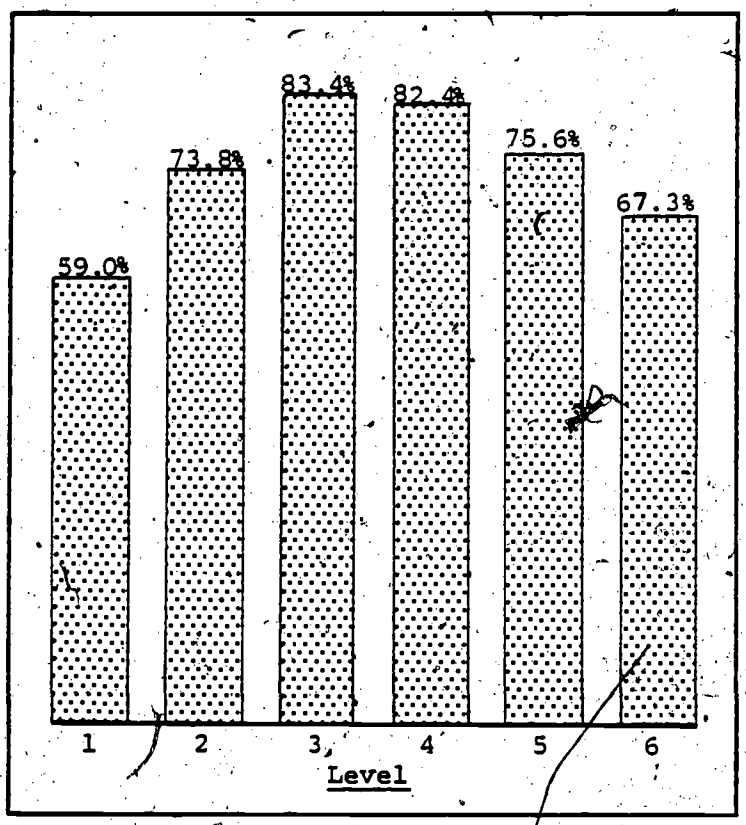

Figure 2. Students who wanted a job during the summer of 1977 by level of study.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of the responses to this question by the students' date of birth (or approximate ages of the students in November, 1977*). Data for this analysis were available for 28,250 students; 1,122 born in 1958; 3,716 born in 1959; 5,976 born in 1960; 6,314 born in 1961; 6,687 born in 1962 and 4,435 born in 1963. While one would expect that the older students would more likely want a summer job than the younger students, it is interesting to note that large numbers of the 14 and 15 year-old students also wanted a job during the summer of '77.

* Students who were born before 1958 were excluded from the analysis because there was a very small number of them.

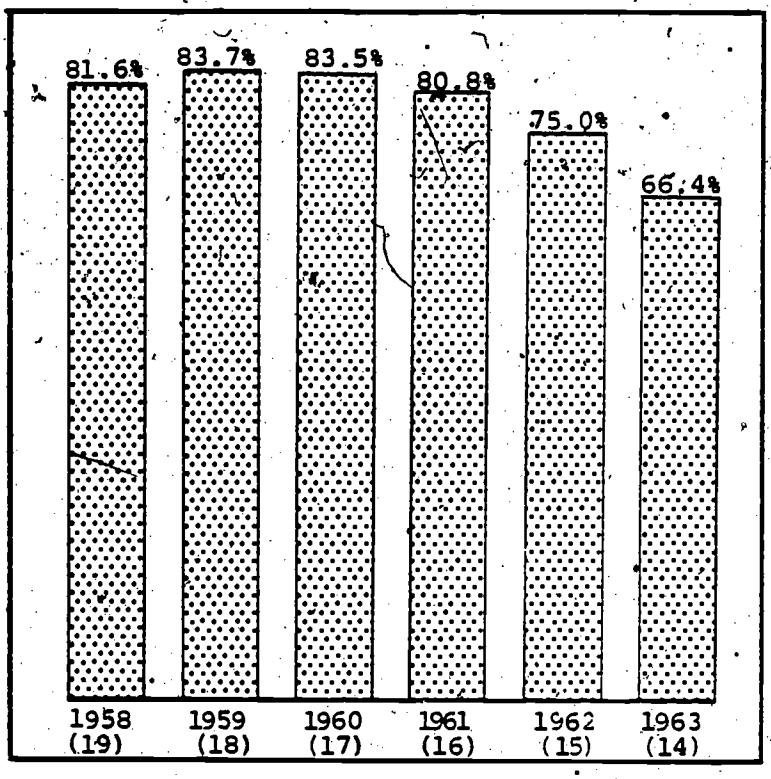

Figure 3. Students who wanted a job during the summer of 1977 by date of birth or approximate age.

Did You Have a Job Last Summer?

Of the 29,400 students who responded to this question, 47.1% answered "Yes" and considerably more men (52.3% than women (41.5%) said they had a job during the summer of 1977 (see Figure 4). Data for sex were available for 29,244 students.

Students studying at levels 4, 5 and 6 were more likely to have had jobs during the summer of 1977 than students studying at levels 1, 2 and 3 (refer to the percentages shown in Figure 5). Data for this analysis were available for 28,878 students: 313 at level 1; 714 at level 2; 3,199 at level 3; 7,624 at level 4; 16,869 at level 5 and 159 at level 6.

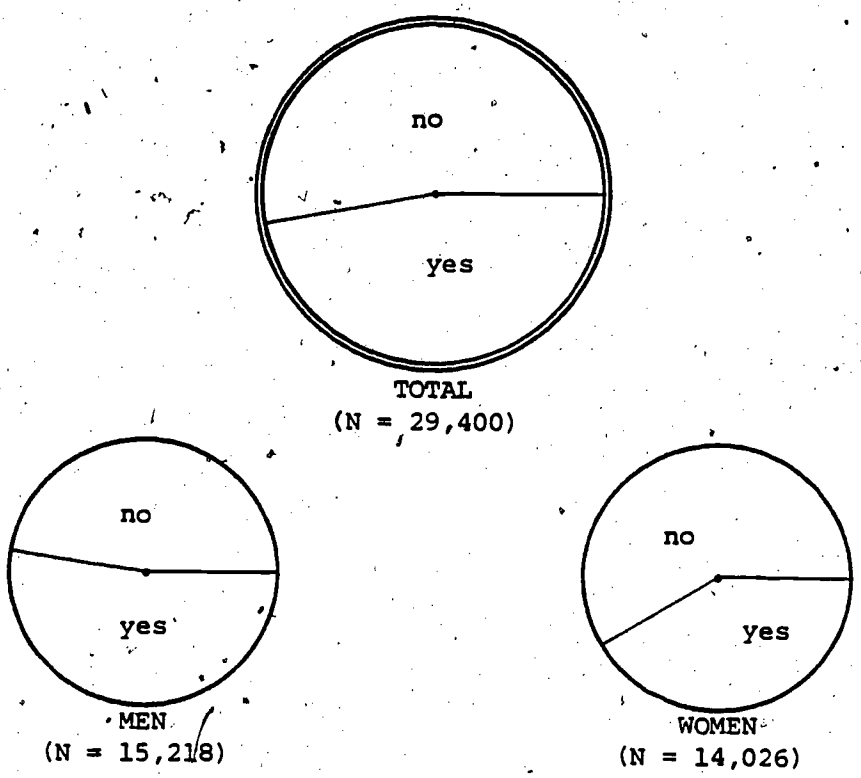

Figure 4. Students who had a job during the summer of 1977 by sex.

As would be expected, the ages of the students during the summer of 1977 were closely related to whether or not they had a job -- the older the student, the more likely he was to have a summer job. For example, 18-year-olds were approximately three times as likely as 14-year-olds to have had jobs. Figure 6 displays the percentage of students who had jobs during the summer of 1977 for 1,134 students born in 1958; 3,758 students born in 1959; 6,018 students born in 1960; 6,353 students born in 1961; 6,714 students born in 1962; and 4,450 students born in 1963 (a total of 28,427 students).

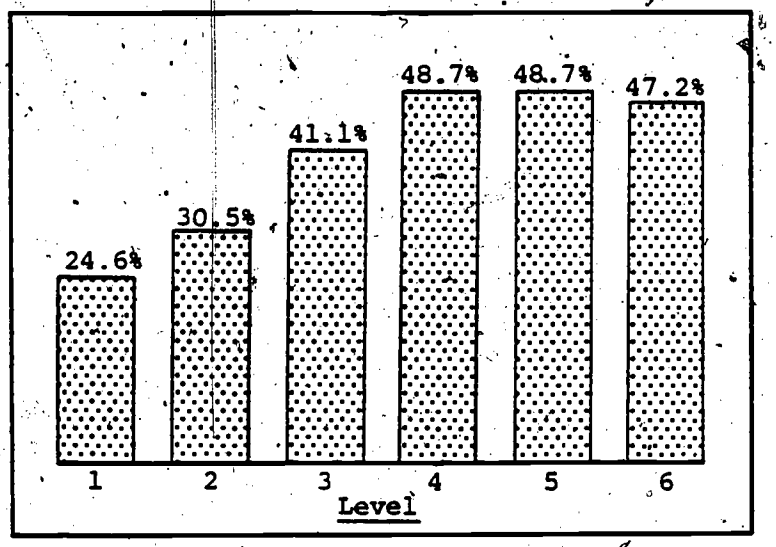

Figure 5. Students who had a job during the summer of 1977 by level of study.

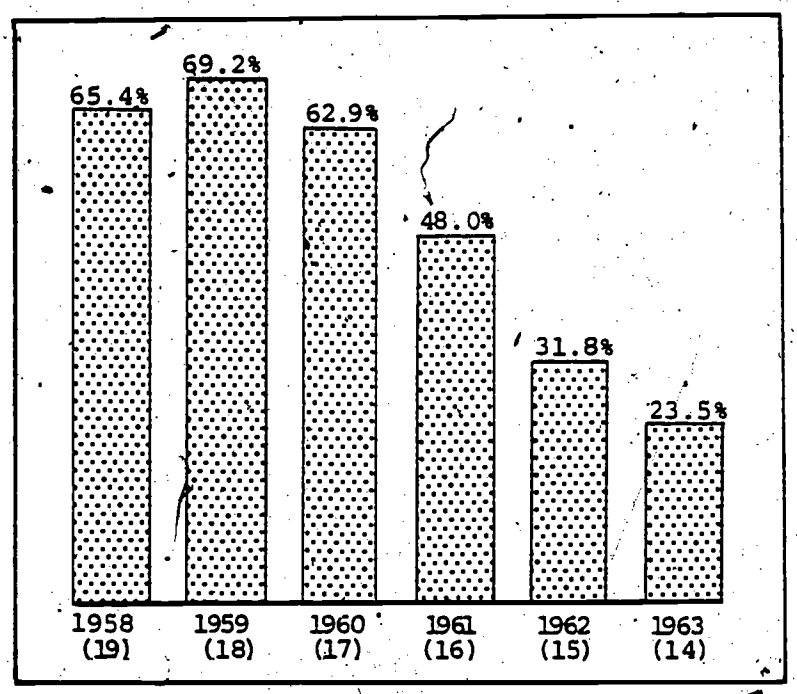

Figure 6. Students who had a job during the summer of 1977 by date of birth (approximate ages are shown in brackets).

Did You Want a Job Last Summer? Did You Have a Job Last Summer?

The responses to these two questions were combined in four ways in order to examine the students' job situation during the summer of 1977 in more detail. Of the 29,126 students for whom data were available for analysis, 12,272 (42%) said they had wanted and had had a summer job; 10,429 (36%) said they had wanted but had not had a summer job; 5,071 (17%) said they had not wanted and had not had a summer job; and 1,354 (5%) said they had not wanted but had had a summer job. These percentages are shown in Figure 7. Men were more successful than women in finding jobs -- 5,295 (38%) of the women reported that they had wanted a summer job but had not had one, while 5,072 (34%) of the men reported that they had wanted one but had not had one.

