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# THE LABOUR FORCE

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## THE LABOUR FORCE

Monthly Survey, Week ended January 17, 1959

### Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended January 17, 1959. The survey is a continuation of the series begun in November, 1945, and carried out at quarterly intervals until November, 1952, and monthly thereafter. About 35,000 households chosen by area sampling methods in some 120 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 on the basis of activity during the specific weeks covered by the surveys.

### Revision of Labour Force Statistics

Beginning in August 1958, the labour force statistics presented in these reports take account of revised population estimates based on the 1956 Census. They are not strictly comparable with labour force statistics originally published for dates from August 1951 to July 1958 (which were based on population projections from the 1951 Census). The statistics for this period have been adjusted on the basis of the revised population estimates and are published in Reference Paper No. 58, 1958 Revision entitled The Labour Force, November 1945 - July 1958.

### Population Coverage

The sample used in the surveys of the labour force has been designed to cover all persons in the civilian noninstitutional population who are 14 years of age or over and who reside in Canada, with the exception of: members of the armed forces, inmates of institutions, residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and Indians on reservations. The total persons 14 years of age and over in these categories as estimated at August 23, 1958 was 346,000.

### 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 not 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.

(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 jobs with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of the date of layoff. Persons who were not at work and were on any other kind of layoff are classified, according to their activity, either as "Persons without jobs and seeking work", or as "Not in labour force".

(d) Reasons for not working full time - While variations in the estimates of the total number of persons with jobs 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 these people worked less than full time, or were not at work. Table 1, 2, and 8 show the reasons for part-time work and absence from work. The term "usually" refers to the jobs held in the survey week. (A minor exception is the fact that all persons who actually worked 35 hours or more are classified as if they usually worked these hours in the jobs they held during the survey week.) Estimates of persons with jobs not at work, and at work by number of hours worked are given in Table 7.

(e) 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 layoff; 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 category but are classified as with a job and at work. However, they are shown separately in Table 3.



(f) 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 Estimates

#### (a) Non-sampling Variability

The data obtained by enumeration, either of the entire population or of a sample of it, will differ in some degree from the true data as outlined by the definitions because of enumerator and respondent variations. The principal elements of this nature are:

- (i) the respondent may not recall correctly details of the past week, particularly those relating to persons other than himself;
- (ii) the enumerator may misinterpret the definitions despite careful instruction;
- (iii) the enumerator may inadvertently phrase questions which influence the answers of the respondent;
- (iv) the respondent may inadvertently phrase answers which influence the subsequent questions asked by the enumerator; and
- (v) there may be deliberate mis-statements by either enumerator or respondent.

The amount of variance associated with these factors differs with the nature of the inquiry. In general, the more personal and more subjective inquiries are subject to greater error.

#### (b) Sampling Variability

In addition to non-sampling error, discussed in sub-section (a), the survey results are subject to sampling variability. While for the non-sampling component of error statistical estimates of its magnitude are not available, estimates of the probable range of the sampling component of error have been calculated. Estimates of the sampling variability for specified sizes of estimates in any month are given in the following table. The columns headed "General sampling variability" apply to most labour force characteristics. However, for persons without jobs and seeking work and for persons working from 1 to 34 hours, the sampling variability is about 40 per cent higher and this higher variability is shown in the table also. Sampling variability is defined as twice the standard deviation; thus the odds are about 19 to 1 that the range (Labour Force Estimate  $\pm$  Sampling Variability) contains the true estimate.

These estimates are averages since sampling variability differs from characteristic to characteristic and from month-to-month.

Estimated sampling variability for the major labour force  
characteristics by size of estimate

<u>Size of estimate</u>	<u>General sampling variability</u>		<u>General sampling variability + 40% (1)</u>	
	<u>size</u>	<u>per cent</u>	<u>size</u>	<u>per cent</u>
10,000	3,500	35.0	5,000	50.0
25,000	5,500	22.0	7,500	30.0
50,000	8,000	16.0	11,000	22.0
75,000	9,500	12.7	13,500	18.0
100,000	11,000	11.0	15,500	15.5
250,000	17,500	7.0	24,500	9.8
500,000	24,000	4.8	33,500	6.7
750,000	28,500	3.8	40,000	5.3
1,000,000	33,000	3.3	46,000	4.6
2,500,000	49,000	2.0		
5,000,000	58,000	1.2		
6,000,000	60,000	1.0		

(1) applicable to persons without jobs and seeking work and to persons working 1 to 34 hours.

