

**CHAPTER IX**  
**ECONOMIC TRENDS**  
**LIVELIHOOD PATTERN**

**Workers, Non-workers and Livelihood Classes**

The 1961 census has classified workers into nine livelihood classes or industrial categories described below:

- I Cultivators—Persons engaged in cultivation their lands, themselves or through hired labour, or managing tenanted land
- II Agricultural labourer—Persons engaged in agricultural operation on land pertaining to others, for wages in cash or kind
- III Persons engaged in mining, quarrying, forestry, fishing, hunting and activities connected with live-stock, plantations, orchards and allied pursuits
- IV Persons engaged in household industry run on a scale smaller than that of a registered factory by heads of households themselves or mainly by the members of one household sometimes with hired labour, mostly at their homes
- V Persons engaged in industries other than household industry
- VI Persons engaged in construction and maintenance of buildings, roads, bridges, dunes, canals, etc.
- VII Persons engaged in trade and commerce, buying and selling, import and export, banking, insurance, stocks, shares, etc.
- VIII Persons engaged in the transport and warehousing industries and in the postal, telegraphic, telephonic, wireless, information and broadcasting services
- IX Persons engaged in services such as the public utility, administrative, educational, scientific, medical, health, religious, welfare, legal, personal or miscellaneous ones or those connected with business organization as well as recreation

Those engaged in non-productive work, even though earning an income, were classified as non workers.

The information, given in the following statements, about workers and non-workers, as gathered from the records of the census held in 1961, may be of interest:

**STATEMENT A**

*Distribution of Workers into Livelihood Classes and that of Total Population into Workers and Non-workers*

Livelihood classes of workers					Numbers
I	Male	..	..	..	55,217
	Female	..	..	..	82,594
	Total	..	..	..	1,37,811
II	Male	..	..	..	644
	Female	..	..	..	583
	Total	..	..	..	1,227
III	Male	..	..	..	954
	Female	..	..	..	89
	Total	..	..	..	1,043
IV	Male	..	..	..	3,128
	Female	..	..	..	2,400
	Total	..	..	..	5,528
V	Male	..	..	..	304
	Female	..	..	..	24
	Total	..	..	..	328
VI	Male	..	..	..	2,455
	Female	..	..	..	6
	Total	..	..	..	2,461
VII	Male	..	..	..	1,217
	Female	..	..	..	26
	Total	..	..	..	1,243
VIII	Male	..	..	..	457
	Female	..	..	..	..
	Total	..	..	..	457
IX	Male	..	..	..	7,270
	Female	..	..	..	409
	Total	..	..	..	7,679
Workers	Male	..	..	..	71,646
	Female	..	..	..	86,131
	Total	..	..	..	1,57,777
Non-workers	Male	..	..	..	56,646
	Female	..	..	..	49,156
	Total	..	..	..	1,05,802
Total population	Male	..	..	..	1,28,292
	Female	..	..	..	1,35,287
	Total	..	..	..	2,63,579

**STATEMENT B**

*Percentage Distribution of Workers into Livelihood Classes and that of Total Population into Workers and Non-workers*

Livelihood class		Pithoragarh district	Uttar Pradesh
I		52.28	24.99
II		0.47	4.42
III		0.40	0.23
IV		2.10	2.44
V		0.13	1.09
VI		0.93	0.29
VII		0.47	1.44
VIII		0.17	8.54
IX		2.91	3.63
Workers	Male	27.81	30.48
	Female	32.68	8.64
	Total	59.86	39.12
Non-workers	Male	21.49	21.91
	Female	18.65	38.97
	Total	40.14	60.88
Total population	Male	48.67	52.39
	Female	51.33	47.61
	Total	100.00	100.00

**STATEMENT C**

*Tahsilwise Distribution of Workers into Livelihood Classes and that of Total population into Workers and Non-workers*

Livelihood class	Tahsil Dharchula	Tahsil Didihat	Tahsil Munsyari	Tahsil Pithoragarh	District total
I	15,851	53,791	15,310	52,859	1,37,811
II	239	382	180	426	1,227
III	273	493	67	210	1,043
IV	1,492	1,017	1,819	1,200	5,528
V	57	121	21	129	328
VI	503	176	1,044	738	2,461
VII	405	195	167	476	1,243
VIII	105	101	111	140	457
IX	903	1,551	660	4,565	7,679
Workers	19,828	57,827	19,379	60,743	1,57,777
Non-workers	12,738	38,691	10,998	43,375	1,05,802
Total	32,566	96,518	30,377	1,04,118	2,63,579