In addition, 46% of the men and 38% of the women had wanted and had had a summer job; 6% of the men and 3% of the women who had not wanted a summer job had had one, and 14% of the men and 21% of the women had not wanted and had not had a summer job. These percentages are also displayed in Figure 7.

Another way to look at the figures for men and women is to say that of 12,033 men who reported that they had wanted a summer job, 5,072 (42%) had not had one, while of the 10,548 women who had wanted a summer job, 5,295 (50%) had not had one.

The data for all the students who answered the questionnaire shows that of the 22,701 students who said they wanted a job during the summer of 1977, 10,429 or 46% had not had one.

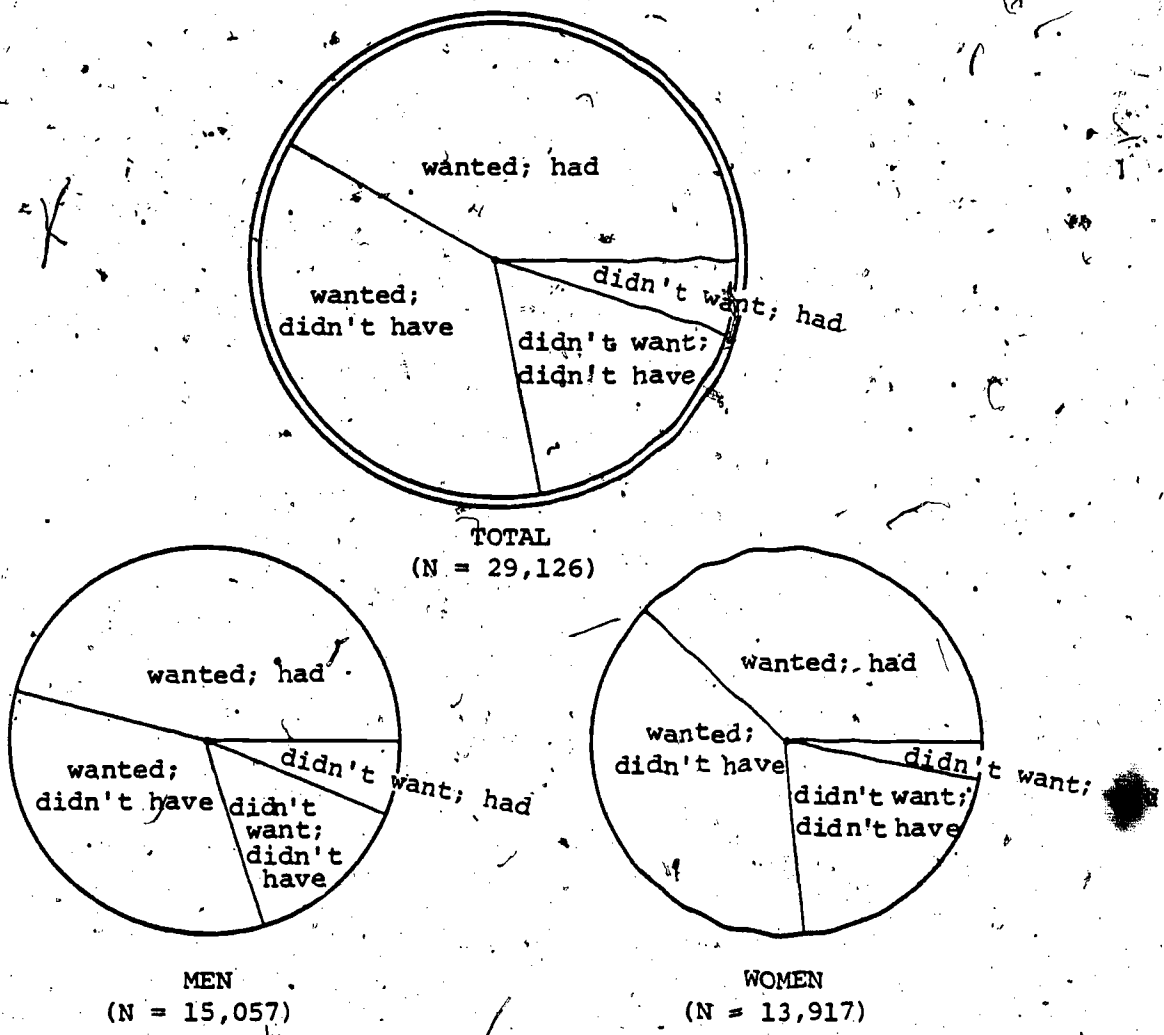

Figure 7. Students' job status during the summer of 1977 by sex.

The four combinations of answers to these first two questions ("Did you want a job last summer? and "Did you have a job last summer?") were also examined according to the students' level of study and according to the students' date of birth.

For the breakdown according to levels of study, data were available for 28,737 students; 310 at level 1; 710 at level 2; 3,175 at level 3; 7,578 at level 4; 16,804 at level 5 and 160 at level 6. The results of these analyses are shown in Figures 8, 9, 10 and 11. Figures 8 and 9 clearly show that students who wanted a summer job and had one were most likely to

be studying at levels 4, 5 and 6 while students who wanted a summer job and did not have one were most likely to be studying at levels 2 and 3. Figure 10 shows that students who did not want a summer job and did not have a summer job were most likely to be studying at levels 1, 2, 5 and 6.

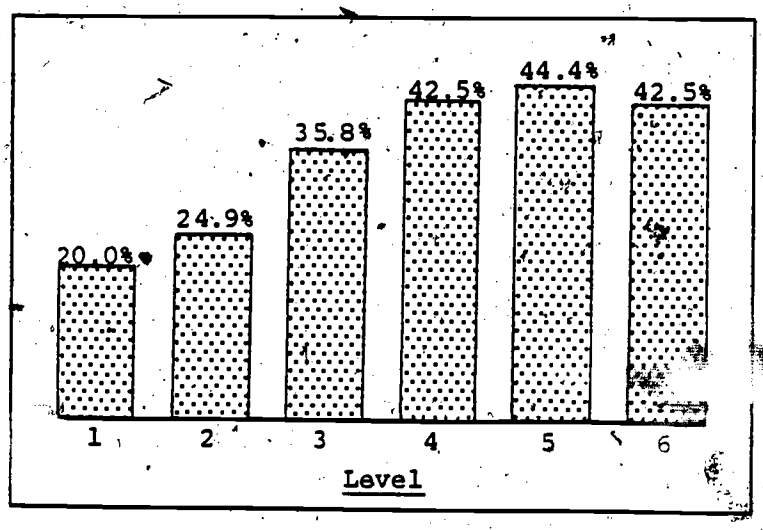

Figure 8. Students who wanted and had a job during the summer of 1977 by level of study (percentage of respondents at each level).

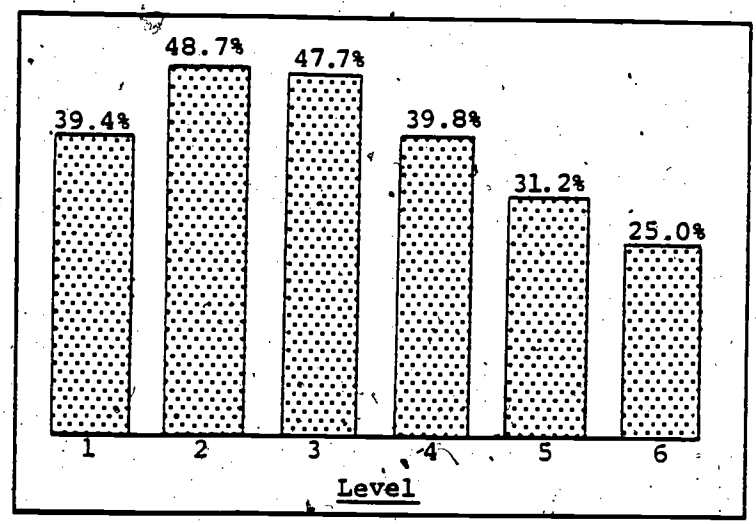

Figure 9. Students who wanted and did not have a job during the summer of 1977 by level (percentage of respondents at each level).

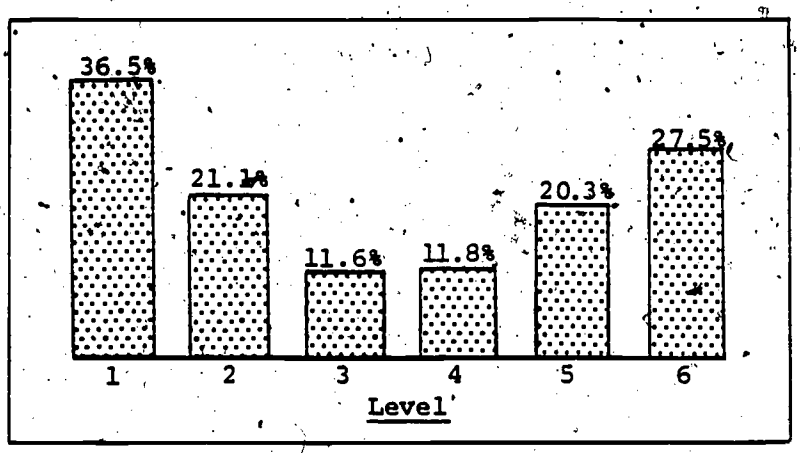

Figure 10. Students who did not want and did not have a job during the summer of 1977 by level (percentage of respondents at each level).

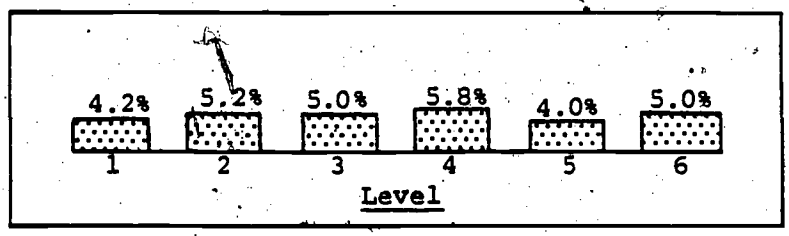

Figure 11. Students who did not want and had a job during the summer of 1977 by level (percentage of respondents at each level).

By combining the data in Figures 8 and 9, it is possible to calculate the percentages of students by level of study who wanted jobs but did not have them. The results are shown in the last column of Table 1. The percentages of students without jobs range from 66% for levels 1 and 2 to 37% for level 6.

TABLE 1

STUDENTS WHO WANTED AND DID NOT HAVE JOBS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1977 BY LEVEL OF STUDY

Level	Number of Students Who Replied	Number of Students Who Wanted a Summer Job	Percentage of Students Who Wanted a Summer Job	Number of Students Who Wanted a Job & Who Did Not Have a Job	Percentage of Students Who Did Not Have a Job of Those Who Wanted a Job
1	310	184	59%	122	66%
2	710	523	74%	346	66%
3	3,175	2,650	83%	1,514	57%
4	7,578	6,240	82%	3,019	48%
5	16,804	12,707	76%	5,238	41%
6	160	108	68%	40	37%

For the breakdown according to date of birth* (ages), data were available for 28,284 students: 1,121 born in 1958; 3,718 born in 1959; 5,987 born in 1960; 6,320 born in 1961; 6,692 born in 1962; and 4,446 born in 1963. The results of these analyses are shown in Figures 12, 13, 14 and 15. As expected, there is a fairly close relationship between a student wanting and getting a job and his age. The older students were more likely to get the jobs (see Figures 12 and 13). Figures 14 and 15 indicate that the students who did not want and did not have a summer job were more likely to be the youngest students, while those who did not want but had a summer job were more likely to be the oldest students.

