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CANADA

# THE LABOUR FORCE

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**DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**Special Surveys Division**



## THE LABOUR FORCE

Monthly Survey, Week ended, May 19, 1956.

### Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended, May 19, 1956. The survey is a continuation of the series begun in November, 1945, and carried out at quarterly intervals until November, 1952, when the first survey on a monthly basis was taken. About 30,000 households chosen by area sampling methods in some 115 different areas in Canada are visited each month. The labour force surveys provide estimates of the employment characteristics of the civilian noninstitutional population of working age. Persons are classified according to current activity during the specific weeks covered by the surveys.

Results of previous labour force surveys may be obtained from Reference Paper No. 58, "The Labour Force, November, 1945 -- January, 1955". The estimates which appeared in Reference Paper No. 35 and subsequent bulletins have been revised to cover the entire ten provinces of Canada including the remote and more inaccessible areas (See section on Coverage, page 4).

### Definitions and Explanations

(a) Labour Force - The civilian labour force is composed of that portion of the civilian noninstitutional population 14 years of age and over who, during the survey week: did some work; had jobs but did no work; or did not have jobs and were seeking work.

(b) Persons with jobs and at work - This category includes those who during the survey week did any work for pay or profit or who did unpaid work which contributed to the running of a farm or a business operated by a related member of the household.

While variations in the estimates of the total number of persons at work provide a valuable indicator of economic conditions, significant changes in the employment pattern may be concealed unless attention is focussed on the extent to which people worked less than full-time. Table 1 provides an analysis of the reasons for which persons worked less than 35 hours in the survey week. Estimates of weekly hours of work are contained in Table 7.

(c) Persons with jobs but not at work - This category includes those who had jobs but did not work during the survey week because of vacation, illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, or temporary layoff. Persons who had jobs but did not work during the survey week and who also looked for work are included in "Persons without jobs and seeking work".

Persons on temporary layoff are those who were laid off from their job with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of the date of layoff. Persons with jobs but not at work are classified in Table 8 by the reasons for their absence from work.

(d) Persons without jobs and seeking work - This category includes those persons who were looking for work in the survey week and who did no work. Persons who were temporarily away from their jobs during the whole of the survey week and were seeking work are considered as without jobs and are included in this category.

In addition to those who actively looked for work, this classification includes persons, who would have looked for work, except that they: were temporarily ill; were on indefinite or prolonged lay-off; or believed that no work was available.

Persons who worked part of the survey week and also looked for work are not included in this classification but are shown as with a job and at work.

(e) Persons not in the labour force - The non-working part of the population 14 years of age and over consists of those who are outside the labour force in the sense that they are not working for pay or profit or as unpaid workers in family enterprises such as farms or businesses nor are looking for work. This category includes those: going to school; keeping house; too old or otherwise unable to work; and voluntarily idle or retired. Housewives, students and others, who worked part-time are classified as "persons with jobs". If they are looking for work, they are classified as "persons without jobs and seeking work".

#### Reliability of the estimates

The estimates are subject to sampling error. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference between the estimate and the figure which would have been obtained from a complete count is less than that shown below.

<u>Size of estimate</u>	<u>Sampling variability</u>
10,000	4,000
50,000	8,000
100,000	11,000
500,000	25,000
1,000,000	33,000
5,000,000	54,000

The sampling variability associated with estimates of less than 10,000 is relatively larger.

#### Coverage

The sample used in the surveys of the labour force has been designed to include all persons 14 years of age and over who reside in Canada with certain specific exceptions. No estimates are made for: residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories; members of the armed services; Indians on reservations; and inmates of institutions. The totals of persons 14 years of age and over shown for these categories in the 1951 Census were 17,000, 71,000, 62,000 and 117,000 respectively. In surveys preceding February, 1955, certain remote and relatively inaccessible areas were not included in the estimates. The sample design was altered so that totals would include estimates for these areas in Ontario, from May, 1954, and for the remaining areas in Quebec, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia from February, 1955. The adjustments for Canada as a whole amounts to about 1.0% from November, 1945, to April, 1954, and to about 0.4% from May, 1954, to January, 1955. Revised estimates are contained in Reference Paper No. 58.

