



## THE LABOUR FORCE

MONTHLY SURVEY, WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 12, 1959

## Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended December 12, 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 155 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 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% <sup>1</sup>	
	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		

<sup>1</sup> 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 December 12, 1959, November 14, 1959, and December 13, 1958, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Dec. 12 1959	Nov. 14 1959	Dec. 13 1958
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,660	11,645	11,449
Labour force	6,231	6,247	6,120
With jobs	5,861	5,951	5,680
Agriculture	618	637	633
Non-agriculture	5,243	5,314	5,047
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	370	296	440
Not in the labour force	5,429	5,398	5,329
With jobs	5,861	5,951	5,680
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,473	5,544	5,342
At work 35 hours or more	5,094 (3)	4,496 (4)	4,884 (3)
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	92	72	72
(a) on short time	55	49	45
(b) laid off for part of week	14	*	12
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	15	*	*
Not at work due to temporary layoff	35	21	26
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	252 (3)	955 (4)	360 (3)
(a) bad weather	25	43	43
(b) illness	96	94	100
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	18
(d) vacation	29 (3)	83 (4)	29 (3)
(e) miscellaneous	98 (3)	731 (4)	170 (3)
Usually work less than 35 hours	388	407	338

- (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.
- (4) An unusually large number worked less than 35 hours due to Remembrance 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 December 12, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,660	5,812	5,848
Labour force	6,231	4,649	1,582
With jobs	5,861	4,323	1,538
Agriculture	618	588	30
Non-agriculture	5,243	3,735	1,508
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	370	326	44
Not in the labour force	5,429	1,163	4,266
With jobs	5,861	4,323	1,538
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,473	4,185	1,288
At work 35 hours or more (3)	5,094	3,884	1,210
At work less than 35 hours (3)	238	183	55
Short time and turnover	92	74	18
(a) on short time	55	41	14
(b) laid off part of the week	14	13	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	15	13	*
Other reasons (3)	146	109	37
(a) bad weather	22	22	*
(b) illness	36	25	11
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation (3)	*	*	*
(e) miscellaneous (3)	79	55	24
Not at work	141	118	23
On temporary layoff	35	30	*
Other reasons	106	88	18
(a) bad weather	*	*	*
(b) illness	60	50	10
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	20	17	*
(e) miscellaneous	19	15	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	388	138	250
At work less than 35 hours	381	135	246
Not at work	*	*	*

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

Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended December 12, 1959, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	395	377	18
Without jobs	370	354	16
Worked	25	23	*
1-14 hours	*	*	*
15-34 hours	16	15	*

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended December 12, 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	6,231	582	779	2,889	1,765	216
Males	4,649	326	503	2,249	1,391	180
Females	1,582	256	276	640	374	36
Persons with jobs	5,861	516	716	2,742	1,680	207
Males	4,323	275	451	2,114	1,311	172
Females	1,538	241	265	628	369	35
Persons without jobs and seeking work	370	66	63	147	85	*
Persons not in the labour force	5,429	1,037	372	1,763	1,209	1,048
Males	1,163	490	59	57	121	436
Females	4,266	547	313	1,706	1,088	612

Table 5. - Percentage of the population 14 years of age and over in the labour force, by age and sex,  
week ended December 12, 1959, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	53.4	35.9	67.7	62.1	59.3	17.1
Males	80.0	40.0	89.5	97.5	92.0	29.2
Females	27.1	31.9	46.9	27.3	25.6	5.6

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

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 6. - Class of worker of persons with jobs, week ended December 12, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	5,861	4,764	592	340	165
Agriculture	618	83	371	55	109
Non-agriculture	5,243	4,681	221	285	56
Males	4,323	3,362	544	316	101
Agriculture	588	79	367	54	89
Non-agriculture	3,735	3,283	177	262	13
Females	1,538	1,402	48	24	64
Agriculture	30	*	*	*	21
Non-agriculture	1,508	1,398	44	23	43

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended December 12, 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	5,861	148	160	228	231	3,310	1,082	702
Agriculture	618	11	24	27	19	120	166	251
Non-agriculture	5,243	137	136	201	212	3,190	916	451
Males	4,323	121	77	112	129	2,346	904	634
Agriculture	588	10	14	21	16	116	164	247
Non-agriculture	3,735	111	63	91	113	2,230	740	387
Females	1,538	27	83	116	102	964	178	68
Agriculture	30	*	10	*	*	*	*	*
Non-agriculture	1,508	26	73	110	99	960	176	64
<u>Paid Workers (Non-agriculture)</u>								
Both sexes	4,681	124	117	170	189	3,026	766	289
Males	3,283	99	57	77	99	2,097	607	247
Females	1,398	25	60	93	90	929	159	42

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended December 12, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	Industrial dispute	Temporary layoff (5)	Other
Both sexes	148	63	*	21	*	36	21

(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 December 12, 1959, is abnormal due to the religious observance of December 8. 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 December 12, 1959, Canada  
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,538	671	710	157
Agriculture	30	*	22	*
Non-agriculture	1,508	666	688	154

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended December 12, 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	370	132	162	41	20	*	11

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended December 12, 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	5,429	156	3,619	976	656	22
Males	1,163	109	*	526	510	11
Females	4,266	47	3,612	450	146	11

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended December 12, 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	11,660	272	905	3,296	4,100	2,000	1,087
Males	5,812	143	444	1,627	2,025	1,019	554
Females	5,848	129	461	1,669	2,075	981	533
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,231	110	433	1,747	2,310	1,070	561
Agriculture	628	*	49	135	167	255	20
Non-agriculture	5,603	108	384	1,612	2,143	815	541

(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 December 12, 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	4,649	90	334	1,322	1,679	802	422
Agriculture	598	*	48	131	155	243	19
Non-agriculture	4,051	88	286	1,191	1,524	559	403
Females	1,582	20	99	425	631	268	139
Agriculture	30	*	*	*	12	12	*
Non-agriculture	1,552	20	98	421	619	256	138
All ages	6,231	110	433	1,747	2,310	1,070	561
14-19 years	582	14	45	208	189	91	35
20-24 years	779	16	55	253	260	132	63
25-44 years	2,889	52	181	803	1,094	489	270
45-64 years	1,765	26	132	439	679	315	174
65 years and over	216	*	20	44	88	43	19
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	5,861	89	399	1,611	2,212	1,028	522
Males	4,323	69	303	1,202	1,595	764	390
Females	1,538	20	96	409	617	264	132
Agriculture	618	*	47	132	165	253	19
Non-agriculture	5,243	87	352	1,479	2,047	775	503
14-19 years	516	11	39	179	173	86	28
20-24 years	716	13	47	230	246	123	57
25-44 years	2,742	42	171	747	1,053	472	257
45-64 years	1,680	21	123	412	655	306	163
65 years and over	207	*	19	43	85	41	17
Paid workers	4,764	77	316	1,330	1,889	708	444
Males	3,362	61	230	957	1,317	472	325
Females	1,402	16	86	373	572	236	119
<u>Persons without jobs and seeking work</u>							
Both sexes	370	21(1)	34	136	98	42	39
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,429	162	472	1,549	1,790	930	526
Males	1,163	53	110	305	346	217	132
Females	4,266	109	362	1,244	1,444	713	394

(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.