By combining the data in Figures 12 and 13, it is possible to calculate the percentages of students by date of birth who wanted jobs but did not have them. The results are shown in Table 2. The percentages without jobs range from 69% for those born in 1963 (approximately 14 years old) to 29% for those born in 1958 (approximately 19 years old).

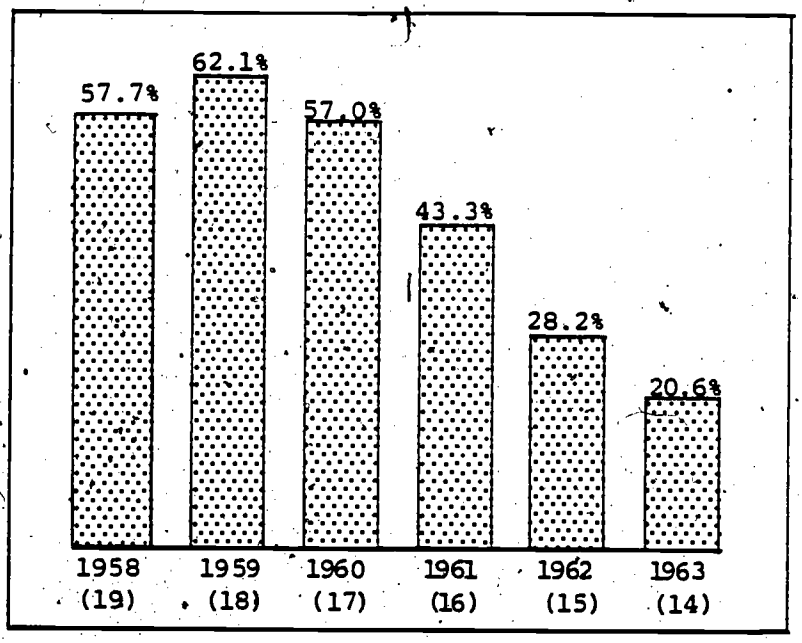

Figure 12. Students who wanted and had a job during the summer of 1977 by date of birth (ages are shown in brackets) (percentage of respondents at each level).

* Students who were born before 1958 were excluded from the analysis because there was a very small number of them.

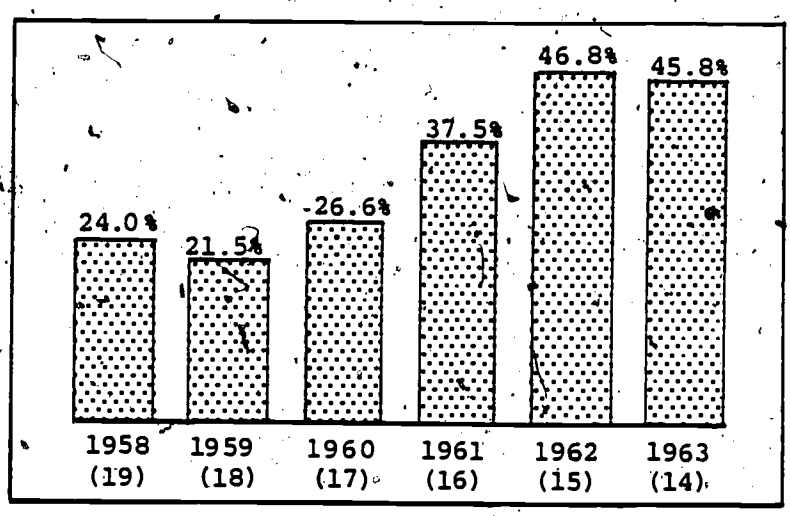

Figure 13. Students who wanted and did not have a job during the summer of 1977 by date of birth (ages are shown in brackets) (percentage of respondents at each level).

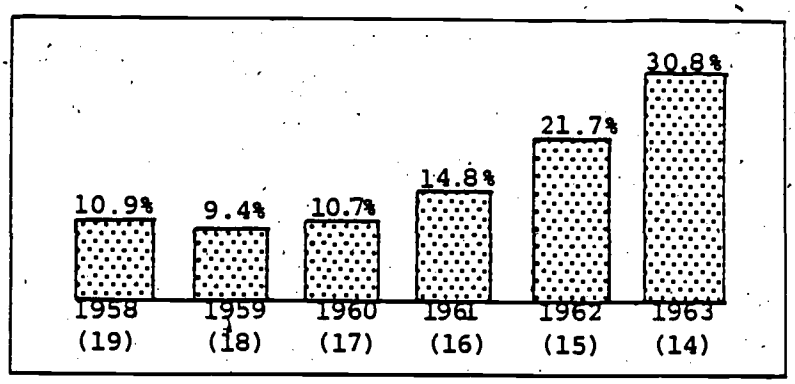

Figure 14. Students who did not want and did not have a job during the summer of 1977 by date of birth (ages are shown in brackets) (percentage of respondents at each level).

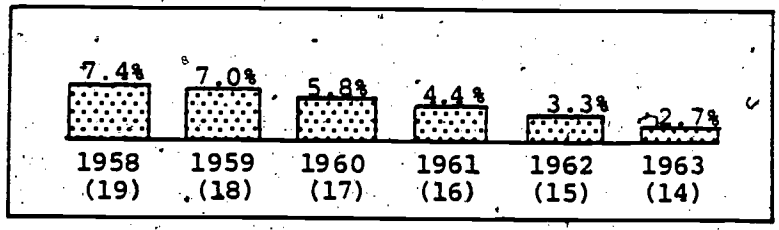

Figure 15. Students who did not want and had a job during the summer of 1977 by date of birth (ages are shown in brackets) (percentage of respondents at each level).

TABLE 2

STUDENTS WHO WANTED AND DID NOT HAVE JOBS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1977 BY DATE OF BIRTH
(APPROXIMATE AGES ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS)

Date of Birth	Number of Students Who Replied	Number of Students Who Wanted a Summer Job	Percentage of Students Who Wanted a Summer Job	Number of Students Who Wanted a Job & Who Did Not Have a Job	Percentage of Students Who Did Not Have a Job of Those Who Wanted a Job
1958 (19)	1,121	916	82%	269	29%
1959 (18)	3,718	3,109	84%	801	26%
1960 (17)	5,987	5,003	84%	1,591	32%
1961 (16)	6,320	5,110	81%	2,371	46%
1962 (15)	6,692	5,022	75%	3,135	62%
1963 (14)	4,446	2,955	66%	2,037	69%

Summary

A large proportion (78%) of Toronto secondary school students wanted a job during the summer of 1977 -- almost half of those who wanted jobs (46%) did not have them.

Students who wanted a summer job were proportionately more likely to be men, to be older and to be studying at levels 3 and 4.

Students who wanted and had a summer job were proportionately more likely to be men, to be older and to be studying at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Had Students Ever Looked For and Had a Part-Time Job at Which They Could Work While Going to School?

Have you Ever Looked for a Part-time Job At Which You Could Work While Going to School?

There were 29,352 students who replied to this question, for 29,196 of whom data on sex were also available. Of the number who replied, 61.1% answered "Yes." Analyzed by sex, 63.1% of the men and 59% of the women had looked for a part-time job at which they could work while going to school. Figure 16 shows these percentages.

Replies to this question were available for 312 students at level 1; 715 students at level 2; 3,194 students at level 3; 7,620 students at level 4; 16,805 students at level 5, and 159 students at level 6 -- a total of 28,835 students. The percentages in Figure 17 indicate that students studying at levels 3 and 4 were most likely to have looked for a part-time job (the reader may recall that students at levels 3 and 4 were most likely to have wanted a summer job).

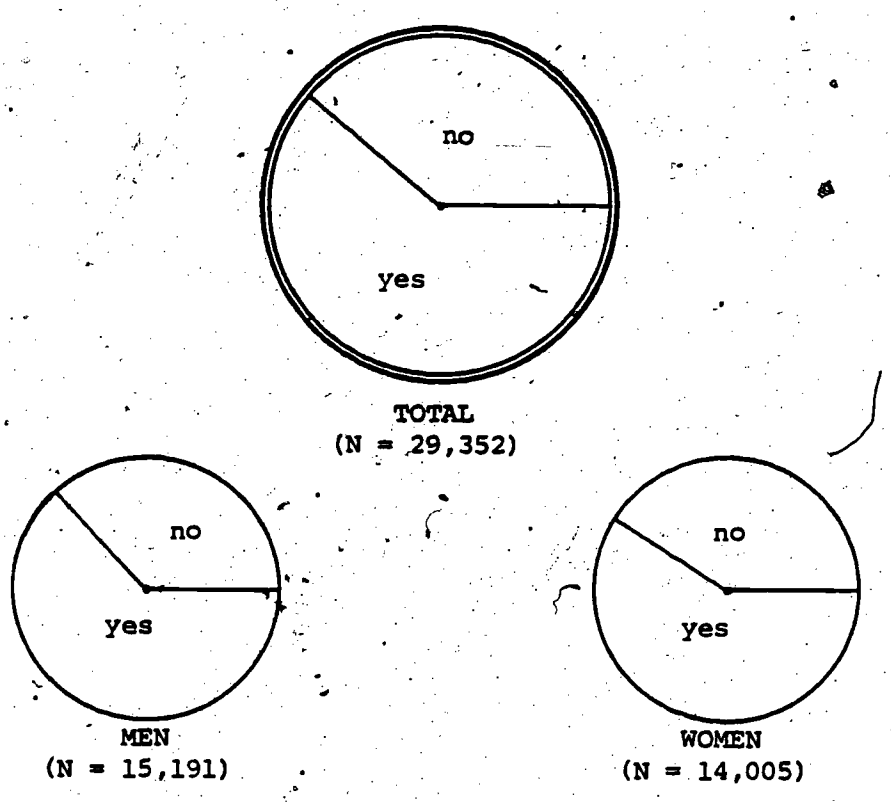

Figure 16. Students who had looked for a part-time job by sex.

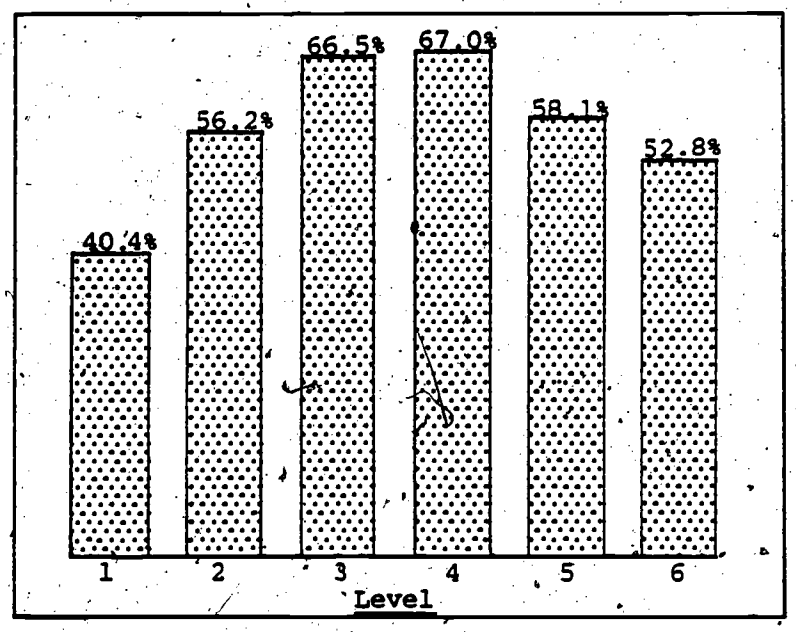

Figure 17. Students who had looked for a part-time job by level of study (percentage of respondents at each level).