Table 1. - Summary of the labour force characteristics of the population 14 years of age and over, weeks ended May 19, 1956, April 21, 1956, May 21, 1955, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	May 19 1956	Apr. 21 1956	May 21 1955
Total civilian noninstitutional population	10,680	10,663	10,506
Persons not in the labour force	5,016	5,080	4,969
Civilian labour force	5,664	5,583	5,537
Persons at work	5,387	5,206	5,218
35 hours or more	4,997	4,835	4,763
Less than 35 hours	390	371	455
Usually work 35 hours or more	123	126	228 (2)
(a) laid off for part of the week	*	*	*
(b) on short time	23	32	37
(c) lost job during the week	*	*	*
(d) found job during the week	15	11	10
(e) bad weather	20	16	*
(f) illness	24	30	18
(g) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(h) vacation	12	*	30 (2)
(i) other	19	26	118 (2)
Usually work less than 35 hours	267	245	227
Persons with jobs not at work	112	120	106
Usually work 35 hours or more	108	116	104
(a) laid off for full week	*	15	11
(b) bad weather	*	*	*
(c) illness	54	60	49
(d) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(e) vacation	30	20	28
(f) other	*	16	11
Usually work less than 35 hours	*	*	*
Persons without jobs and seeking work (1)	165	257	213

(1) Included here are only those who did not work during the entire survey week and were looking for work. For all those who sought work during the survey week, see Table 3.

(2) Included here are those who lost time during the week due to the religious observance of May 19, 1955.

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955. See section on "Coverage", page 4. \* Less than 10,000.

Table 2. - Summary of the labour force characteristics of the population 14 years of age and over, by sex, week ended May 19, 1956, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Total civilian noninstitutional population	10,680	5,313	5,367
Persons not in the labour force	5,016	961	4,055
Civilian labour force	5,664	4,352	1,312
Persons at work	5,387	4,125	1,262
35 hours or more	4,997	3,941	1,056
Less than 35 hours	390	184	206
Usually work 35 hours or more	123	96	27
(a) laid off for part of the week	*	*	*
(b) on short time	23	16	*
(c) lost job during the week	*	*	*
(d) found job during the week	15	12	*
(e) bad weather	20	20	*
(f) illness	24	18	*
(g) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(h) vacation	12	*	*
(i) other	19	14	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	267	88	179
Persons with jobs not at work	112	84	28
Usually work 35 hours or more	108	82	26
(a) laid off for full week	*	*	*
(b) bad weather	*	*	*
(c) illness	54	42	12
(d) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(e) vacation	30	21	*
(f) other	*	*	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	*	*	*
Persons without jobs and seeking work (1)	165	143	22

(1) Included here are only those who did not work during the entire survey week and were looking for work. For all those who sought work during the survey week, see Table 3.

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4. \* Less than 10,000.

Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended May 19, 1956, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	181	170	11
Without jobs	165	156	*
Worked	16	14	*
1-14 hours	*	*	*
15-34 hours	11	10	*

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended May 19, 1956, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
The Labour Force	5,664	512	734	2,621	1,566	231
Males	4,352	304	478	2,083	1,281	206
Females	1,312	208	256	538	285	25
Persons with jobs	5,499	483	705	2,560	1,526	225
Males	4,209	282	453	2,029	1,245	200
Females	1,290	201	252	531	281	25
Persons without jobs and seeking work	165	29	29	61	40	*
Persons not in the labour force	5,016	862	321	1,723	1,158	952
Males	961	386	36	48	107	384
Females	4,055	476	285	1,675	1,051	568

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 5. - Percentage of the population 14 years of age and over in the civilian labour force, by age and sex, week ended May 19, 1956, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	53.0	37.3	69.6	60.3	57.5	19.5
Males	81.9	44.1	93.0	97.7	92.3	34.9
Females	24.4	30.4	47.3	24.3	21.3	4.2

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

Table 6. - Occupational status of persons with jobs, week ended May 19, 1956,  
Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	5,499	4,263	703	318	215
Agricultural	817	107	467	75	168
Nonagricultural	4,682	4,156	236	243	47
Males	4,209	3,098	661	303	147
Agricultural	774	101	463	74	136
Nonagricultural	3,435	2,997	198	229	11
Females	1,290	1,165	42	15	68
Agricultural	43	*	*	*	32
Nonagricultural	1,247	1,159	38	14	36

(1) Without paid employees.

