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**CANADA**  
**DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY**

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11-17, 1945

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The first issue of the Labour Force Bulletin of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics summarizes the results of a sample survey of the civilian labour force in Canada which refers to the week of November 11-17, 1945. The labour force survey, which is to be carried out quarterly, is the first application on a large scale of sampling techniques in the investigation of the Canadian labour market. The primary aims of the survey are to obtain current information about the volume of employment and unemployment, as well as the detailed composition of the labour force. In addition, estimates will be available concerning the number and characteristics of persons not in the labour force such as housewives, students, retired persons, and people who are too old or unable to work.

The quarterly survey of the labour force is based on personal interviews with responsible members of the sample households. Inquiries are limited to a set of factual unambiguous questions, the information being recorded on standardized questionnaires. This survey is not concerned with matters of "opinion." Rather, it represents an effort on the part of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to utilize modern developments in sampling technique to obtain statistical data on the characteristics of the Canadian population quickly and economically.

### 1. The coverage of the survey

About 25 30 000 households, or approximately one per cent of the population of Canada will be included in the sample each quarter. The sampling system covers all but a small proportion of the Canadian civilian non-institutional population 14 years of age and over. Persons in the armed services or living in institutions are excluded by design. On grounds of inaccessibility and the high cost of enumeration, persons living on Indian reserves and in certain remote areas are also omitted. This omission amounts to about 2 per cent of the population covered by the sample which is roughly 8 330 000 persons.

### 2. The method of sampling

The selection of the areas and households to be sampled was based on a complex and scientific sampling design. Several recent advances in the theory of sampling were incorporated in order to reduce the cost and improve the efficiency of the sample.

As a preliminary step in the designation of the sample, the whole country was divided into primary sampling units. These are sample areas which consist of from one to ten adjoining townships or municipalities selected in such a way



that the area included in a primary sampling unit is as heterogeneous as possible. Next, the primary sampling units in each province were classed into groups or strata. The objective of this stratification was to include in one stratum sample areas whose industrial, agricultural or population characteristics were most similar. Then, one primary sampling unit was selected from each stratum in such a way that the probability of selection of any unit was proportionate to its 1941 population. A primary sampling unit thus represents all other areas in the stratum from which it is selected. For example, one primary sampling unit would be chosen to represent the dairy farming areas of Ontario, and another the wheat farming areas of Saskatchewan. In addition, each city whose population in 1931 was 30,000 or more was automatically included in the sample. Counting the cities, there are approximately one hundred primary sampling units.

After a primary sampling unit had been selected from each stratum, the sample area was subdivided into a number of smaller units. In cities, these smaller areas are "blocks" which consist of one or more city blocks. In rural areas, the primary sampling units were divided into "segments." A certain proportion of the blocks and segments were selected by random methods for inclusion in the sample. For most cities, listings of all the households in the selected blocks were available. In rural areas, it was usually necessary to compile special lists of households for sampling purposes. From the lists of households or farms in blocks or segments, a specific proportion were selected for actual enumeration. The proportion of households to be sampled in different areas was adjusted to yield approximately one per cent of the households in the area covered by the sample.

Outside of the cities, a refinement known as area substratification was used in the selection of the sample households. Each primary sampling unit was divided into the following three types of area: urban, farm and rural. The proportion of households selected in each of these areas was modified to reflect the corresponding proportion lying in these areas in the stratum which the primary sampling unit represents.

The method of sampling used in the labour force survey is sometimes referred to as "area sampling." One essential feature of it is that a specified ratio of the households in a given area is enumerated. This is to be distinguished from sampling methods which establish quotas for areas or classes of persons, a method whose adequacy depends on the availability of accurate and up-to-date information on the number of persons in an area or in a class. Since the area







sampling method specifies only some proportion of the households in an area, the sample will reflect any changes in the population of the area or its characteristics. For example, the sampling results will reflect any appreciable movement of population from urban to rural areas or vice versa. It is to be noted, therefore, that the labour force survey provides an unbiased estimate of population characteristics at the time the survey is taken.