Figure 18 shows the breakdown of the responses to this question by students' date of birth. Data for this analysis were available for 1,130 students born in 1958, 3,744 students born in 1959, 6,008 students born in 1960, 6,338 students born in 1961, 6,717 students born in 1962, and 4,448 students born in 1963 -- a total of 28,385 students. The percentages of students who had looked for a part-time job for each date of birth are shown in Figure 18. It is obvious that the older the student the more likely he had looked for a part-time job -- 78.1% of nineteen year-old students had looked for a part-time job while 35.1% of the fourteen year-old students had looked.

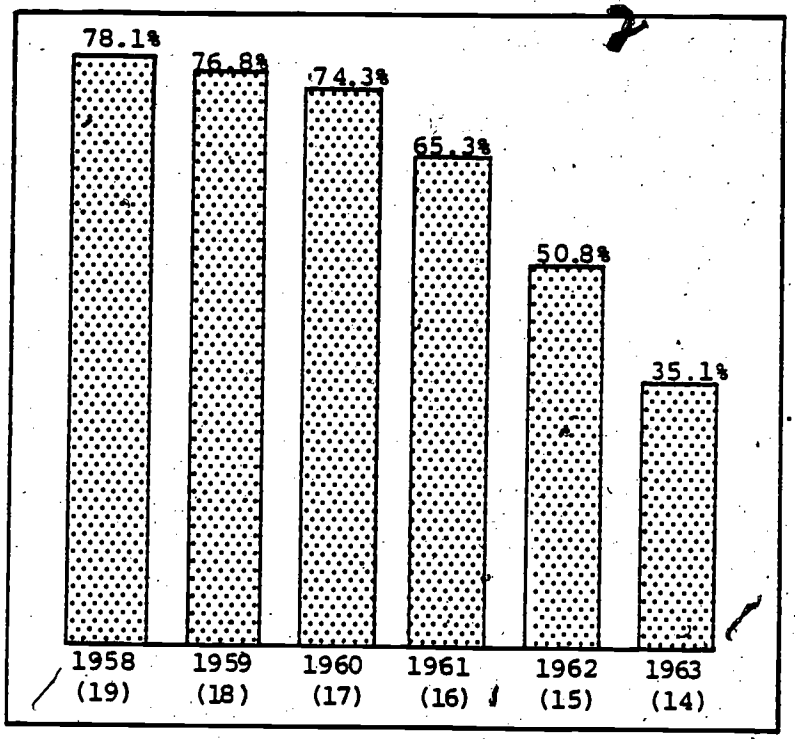

Figure 18. Students who had looked for a part-time job by date of birth (approximate ages shown in brackets).

Have You Ever Had a Part-time Job While Going to School?

Of the 29,281 students who replied to this question, 45.2% answered "Yes." When analyzed by sex, for which 29,126 responses were available, we found that considerably more men (proportionately) had had part-time jobs than women -- 50.5% of the men answered "Yes" compared with 39.4% of the women (see Figure 19).

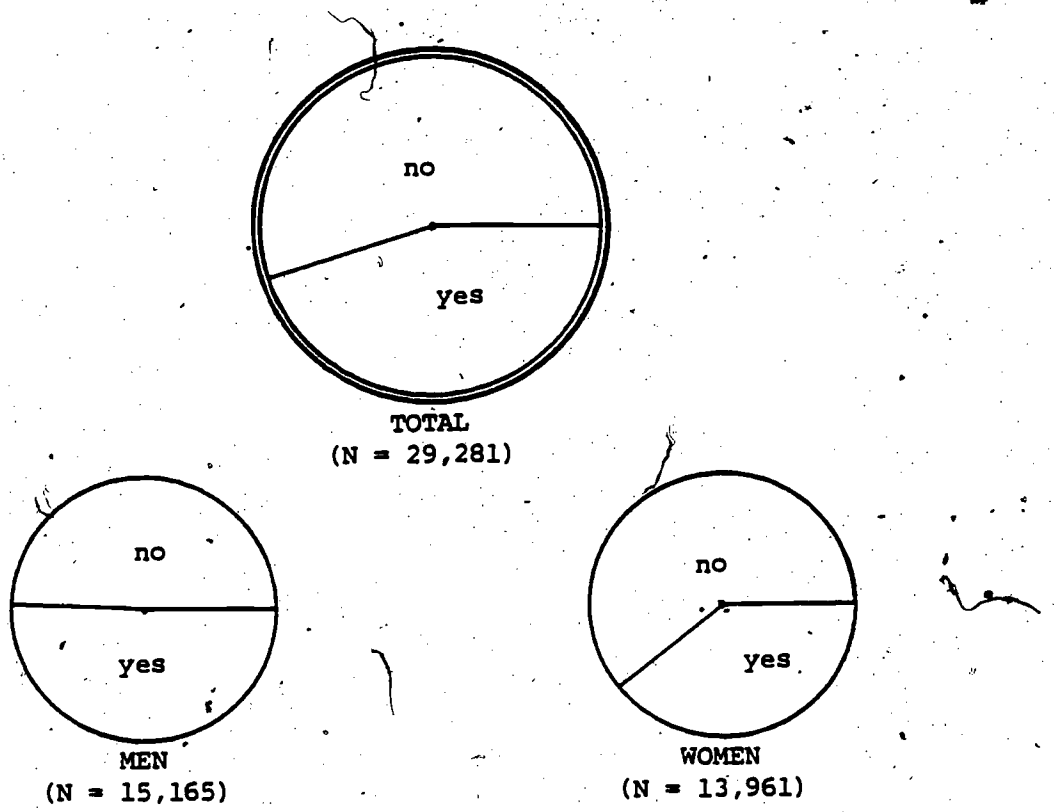

Figure 19. Students who had had a part-time job while going to school by sex.

Students studying at levels 4, 5 and 6 were more likely to have had part-time jobs while going to school than students studying at levels 1, 2 and 3. The proportions for each level are shown in Figure 20 based on 309 students at level 1; 712 students at level 2; 3,180 students at level 3; 7,596 students at level 4; 16,811 students at level 5, and 158 students at level 6.

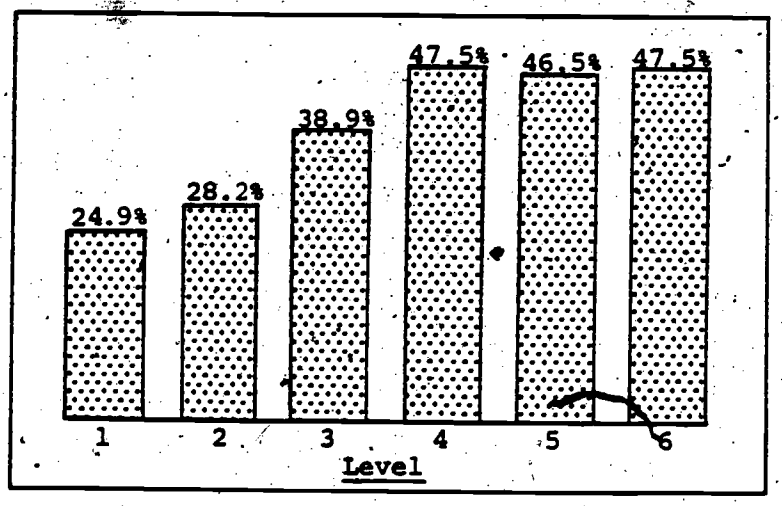

Figure 20. Students who have had a part-time job while going to school by level.

Figure 21 shows that there is a direct relationship between the students' ages and the likelihood of their having had a part-time job while going to school. For example, nineteen and eighteen-year-olds were about three times as likely as fourteen-year-olds to have had a part-time job. Data for this analysis were available for 28,319 students: 1,128 born in 1958; 3,735 born in 1959; 5,995 born in 1960; 6,335 born in 1961; 6,694 born in 1962 and 4,432 born in 1963.

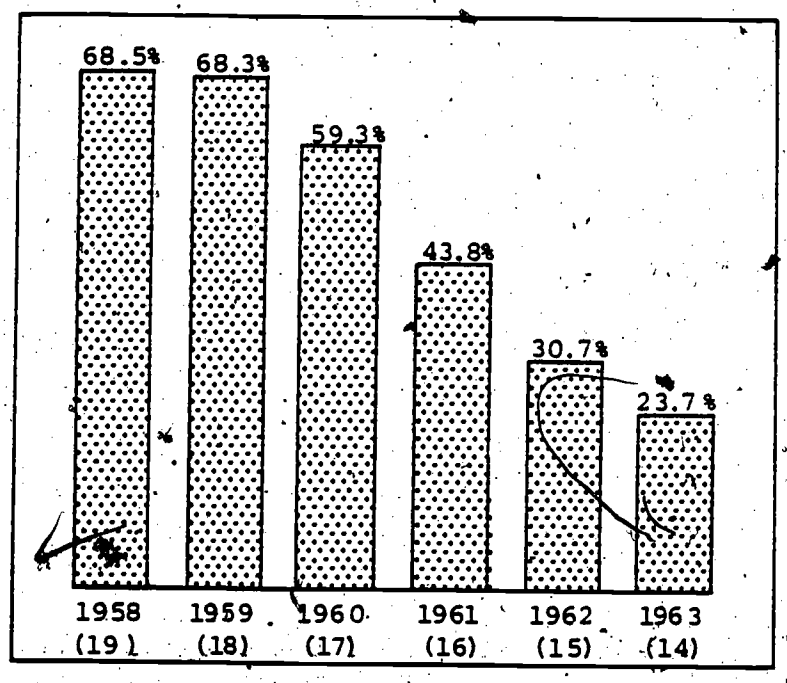

Figure 21. Students who have had a part-time job while going to school by date of birth (approximate ages shown in brackets).

Have You Ever Looked for a Part-time Job at Which You Could Work While Going to School? Have You Ever Had a Part-time Job While Going to School?

The responses to these two questions were also combined in four ways (yes-yes; yes-no; no-no; and no-yes) in order to examine in more detail the students' desires for and experiences with part-time jobs while attending school. Of the 29,170 students for whom data were available, 11,170 (38.3%) said they had looked for and had had a part-time job; 6,653 (22.8%) said they had looked for but had not had a part-time job; 9,376 (32.1%) said they had not looked for and had not had a part-time job and 1,971 (6.8%) said they had not looked for a part-time job but had had a part-time job. These percentages are shown in Figure 22.

Men were more successful than women in finding part-time jobs -- 3,477 (25%) of the women reported that they had looked for a part-time job and had not had one as compared with 3,137 (21%) of the men. In addition, 42% of the men reported that they had looked for and had had a part-time job as compared with 34% of the women; 29% of the men reported that they had not looked for and had not had a part-time job as compared with 36% of the women and 8% of the men reported that they had not looked for but had had a part-time job as compared with 5% of the women (see Figure 22).