**STATEMENT D**

*Distribution of every 1,000 males/ Female into Workers and Non-workers and of Workers according to Livelihood Classes*

Livelihood class			Pithoragarh District	Uttar Pradesh
I	Male	..	430	370
	Female	..	611	112
II	Male	..	5	51
	Female	..	4	35
III	Male	..	7	4
	Female	..	1	1
IV	Male	..	24	34
	Female	..	10	14
V	Male	..	2	20
	Female	..	..	1
VI	Male	..	19	5
	Female	..	..	..
VII	Male	..	10	26
	Female	..	..	2
VIII	Male	..	4	18
	Female	..	..	..
IX	Male	..	57	60
	Female	..	3	11
Workers	Male	..	558	582
	Female	..	637	181
	Total	..	599	391
Non-workers	Male	..	442	418
	Female	..	363	819
	Total	..	401	609

The statement shows that of the total population of the district 599 per thousand are economically active, 558 per thousand being male and 637 per thousand being female. Female participation in economic activity is considerably high, female workers exceeding 550 per thousand in the rural areas being found in districts Uttar Kashi, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal and Almora. It also appears that in the district 435 males and 615 females per thousand workers of the two sexes are engaged in agricultural activities.

**STATEMENT E**

*Numbers of Females for every 1,000 males of Corresponding Livelihood Class and amongst Workers and Non-workers*

Livelihood class						Pithoragarh district	Uttar Pradesh
I	..	..	..	..	..	1,496	289
II	..	..	..	..	..	905	602
III	..	..	..	..	..	93	166
IV	..	..	..	..	..	767	366
V	..	..	..	..	..	79	39
VI	..	..	..	..	..	2	19
VII	..	..	..	..	..	21	67
VIII	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
IX	..	..	..	..	..	56	177
Workers	..	..	..	..	..	1,202	283
Non-workers	..	..	..	..	..	867	1,799
Number per 1,000 males	..	..	..	..	..	1,054	909

**STATEMENT F**

*Percentage of Workers in each Livelihood Class to Total Number of Workers in Pithoragarh/ U. P.*

Livelihood class						Pithoragarh District	Uttar Pradesh
I	..	..	..	..	..	87.34	63.89
II	..	..	..	..	..	0.78	11.30
III	..	..	..	..	..	0.66	0.60
IV	..	..	..	..	..	3.50	6.24
V	..	..	..	..	..	0.21	2.78
VI	..	..	..	..	..	1.56	0.74
VII	..	..	..	..	..	0.79	3.68
VIII	..	..	..	..	..	0.29	1.38
IX	..	..	..	..	..	4.87	9.39
Total	..	..	..	..	..	100.00	100.00

## STATEMENT G

*Percentage of Agricultural Workers to Total Number of Workers in District/ U. P.*

Agricultural Workers					Percentage	
					Pithoragarh District	Uttar Pradesh
Cultivators						
Total	..	..	..	..	87.35	63.88
Male	..	..	..	..	77.07	63.62
Female	..	..	..	..	95.89	64.78
Agricultural labourers						
Total	..	..	..	..	0.66	11.30
Male	..	..	..	..	0.90	9.05
Female	..	..	..	..	0.68	19.24
All agricultural workers						
Total	..	..	..	..	88.01	75.18
Male	..	..	..	..	77.97	72.69
Female	..	..	..	..	96.57	84.02

Of the total workers in the district 88.01 per cent are engaged in agricultural pursuits, cultivators being 87.35 and agricultural labourers 0.66 per cent. More than 96 per cent of the total female workers and about 78 per cent of the total male workers are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Approximately there is one agricultural labourer for every 129 workers in the district, the corresponding figures in the State and the country being 9 and 6 respectively.

## STATEMENT H

*Categories of Non-workers in the District and their Numbers in each Category*

Categories of non-working population			Males	Females	Total
Full-time students	..	..	20,962	3,404	24,366
Persons engaged only in household duties	..	..	25	2,220	2,245
Dependents, infants and disabled persons	..	..	35,193	43,279	78,472
Retired persons and people of independent means	..	..	88	72	160
Beggars, vagrants, etc.	..	..	105	153	258
Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions	..	..	30	5	35
Persons seeking employment for first time	..	..	153	6	159
Persons unemployed and seeking work	..	..	90	17	107
Total	..	..	56,646	49,156	1,05,802

## GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND WAGES

### Prices

About the middle of the nineteenth century, Pithoragarh, which then lay in district Kumaon, was one of the chief markets of that district. The prices which ruled for the sale and purchase of food-grains in the market were generally quite high, because the cost of importing food-grains was almost prohibitive. The agriculturists, short of food, did not go to the market but approached friendly neighbours who lent them the required quantities of food-grains on easy terms.