These estimates of sampling variability cannot be applied directly to estimates of month-to-month change. However, studies indicate that the sampling variability of a difference over a period of one month can be approximated for "persons with jobs" and for "persons without jobs and seeking work" using the following formula: (0.6) times (the square root of the sum of the squares of the sampling variabilities associated with the two estimates).

For example, suppose the estimates of persons with jobs in June and July, were 5,879,000 and 6,023,000 respectively, with sampling variabilities of about 60,000 each. The difference between these two estimates (144,000) would have a sampling variability of approximately:

$$0.6 \sqrt{60,000^2 + 60,000^2} \text{ or about } 51,000.$$

For "persons without jobs and seeking work", suppose the corresponding estimates for June and July were 324,000 and 291,000 with sampling variabilities of about 28,000 and 27,000. The difference between these two estimates (33,000) would have a sampling variability of approximately:

$$0.6 \sqrt{28,000^2 + 27,000^2} \text{ or about } 23,000.$$

Table 1. - Summary of the labour force characteristics of the population 14 years of age and over, weeks ended January 17, 1959, December 13, 1958, and January 18, 1958, Canada (1)  
(estimates in thousands)

	Jan. 17 1959	Dec. 13 1958	Jan. 18 1958
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,465	11,449	11,259
Labour force	6,076	6,120	5,977
With jobs	5,538	5,680	5,450
Agriculture	605	633	636
Non-agriculture	4,933	5,047	4,814
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	538	440	527
Not in the labour force	5,389	5,329	5,282
With jobs	5,538	5,680	5,450
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,204	5,342	5,103
At work 35 hours or more	4,825	4,884	4,694
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	78	72	104
(a) on short time	54	45	76
(b) laid off for part of week	11	12	15
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	*	*	*
Not at work due to temporary layoff	39	26	52
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	262	360(3)	253
(a) bad weather	39	43	30
(b) illness	111	100	126
(c) industrial dispute	*	18	11
(d) vacation	32	29	28
(e) miscellaneous	74	170(3)	58
Usually work less than 35 hours	334	338	347

- (1) Excludes inmates of institutions, members of the armed services, Indians living on reserves and residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Some persons lost time from work due to the religious observance of December 8, 1958.
- Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".
- \* Less than 10,000.



Table 2. - Summary of the labour force characteristics of the population 14 years of age and over, week ended January 17, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,465	5,720	5,745
Labour force	6,076	4,582	1,494
With jobs	5,538	4,098	1,440
Agriculture	605	573	32
Non-agriculture	4,933	3,525	1,408
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	538	484	54
Not in the labour force	5,389	1,138	4,251
With jobs	5,538	4,098	1,440
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,204	3,978	1,226
At work 35 hours or more	4,825	3,670	1,155
At work less than 35 hours	206	164	42
Short time and turnover	78	64	14
(a) on short time	54	44	10
(b) laid off part of the week	11	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	*	*	*
Other reasons	128	100	28
(a) bad weather	29	28	*
(b) illness	40	28	12
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	*	*	*
(e) miscellaneous	49	36	13
Not at work	173	144	29
On temporary layoff	39	35	*
Other reasons	134	109	25
(a) bad weather	10	10	*
(b) illness	71	56	15
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	26	20	*
(e) miscellaneous	25	21	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	334	120	214
At work less than 35 hours	326	117	209
Not at work	*	*	*

(1)(2) See footnotes Table 1. Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".



Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended January 17, 1959, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	565	536	29
Without jobs	538	512	26
Worked	27	24	*
1-14 hours	*	*	*
15-34 hours	18	16	*

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended January 17, 1959, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
The labour force	6,076	544	760	2,845	1,709	218
Males	4,582	313	486	2,237	1,360	186
Females	1,494	231	274	608	349	32
Persons with jobs	5,538	457	669	2,628	1,581	203
Males	4,098	246	404	2,037	1,240	171
Females	1,440	211	265	591	341	32
Persons without jobs and seeking work	538	87	91	217	128	15
Persons not in the labour force	5,389	1,010	374	1,774	1,197	1,034
Males	1,138	468	67	53	122	428
Females	4,251	542	307	1,721	1,075	606

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

Table 5. - Percentage of the population 14 years of age and over in the labour force, by age and sex, week ended January 17, 1959, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	53.0	35.0	67.0	61.6	58.8	17.4
Males	80.1	40.1	87.9	97.7	91.3	30.3
Females	26.0	29.9	47.2	26.1	24.5	5.0

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

Table 6. - Class of worker of persons with jobs, week ended January 17, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	5,538	4,480	596	302	160
Agriculture	605	68	389	38	110
Non-agriculture	4,933	4,412	207	264	50
Males	4,098	3,168	549	282	99
Agriculture	573	63	384	37	89
Non-agriculture	3,525	3,105	165	245	10
Females	1,440	1,312	47	20	61
Agriculture	32	*	*	*	21
Non-agriculture	1,408	1,307	42	19	40

(1) Without paid employees.