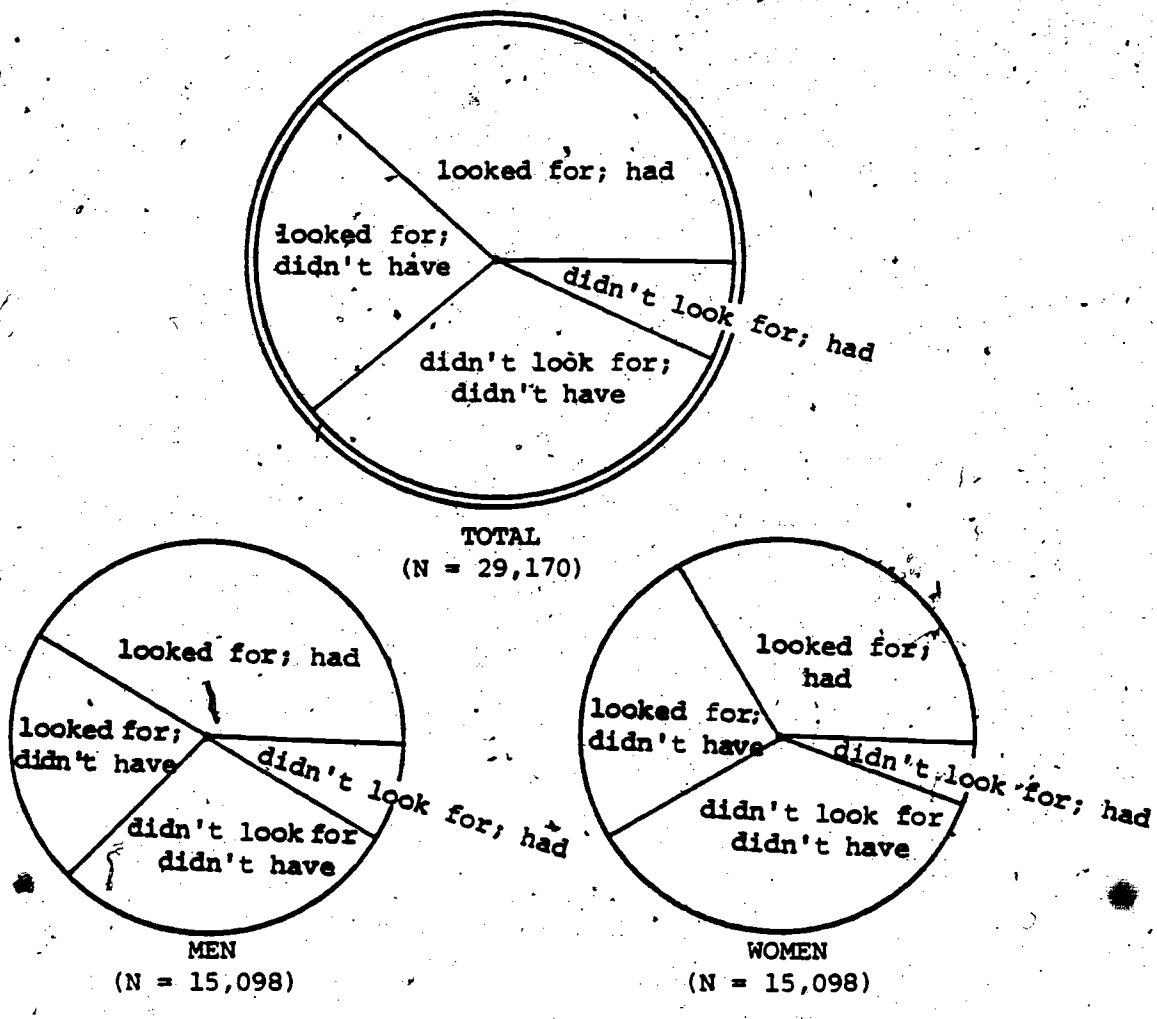

Figure 22. Students' part-time job status by sex.

Another way to look at the figures for men and women is to say that of 9,517 men who reported that they had looked for a part-time job, 3,137 (33%) had not had one, while of the 8,209 women who had looked for a part-time job, 42% had not had one.

The data for all the students who answered the questionnaire show that of the 17,823 students who had looked for a part-time job at which they could work while going to school, 6,653 or 37% had not had one.

The four combinations of answers to these two questions ("Have you ever looked for a part-time job at which you could work while going to school?" and "Have you every had a part-time job while going to school?") were examined according to the students' level of study and according to the students' date of birth.

For the breakdown according to levels of study, data were available for 28,771 students: 307 at level 1; 709 at level 2; 3,177 at level 3; 7,802 at level 4; 16,817 at level 5 and 159 at level 6. The results of these analyses are given in Figures 23, 24, 25 and 26. Figures 23 and 24 show that the highest proportions of students who had looked for and had had a part-time job were studying at levels 4, 5 and 6 while the highest proportions of students who had looked for and had not had a part-time job were studying at levels 2 and 3. Figure 25 shows that the highest proportions of students who had not looked for and had not had a part-time job were studying at levels 1, 2, 5 and 6.

In combining the data in Figures 23 and 24, it is possible to calculate the percentages of students by level of study who had looked for a part-time job and had not had one. The results are shown in the last column of Table 3. The percentages who had looked for but had not had a part-time job range from 59% at level 2 to 22% at level 6.

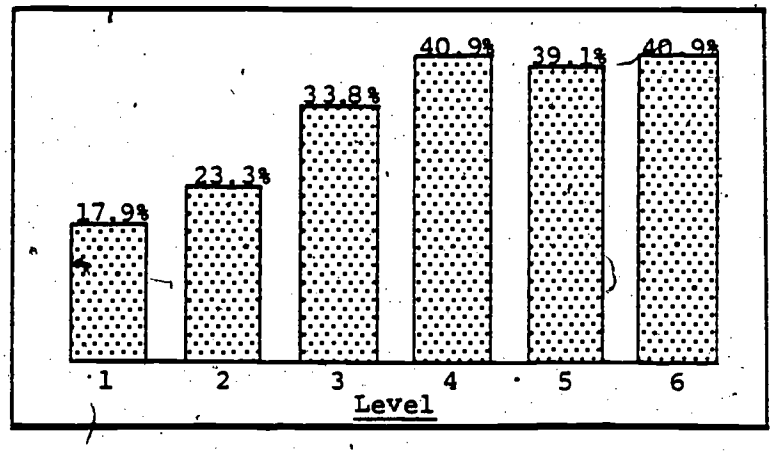

Figure 23. Students who had looked for and had had a part-time job by level of study (percentage of respondents at each level).

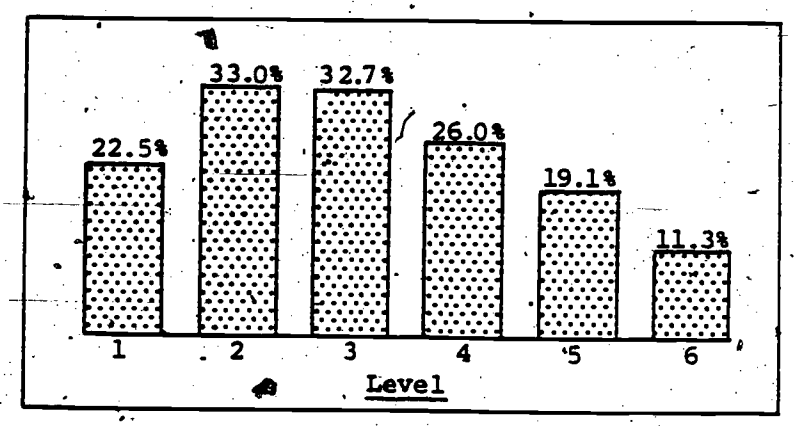

Figure 24. Students who had looked for and had not had a part-time job by level of study (percentage of all respondents at each level).

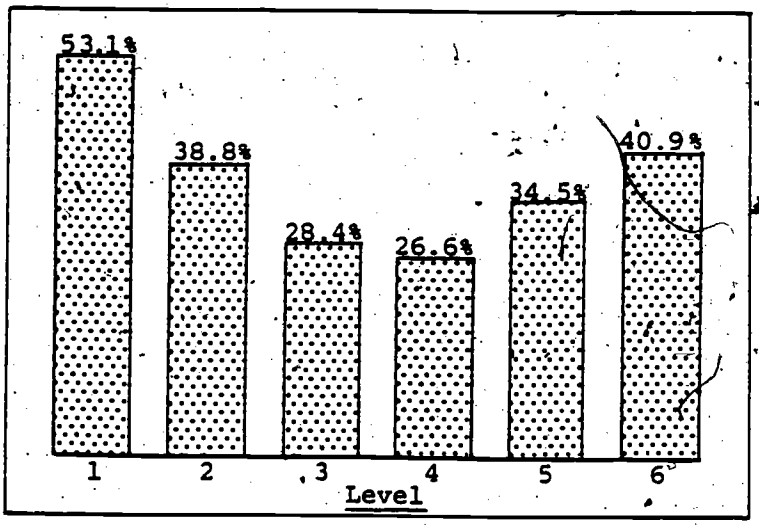

Figure 25. Students who had not looked for and had not had a part-time job by level of study (percentage of respondents at each level).

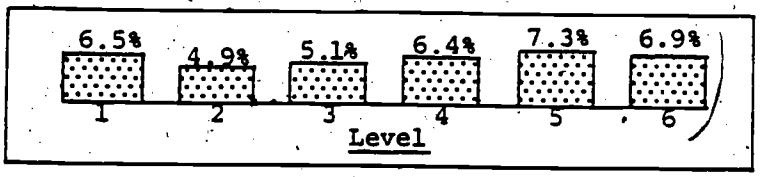

Figure 26. Students who had not looked for but had had a part-time job by level of study (percentage of respondents at each level).

TABLE 3

STUDENTS WHO HAD LOOKED FOR AND HAD NOT HAD PART-TIME JOBS AT WHICH THEY COULD WORK WHILE GOING TO SCHOOL BY LEVEL OF STUDY

Level	Number of Students Who Replied	Number of Students Who Had Looked for a Part-Time Job	Percentage of Students Who Had Looked for a Part-Time Job	Number of Students Who Had Looked for & Who Had Not Had a Part-Time Job	Percentage of Students Who Had Not Had a Part-Time Job of Those Who Had Looked
1	307	124	40%	69	56%
2	709	399	56%	234	59%
3	3,177	2,113	67%	1,040	49%
4	7,602	5,090	67%	1,978	39%
5	16,817	9,781	58%	3,213	33%
6	159	83	52%	18	22%

For the breakdown by dates of birth (ages), data were available for 28,321 students, 1,123 born in 1958, 3,723 born in 1959, 5,995 born in 1960, 6,332 born in 1961, 6,704 born in 1962, 4,444 born in 1963. The results of these analyses are shown in Figures 27, 28, 29 and 30. Figure 27 indicates that the older the student, the more likely he was to have looked for and had a part-time job (students who were nineteen years old were almost four times as likely as students who were fourteen years old).

Figure 28 shows that students who were fifteen and sixteen years old were most likely to have looked for a part-time job and not had one. Figure 29 shows that the younger the student, the more likely that he had not looked for a part-time job and had not had one. Figure 30 indicates that students who had not looked for but had had a part-time job were slightly more likely to be fourteen years old.

By combining the data in Figures 27 and 28, it is possible to calculate the percentages of students by date of birth who had looked for and <u>not</u> had a part-time job at which they could work while going to school. The percentages range from 55% of those students born in 1963 (age 14) to 20% of those students born in 1959 (age 18).

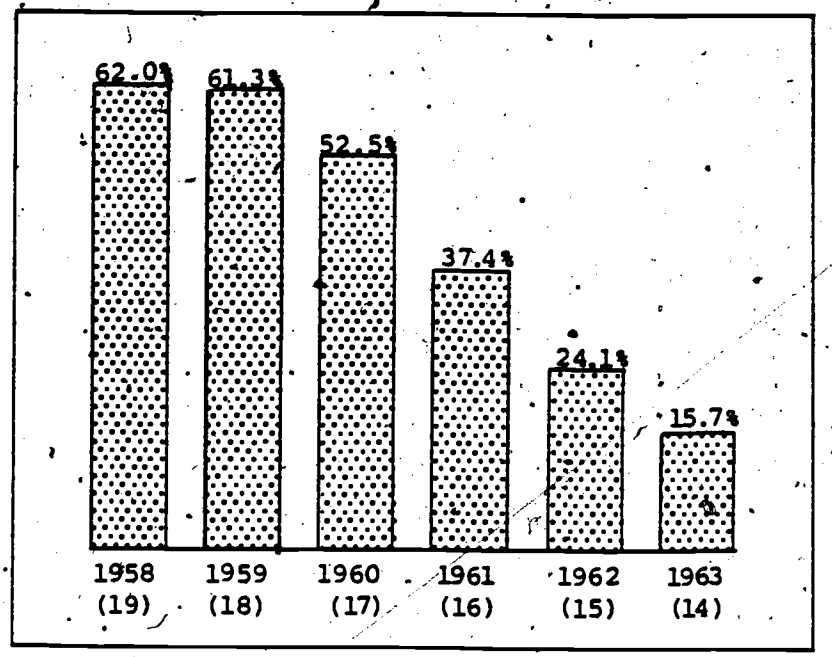

Figure 27. Students who had looked for and had had a part-time job by date of birth (ages are shown in brackets) (percentage of respondents at each level).

