



## THE LABOUR FORCE

MONTHLY SURVEY, WEEK ENDED MAY 16, 1959

## Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended May 16, 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 340,000.

## 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 May 16, 1959, April 18, 1959, and May 24, 1958, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	May 16 1959	April 18 1959	May 24 1958
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,531	11,512	11,333
Labour force	6,186	6,109	6,120
With jobs	5,852	5,664	5,750
Agriculture	724	661	739
Non-agriculture	5,128	5,003	5,011
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	334	445	370
Not in the labour force	5,345	5,403	5,213
With jobs	5,852	5,664	5,750
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,466	5,289	5,352
At work 35 hours or more	5,182	4,957	3,590 (3)
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	63	75	75
(a) on short time	39	44	46
(b) laid off for part of week	*	10	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	13	16	19
Not at work due to temporary layoff	20	22	19
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	201	235	1,668 (3)
(a) bad weather	16	*	11
(b) illness	94	133	79
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	45	34	79 (3)
(e) miscellaneous	43	55	1,495 (3)
Usually work less than 35 hours	386	375	398

(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) The unusually large number working less than 35 hours during the week ended May 24, 1958, was due to the Queen's Birthday 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 May 16, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,531	5,752	5,779
Labour force	6,186	4,659	1,527
With jobs	5,852	4,361	1,491
Agriculture	724	677	47
Non-agriculture	5,128	3,684	1,444
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	334	298	36
Not in the labour force	5,345	1,093	4,252
With jobs	5,852	4,361	1,491
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,466	4,230	1,236
At work 35 hours or more	5,182	4,008	1,174
At work less than 35 hours	146	109	37
Short time and turnover	63	49	14
(a) on short time	39	30	*
(b) laid off part of the week	*	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	13	11	*
Other reasons	83	60	23
(a) bad weather	13	13	*
(b) illness	30	21	*
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	11	*	*
(e) miscellaneous	29	19	10
Not at work	138	113	25
On temporary layoff	20	17	*
Other reasons	118	96	22
(a) bad weather	*	*	*
(b) illness	64	52	12
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	34	27	*
(e) miscellaneous	14	11	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	386	131	255
At work less than 35 hours	379	127	252
Not at work	*	*	*

(1)(2) See footnotes Table 1.

Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended May 16, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	364	349	15
Without jobs	334	321	13
Worked	30	28	*
1-14 hours	*	*	*
15-34 hours	21	20	*

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended May 16, 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	6,186	547	786	2,880	1,747	226
Males	4,659	324	508	2,253	1,381	193
Females	1,527	223	278	627	366	33
Persons with jobs	5,852	493	726	2,742	1,675	216
Males	4,361	280	457	2,128	1,313	183
Females	1,491	213	269	614	362	33
Persons without jobs and seeking work	334	54	60	138	72	10
Persons not in the labour force	5,345	1,030	354	1,753	1,181	1,027
Males	1,093	470	49	44	110	420
Females	4,252	560	305	1,709	1,071	607

Table 5. - Percentage of the population 14 years of age and over in the labour force, by age and sex, week ended May 16, 1959, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	53.6	34.7	68.9	62.2	59.7	18.0
Males	81.0	40.8	91.2	98.1	92.6	31.5
Females	26.4	28.5	47.7	26.8	25.5	5.2

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

\* Less than 10,000.

Table 6. - Class of worker of persons with jobs, week ended May 16, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	5,852	4,695	626	347	184
Agriculture	724	124	398	68	134
Non-agriculture	5,128	4,571	228	279	50
Males	4,361	3,345	578	327	111
Agriculture	677	117	392	66	102
Non-agriculture	3,684	3,228	186	261	*
Females	1,491	1,350	48	20	73
Agriculture	47	*	*	*	32
Non-agriculture	1,444	1,343	42	18	41

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended May 16, 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	5,852	145	142	213	170	3,256	988	938
Agriculture	724	*	26	36	12	62	89	492
Non-agriculture	5,128	138	116	177	158	3,194	899	446
Males	4,361	117	62	93	81	2,332	814	862
Agriculture	677	*	12	21	*	56	85	488
Non-agriculture	3,684	110	50	72	73	2,276	729	374
Females	1,491	28	80	120	89	924	174	76
Agriculture	47	*	14	15	*	*	*	*
Non-agriculture	1,444	28	66	105	85	918	170	72
<u>Paid Workers (Non-agriculture)</u>								
Both sexes	4,571	126	98	152	137	3,033	744	281
Males	3,228	99	44	61	61	2,141	592	230
Females	1,343	27	54	91	76	892	152	51

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended May 16, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	Industrial dispute	Temporary layoff (4)	Other
Both sexes	145	67	*	36	*	21	15

(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 May 16, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,491	661	671	159
Agriculture	47	*	35	*
Non-agriculture	1,444	652	636	156

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended May 16, 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	334	61	102	99	50	10	12

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended May 16, 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	5,345	158	3,582	962	617	26
Males	1,093	106	*	491	476	15
Females	4,252	52	3,577	471	141	11

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended May 16, 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	11,531	268	895	3,255	4,058	1,977	1,078
Males	5,752	141	440	1,607	2,005	1,009	550
Females	5,779	127	455	1,648	2,053	968	528
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,186	116	441	1,732	2,264	1,072	561
Agriculture	732	*	63	176	172	292	26
Non-agriculture	5,454	113	378	1,556	2,092	780	535

(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 May 16, 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	4,659	96	342	1,310	1,668	814	429
Agriculture	685	*	60	172	162	264	24
Non-agriculture	3,974	93	282	1,138	1,506	550	405
Females	1,527	20	99	422	596	258	132
Agriculture	47	*	*	*	10	28	*
Non-agriculture	1,480	20	96	418	586	230	130
All ages	6,186	116	441	1,732	2,264	1,072	561
14-19 years	547	14	45	192	166	94	36
20-24 years	786	20	58	253	262	129	64
25-44 years	2,880	53	187	797	1,080	491	272
45-64 years	1,747	28	131	439	664	315	170
65 years and over	226	*	20	51	92	43	19
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	5,852	91	407	1,594	2,182	1,044	534
Males	4,361	72	311	1,186	1,596	790	406
Females	1,491	19	96	408	586	254	128
Agriculture	724	*	62	173	170	291	25
Non-agriculture	5,128	88	345	1,421	2,012	753	509
14-19 years	493	11	37	168	154	91	32
20-24 years	726	14	53	225	250	124	60
25-44 years	2,742	44	175	739	1,045	479	260
45-64 years	1,675	21	123	415	644	308	164
65 years and over	216	*	19	47	89	42	18
Paid workers	4,695	76	316	1,295	1,855	696	457
Males	3,345	58	230	921	1,313	483	340
Females	1,350	18	86	374	542	213	117
<u>Persons without jobs and seeking work</u>							
Both sexes	334	25 (1)	34	138	82	28	27
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,345	152	454	1,523	1,794	905	517
Males	1,093	45	98	297	337	195	121
Females	4,252	107	356	1,226	1,457	710	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 1, "Revision of Labour Force Statistics".

\* Less than 10,000.