



THE LABOUR FORCE

MONTHLY SURVEY, WEEK ENDED APRIL 18, 1959

Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended April 18, 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 242,000.

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% 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 April 18, 1959, March 21, 1959, and April 19, 1958, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Apr. 18 1959	Mar. 21 1959	Apr. 19 1958
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,512	11,495	11,308
Labour force	6,109	6,077	6,059
With jobs	5,664	5,552	5,537
Agriculture	661	619	691
Non-agriculture	5,003	4,933	4,846
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	445	525	522
Not in the labour force	5,403	5,418	5,249
With jobs	5,664	5,552	5,537
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,289	5,189	5,184
At work 35 hours or more	4,957	4,836	4,870
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	75	69	79
(a) on short time	44	46	49
(b) laid off for part of week	10	*	12
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	16	*	15
Not at work due to temporary layoff	22	29	32
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	235	255	203
(a) bad weather	*	24	11
(b) illness	133	129	95
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	34	35	34
(e) miscellaneous	55	61	58
Usually work less than 35 hours	375	363	353

(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 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 April 18, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,512	5,743	5,769
Labour force	6,109	4,595	1,514
With jobs	5,664	4,193	1,471
Agriculture	661	625	36
Non-agriculture	5,003	3,568	1,435
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	445	402	43
Not in the labour force	5,403	1,148	4,255
With jobs	5,664	4,193	1,471
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,289	4,067	1,222
At work 35 hours or more	4,957	3,809	1,148
At work less than 35 hours	171	129	42
Short time and turnover	75	62	13
(a) on short time	44	36	*
(b) laid off part of the week	10	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	16	14	*
Other reasons	96	67	29
(a) bad weather	*	*	*
(b) illness	49	31	18
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	*	*	*
(e) miscellaneous	33	25	*
Not at work	161	129	32
On temporary layoff	22	20	*
Other reasons	139	109	30
(a) bad weather	*	*	*
(b) illness	84	63	21
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	27	21	*
(e) miscellaneous	22	19	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	375	126	249
At work less than 35 hours	367	123	244
Not at work	*	*	*

(1)(2) See footnotes Table 1.

Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended April 18, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	478	455	23
Without jobs	445	425	20
Worked	33	30	*
1-14 hours	11	10	*
15-34 hours	22	20	*

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended April 18, 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	6,109	531	761	2,860	1,732	225
Males	4,595	312	485	2,237	1,370	191
Females	1,514	219	276	623	362	34
Persons with jobs	5,664	462	688	2,677	1,625	212
Males	4,193	257	421	2,067	1,270	178
Females	1,471	205	267	610	355	34
Persons without jobs and seeking work	445	69	73	183	107	13
Persons not in the labour force	5,403	1,040	376	1,767	1,191	1,029
Males	1,148	479	70	57	119	423
Females	4,255	561	306	1,710	1,072	606

Table 5. - Percentage of the population 14 years of age and over in the labour force, by age and sex, week ended April 18, 1959, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	53.1	33.8	66.9	61.8	59.3	17.9
Males	80.0	39.4	87.4	97.5	92.0	31.1
Females	26.2	28.1	47.4	26.7	25.2	5.3

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

* Less than 10,000.

Table 6. - Class of worker of persons with jobs, week ended April 18, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	5,664	4,546	618	320	180
Agriculture	661	84	398	51	128
Non-agriculture	5,003	4,462	220	269	52
Males	4,193	3,209	572	300	112
Agriculture	625	80	393	50	102
Non-agriculture	3,568	3,129	179	250	10
Females	1,471	1,337	46	20	68
Agriculture	36	*	*	*	26
Non-agriculture	1,435	1,333	41	19	42

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended April 18, 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	5,664	169	154	217	167	3,221	993	743
Agriculture	661	*	25	30	13	89	144	351
Non-agriculture	5,003	160	129	187	154	3,132	849	392
Males	4,193	132	68	100	84	2,306	826	677
Agriculture	625	*	11	19	11	84	142	349
Non-agriculture	3,568	123	57	81	73	2,222	684	328
Females	1,471	37	86	117	83	915	167	66
Agriculture	36	*	14	11	*	*	*	*
Non-agriculture	1,435	37	72	106	81	910	165	64
<u>Paid Workers</u> (Non-agriculture)								
Both sexes	4,462	144	111	158	132	2,974	695	248
Males	3,129	108	52	69	60	2,090	548	202
Females	1,333	36	59	89	72	884	147	46

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended April 18, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	Industrial dispute	Temporary layoff (4)	Other
Both sexes	169	88	*	29	*	22	24

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

(3) In a business or on a farm. (4) 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 April 18, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,471	659	658	154
Agriculture	36	*	27	*
Non-agriculture	1,435	653	631	151

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended April 18, 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	445	70	135	156	59	12	13

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended April 18, 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	5,403	155	3,589	988	637	34
Males	1,148	105	*	521	494	22
Females	4,255	50	3,583	467	143	12

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended April 18, 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	11,512	268	893	3,250	4,051	1,973	1,077
Males	5,743	141	439	1,605	2,002	1,097	549
Females	5,769	127	454	1,645	2,049	966	528
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,109	110	432	1,717	2,250	1,047	553
Agriculture	673	*	47	149	164	285	25
Non-agriculture	5,436	107	385	1,568	2,086	762	528

(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 April 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	4,595	91	333	1,297	1,658	796	420
Agriculture	637	*	46	145	158	262	23
Non-agriculture	3,958	88	287	1,152	1,500	534	397
Females	1,514	19	99	420	592	251	133
Agriculture	36	*	*	*	*	23	*
Non-agriculture	1,478	19	98	416	586	228	131
All ages	6,109	110	432	1,717	2,250	1,047	553
14-19 years	531	14	42	189	163	89	34
20-24 years	761	17	54	251	257	123	59
25-44 years	2,860	51	185	793	1,080	479	272
45-64 years	1,732	27	132	436	656	312	169
65 years and over	225	*	19	48	94	44	19
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	5,664	79	380	1,532	2,139	1,012	522
Males	4,193	61	284	1,129	1,560	765	394
Females	1,471	18	96	403	579	247	128
Agriculture	661	*	45	146	162	282	24
Non-agriculture	5,003	77	335	1,386	1,977	730	498
14-19 years	462	10	33	158	147	84	30
20-24 years	688	13	47	214	244	116	54
25-44 years	2,677	37	165	719	1,029	466	261
45-64 years	1,625	18	118	397	628	304	160
65 years and over	212	*	17	44	91	42	17
Paid workers	4,546	69	295	1,259	1,814	660	449
Males	3,209	53	208	886	1,278	454	330
Females	1,337	16	87	373	536	206	119
<u>Persons without jobs and seeking work</u>							
Both sexes	445	31 (1)	52	185	111	35	31
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,403	158	461	1,533	1,801	926	524
Males	1,148	50	106	308	344	211	129
Females	4,255	108	355	1,225	1,457	715	395

(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.