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# Labour Force Survey Products and Services

2005



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Statistics Canada

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## Note of appreciation

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## Introduction

### ***What is the LFS?***

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a monthly survey involving around 54,000 Canadian households. The goal of the survey is to provide a detailed, current picture of the labour market across the country.

### ***What does it measure?***

The LFS is the only Statistics Canada source of current, monthly estimates of total employment (including self-employment) and unemployment. Many people know it as the source of the unemployment rate but LFS data are also used to produce other standard labour market indicators such as the employment rate and the participation rate. Along with these popular measures, the LFS also provides employment estimates by industry, occupation, hours worked and much more, all cross-classifiable by a variety of personal characteristics. For employees, wage, union status, job permanency and workplace size are also produced.

### ***About this catalogue***

This catalogue briefly describes all LFS products offered on a monthly, annual and occasional basis. It includes products, uses, general release dates, formats available and prices.

### ***Essential tools of the trade***

These products are aimed at labour market economists, analysts, consultants, planners, forecasters and academics in both the private and public sector. They provide current and historical labour market snapshots in a variety of formats. Whether you want to analyze the data yourself, to read analysis on a certain topic, to know more about the survey or to learn how a certain variable is measured, these products are designed to help you.

## Products and services

### ***Labour Force Information***

This monthly publication provides timely labour market statistics. It also offers a brief commentary highlighting recent developments in the Canadian labour market. It includes a series of charts and tables on a variety of labour force characteristics such as employment and unemployment for Canada, the provinces, metropolitan areas and economic regions.

This publication is useful for those who need to be informed on current labour market conditions across the country.

This publication is available electronically in PDF and HTML formats on the Statistics Canada website. You can have access to this publication on the day of release by 7 a.m., usually the first Friday of the month. (For LFS release dates, visit: [www.statcan.ca/english/Release/2005.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/Release/2005.htm).)

To retrieve the publication visit [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), then click on "Our Products and Services", "For Sale", then "Labour".

<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Annual subscription</b>	<b>Single issue</b>
71-001-X Electronic version (PDF & HTML)	\$ 84	\$ 9

### ***Perspectives on Labour and Income***

This publication brings together and analyzes a wide range of labour and income data. It covers topics such as youth in the labour market, pensions and retirement, work arrangements, education and training, and trends in the family income, to name a few. The publication also devotes sections to new products, surveys, research projects, conferences, and selected data from our extensive database of labour and income statistical indicators.

Perspectives is available in a monthly electronic format on the Internet as well as quarterly in print format. The print format provides you with the durability and portability of paper along with 5 to 6 feature articles every quarter. For more timeliness, view the monthly online issue which provides you with 1 to 2 articles every month and the ability to copy, search and sort the data right into your own documents or databases. For free online articles, visit [www.statcan.ca/english/studies/75-001/archive/peixsuca.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/studies/75-001/archive/peixsuca.htm).

<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Annual subscription</b>	<b>Single issue</b>
75-001-XIE – Electronic version (PDF)	\$ 52	\$6 (Monthly)
75-001-XPE – Paper version	\$ 63	\$20 (Quarterly)

## **Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM**

This annual CD-ROM is designed to provide a historical perspective of a wide variety of Labour Force Survey estimates. At the click of a mouse, you can easily access key variables, such as employment and unemployment levels and rates, as well as demographic characteristics like age, sex, educational attainment and family relationships. Also available are data by provincial level, metropolitan area and economic region, industry, occupation, wages, union membership levels, job tenure, workplace size, hours worked and much more. Included are annual and monthly series (with some seasonally adjusted), generally going back to 1976.

This CD allows you to do your own analysis of the labour market over time. If you need labour market data for presentations, for quick answers or in-depth analysis, or if you need to see historical movements or current trends, to forecast employment or unemployment trends, or to see labour trends in a specific province, metropolitan city or economic region, this CD will be helpful.

For more information on this CD-ROM (list of tables, prices for networks or more than one user, system requirements, etc.), visit: [www.statcan.ca/english/ads/71F0004XCB/index.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/ads/71F0004XCB/index.htm).