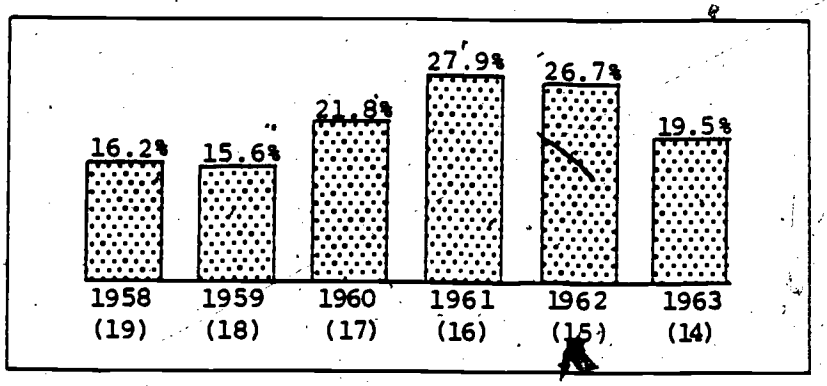

Figure 28. Students who had looked for and had not had a part-time job by date of birth (ages are shown in brackets) (percentage of respondents at each level).

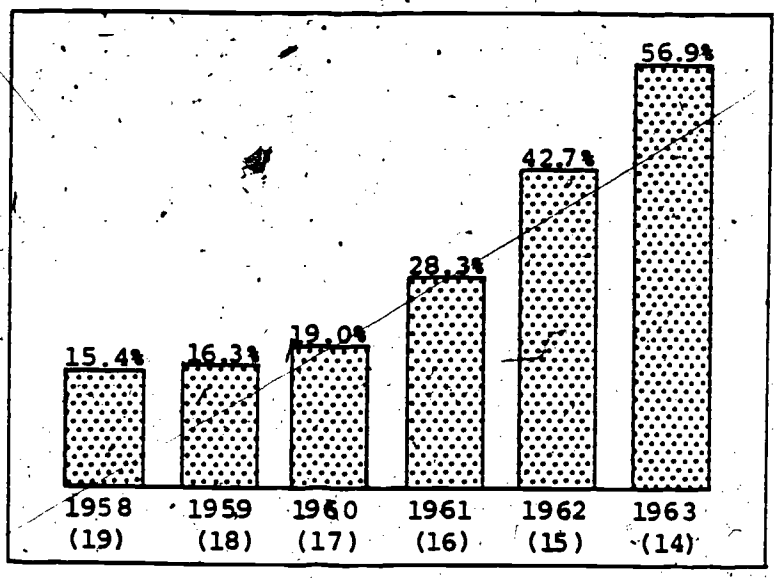

Figure 29. Students who had not looked for and had not had a part-time job by date of birth (ages are shown in brackets) (percentage of respondents at each level).

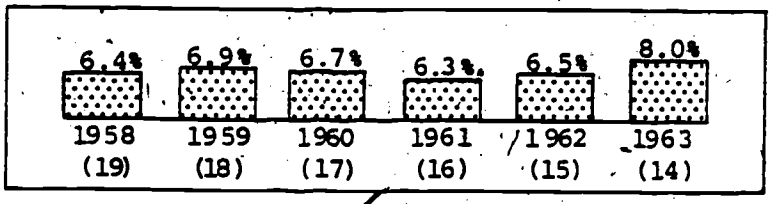

Figure 30. Students who had not looked for but had had a part-time job by date of birth (ages are shown in brackets) (percentage of respondents at each level).

TABLE 4

STUDENTS WHO HAD LOOKED FOR AND HAD NOT HAD PART-TIME JOBS AT WHICH THEY COULD WORK WHILE GOING TO SCHOOL BY DATE OF BIRTH
(APPROXIMATE AGES ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS)

Date of Birth	Number of Students Who Replied	Number of Students Who Had Looked for a Part-Time Job	Percentage of Students Who Had Looked for a Part-Time Job	Number of Students Who Had Looked for & Who Had Not Had a Part-time Job	Percentage of Students Who Had Not Had a Part-Time Job of Those Who Had Looked
1958 (19)	1,123	878	78%	182	21%
1959 (18)	3,723	2,860	77%	579	20%
1960 (17)	5,995	4,456	74%	1,307	29%
1961 (16)	6,332	4,137	51%	1,768	43%
1962 (15)	6,704	3,402	51%	1,789	53%
1963 (14)	4,444	1,562	35%	865	55%

Summary

About three-fifths (61.1%) of Toronto secondary students had looked for a part-time job at which they could work while going to school. Of those who had looked, 37% had not had one.

Students who had looked for a part-time job were proportionately more likely to be men, to be older and to be studying at levels 3 and 4.

Students who had looked for and had had a part-time job were proportionately more likely to be men, to be older and to be studying at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Which Students Were Earning More Than Ten Dollars a Week in the Fall of 1977?

Do You Now Have a Part-time Job at Which You Make More Then Ten Dollars Every Week?

Responses to this question were available for 29,280 Toronto secondary school students. Of these, 9,147 or 31% answered "Yes" to this question. Sex was also known for 29,124 of these students -- 34.7% of the men answered "Yes" while 27.5% of the women answered "Yes." Figure 31 shows these percentages for the total number of students and for each sex.

Replies to this question were available for 311 students at level 1, 710 students at level 2; 3,186 students at level 3; 7,602 students at level 4; 16,799 students at level 5, and 159 students at level 6 -- a total of 28,767 students. The percentages shown in Figure 32 indicate that students studying at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6 were most likely to be earning more than ten dollars a week.

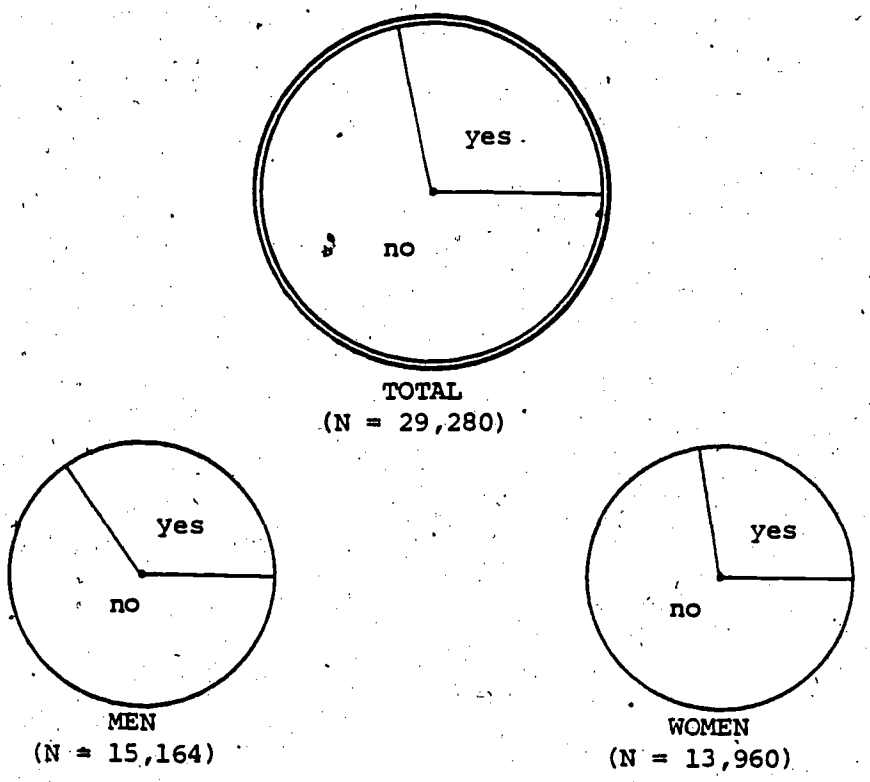

Figure 31. Students who were earning more than ten dollars a week during the Fall of 1977 by sex.

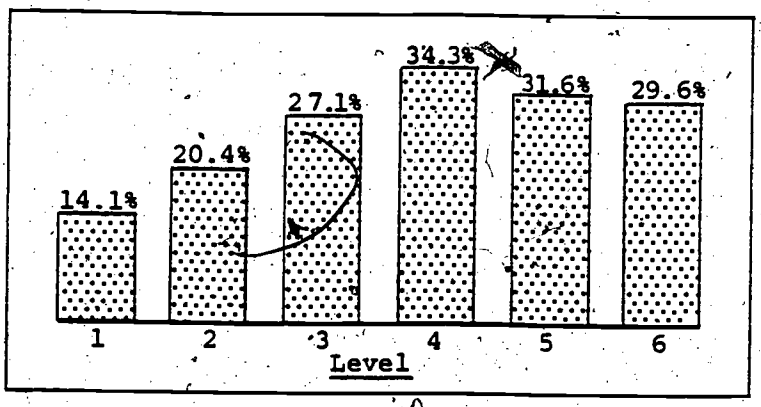

Figure 32. Students who were earning more than ten dollars a week during the Fall of 1977 by level of study (percentage of respondents at each level).

Figure 33 indicates that there is a direct relationship between the ages of the students and whether or not they were earning ten dollars a week. There were 48.1% of the 1,130 students born in 1958; 49.9% of the 3,741 students born in 1959; 43.2% of the 5,990 students born in 1960; 30.8% of the 6,325 students born in 1961; 19.4% of the 6,699 students born in 1962, and 12.7% of the 4,433 students born in 1963 who were earning more than ten dollars a week.

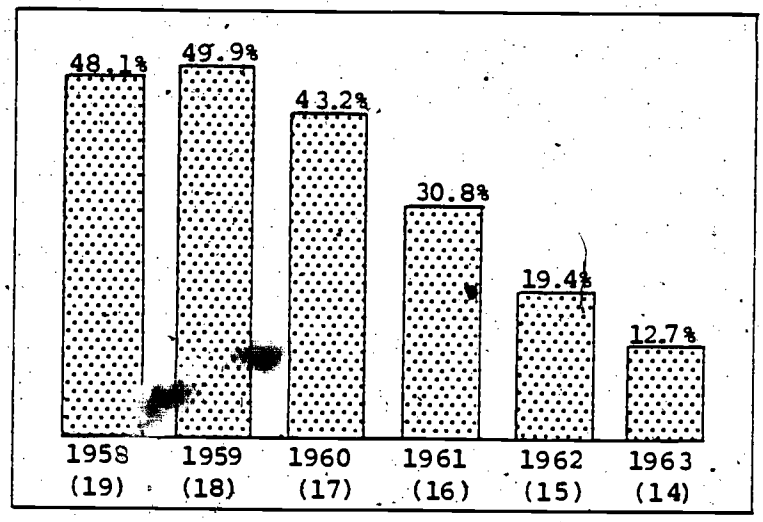

Figure 33. Students who were earning more than ten dollars a week during the Fall of 1977 by date of birth (approximate age shown in brackets).

Summary

There was a total of 9,147 students (31% of the Toronto secondary students who replied) who said they had a part-time job during the Fall of 1977 at which they were making more than ten dollars every week. These students were more likely to be men, to be older and to be studying at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Would Students Like to Combine Part-time Schooling with Work?

