



THE LABOUR FORCE

MONTHLY SURVEY, WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 14, 1959

Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended November 14, 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 over 130 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 346,300.

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 the 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. Tables 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 and are not looking for work. This category includes those: going to school; keeping house; too old or otherwise permanently 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

Size of estimate	General sampling variability		General sampling variability + 40% ¹	
	Size	Per cent	Size	Per cent
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 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 November 14, 1959, October 17, 1959, and November 15, 1958, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Nov. 14 1959	Oct. 17 1959	Nov. 15 1958
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,645	11,628	11,435
Labour force	6,247	6,290	6,134
With jobs	5,951	6,053	5,773
Agriculture	637	698	652
Non-agriculture	5,314	5,355	5,121
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	296	237	361
Not in the labour force	5,398	5,338	5,301
With jobs	5,951	6,053	5,773
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,544	5,641	5,417
At work 35 hours or more	4,496(3)	3,628(4)	4,363(3)
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	72	67	78
(a) on short time	49	45	50
(b) laid off for part of week	*	*	10
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	*	11	10
Not at work due to temporary layoff	21	14	18
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	955(3)	1,932(4)	958(3)
(a) bad weather	43	43	32
(b) illness	94	95	102
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	21
(d) vacation	83(3)	113(4)	62(3)
(e) miscellaneous	731(3)	1,676(4)	741(3)
Usually work less than 35 hours	407	412	356

- (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) An unusually large number worked less than 35 hours due to Remembrance Day being in the survey week.
- (4) An unusually large number worked less than 35 hours due to Thanksgiving Day being in the survey week.

Note - See page 1, "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 November 14, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,645	5,806	5,839
Labour force	6,247	4,661	1,586
With jobs	5,951	4,406	1,545
Agriculture	637	596	41
Non-agriculture	5,314	3,810	1,504
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	296	255	41
Not in the labour force	5,398	1,145	4,253
With jobs	5,951	4,406	1,545
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,544	4,260	1,284
At work 35 hours or more (3)	4,496	3,511	985
At work less than 35 hours (3)	888	616	272
Short time and turnover	72	53	19
(a) on short time	49	35	14
(b) laid off part of the week	*	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	*	*	*
Other reasons (3)	816	563	253
(a) bad weather	35	35	*
(b) illness	34	24	10
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation (3)	30	21	*
(e) miscellaneous (3)	716	482	234
Not at work	160	133	27
On temporary layoff	21	18	*
Other reasons	139	115	24
(a) bad weather	*	*	*
(b) illness	60	47	13
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	53	45	*
(e) miscellaneous	15	13	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	407	146	261
At work less than 35 hours	401	144	257
Not at work	*	*	*

(1)(2)(3) See footnotes Table 1.

Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended November 14, 1959, Canada
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	323	305	18
Without jobs	296	280	16
Worked	27	25	*
1-14 hours	11	10	*
15-34 hours	16	15	*

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended November 14, 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	6,247	579	778	2,903	1,765	222
Males	4,661	320	505	2,254	1,393	189
Females	1,586	259	273	649	372	33
Persons with jobs	5,951	522	729	2,790	1,695	215
Males	4,406	279	462	2,154	1,329	182
Females	1,545	243	267	636	366	33
Persons without jobs and seeking work	296	57	49	113	70	*
Persons not in the labour force	5,398	1,035	372	1,748	1,202	1,041
Males	1,145	494	57	51	116	427
Females	4,253	541	315	1,697	1,086	614

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

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	53.6	35.9	67.7	62.4	59.5	17.6
Males	80.3	39.3	89.9	97.8	92.3	30.7
Females	27.2	32.4	46.4	27.7	25.5	5.1

Note - See page 1, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".
* Less than 10,000.