(3) In a business or on a farm.

(2) With own business, profession, or farm.

\* Less than 10,000.

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended  
May 19, 1956, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	0 hours	1-14 hours	15-24 hours	25-34 hours	35-44 hours	45-54 hours	55 and over
<u>All Status Groups</u>								
Both sexes	5,499	112	99	164	127	2,991	1,099	907
Agricultural	817	*	18	26	*	83	143	530
Nonagricultural	4,682	103	81	138	119	2,908	956	377
Males	4,209	84	39	75	70	2,171	919	851
Agricultural	774	*	*	13	*	80	138	523
Nonagricultural	3,435	76	34	62	63	2,091	781	328
Females	1,290	28	60	89	57	820	180	56
Agricultural	43	*	13	13	*	*	*	*
Nonagricultural	1,247	27	47	76	56	817	175	49
<u>Paid Workers</u> (Nonagricultural)								
Both sexes	4,156	92	68	116	104	2,741	792	243
Males	2,997	67	31	53	55	1,948	634	209
Females	1,159	25	37	63	49	793	158	34

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended  
May 19, 1956, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	In- dustrial dispute	Temporary layoff (1)	Other
Both sexes	112	56	*	31	*	*	*

(1) Includes only those who had definite instructions to return to their jobs within 30 days of date on which layoff began.

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 9. - Marital status of females with jobs, week ended May 19, 1956, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,290	653	504	133
Agricultural	43	11	29	*
Nonagricultural	1,247	642	475	130

(1) Includes widowed, divorced, and permanently separated.

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended May 19, 1956, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Under 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7-12 months	13-18 months	19 and over
Both sexes	165	43	59	42	14	*	*

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended May 19, 1956, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Perman- ently unable or too old to work	Keeping house	Going to school	Retired or voluntar- ily idle	Other
Both sexes	5,016	176	3,476	777	561	26
Males	961	113	*	400	431	14
Females	4,055	63	3,473	377	130	12

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended May 19, 1956

(estimates in thousands)

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I. N.S. N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. Sask. Alta.	B.C.
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,664	111	421	1,592	2,071	1,004	465
Agricultural	823	*	47	180	211	357	25
Nonagricultural	4,841	108	374	1,412	1,860	647	440
Males	4,352	93	330	1,248	1,537	792	352
Agricultural	780	*	44	177	203	330	23
Nonagricultural	3,572	90	286	1,071	1,334	462	329
Females	1,312	18	91	344	534	212	113
Agricultural	43	*	*	*	*	27	*
Nonagricultural	1,269	18	88	341	526	185	111
All ages	5,664	111	421	1,592	2,071	1,004	465
14-19 years	512	14	39	183	165	81	30
20-24 years	734	18	55	231	248	132	50
25-44 years	2,621	50	186	735	964	464	222
45-64 years	1,566	27	120	391	601	285	142
65 years and over	231	*	21	52	93	42	21
<u>Persons with jobs</u>							
All status groups	5,499	102	397	1,517	2,038	991	454
Males	4,209	84	308	1,182	1,509	782	344
Females	1,290	18	89	335	529	209	110
Agricultural	817	*	47	178	209	356	24
Nonagricultural	4,682	99	350	1,339	1,829	635	430
14-19 years	483	13	35	169	159	79	28
20-24 years	705	16	51	217	244	129	48
25-44 years	2,560	46	178	706	952	460	218
45-64 years	1,526	25	113	375	592	281	140
65 years and over	225	*	20	50	91	42	20
Paid workers	4,263	82	311	1,209	1,686	586	389
Males	3,098	66	234	899	1,198	414	287
Females	1,165	16	77	310	488	172	102

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.

See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended May 19, 1956 - con.

(estimates in thousands)

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I. N.S. N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. Sask. Alta.	B.C.
<u>Persons without Jobs and Seeking Work</u>							
Both sexes	165	*	24	75	33	13	11
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,016	147	459	1,431	1,618	901	460
Males	961	40	101	242	287	182	109
Females	4,055	107	358	1,189	1,331	719	351

Note Includes estimates for certain remote areas, excluded prior to February, 1955.  
See section on "Coverage", page 4.

\* Less than 10,000.