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

(3) In a business or on a farm.

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended  
January 17, 1959, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Not at work	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	5,538	181	143	215	174	3,180	1,028	617
Agriculture	605	12	24	33	21	140	154	221
Non-agriculture	4,933	169	119	182	153	3,040	874	396
Males	4,098	147	69	118	94	2,280	843	547
Agriculture	573	12	15	28	18	134	151	215
Non-agriculture	3,525	135	54	90	76	2,146	692	332
Females	1,440	34	74	97	80	900	185	70
Agriculture	32	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Non-agriculture	1,408	34	65	92	77	894	182	64
<u>Paid Workers (Non-agriculture)</u>								
Both sexes	4,412	147	100	152	133	2,892	733	255
Males	3,105	115	48	75	64	2,023	569	211
Females	1,307	32	52	77	69	869	164	44

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended  
January 17, 1959, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	In- dustrial dispute	Temporary layoff (1)	Other
Both sexes	181	74	10	28	*	40	27

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

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 9. - Marital status of females with jobs, week ended January 17, 1959, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,440	647	638	155
Agriculture	32	*	20	*
Non-agriculture	1,408	639	618	151

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

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended January 17, 1959, 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	538	130	257	93	37	13	*

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended January 17, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Permanently unable or too old to work	Keeping house	Going to school	Retired or voluntarily idle	Other
Both sexes	5,389	155	3,618	952	632	32
Males	1,138	103	*	513	493	22
Females	4,251	52	3,611	439	139	10

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.



Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended January 17, 1959

(estimates in thousands)

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I. N.S. N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. Sask. Alta.	B.C.
<u>Population 14 Years of Age and Over (1)</u>							
Both sexes	11,465	266	889	3,237	4,035	1,961	1,077
Males	5,720	139	437	1,599	1,994	1,002	549
Females	5,745	127	452	1,638	2,041	959	528
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,076	112	426	1,730	2,244	1,017	547
Agriculture	623	*	48	135	158	261	20
Non-agriculture	5,453	111	378	1,595	2,086	756	527
Males	4,582	93	332	1,306	1,652	783	416
Agriculture	591	*	47	130	144	250	19
Non-agriculture	3,991	92	285	1,176	1,508	533	397
Females	1,494	19	94	424	592	234	131
Agriculture	32	*	*	*	14	11	*
Non-agriculture	1,462	19	93	419	578	223	130
All ages	6,076	112	426	1,730	2,244	1,017	547
14-19 years	544	14	43	198	171	86	32
20-24 years	760	17	54	249	256	126	58
25-44 years	2,845	52	180	800	1,074	468	271
45-64 years	1,709	26	129	437	653	296	168
65 years and over	218	*	20	46	90	41	18
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	5,538	80	376	1,527	2,102	961	492
Males	4,098	61	285	1,121	1,530	735	366
Females	1,440	19	91	406	572	226	126
Agriculture	605	*	45	131	152	257	19
Non-agriculture	4,933	79	331	1,396	1,950	704	473

(1) Excludes inmates of institutions, members of the armed services, and Indians living on reserves.

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended January 17, 1959 - con.

(estimates in thousands)

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I. N.S. N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. Sask. Alta.	B.C.
<u>Persons with Jobs - con.</u>							
All status groups - con.							
14-19 years	457	10	33	162	148	78	26
20-24 years	669	12	46	213	233	115	50
25-44 years	2,628	37	159	718	1,018	447	249
45-64 years	1,581	19	120	391	618	282	151
65 years and over	203	*	18	43	85	39	16
Paid workers	4,480	68	297	1,267	1,792	638	418
Males	3,168	52	215	890	1,269	439	303
Females	1,312	16	82	377	523	199	115
<u>Persons without Jobs and Seeking Work</u>							
Both sexes	538	32	50	203	142	56	55
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,389	154	463	1,507	1,791	944	530
Males	1,138	46	105	293	342	219	133
Females	4,251	108	358	1,214	1,449	725	397

- (1) The change between September and October 1958 in the level of estimates of "Persons without jobs and seeking work" in Newfoundland appeared to be mainly a manifestation of sampling error. This factor should be recognized in any comparison of estimates for September 1958 or earlier with estimates for October 1958 or later.

Note - See page 3, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.