Table 6. - Class of worker of persons with jobs, week ended November 14, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	5,951	4,842	605	340	164
Agriculture	637	93	381	53	110
Non-agriculture	5,314	4,749	224	287	54
Males	4,406	3,444	553	316	93
Agriculture	596	88	374	51	83
Non-agriculture	3,810	3,356	179	265	10
Females	1,545	1,398	52	24	71
Agriculture	41	*	*	*	27
Non-agriculture	1,504	1,393	45	22	44

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended November 14, 1959, Canada (4)

(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	5,951	166	165	248	876	2,746	1,013	737
Agriculture	637	14	24	30	21	103	153	292
Non-agriculture	5,314	152	141	218	855	2,643	860	445
Males	4,406	135	71	121	568	1,991	849	671
Agriculture	596	12	11	20	18	98	150	287
Non-agriculture	3,810	123	60	101	550	1,893	699	384
Females	1,545	31	94	127	308	755	164	66
Agriculture	41	*	13	10	*	*	*	*
Non-agriculture	1,504	29	81	117	305	750	161	61
<u>Paid Workers</u> (Non-agriculture)								
Both sexes	4,749	136	120	185	814	2,481	719	294
Males	3,356	109	54	85	520	1,759	576	253
Females	1,393	27	66	100	294	722	143	41

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended November 14, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	Industrial dispute	Temporary layoff (5)	Other
Both sexes	166	63	*	54	*	21	17

(1) Without paid employees. (2) With own business, profession, or farm.

(3) In a business or on a farm. (4) The distribution by hours worked for the week ended November 14, 1959, is abnormal due to the presence of Remembrance Day in the survey week. The categories "25-34 hours" and "35-44 hours" were particularly affected. (5) Includes only those who had definite instructions to return to their jobs within 30 days of date on which layoff began.

Note - See page 1, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics". * Less than 10,000.

Table 9. - Marital status of females with jobs, week ended November 14, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,545	673	718	154
Agriculture	41	10	28	*
Non-agriculture	1,504	663	690	151

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended November 14, 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	296	129	104	32	18	*	*

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended November 14, 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	5,398	155	3,610	976	636	21
Males	1,145	106	*	532	489	11
Females	4,253	49	3,603	444	147	10

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended November 14, 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 (2)</u>							
Both sexes	11,645	272	903	3,291	4,096	1,997	1,086
Males	5,806	143	443	1,625	2,024	1,018	553
Females	5,839	129	460	1,666	2,072	979	533
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,247	115	437	1,762	2,308	1,064	561
Agriculture	648	*	51	141	168	265	21
Non-agriculture	5,599	113	386	1,621	2,140	799	540

(1) Includes widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (2) Excludes inmates of institutions, members of the armed services, and Indians living on reserves.

Note - See page 1, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

* Less than 10,000.

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended November 14, 1959 - con.

(estimates in thousands)

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I. N.S. N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. Sask. Alta.	B.C.
<u>The Labour Force - con.</u>							
Males	4,661	93	336	1,324	1,684	803	421
Agriculture	607	*	48	134	158	245	20
Non-agriculture	4,054	91	288	1,190	1,526	558	401
Females	1,586	22	101	438	624	261	140
Agriculture	41	*	*	*	10	20	*
Non-agriculture	1,545	22	98	431	614	241	139
All ages	6,247	115	437	1,762	2,308	1,064	561
14-19 years	579	14	46	210	187	88	34
20-24 years	778	19	55	252	259	129	64
25-44 years	2,903	53	183	814	1,093	490	270
45-64 years	1,765	26	131	442	679	314	173
65 years and over	222	*	22	44	90	43	20
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	5,951	100	414	1,665	2,212	1,032	528
Males	4,406	78	316	1,241	1,602	775	394
Females	1,545	22	98	424	610	257	134
Agriculture	637	*	49	137	165	264	20
Non-agriculture	5,314	98	365	1,528	2,047	768	508
14-19 years	522	12	39	187	171	84	29
20-24 years	729	16	50	237	245	122	59
25-44 years	2,790	47	178	775	1,056	476	258
45-64 years	1,695	22	126	423	654	307	163
65 years and over	215	*	21	43	86	43	19
Paid workers	4,842	86	328	1,384	1,883	710	451
Males	3,444	67	244	996	1,320	487	330
Females	1,398	19	84	388	563	223	121
<u>Persons without jobs and seeking work</u>							
Both sexes	296	15(1)	23	97	96	32	33
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,398	157	466	1,529	1,788	933	525
Males	1,145	50	107	301	340	215	132
Females	4,253	107	359	1,228	1,448	718	393

(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 1, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

* Less than 10,000.