Wheat and common rice were then sold at 40 seers to 50 seers and fine rice at 24 seers to 30 seers to a rupee. About the year 1900, when Pithoragarh came to be included in district Almora the average rates per rupee were 10 seers to 12 seers for wheat, 4.5 seers to 7 seers for fine rice and 7.5 seers to 10 seers for common rice. In 1908, a famine year, wheat was sold at 5.25 seers per rupee. The conditions did not materially change till 1912 when normal conditions set in and rates per rupee sagged to 12.44 seers for wheat and 7.5 seers for common rice. With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 the price level registered a steep rise and in 1916 it was about 55 per cent higher than that in 1912, the price of wheat and common rice in 1916 being about 8 seers and 5 seers respectively for a rupee. These prices continued to prevail with slight fluctuations till 1920-22 when the district was hit by drought. Wheat was sold in 1922 at 2.5 seers to a rupee. Excepting this period of scarcity, the price level of 1916 continued to obtain till 1928-29. From 1930 onwards prices began to fall owing to the world-wide economic depression and in 1932 wheat, barley and common rice sold at around 12 seers, 17 seers and 10 seers to a rupee respectively. In 1936 the prices recovered to the level of 1930 at which they began to stabilize. In 1939, the prices started showing an upward tendency as a result of the outbreak of the Second World War and in the years that followed prices achieved unprecedentedly high levels. During the period 1944-49 the average rates for wheat, rice and gram were 2.9 seers, 2.5 seers and 3.3 seers per rupee. The average yearly urban retail prices of certain food-grains for certain years from 1950 up to 1965 are given in the following statement:

Year	Rates* (in seers per rupee)		
	Common rice	Wheat	Gram
1950	2.0	1.81	3.33
1955	2.22	2.0	4.00
1960	2.0 (1.86)	1.81 (1.69)	3.83 (3.57)
1965	1.32 (1.24)	1.33 (1.24)	2.0 (1.86)
*The figures in brackets indicate rates in kg. per rupee			

As elsewhere in the State, prices tended to come down in 1954 and registered a definite fall in the following year only to rise again in 1956, when for the first time; fair price shops which sold certain food-grains and *atta* at subsidized rates were opened. Later on the Hill Provisioning Scheme was introduced in the district under which wheat (imported), rice and *atta* were supplied by the government for distribution to the public through fair price shops. The number of such shops was 88 in 1960 and swelled to 150 in 1965.

The wholesale rates of certain commodities, other than food-grains and their products, prevalent in the district from 1961 to 1965 are mentioned in the following statement:

Year			Wholesale rates (in Rs per quintal)				
			Jaggery	Ghee	Mustard oil	Fire-wood	Tobacco
1961	..	..	43	490	241	3.75	80
1962	..	..	42	536	289	3.75	85
1963	..	..	39	590	289	3.75	90
1964	..	..	69	640	344	3.75	100
1965	..	..	75	804	571	4.00	166

## Wages

About the middle of the nineteenth century agricultural labourers mostly belonged to the Scheduled Castes and were paid wages in the form of food-grains and also received certain annual gifts from the employers. An ordinary labourer in the district earned from 2 to 4 *annas* a

day but accepted Rs 5 or Rs 6 per month if paid on monthly basis. The duties of syce, messenger, water-carrier, garden coolie, etc., were generally performed by those belonging to land-owning families, their wages being about Rs 6 per month. Masons, carpenters and blacksmiths of ordinary skill earned from Rs 10 Rs 12 per month, whereas skilled artisans earned about double this wage.

While wages generally assumed an upward trend after the First World War, unskilled and skilled labour hardly earned more than Re 0.50 and Re 0.75 a day respectively till about 1934 when the wage level receded because of world-wide economic depression of 1930's, the wages of an unskilled and a skilled labourer coming down to Re 0.35 and Re 0.69 respectively. This low level of wages persisted till about 1939 when the Second World War broke out, giving a fillip to wages. After the Second World War (1930-45) wages appreciated considerably and those of an ordinary labourer rose to about Rs 1.50 per day while those of a skilled labourer (mason, carpenter, blacksmith, etc.) to about Rs 2.50 per day. Between 1948 and 1951 casual labourers were paid from Rs 1.50 to Rs 2.50 a day and the labourers in a gang about Rs 1.19 and skilled labour from Rs 2 to Rs 5.