### 3. Labour force definitions

In the tables which are published in this bulletin, the following definitions are applicable:

(i) An employed person is anyone who, during the survey week, was either working or had a job or business. Thus, housewives, students and retired persons, who are not fulltime members of the labour force, are treated as employed if they worked more than one hour for pay or profit. In addition, this category includes persons who had a job or business but who did not work because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labour dispute, or because of a temporary layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of being laid off. Also included are persons whose main activity may have been looking for work but who worked one hour or more. Unpaid family workers on farms or in businesses are also classed as employed. Farm women are regarded as employed if they devote more than 20 hours a week to work which contributes to the operation of the farm, as distinct from the home.

(ii) An unemployed person is defined as one whose major activity in the survey week was looking for work and who did not work. To be classed as looking for work, a person must be making active efforts to obtain a job or begin a business, such as registering in an employment office or placing and answering advertisements. Included also are persons who have been laid off without definite instructions to report back for work within 30 days, but who expect to return to their old jobs and are, therefore, not actively seeking new ones. This group also contains those who believe that no work is available in their community, or that no work is available suitable for their particular qualifications.



(iii) The labour force consists of the unemployed and the employed and represents those in the community who are either at work, or have jobs, or are available for work if they can find jobs.

(iv) The nonworkers are those who are not in the labour force, as defined above, and thus include all those who do not have jobs or businesses and are not actively looking for work. The term "nonworker" does not, of course, necessarily connote idleness. There is no implication in the term "nonworker" that housewives, for example, who are solely engaged in keeping house, are not doing useful and indispensable work.

#### 4. Reliability of estimates

Measures of the precision of the various estimates of labour force characteristics are in the course of preparation. Care should be taken in interpreting the precision of estimates for small classes, which will be considerably smaller than for the major population categories.





II. Estimates of the labour force in Canada in  
the week of November 11-17, 1945

Table 1. - Estimates of the civilian labour force in Canada by  
region and sex (Thousands of persons 14 years of  
age and over)

	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
Maritime Provinces	309	77	386
Quebec	991	319	1,310
Ontario	1,121	433	1,554
Prairie Provinces	689	235	924
British Columbia	274	83	357
Canada	3,384	1,147	4,531

Table 2. - Estimates of the civilian labour force in Canada by  
region and age (thousands of persons 14 years of  
age and over)

	<u>14-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Maritime Provinces	52	48	160	100	26
Quebec	207	192	568	293	50
Ontario	179	174	656	457	88
Prairie Provinces	120	117	365	277	45
British Columbia	31	37	153	112	24
Canada	589	568	1,902	1,239	233



III. Estimates of employment in Canada in the  
week of November 11-17, 1945

Table 3. - Estimates of employment in Canada by region and sex  
(thousands of persons 14 years of age and over)

	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
Maritime Provinces	295	75	370
Quebec	941	306	1,247
Ontario	1,081	423	1,504
Prairie Provinces	671	231	902
British Columbia	260	81	341
Canada	3,248	1,116	4,364

Table 4. - Estimates of employment in Canada by region and sex  
(thousands of persons 14 years of age and over)

	<u>14-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Maritime Provinces	46	45	155	98	26
Quebec	190	179	544	286	48
Ontario	168	162	639	449	86
Prairie Provinces	115	112	359	272	44
British Columbia	29	35	147	108	22
Canada	548	533	1,844	1,213	226





Table 5. - Estimated number of hours worked in the survey  
week by employed persons 1/ in Canada 2/

(thousands of persons 14 years of age and over)

<u>hours</u>	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
under 5	- <u>3/</u>	- <u>4/</u>	- <u>4/</u>
5 - 14	37	56	93
15 - 24	56	106	162
25 - 34	66	86	152
35 - 44	689	405	1,094
45 - 54	1,329	325	1,654
55 and over	994	116	1,110
Total	3,173	1,110	4,273

1/ Included in the employed are about 13,000 persons who worked but whose principal activity was looking for work. The average number of hours worked in the survey week by this group was 25