Would You Like to Combine Part-time Schooling with Work?

Responses were available for this question for 28,391 students. Of these, 12,590 or 44.3% said they would like to combine part-time schooling with work. Data for sex were available for 28,241 students -- 46.6% of the men and 41.8% of the women answered "yes" (see Figure 34).

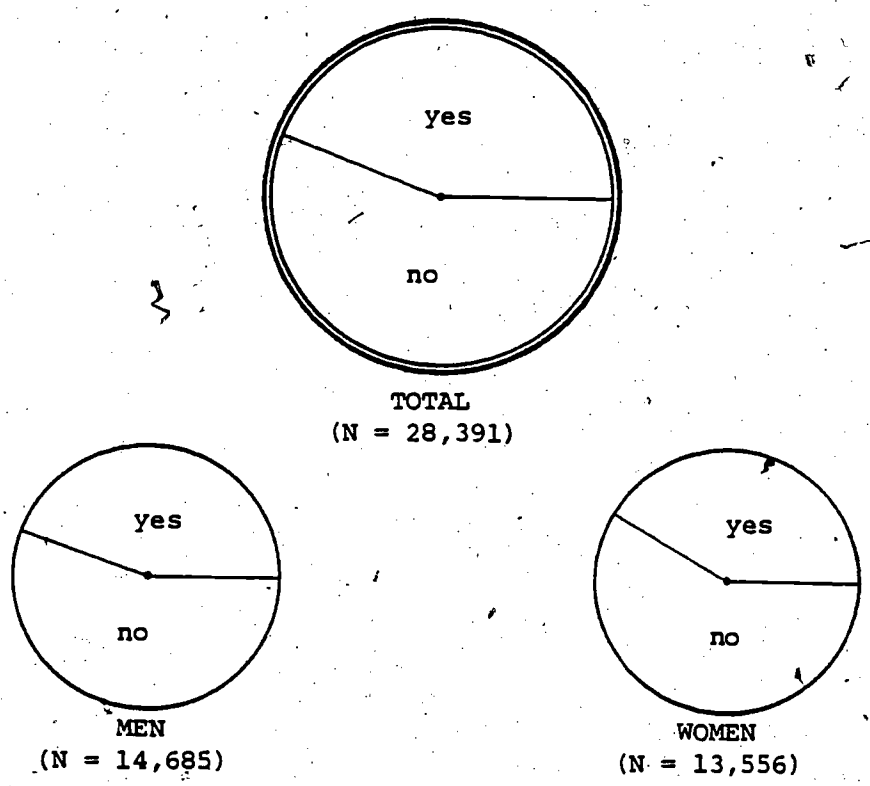

Figure 34. Students who would like to combine part-time schooling with work by sex.

The highest proportion of students by level to answer positively to this question was studying at level 3 -- a total of 1,821 or 58.8%. Over half of the students at levels 2 and 4 (see Figure 35) also said they would like to combine part-time schooling with work. These percentages were based on answers from 302 students at level 1; 698 students at level 2; 3097 students at level 3; 7,390 students at level 4; 16,262 students at level 5; and 155 students at level 6 -- a total of 27,904 students.

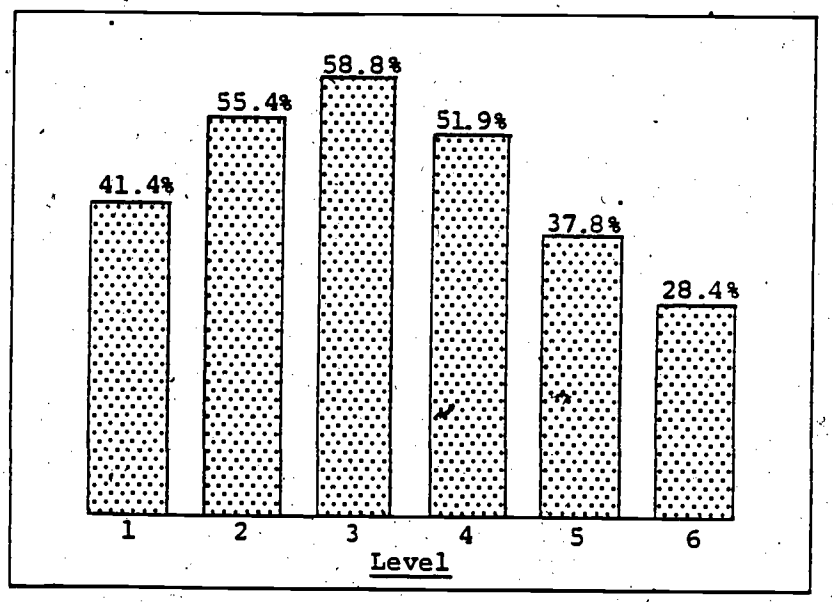

Figure 35. Students who would like to combine part-time schooling with work by level of study.

Figure 36 breaks down the students who would like to combine part-time schooling with work by date of birth. The desire to do so increases directly with the age of the student -- 32.2% of those who were fourteen years old said "yes" while 57.6% of those who were nineteen years old said "yes." Data were available for 27,467 students -- 1,090 born in 1958; 4,613 born in 1959; 5,823 born in 1960; 6,141 born in 1961; 6,495 born in 1962 and 4,305 born in 1963.

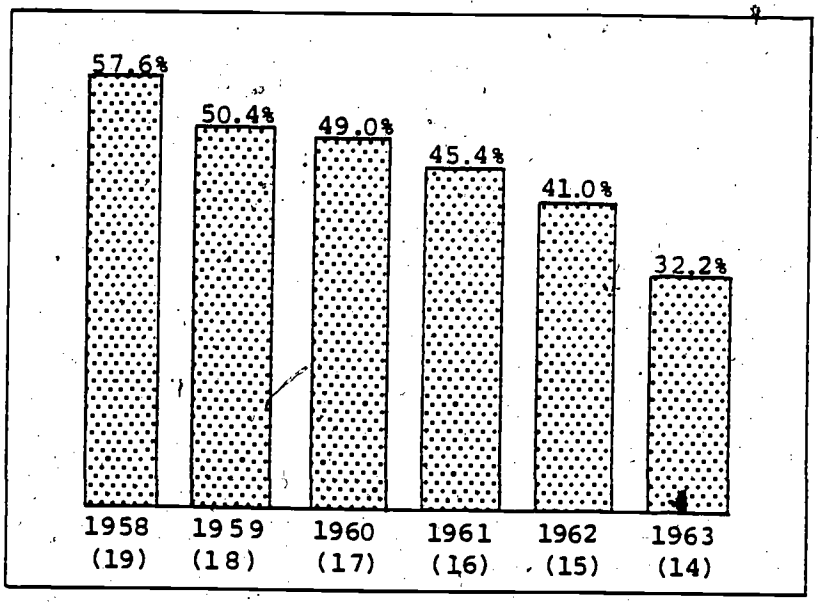

Figure 36. Students who would like to combine part-time schooling with work by year of birth (approximate ages in brackets)

Summary

There was a total of 12,590 students (44.3% of the Toronto secondary students who replied) who reported they would like to combine part-time schooling with work. These students were more likely to be men, to be older and to be studying at levels 2, 3, and 4.

What Did the Students Estimate to be the Percentage of Young People Unemployed?

In Your Opinion, What Percentage of Young People Under the Age of 25 in Canada are Unemployed?

The choice of answers was:
- 4 to 7 per cent
- 7 to 10 per cent
- 10 to 13 per cent
- 13 to 16 per cent
- Over 16 per cent
- Don't Know

Data were available for 28,857 students (the remaining students gave no answer or two answers). Of these, 1.8% estimated 4 to 7 per cent, 6.0% estimated 7 to 10 per cent, 8.0% estimated 10 to 13 per cent, 9.8% estimated 13 to 16 per cent, 38.5% estimated over 16 per cent, and 35.8% said they didn't know. These percentages are shown in Figure 37. Data for sex were also available for 28,705 students. As can be seen from Figure 37, the estimates which men and women gave did not vary greatly from those given by the total population. However, the women said they didn't know more often than the men (39.8% of the women said they didn't know as compared with 32.3%) and the men chose the three lowest estimates more often (18.8% of the men chose the three lowest estimates as compared with 12.5% of the women).

The correct answer for November, 1977 was 13 to 16 per cent (see literature review, page 2). Approximately one-tenth of the students chose this answer.

The students' estimates of youth employment rate were broken down by level of study. The percentages of students at each level who chose each answer are given in Table 5 -- data were available for 28,375 students (the numbers of students at each level are shown in the last column of the table). There are two obvious trends: (1) the higher the students' level of study, the more likely they were to say that the rate of youth unemployment was over 16 per cent; (2) the lower the students' level of study, the more likely they were to say that they didn't know what the rate of youth unemployment was. In addition, students studying at level 5 were slightly more likely to choose the correct answer, while students studying at levels 1, 2, and 6 were least likely to choose the correct answer.

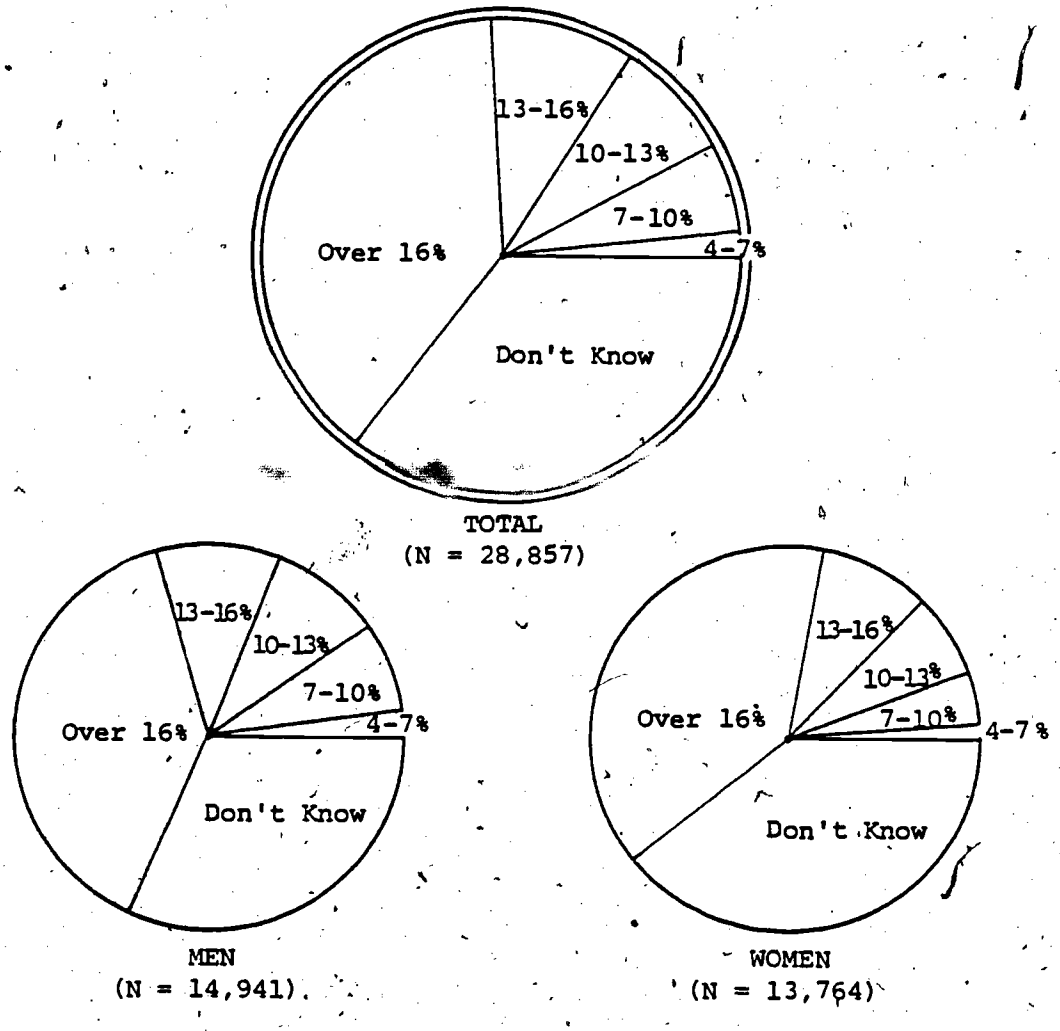

Figure 37. Students' estimates of youth unemployment rate by sex.