About 1945, a Dotiyal coolie, i.e., a coolie from Doti in Nepal, when engaged by tourist, official and non-official, and traders, was paid Rs 2.50 a day, when on the march, and Rs 2.00 a day when not on the march. A Kumaoni coolie earned lower wages on engagement, viz., Rs 2.00 a day when on the march, and otherwise only Rs 1.5 a day.

The wages continued to move upwards with the rise in prices and for an unskilled labourer stood, in round figures, at Rs 2.00 in 1955, at Rs 2.50 in 1960 and at Rs 3.00 in 1965. The wages of skilled labour were nearly double the rates of wages for unskilled labour. The wages in the interior of the district were higher approximately by 50 per cent.

The agricultural labourers worked eight hours a day exclusive of an hours' rest. The rates of their wages, which are paid in cash, were Rs 5.00 for ploughing, Rs. 4.00 for weeding, Rs 3.50 for transplantation and Rs 3.00 for irrigation and reaping in 1966.

The wages for some occupations prevailing in Pithoragarh town in 1966 are mentioned in the statement below:

Type of worker	Unit of work/ period			Average wages (in rupees)
Barber	..	Per shave	..	0.25
	..	Per hair-cut	..	0.62
Blacksmith	..	Per day	..	5.0
Carpenter	..	Per day	..	5.0
Casual Labourer	..	Per day	..	4.0
Chowkidar	..	Per month	..	80.0
Domestic servant	..	Per month (without food)	..	70.0
	..	Per month (with food)	..	40.0
Driver (Truck)	..	Per month	..	150.0
Gardener	..	Per month	..	50.0
Herdsman	..	Per month (per cow)	..	2.0
	..	Per month (per buffalo)	..	4.0
Midwife	..	Per delivery of child	..	9.0
Porter	..	Per maund (37.3 kg.) of load carried for a mile (1.6 km.)		1.0
Scavenger	..	Per month (for cleaning a latrine once a day		0.25
Wood-cutter	..	Per maund (37.3 kg.) of wood		1.0

## GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

The District employment exchange at Pithoragarh was established on February 11, 1965, prior to which the area was served by a guide of the employment exchange, Almora, posted at Pithoragarh, who helped the people in matters of registration and its renewal and in attending to their enquiries, etc. Seekers of employment were actually put in touch with the prospective employers by the employment exchange, Almora. An account of the salient features of information collected and work done at the exchange in 1965 is given below:

Year	Vacancies notified by employers	No. of persons registered for employment assistance	No. on 'live register'	No. of persons finding employment				
				Domes-tic service	Teach-ing	Tech-nical	Govt. service	Other fields
1965	1,198	4,924	1,233	..	221	762	626	..

### Employment Trends

An analysis of employees in 1965 according to their spheres of activities is given in the following statement:

Industry	No. of reporting establishments	No. of employees		
		Private sector	Public sector	Total
Agriculture, live-stock, cereals and sugarcane	4	..	618	618
Construction (of roads, etc.)	16	..	1,708	1,708
Electricity and water service	2	..	96	96
Trade and commerce	..	3	59	59
Transport, storage and communications	2	..	34	34
Services	..	..	38	35
Total	..	..	65	35
				6,811
				6,846

Number of employees in the public sector (government, quasi-governments and local bodies organizations) in 1965 is as follows:

Type of establishments				No. of reporting establishments	No. of employees		
					Men	Women	Total
Central Government	..	..	..	3	589	..	589
State Government	..	..	..	55	4,685	296	4,981
Quasi-government (Central)	..	..	..	2	56	..	56
Quasi-government (State)	..	..	..	2	5	16	21
Local Bodies	..	..	..	2	1,071	93	1,164
Total	..	..	..	64	6,406	405	6,811

**Employment of Women**— There were only 9 establishments which gave employment to 405 women, there being no woman employee in the private sector. The women employees comprised 5.95 per cent of the total number of employees in the public sector. Of the total number of women employed, 50 per cent served in educational services, 9 per cent in medical and health services and the remaining 41 per cent in other services.