2/ Excluded from this table are approximately 91,000 persons who had a job or business in the survey week but did not work because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labour dispute or temporary layoff with instructions to return to work within 30 days of layoff

3/ Less than 5,000

4/ Less than 10,000



Table 6. - Estimated distribution of employment in different industries in Canada by sex (thousands of persons 14 years of age and over)

	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
Agriculture	838	168	1,054
Forestry, fishing and trapping	102	- 1/	106
Mining (including milling), quarrying, oil wells	66	- 1/	68
Manufacturing (vegetable, animal, textile, wood and paper products)	426	178	604
Manufacturing (iron, etc., non-ferrous metals, nonmetallic mineral, chemical and miscellaneous products, and electricity, gas and water production and supply	482	90	572
Construction	172	- 1/	177
Transportation and communication	292	40	332
Trade, finance and insurance	412	242	654
Service	368	376	743
Unspecified	40	14	54
Total	3,248	1,116	4,364

1/  
Less than 10,000





Table 7. - Estimated occupational status of persons  
employed in agriculture in Canada by sex  
(thousands of persons 14 years of age and  
over)

	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
Paid workers for private employers and government <sup>1/</sup> (federal, provincial or local)	106	- <sup>2/</sup>	. 114
Own-account workers with own business, farm or profession <u>without</u> paid employees	535	14	549
Employers with own business, farm or profession, with one or more paid employees	61	- <sup>3/</sup>	63
Unpaid family workers on farms or in businesses	187	143	330
total	889	167	1,056

<sup>1/</sup> Private and government employees have been classed  
together in view of the small size of the latter  
category

<sup>2/</sup> Less than 10,000

<sup>3/</sup> Less than 5,000



Table 8. - Estimated occupational status of employed persons (nonagricultural) in Canada by sex  
(thousands of persons 14 years of age and over)

	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
Paid workers for private employers	1,762	726	2,488
Paid workers for government (federal, provincial or local)	221	123	344
Own account workers, with own business, farm or profession, <u>without</u> paid employees	236	52	288
Employers with own business, farm or profession, with one or more paid employees	119	10	129
Unpaid family workers on farms or in businesses	16	34	50
Unspecified	- <u>1/</u>	- <u>1/</u>	- <u>1/</u>
total	2,359	949	3,308





IV. Estimates of unemployment in Canada in  
the week of November 11-17, 1945

Table 9. - Estimates of unemployment in Canada by region  
(thousands of persons 14 years of age and over)

Maritime Provinces	16
Quebec	63
Ontario	50
Prairie Provinces	22
British Columbia	16
Canada	167

Table 10. - Estimates of unemployment in Canada by sex  
(thousands of persons 14 years of age and  
over)

<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
136	31	167



Table 11. - Estimates of unemployment in Canada by age  
(thousands of persons 14 years of age and over)

<u>age</u>	
14 - 19	41
20 - 24	35
25 - 44	58
45 - 64	26
65 and over	7

Table 12. - Estimated distribution of unemployed by  
number of months looking for work  
(thousands of persons 14 years of age and over)

<u>months</u>	
under 1	26
1 - 3	106
4 - 6	22
7 - 12 )	
13- 18 )	- 1/
19- 24 )	
unspecified	- 1/

1/  
Less than 10,000



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V. Estimates of nonworkers in Canada in the  
week of November 11-17, 1946

Table 13. - Estimates of nonworkers in Canada by region  
and sex (thousands of persons 14 years of  
age and over)

	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
Maritime Provinces	71	332	403
Quebec	174	923	1,097
Ontario	204	1,059	1,263
Prairie Provinces	134	568	702
British Columbia	66	268	334
Canada	649	3,150	3,799

Table 14. - Estimated distribution of persons not in the  
labour force by class of nonworker and sex  
in Canada (thousands of persons 14 years  
of age and over)

<u>class of nonworker</u>	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>	<u>total</u>
Permanently unable or too old to work	141	115	256
Keeping house	14	2,619	2,633
Going to school	293	283	576
Retired or voluntarily idle	179	123	302
Other	22	10	32



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