



THE LABOUR FORCE

MONTHLY SURVEY, WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 19, 1959

Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended September 19, 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 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% 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 September 19, 1959, August 22, 1959, and September 20, 1958, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Sept. 19 1959	Aug. 22 1959	Sept. 20 1958
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,609	11,592	11,406
Labour force	6,291	6,425	6,159
With jobs	6,078	6,186	5,888
Agriculture	750	824	774
Non-agriculture	5,328	5,362	5,114
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	213	239	271
Not in the labour force	5,318	5,167	5,247
With jobs	6,078	6,186	5,888
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,709	5,867	5,560
At work 35 hours or more	5,371	5,226	5,137
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	60	53	80
(a) on short time	31	32	53
(b) laid off for part of week	*	*	11
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	13	10	12
Not at work due to temporary layoff	12	18	14
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	266	570	329 (3)
(a) bad weather	15	30	37
(b) illness	87	80	84
(c) industrial dispute	*	24	19
(d) vacation	112	394	107
(e) miscellaneous	45	42	82 (3)
Usually work less than 35 hours	369	319	328

(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) Includes persons who lost time due to the observance of the Jewish New Year.

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 September 19, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,609	5,790	5,819
Labour force	6,291	4,718	1,573
With jobs	6,078	4,542	1,536
Agriculture	750	689	61
Non-agriculture	5,328	3,853	1,475
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	213	176	37
Not in the labour force	5,318	1,072	4,246
With jobs	6,078	4,542	1,536
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,709	4,422	1,287
At work 35 hours or more	5,371	4,163	1,208
At work less than 35 hours	151	119	32
Short time and turnover	60	47	13
(a) on short time	31	24	*
(b) laid off part of the week	*	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	13	*	*
Other reasons	91	72	19
(a) bad weather	13	11	*
(b) illness	30	23	*
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	13	10	*
(e) miscellaneous	30	23	*
Not at work	187	140	47
On temporary layoff	12	10	*
Other reasons	175	130	45
(a) bad weather	*	*	*
(b) illness	57	45	12
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	99	69	30
(e) miscellaneous	15	12	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	369	120	249
At work less than 35 hours	363	117	246
Not at work	*	*	*

(1)(2) See footnotes Table 1.

Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended September 19, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	237	227	10
Without jobs	213	204	*
Worked	24	23	*
1-14 hours	*	*	*
15-34 hours	18	17	*

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended September 19, 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	6,291	595	787	2,909	1,769	231
Males	4,718	334	519	2,263	1,404	198
Females	1,573	261	268	646	365	33
Persons with jobs	6,078	542	754	2,835	1,723	224
Males	4,542	298	493	2,197	1,362	192
Females	1,536	244	261	638	361	32
Persons without jobs and seeking work	213	53	33	74	46	*
Persons not in the labour force	5,318	1,007	361	1,737	1,185	1,028
Males	1,072	473	42	41	99	417
Females	4,246	534	319	1,696	1,086	611

Table 5. - Percentage of the population 14 years of age and over in the labour force, by age and sex, week ended September 19, 1959, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	54.2	37.1	68.6	62.6	59.9	18.3
Males	81.5	41.4	92.5	98.2	93.4	32.2
Females	27.0	32.8	45.7	27.6	25.2	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 September 19, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	6,078	4,911	609	369	189
Agriculture	750	135	391	84	140
Non-agriculture	5,328	4,776	218	285	49
Males	4,542	3,529	562	345	106
Agriculture	689	123	385	83	98
Non-agriculture	3,853	3,406	177	262	*
Females	1,536	1,382	47	24	83
Agriculture	61	12	*	*	42
Non-agriculture	1,475	1,370	41	23	41

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended September 19, 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	6,078	193	140	206	168	3,277	1,079	1,015
Agriculture	750	*	23	33	13	62	112	499
Non-agriculture	5,328	185	117	173	155	3,215	967	516
Males	4,542	143	56	91	89	2,321	902	940
Agriculture	689	*	*	13	*	56	107	491
Non-agriculture	3,853	136	49	78	81	2,265	795	449
Females	1,536	50	84	115	79	956	177	75
Agriculture	61	*	16	20	*	*	*	*
Non-agriculture	1,475	49	68	95	74	950	172	67
<u>Paid Workers (Non-agriculture)</u>								
Both sexes	4,776	171	99	149	137	3,053	818	349
Males	3,406	125	44	67	72	2,132	663	303
Females	1,370	46	55	82	65	921	155	46

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended September 19, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	Industrial dispute	Temporary layoff (4)	Other
Both sexes	193	59	*	102	*	12	16

(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 September 19, 1959, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,536	673	706	157
Agriculture	61	14	44	*
Non-agriculture	1,475	659	662	154

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended September 19, 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	213	83	71	28	23	*	*

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended September 19, 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	5,318	153	3,607	894	636	28
Males	1,072	107	*	475	467	16
Females	4,246	46	3,600	419	169	12

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended September 19, 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	11,609	270	901	3,279	4,084	1,992	1,083
Males	5,790	142	442	1,619	2,019	1,016	552
Females	5,819	128	459	1,660	2,065	976	531
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,291	122	446	1,763	2,292	1,104	564
Agriculture	758	*	63	165	191	309	26
Non-agriculture	5,533	118	383	1,598	2,101	795	538

(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 September 19, 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	4,718	102	342	1,329	1,685	830	430
Agriculture	697	*	58	156	176	279	24
Non-agriculture	4,021	98	284	1,173	1,509	551	406
Females	1,573	20	104	434	607	274	134
Agriculture	61	*	*	*	15	30	*
Non-agriculture	1,512	20	99	425	592	244	132
All ages	6,291	122	446	1,763	2,292	1,104	564
14-19 years	595	16	48	208	185	100	38
20-24 years	787	20	56	251	260	134	66
25-44 years	2,909	57	188	811	1,085	500	268
45-64 years	1,769	28	133	442	674	321	171
65 years and over	231	*	21	51	88	49	21
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	6,078	109	421	1,691	2,225	1,091	541
Males	4,542	90	320	1,270	1,630	820	412
Females	1,536	19	101	421	595	271	129
Agriculture	750	*	62	162	188	308	26
Non-agriculture	5,328	105	359	1,529	2,037	783	515
14-19 years	542	13	40	190	170	96	33
20-24 years	754	18	52	238	252	132	62
25-44 years	2,835	52	179	786	1,061	497	260
45-64 years	1,723	25	129	428	658	317	166
65 years and over	224	*	21	49	84	49	20
Paid workers	4,911	95	334	1,395	1,888	739	460
Males	3,529	78	246	1,013	1,339	512	341
Females	1,382	17	88	382	549	227	119
<u>Persons without jobs and seeking work</u>							
Both sexes	213	13 (1)	25	72	67	13	23
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,318	148	455	1,516	1,792	888	519
Males	1,072	40	100	290	334	186	122
Females	4,246	108	355	1,226	1,458	702	397

(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.