



THE LABOUR FORCE

MONTHLY SURVEY, WEEK ENDED AUGUST 22, 1959

Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended August 22, 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 345,000.

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 August 22, 1959, July 18, 1959, and August 23, 1958, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Aug. 22 1959	July 18 1959	Aug. 23 1958
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,592	11,572	11,391
Labour force	6,425	6,434	6,306
With jobs	6,186	6,206	6,025
Agriculture	824	835	868
Non-agriculture	5,362	5,371	5,157
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	239	228	281
Not in the labour force	5,167	5,138	5,085
With jobs	6,186	6,206	6,025
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,867	5,879	5,724
At work 35 hours or more	5,226	5,233	5,059
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	53	50	68
(a) on short time	32	27	45
(b) laid off for part of week	*	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	10	*	11
Not at work due to temporary layoff	18	12	37
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	570	584	560
(a) bad weather	30	*	25
(b) illness	80	79	76
(c) industrial dispute	24	24	16
(d) vacation	394	426	396
(e) miscellaneous	42	48	47
Usually work less than 35 hours	319	327	301

(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 August 22, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,592	5,781	5,811
Labour force	6,425	4,843	1,582
With jobs	6,186	4,645	1,541
Agriculture	824	746	78
Non-agriculture	5,362	3,899	1,463
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	239	198	41
Not in the labour force	5,167	938	4,229
With jobs	6,186	4,645	1,541
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,867	4,542	1,325
At work 35 hours or more	5,226	4,082	1,144
At work less than 35 hours	157	120	37
Short time and turnover	53	37	16
(a) on short time	32	22	10
(b) laid off part of the week	*	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	10	*	*
Other reasons	104	83	21
(a) bad weather	26	24	*
(b) illness	24	17	*
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	28	22	*
(e) miscellaneous	25	19	*
Not at work	484	340	144
On temporary layoff	18	14	*
Other reasons	466	326	140
(a) bad weather	*	*	*
(b) illness	56	45	11
(c) industrial dispute	23	22	*
(d) vacation	366	243	123
(e) miscellaneous	17	12	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	319	103	216
At work less than 35 hours	298	96	202
Not at work	21	*	14

(1)(2) See footnotes Table 1.

Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended August 22, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking , part-time work
Total looking for work	257	242	15
Without jobs	239	226	13
Worked	18	16	*
1-14 hours	*	*	*
15-34 hours	12	11	*

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended August 22, 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	6,425	775	799	2,892	1,733	226
Males	4,843	466	538	2,258	1,388	193
Females	1,582	309	261	634	345	33
Persons with jobs	6,186	716	757	2,807	1,685	221
Males	4,645	425	503	2,183	1,346	188
Females	1,541	291	254	624	339	33
Persons without jobs and seeking work	239	59	42	85	48	*
Persons not in the labour force	5,167	822	347	1,752	1,215	1,031
Males	938	339	22	44	112	421
Females	4,229	483	325	1,708	1,103	610

Table 5. - Percentage of the population 14 years of age and over in the labour force, by age and sex, week ended August 22, 1959, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	55.4	48.5	69.7	62.3	58.8	18.0
Males	83.8	57.9	96.1	98.1	92.5	31.4
Females	27.2	39.0	44.5	27.1	23.8	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 August 22, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	6,186	4,968	614	363	241
Agriculture	824	168	387	88	181
Non-agriculture	5,362	4,800	227	275	60
Males	4,645	3,596	565	340	144
Agriculture	746	148	380	87	131
Non-agriculture	3,899	3,448	185	253	13
Females	1,541	1,372	49	23	97
Agriculture	78	20	*	*	50
Non-agriculture	1,463	1,352	42	22	47

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended August 22, 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	6,186	505	106	199	150	3,132	1,050	1,044
Agriculture	824	11	22	35	16	74	131	535
Non-agriculture	5,362	494	84	164	134	3,058	919	509
Males	4,645	347	43	89	84	2,251	870	961
Agriculture	746	10	*	13	10	61	123	523
Non-agriculture	3,899	337	37	76	74	2,190	747	438
Females	1,541	158	63	110	66	881	180	83
Agriculture	78	*	16	22	*	13	*	12
Non-agriculture	1,463	157	47	88	60	868	172	71
<u>Paid Workers (Non-agriculture)</u>								
Both sexes	4,800	467	68	140	114	2,898	771	342
Males	3,448	314	32	66	62	2,059	619	296
Females	1,352	153	36	74	52	839	152	46

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended August 22, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	Industrial dispute	Temporary layoff (4)	Other
Both sexes	505	57	*	382	23	19	20

(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 August 22, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,541	722	664	155
Agriculture	78	22	52	*
Non-agriculture	1,463	700	612	151

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended August 22, 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	239	85	81	32	27	*	10

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended August 22, 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	5,167	170	3,706	*	1,225	64
Males	938	122	*	*	775	36
Females	4,229	48	3,702	*	450	28

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended August 22, 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	11,592	270	900	3,273	4,078	1,989	1,082
Males	5,781	142	442	1,616	2,015	1,014	552
Females	5,811	128	458	1,657	2,063	975	530
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,425	125	451	1,795	2,356	1,124	574
Agriculture	831	*	65	185	226	322	29
Non-agriculture	5,594	121	386	1,610	2,130	802	545

(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 August 22, 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	4,843	103	350	1,362	1,730	858	440
Agriculture	752	*	61	174	197	290	26
Non-agriculture	4,091	99	289	1,188	1,533	568	414
Females	1,582	22	101	433	626	266	134
Agriculture	79	*	*	11	29	32	*
Non-agriculture	1,503	22	97	422	597	234	131
All ages	6,425	125	451	1,795	2,356	1,124	574
14-19 years	775	17	60	248	256	141	53
20-24 years	799	20	58	254	266	133	68
25-44 years	2,892	57	184	804	1,087	494	266
45-64 years	1,733	30	129	441	659	308	166
65 years and over	226	*	20	48	88	48	21
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	6,186	111	424	1,708	2,287	1,107	549
Males	4,645	90	327	1,289	1,674	846	419
Females	1,541	21	97	419	613	261	130
Agriculture	824	*	64	183	225	320	28
Non-agriculture	5,362	107	360	1,525	2,062	787	521
14-19 years	716	14	53	225	240	136	48
20-24 years	757	17	52	236	257	131	64
25-44 years	2,807	52	176	776	1,060	487	256
45-64 years	1,685	27	123	425	644	305	161
65 years and over	221	*	20	46	86	48	20
Paid workers	4,968	98	331	1,395	1,936	737	471
Males	3,596	79	247	1,021	1,376	520	353
Females	1,372	19	84	374	560	217	118
<u>Persons without jobs and seeking work</u>							
Both sexes	239	14(1)	27	87	69	17	25
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,167	145	449	1,478	1,722	865	508
Males	938	39	92	254	285	156	112
Females	4,229	106	357	1,224	1,437	709	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.