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<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Annual issue</b>
71F0004XCB	\$209 ( <i>Released in February</i> )

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## **The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance**

This new online publication provides an overview of a host of labour market topics, illustrated by charts. Among these topics: labour market trends; employment by industry; trends in workplace training; reasons workers select part-time jobs; absenteeism rates; wages and income; international comparisons; labour markets in provinces and census metropolitan areas; and the labour market for immigrants and Aboriginal people.

The publication will be of particular interest to labour market specialists, economists, researchers and students and teachers — in fact, anyone interested in monitoring labour market trends. It also uses a variety of survey data and analysis, making it an invaluable reference document on labour issues.

The first issue of *The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance* is available from the *Statistics Canada* website, *Our products and services page*, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Labour*, then *The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance*.

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<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Single issue</b>
71-222-X	<i>Free on the Internet</i>

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## **Guide to the Labour Force Survey**

This publication discusses relevant concepts and terminology of the Labour Force Survey and explores the survey questionnaire on an item-by-item basis. It also briefly covers the background and objectives of the LFS, describes how labour force status is determined, and looks at survey methodology, collection procedures, data processing and quality measures. It provides a useful dictionary of definitions of survey terms and variables, as well as defining subprovincial regions.

This publication is useful for anyone using any of the Labour Force Survey products.

This publication is available free on the Statistics Canada website. To retrieve the publication visit [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), then click on "Our Products and Services", "Free", then "Labour".

<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Single issue</b>
71-543-GIE	<i>Free on the Internet</i>

## **Methodology of the Canadian Labour Force Survey**

This publication offers an in-depth look at the methodological and operational aspects of the LFS, covering stratification, sampling, survey operations, weighting, estimation and data quality.

This document would be of interest to those who would like more in-depth methodological information on the Labour Force Survey than provided by the *Guide to the Labour Force Survey*.

<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Single issue</b>
71-526-XPB	\$50

## **CANSIM**

A large selection of high-demand LFS monthly and annual average time series is also available through CANSIM, Statistics Canada's electronic online database. Over 90 tables or 1.4 million series are updated at the time of release (by 7 a.m. on the day of each monthly release), and revised when appropriate. This database is useful for those who want online access to a specific series of LFS estimates.

You can find CANSIM on the Statistics Canada website [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), under "Our Products and Services" or at the following address: [www.statcan.ca/english/CANSIM/](http://www.statcan.ca/english/CANSIM/).

CANSIM tables 282-0001 to 282-0095 include LFS estimates. The price is \$3.00 per data series selected.

## **Special requests**

Custom tabulations can be arranged on an ad hoc or regular basis. This service enables you to specify tables and time series to meet your own requirements. For example, you may wish to have labour force estimates for age groups or educational levels that differ from those available in the LFS catalogued products. Subject matter and tabulation expertise is also provided to ensure that the customized data package is accurate and appropriate.

The cost for this service varies according to the request. For more information, contact our toll-free phone number at 1 866 873-8788 or e-mail us at [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca).

## Microdata file

This public use microdata file contains non-aggregated data for a wide variety of variables collected from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This product is for users who prefer to do their own analysis by focusing on specific subgroups in the population or by cross-classifying variables that are not in our catalogued products.

This file contains both personal characteristics for all individuals in the household and detailed labour force characteristics for household members 15 years of age and over. See page 11 of this publication for a list of the variables in this product. These variables are available by province and for the three largest census metropolitan areas (Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver). This is a monthly file, and is available going back to 1976.

Also included is the *Labour Force Survey Microdata User Guide* - which has been produced to facilitate the manipulation of the microdata file of the survey. This guide provides detailed information covering such topics as concepts and definitions; survey methodology; data collection; data processing; data quality; guidelines for tabulation, analysis and release; sampling variability tables and weighting. In addition, the questionnaire and record layouts for both the Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) and the Confidential Master File are included.

