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Labour Force Survey Products and Services

2007



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Statistics Canada
Labour Statistics Division

Labour Force Survey Products and Services

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Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

User information

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- p preliminary
- r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

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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.

Related products

Selected CANSIM tables from Statistics Canada

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Selected surveys from Statistics Canada

3701 Labour Force Survey

Selected tables of Canadian statistics from Statistics Canada

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- *Employment by industry*
- *Selected economic indicators, Canada and United States (monthly and quarterly)*
- *Economy E-Cluster Indicators - Front Page (English)*
- *Days lost per worker due to illness or disability, by sex, by provinces*

- *Economic indicators, by province and territory (monthly and quarterly)*
- *Labour force and participation rates by sex and age group*
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- *Full-time and part-time employment by sex and age group*
- *Labour force characteristics by age and sex*
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Appendix I

Other products and services

Labour force information

71-001-X 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 Labour Force Survey release dates, visit: www.statcan.ca/english/Release/2007.htm.)

The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance

71-222-X The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance

This 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.

Methodology of the Canadian Labour Force Survey

71-526-X 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.

Guide to the Labour Force Survey

71-543-G 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.

71-587-X Aboriginal Peoples Living Off-reserve in Western Canada: Estimates from the Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM

71F0004X Labour Force Historical Review

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.

71F0031X Improvements to the Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Microdata file

71M0001X Labour Force Survey 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 appendix II in 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.

Perspectives on Labour and Income

75-001-X 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.

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

CANSIM tables 282-0001 to 282-0099 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.

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, under "Statistics by subject", then select "Labour".

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.

For inquiries on any of these products and services, contact our toll-free phone number at 1 866 873-8788 or e-mail us at labour@statcan.ca.

Appendix II

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