TABLE 5

STUDENTS' ESTIMATES OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY LEVEL OF STUDY

Level	Estimate						Total Number of Students
	1 - 7 Per Cent	7 - 10 Per Cent	10 - 13 Per Cent	13 - 16 Per Cent	Over 16 Per Cent	Don't Know	
1	4.6%	5.0%	7.9%	5.6%	32.5%	44.4%	302
2	1.8%	3.9%	7.5%	6.9%	33.9%	45.9%	666
3	2.0%	4.2%	6.5%	8.5%	37.3%	41.4%	3,093
4	1.8%	6.6%	7.9%	8.9%	35.2%	39.7%	7,502
5	1.6%	6.2%	8.5%	10.6%	40.5%	32.5%	16,657
6	2.6%	6.5%	8.4%	5.8%	51.6%	25.2%	155
TOTAL							28,375

The students' estimates of youth unemployment rate were also broken down by students' year of birth. The percentages are shown in Table 6, the last column of the table showing the number of students who responded for each year of birth. In this case the trends are not so strong. However, there are two slight tendencies:

(1) the older the students, the more likely they were to choose the three lowest estimates of unemployment (4-7%, 7-10% and 10-13%);

(2) the younger the students, the more likely they were to say they didn't know the rate of youth unemployment.

Summary

Very few of the students (approximately 10%) knew that the reported rate of youth unemployment in Canada for people under the age of 25 was between 13 and 16 per cent in November, 1977, while 39% thought it was over 16 per cent, and 36 per cent said they didn't know.

The higher the students' level of study, the more likely they were to say that the rate was over 16 per cent and the less likely they were to say they didn't know.

The older the students, the more likely they were to choose the three lowest estimates and the less likely they were to say they didn't know.

The women tended to say they didn't know more often than the men and the men tended to choose the three lowest estimates more often than the women.

TABLE 6

STUDENTS' ESTIMATES OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY DATE OF BIRTH
(APPROXIMATE AGES SHOWN IN BRACKETS)

Date of Birth	Estimate						Total Number of Students
	4 - 7 Per Cent	7 - 10 Per Cent	10 - 13 Per Cent	13 - 16 Per Cent	Over 16 Per Cent	Don't Know	
1958 (19)	1.8%	7.6%	11.4%	8.3%	38.3%	32.5%	1,103
1959 (18)	2.6%	6.0%	9.9%	10.3%	39.2%	32.0%	3,695
1960 (17)	1.5%	6.2%	8.0%	9.7%	40.5%	34.1%	5,916
1961 (16)	1.5%	5.4%	7.5%	9.5%	39.1%	37.0%	6,243
1962 (15)	1.7%	6.1%	7.4%	9.4%	37.0%	38.4%	6,596
1963 (14)	1.5%	5.7%	7.4%	10.7%	38.0%	36.7%	4,386
TOTAL							27,939

What Were Returning Students' Desires and Experiences Concerning Work?

The other portion of the November, 1977 survey identified 1,150 returning students. This section will look at the responses of the returning students (although not in as much detail as has been done for all students) to the questions about jobs, work and school. Table 7, column 3, shows the number of returning students who gave certain answers to the questions. The proportions* of all students and of the returning students who gave these certain answers are indicated in columns 2 and 4 -- the differences between these proportions were tested for statistical significance. Column 4 indicates that 84% of the returning students wanted a summer job, 65% had a summer job, 82% had looked for a part-time job, 64% had had a part-time job, 42% had a job at which they were earning more than ten dollars a week (in November, 1977) and 64% wanted to combine part-time schooling with work -- the proportions of returning students who answered "yes" to all these questions were significantly larger than the proportions of all students who answered "yes." Column 4 also shows that returning students were significantly less likely to say they didn't know the rate of youth unemployment, significantly less likely to choose the correct rate of youth unemployment in November, 1977 (13 to 16 per cent) and significantly more likely to choose the two lowest estimates.

Table 8 shows the breakdown of the responses to the questionnaire be sex. As was the case for all students, returning men were slightly more likely to have wanted a summer job and to have looked for a part-time job than were the returning women; and, the proportions of returning men who had had a summer job and a part-time job were quite a bit larger than

* The reader should recall that the totals vary since not all students answered all questions.

the proportions of returning women (indicating that women could not obtain jobs as easily as the men). The returning men were also considerably more likely to have a part-time job at which they made more than ten dollars a week than were the returning women.

Finally, returning women were more likely to want to combine part-time schooling with work than were returning men (67% of the returning women said "yes" as compared with 63% of the returning men). This finding is different from that for all students where more men than women answered "yes."

Summary

More of the returning students were interested than other students in a summer job, a part-time job while going to school, and part-time schooling combined with work. Returning students were also more likely to have had a summer job and part-time job than were all the students.

The trend by sex for returning students were much the same as for all the students (the proportions of men who answered "Yes" to the questions were larger than the proportions of women) except that a larger proportion of returning women said they would like to combine part-time schooling with work than did the returning men (this was not the case for all students).

TABLE 7

RETURNING STUDENTS' RESPONSES COMPARED WITH ALL STUDENTS' RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Question	Per Cent of All Students	Number of Returning Students	Per Cent of Returning Students
Did you want a job last summer? (yes)	78%	952	84%*
Did you have a job last summer? (yes)	47%	739	65%*
Have you ever looked for a part-time job at which you could work while going to school? (yes)	61%	930	82%*
Have you ever had a part-time job while going to school? (yes)	45%	726	64%*
Do you now have a part-time job at which you make more than ten dollars every week? (yes)	31%	480	42%*
Would you like to combine part-time schooling with work? (yes)	44%	702	64%*
In your opinion, what percentage of young people under the age of 25 in Canada are unemployed?			
4 to 7 per cent	2%	30	3%*
7 to 10 per cent	6%	87	8%*
10 to 13 per cent	8%	98	9%
13 to 16 per cent	10%	84	8%*
Over 16 per cent	39%	433	40%
Don't Know	36%	356	33%*

* Proportion of returning students is significantly different from the proportion of all students (using a chi-square one-sample test at the .05 level of significance).

TABLE 8

RETURNING STUDENTS' RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE BY SEX

Question	Per Cent of Returning Men	Per Cent of Returning Women	Total Who Answered Question
Did you want a job last summer? (yes)	85%	83%	1,124
Did you have a job last summer? (yes)	71%	56%	1,135
Have you ever looked for a part-time job at which you could work while going to school? (yes)	82%	81%	1,132
Have you ever had a part-time job while going to school? (yes)	68%	58%	1,126
Do you now have a part-time job at which you make more than ten dollars every week? (yes)	48%	34%	1,126
Would you like to combine part-time schooling with work? (yes)	63%	67%	1,084

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

During November 1977, all Toronto secondary students were asked to respond to seven questions which asked about their desires and experiences concerning work. Responses were received from 29,499 or 86% of the total number of students enrolled at that time.

This report shows that large numbers of Toronto secondary school students are interested in work -- Table 9 gives the percentages for the three questions which asked about a summer job, part-time work while attending school and part-time schooling combined with work. While students were most interested in a summer job, 61% also reported that they had looked for a part-time job at which they could work while going to school and 44% reported that they would like to combine part-time schooling with work.

TABLE 9

STUDENTS' INTEREST IN WORK

Kind of Work	Per Cent of All Students Who Answered "Yes"
Those who wanted a job during the summer of 1977.	78%
Those who had looked for a part-time job at which they could work while going to school.	61%
Those who would like to combine part-time schooling with work.	44%

The responses for these three questions were broken down by sex, levels of study and dates of birth. The trends were almost identical for the three questions:

(1) slightly more men than women answered "yes";

(2) students studying at levels 3 and 4 were most likely to answer "yes" -- although level 2 students were also interested in combining part-time schooling with work; and,

(3) the older the students, the more likely they were to answer "yes."

Although large numbers of students had wanted and looked for jobs, they did not necessarily find them. Of the students who said they wanted a summer job, 46% had not had one and of the students who said they had looked for a part-time job, 37% had not had one. When the responses were analyzed according to sex, level of study and year of birth, the trends were again very similar for both kinds of work:

(1) considerably more men than women had had jobs;

(2) students studying at levels 4, 5 and 6 were more likely to have had jobs than students studying at levels 1, 2 and 3; and,

(3) the older the students, the more likely they were to have had jobs.

Approximately 31% of the students had a part-time job in November, 1977 at which they were making more than ten dollars a week. These students were more likely to be men, to be older and to be studying at levels 3, 4 5 and 6.

Very few students (about 10%) knew the rate of youth unemployment in Canada during November 1977 -- 13 to 16 per cent was the correct answer; 39% said they believed the rate to be over 16% and 36% said they didn't know.

The responses for a subset of returning students were analyzed separately. Returning students were statistically more likely to answer

"yes" to the six questions than were all the students. The trends for sex for returning students were the same as for all students with one exception -- returning women were more likely to say that they would like to combine part-time schooling with work than were the returning men.

A final comment should be made about the confounding of the variable age with the two variables level of study and sex. That is, many of the results which have been discussed in the report have dealt with the relationships associated with sex and level of study; however, since boys tend to remain in school longer than girls and since the students studying at the higher levels are more apt to remain in school longer than those studying at the lower levels, the findings for sex and level of study may be partly explained by students' ages.

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The Toronto Board of Education is conducting two research studies. One is about students who have dropped out of school and returned, and the other is about the attitudes of students toward work and unemployment. In order to begin the studies, we are asking each Toronto Secondary student to answer the following questions. Please circle your answers.

		CIRCLE ANSWERS
1.	What level (program) are MOST of your courses in?	1 2 3 4 5
2.	Did you want a job last summer?	1YES 0NO
3.	Did you have a job last summer?	1YES 0NO
4.	Have you ever looked for a part-time job at which you could work while going to school?	1YES 0NO
5.	Have you ever had a part-time job while going to school?	1YES 0NO
6.	Do you now have a part-time job at which you make more than ten dollars every week?	1YES 0NO
7.	Would you like to combine part-time schooling with work?	1YES 0NO
8.	In your opinion, what percentage of young people under the age of 25 in Canada are unemployed?	4 to 7 per cent 1 7 to 10 per cent 2 10 to 13 per cent 3 13 to 16 per cent 4 Over 16 per cent 5 Don't Know 6
9.	Have you ever 'dropped out' of school?	1YES 0NO

If you answered YES to Question 9, please answer questions 10 to 15.

If you answered NO to Question 9, please return the form to your teacher.

10. How many times have you dropped out? 1 2 3 4

11. Have you ever been in the Leaving School Early program? 1YES 0NO

Please answer the following questions for the LAST time you dropped out.

12. What grade were you in when you last dropped out? 07 08 09 10 11 12 13

13. What level (program) were MOST of your courses in? 1 2 3 4 5

14. How old were you? 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

15. What school did you leave? ..... NAME _____

BOARD _____

CITY _____

PROVINCE (or Country, if the school is not in Canada)

_____

★ Would you please give us your phone number -- a few of you will be phoned for more of your ideas about school and work