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THE LABOUR FORCE

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THE LABOUR FORCE

Monthly Survey, Week ended February 21, 1959

Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended February 21, 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

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 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 February 21, 1959, January 17, 1959, and February 15, 1958, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Feb. 21 1959	Jan. 17 1959	Feb. 15 1958
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,482	11,465	11,270
Labour force	6,084	6,076	5,958
With jobs	5,547	5,538	5,395
Agriculture	608	605	608
Non-agriculture	4,939	4,933	4,787
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	537	538	563
Not in the labour force	5,398	5,389	5,312
With jobs	5,547	5,538	5,395
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,190	5,204	5,059
At work 35 hours or more	4,800	4,825	4,682
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	73	78	91
(a) on short time	51	54	70
(b) laid off for part of week	10	11	11
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	*	*	*
Not at work due to temporary layoff	33	39	37
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	284	262	249
(a) bad weather	56	39	47
(b) illness	127	111	122
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	33	32	27
(e) miscellaneous	62	74	52
Usually work less than 35 hours	357	334	336

(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.

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 February 21, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,482	5,728	5,754
Labour force	6,084	4,573	1,511
With jobs	5,547	4,088	1,459
Agriculture	608	576	32
Non-agriculture	4,939	3,512	1,427
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	537	485	52
Not in the labour force	5,398	1,155	4,243
With jobs	5,547	4,088	1,459
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,190	3,966	1,224
At work 35 hours or more	4,800	3,655	1,145
At work less than 35 hours	200	156	44
Short time and turnover	73	58	15
(a) on short time	51	39	12
(b) laid off part of the week	10	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	*	*	*
Other reasons	127	98	29
(a) bad weather	43	41	*
(b) illness	37	24	13
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	*	*	*
(e) miscellaneous	41	30	11
Not at work	190	155	35
On temporary layoff	33	27	*
Other reasons	157	128	29
(a) bad weather	13	13	*
(b) illness	90	72	18
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	27	20	*
(e) miscellaneous	21	18	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	357	122	235
At work less than 35 hours	349	119	230
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 February 21, 1959, Canada
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	567	546	21
Without jobs	537	518	19
Worked	30	28	*
1-14 hours	12	12	*
15-34 hours	18	16	*

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

* Less than 10,000.

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended February 21, 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	6,084	545	760	2,846	1,716	217
Males	4,573	316	486	2,227	1,358	186
Females	1,511	229	274	619	358	31
Persons with jobs	5,547	459	669	2,630	1,587	202
Males	4,088	251	405	2,026	1,235	171
Females	1,459	208	264	604	352	31
Persons without jobs and seeking work	537	86	91	216	129	15
Persons not in the labour force	5,398	1,016	374	1,775	1,197	1,036
Males	1,155	469	67	64	127	428
Females	4,243	547	307	1,711	1,070	608

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 February 21, 1959, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	53.0	34.9	67.0	61.6	58.9	17.3
Males	79.8	40.3	87.9	97.2	91.4	30.3
Females	26.3	29.5	47.2	26.6	25.1	4.9

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

Table 6. - Class of worker of persons with jobs, week ended February 21, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	5,547	4,495	590	300	162
Agriculture	608	69	383	45	111
Non-agriculture	4,939	4,426	207	255	51
Males	4,088	3,167	540	281	100
Agriculture	576	65	378	44	89
Non-agriculture	3,512	3,102	162	237	11
Females	1,459	1,328	50	19	62
Agriculture	32	**	*	*	22
Non-agriculture	1,427	1,324	45	18	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
February 21, 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	5,547	198	150	216	183	3,198	996	606
Agriculture	608	17	27	26	17	133	162	226
Non-agriculture	4,939	181	123	190	166	3,065	834	380
Males	4,088	158	72	103	100	2,295	821	539
Agriculture	576	16	16	18	16	126	160	224
Non-agriculture	3,512	142	56	85	84	2,169	661	315
Females	1,459	40	78	113	83	903	175	67
Agriculture	32	*	11	*	*	*	*	*
Non-agriculture	1,427	39	67	105	82	896	173	65
<u>Paid Workers (Non-agriculture)</u>								
Both sexes	4,426	158	103	160	146	2,911	694	254
Males	3,102	121	50	70	73	2,043	540	205
Females	1,324	37	53	90	73	868	154	49

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
February 21, 1959, Canada
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	In- dustrial dispute	Temporary layoff (1)	Other
Both sexes	198	94	13	28	*	34	23

(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 February 21, 1959, Canada
(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,459	651	658	150
Agriculture	32	*	22	*
Non-agriculture	1,427	644	636	147

(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 February 21, 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	537	88	254	131	41	13	10

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

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended February 21, 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	154	3,595	952	661	36
Males	1,155	100	*	505	520	24
Females	4,243	54	3,589	447	141	12

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

* Less than 10,000.

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended February 21, 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	11,482	267	889	3,242	4,042	1,966	1,076
Males	5,728	140	437	1,601	1,997	1,004	549
Females	5,754	127	452	1,641	2,045	962	527
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,084	107	419	1,735	2,245	1,027	551
Agriculture	626	*	47	131	152	272	21
Non-agriculture	5,458	104	372	1,604	2,093	755	530
Males	4,573	89	326	1,300	1,649	789	420
Agriculture	594	*	46	128	141	256	20
Non-agriculture	3,979	86	280	1,172	1,508	533	400
Females	1,511	18	93	435	596	238	131
Agriculture	32	*	*	*	11	16	*
Non-agriculture	1,479	18	92	432	585	222	130
All ages	6,084	107	419	1,735	2,245	1,027	551
14-19 years	545	13	39	198	174	87	34
20-24 years	760	15	53	250	257	128	57
25-44 years	2,346	50	180	798	1,075	471	272
45-64 years	1,716	27	128	440	652	300	169
65 years and over	217	*	19	49	87	41	19
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	5,547	74	368	1,526	2,101	975	503
Males	4,088	57	277	1,113	1,522	742	377
Females	1,459	17	91	413	579	233	126
Agriculture	608	*	44	127	146	269	20
Non-agriculture	4,939	72	324	1,399	1,955	706	483

(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 February 21, 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>							
<u>All status groups - con.</u>							
14-19 years	459	*	30	162	151	81	27
20-24 years	669	10	44	212	237	116	50
25-44 years	2,630	37	160	713	1,014	452	254
45-64 years	1,587	18	117	394	616	287	155
65 years and over	202	*	17	45	83	39	17
Paid workers	4,495	63	293	1,274	1,798	639	428
Males	3,167	49	210	891	1,268	437	312
Females	1,328	14	83	383	530	202	116
<u>Persons without Jobs and Seeking Work</u>							
Both sexes	537	33	51	209	144	52	48
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,398	160	470	1,507	1,797	939	525
Males	1,155	51	111	301	348	215	129
Females	4,243	109	359	1,206	1,449	724	396

- (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.

Continued

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