**Employers, Employees and Workers**— According to the census of 1961, numbers in the district of employers, employees, single workers and family workers (those working in their own family without wages) in non-household industries are given in the first and of those in household industries in the second statement given below:

#### STATEMENT I

Industrial classification					Sex	Number
Employer	..	..	..	..	Male	199
					Female	3
Employee	..	..	..	..	Male	10,001
					Female	258
Single worker	..	..	..	..	Male	2,253
					Female	273
Family worker	..	..	..	..	Male	204
					Female	20
Total	..	..	..	..	Male	12,657
					Female	554

#### STATEMENT II

Industrial classification					Sex	Number
Employee	..	..	..	..	Male	41
					Female	6
Others	..	..	..	..	Male	3,087
					Female	2,394
Total	..	..	..	..	Male	3,128
					Female	2,400

#### Unemployment Trends

The following statement gives information about the types of employment applied for, and the numbers and sexes of person, who sought these jobs as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1965:

Of employment applied for		No. of job seekers as on December 31, 1965		
		Men	Women	Total
Professional, technical and related work	..	20	5	25
Clerical and allied work	..	28	1	29
Farming, fishing, hunting, logging and related work		10	..	10
Transport and communication	..	21	..	21
Trade of craftsmen, workers in production and labourers not elsewhere classified	..	51	2	53
Service, sports and recreation	..	196	..	196
Unclassified work	..	878	21	899
Total	..	1,204	29	1,233

The number of job seekers given in the above statement may be classified according to educational standards as follows:

Educational standard				1965		
				Men	Women	Total
Graduate and post-graduate	..	..	18	1	19	
Intermediate	..	..	27	..	27	
Matriculate	..	..	216	2	218	
Below matriculation	..	..	588	14	602	
Illiterate and literate (without educational level)	..	..	355	12	367	
Total	..	..	1,204	29	1,233	

### Demand for Workers

There was no demand for workers in the private sector as on December 31, 1965 on which date the unfilled vacancies under various establishments in the public sector were as follows:

Central Government establishments	..	..	..	..	293
State Government establishments	..	..	..	..	119
Quasi-government establishments	..	..	..	..	3
Local body	..	..	..	..	20
Total	..	..	..	..	435

**Placement in Employment**—The employment exchange placed 450 applicants in employment during 1965, in various occupations as follows:

Occupations				Number of applicants placed in employment	Percentage
Professional and technical work	..	..	..	43	9.6
Clerical work	..	..	..	10	2.1
Crafts	..	..	..	282	62.7
Farming, fishing, etc.	..	..	..	19	4.2
Transport and communications	..	..	..	7	1.6
Services and activities connected with sports and recreation	..	..	..	89	19.8
Total	..	..	..	450	100.00

### Workers in Short and Surplus Supply

Enquiries conducted by the exchanged in the quarter ending in December 1965 revealed that the numbers of painters, fishermen, trained man and women compounders, compressor operators, cane men, road roller drivers, X-ray technicians and overseers available were inadequate.

In ministerial services there was an acute shortage of typists and stenographers in Hindi and English.

Clerks, unskilled workers and workers with no previous training or experience and educated persons having recently left schools and colleges were surplus to demand.

## **NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Before the creation of the district in 1960, there were four development blocks. Now four more blocks have been established. All these blocks were in the second stage in 1965.

The evolution of a block originally covered four stages but since 1958 the number of these stages has been reduced to three stages I and II and post-stage II. The duration of the first and second stages is five years each from the date of inception; that of the last has not been fixed. There is no separate post of district planning officer in the district. The deputy commissioner has been given the powers of a deputy development commissioner and each sub-divisional officer is in charge of planning work in his sub-division. A sub-divisional magistrate at headquarters co-ordinates the work of all the block development officers and the sub-divisional officers, and acts as a link between them and the district magistrate.

A district advisory committee was established in May, 1960, to suggest programmes for the development of the district and to review the progress made by various departments. The district magistrate is the chairman of the committee, the sub-divisional officer, headquarters is the secretary and members of the State legislature and Parliament representing the district, a representative of each development block committee, four non-officials nominated by the State Government, two non-officials nominated by the district magistrate and some heads of local offices concerned with development activities are its members.

The U.P. Kshetra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam, 1961, is not applicable to the district but block development committees have been formed in each block, of which all the Pradhans of Gaon Sabhas included in the block, members of State legislature and Parliament who belong to the district, eight representatives of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes and eight women are members. The block development officer is secretary of the committee. The *adhyaksh* (president) is elected by members from amongst the non-official members. Each block has a block development officer who is the administrative and executive head of the entire block organization. He is assisted by six assistant development officers for agriculture, co-operatives, animal husbandry, public health, minor irrigation and industries. In addition there are an assistant development officer (women), co-operative supervisors, stockmen, and panchayat secretaries. Each block has 10 village level workers and two Gram Sevikas (women workers) to assist the woman assistant development officer in women's and children's welfare work.