Catalogue no.	Annual subscription	Monthly issue
71M0001XCB	\$3,210	\$321

To order or for more information, contact our toll-free phone number at 1 866 873-8788 or e-mail us at [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca).

## Free data on the Internet

Each month, on the release day of LFS data, selected tables are updated on the Statistics Canada website [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), in "Canadian Statistics". The list of tables in HTML include:

### Labour

- labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over, seasonally adjusted
- labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over, unadjusted for seasonality
- labour force characteristics by census metropolitan area, three-month moving averages, seasonally adjusted
- labour force characteristics by census metropolitan area, three-month moving averages, unadjusted for seasonality
- labour force characteristics by economic region, three-month moving averages, unadjusted for seasonality
- employment by age, sex, type of work, class of worker and province, seasonally adjusted
- employment by major industry groups and province, seasonally adjusted
- actual hours worked per week by industry, seasonally adjusted
- average hourly wages of employees by selected characteristics, occupation and by province, unadjusted data

Also released this day on the Statistics Canada website is the *The Daily*, which has a brief commentary with some tables and charts, highlighting movements in the labour market in the last month.

## More about the LFS...

### ***Why use LFS data and who uses it?***

The Labour Force Survey offers a wide range of timely labour market indicators. It also provides historical context, with data going back to 1976. LFS data are available on a monthly and annual basis, and seasonally adjusted data are available for many series. The data are easily accessed online, in paper or electronic format, on CD-ROM, or through special requests.

Some of the major users of LFS data include:

- journalists who want both background and current employment or unemployment figures for their stories;
- labour market researchers who want to study work patterns of a certain sector of the labour market like older workers, youths, women or the self-employed;
- consultants who need overall labour market trends for a large city;
- policy analysts who need to forecast employment trends for the next few years;
- economists who need to predict whether the economy will continue to grow and for how long;
- government departments and financial organizations who need to keep current with the latest labour market developments.

### ***Geographic detail***

LFS estimates are available nationally, as well as by province, census metropolitan area, economic region and some census agglomerations. It should be noted, however, that the smaller the population, the greater the likelihood of sampling variability. Data subject to high sampling variability may not be usable for decision-making purposes.

## **Information collected**

The LFS collects both demographic and labour related data. Here is a list of the major variables available.

**Demographic** detail includes age, sex, education, marital status, family relationship and household composition.

Some of the major **labour** related data includes:

- employment
- unemployment
- full- or part-time employment status
- usual and actual hours of work
- employee hourly and weekly wages
- industry of current or most recent job
- occupation of current or most recent job
- class of worker (employee, self-employed, unpaid family worker)
- public/private sector
- union status
- overtime hours, paid or unpaid
- permanent/temporary work
- workplace and firm size
- school attendance (full- or part-time and type of institution)
- summer employment or unemployment for returning students
- hours of work lost, by reason
- job tenure
- duration of unemployment
- methods of job search and type of job sought
- reasons for working part time
- discouraged workers
- involuntary part-timers
- multiple jobholders
- retirement age
- supplementary measures of unemployment

## How to order

To order one of our products or for more information, please dial the national toll-free enquiries number listed below.

**National toll-free enquiries line** (Canada and United States): 1-800-263-1136

*7:30am to 7:30pm Eastern Time (-5 Universal Standard Time)*

**Telecommunications device for the hearing impaired:** 1-800-363-7629

**Toll-free order line** (Canada and United States): 1-800-267-6677

**National toll-free fax order line** (Canada and United States): 1-877-287-4369

The Statistics Canada Internet site can also be used as a reference: [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)

**E-mail:** [infostats@statcan.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.ca)

**Telephone** (outside Canada and the United States): 1- 613- 951-8116

*7:30am to 7:30pm Eastern Time (-5 Universal Standard Time)*

Advisory Services provides a wide range of additional services. For example: identification of your needs, establishing sources or availability of data, consolidation and integration of data coming from different sources and development of profiles, analysis of highlights or tendencies and, finally, training on products, services, Statistics Canada concepts and also the use of statistical data.

These services can be accessed by calling the toll-free number listed above.